



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

March 7, 2022

Hello Spring!

Spring is in the air and we're excited for everything it has in store for us! We will be having some fun spring time activities for all of our students. Keep an eye on our calendar for special dates after spring break!



Spring Break:

Friday, March 11th and Friday, March 18th.



Inclement Weather Policy

Keeping you informed is always our priority. We will notify you about school closure due to inclement weather via Remind 101 on or before 7 a.m. on the morning of closure.

Follow us on social media!

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube!

You will be able to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Pinnacle Prep!

REMIND 101 is our preferred method of communication for everyday activities and reminders.

- If you have quick questions, feel free to send a remind message.

Ms. Laura

Penguins

Mrs. Laura's class has been busy constructing and building different things. We had a fun time building a farm, racecar, monster truck, and a class Castle. Our class has been working hard on sounding out our sight words. We enjoy our reading circle and exploring different stories. We will continue to challenge our readers for identifying the characters, ideas of the story, and setting of the story. They have all been doing a great job predicting and expressing what they believe will happen next in the story. For example when we read that Harry the dog had a noisy neighbor that sang loudly and all the funny things he did to try and stop her from singing so loud in the neighborhood. It was quite a surprise for the kids to find out that the neighbor was an opera singer.

In math will be continuing to use our number line to add and subtract from 1 to 20. We continue to count and review our numbers from 1 to 200. We count by 2's, 3's, 5's, and 10's. I will be introducing even and odd numbers and since we have a good understanding of counting by two's. I have confidence the children will be able to associate that the numbers ending in 2,4,6,8, and 0, are even and the ones ending in 1,3,5,7 and 9 are odd numbers. Our class will be having a lot of fun working on these concepts by sorting blocks, coloring the numbers, painting numbers in order to help them grow comfortable and confident in their understanding. It is a pleasure and an honor to be in your young scholar's life journey.

Smell all the spring blossoms,
Mrs. Laura



ELA- Writing

Mrs. Chavez

Hello there, Pinnacle Parents!

A fabulous shoutout to Louisianans (because that's where I'm from!)- Happy Mardi Gras!! – Let the Good Times Roll! Rolling down Bourbon and Canal street in 1990, I ... OK, enough about that.

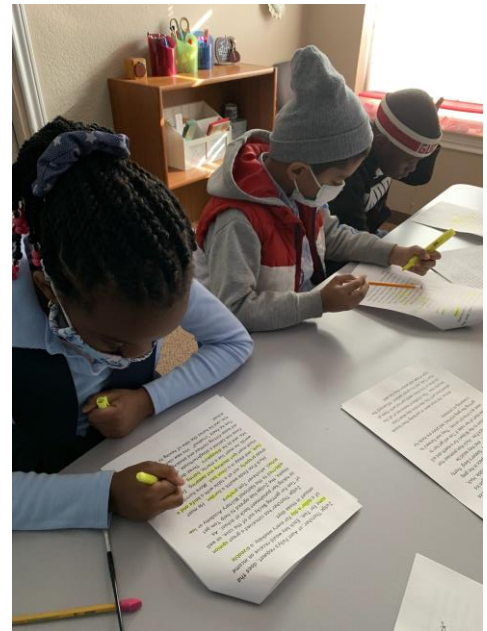
Academically speaking, February kept Ms. Suzy's students fantastically busy, writing summaries as we finish up our Tom Sawyer novel. We still have four more chapters to go before our "Jeopardy" review and exam. We will then practice writing synopses using song lyrics from "Cat's in the Hat" by Harry Chapin, "Candle in the Wind" (England Rose) by Elton John, "I Hope You Dance" by Lee Ann Womack, and "Try Everything" by Shakira. Be on the lookout for these tunes and thought-provoking gems.

Until next time, here's a chuckle for your thoughts:

"My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far, I've finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already." Dave Berry

Quote for February:

"If you aren't grateful for what you already have, you'll never be happy with more." – Roy Bennett



ELA & Math

Mrs. Hill

Pandas:

Our Pandas have completed their first novel study, *The One and Only Ivan!* Folders have gone home, and all grades are available online, with report cards. Thank you for continuing to keep reading a priority at home. Our plan for March will follow the same routine that is in place...Please remember:

- Reading Log (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initialed DAILY by an adult... This is your child's responsibility!
- Treasure Chest will be every Friday from now on...ONLY for those students who have completed reading, spelling, Abeka, and Ivan work ON TIME
- Spelling Tests are on Fridays along with completed packets. Please help your child with learning how to study and be prepared for tests.
- Abeka Language—2 pages daily (M-Th)...I check randomly and choose pages to grade!
- We have begun reading Judy Blume's classic, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*...I know our Pandas will love this story, and I have LOTS of learning to accompany the fun!

Lions (ELA):

We are already about halfway through our latest novel study, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis...everyone has done a superb job staying caught up and organized!

- Reading Log (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initialed DAILY by an adult... This is your child's responsibility! READING IS NON-NEGOTIABLE!!!
- Abeka Language—I assign different sections each week, and also give them 10 minutes daily of independent work time...It is THEIR responsibility to manage their time wisely and have work completed by the deadline I have given. (I check randomly and choose pages to grade!)

Giraffes:

Our Giraffes continue to impress me everyday! Here's what we have going on in March...

- We have completed our unit about the WINTER OLYMPICS!!! I hope that you had a great time as a family watching it on TV!
- Just a gentle reminder...For those kiddos who do Spelling, packets MUST be turned in on Friday mornings. Since we have tests on Fridays, I strongly encourage each student to practice his/her words at home during the week...
- Each student is required to read 20 minutes daily, and record on their reading logs inside their purple folders. PARENTS, PLEASE INITIAL EACH ENTRY!
- Abeka 1st grade language books will begin going home...We do one page in class daily, and the students are expected to do ONE page at home. My objective is to make sure that our Giraffes practice handwriting—especially forming the letters the correct way, and making letters the correct size! Each child is at different places in this book, depending on how long they have been at Pinnacle Prep, and their individual ability level...If your child completes this book, they will advance to the second grade Abeka!
- In March, we will be working on a unit about "Nonfiction Text Features" so that our kiddos build a strong foundation when reading nonfiction books...after this unit, the students will be ready to do a NONFICTION PROJECT.

Lions (Math):

We are completing our basic unit on FRACTIONS this week...In March, we will learning advanced fractions; how to add, subtract, multiply and divide them, both with like and unlike denominators. You can count on lots of critical thinking, real-world applications, and word problems! In addition, I have a fun and educational fractions escape room planned for the week before spring break...

Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home!



Math

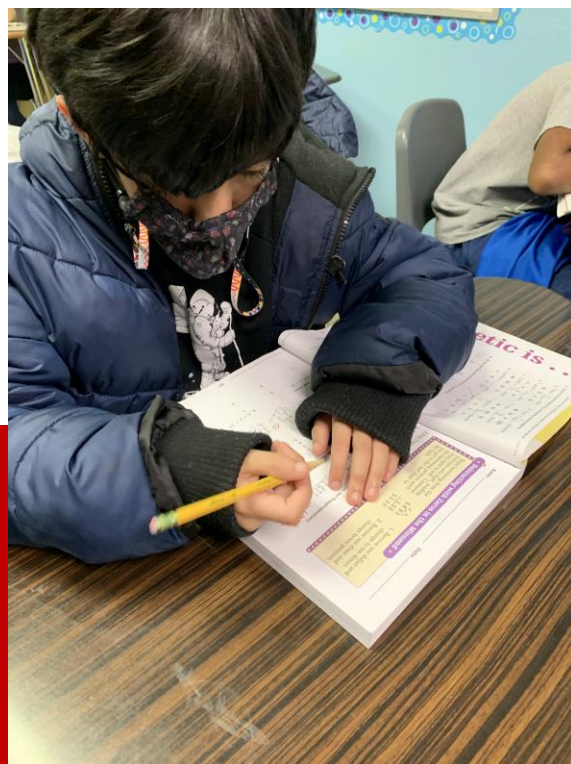
Ms. Jaya

Tigers: They worked on Geometry, which included angles of triangles and quadrilaterals, angles of polygons, circles, congruent and similar figures. Some of the tigers continued onto multi-step equations and inequalities using different operations and will move on to equations and inequalities with rational numbers. They also worked on decimals, in which kids used different operations on decimals. We will be working on ratio, proportions and percent.

Giraffes: Giraffes did a wonderful job learning and working on Measurements. They will learn measuring length using cms, and inches), capacity and volume. They are working on learning metric units conversions. Kids will continue working on converting between cups, pints and quarts, ounces and pounds, grams and kilograms. We will be learning to read a thermometer and probability.

Lions: Lions will be working on Geometry in which they will learn points, lines, ray, and line segment, angles parallel and perpendicular lines. They will also work on circles and different types of polygons. Difference between similar and congruent figures and transformations. Some of the lions are working on decimals, in which they will be learning to solve decimal problems using different math operations.

Pandas: Pandas did a great job learning about Measurements by measuring length to the nearest (cms, and inches), capacity (ounces and pounds), and volume. They also learned about learning metric units conversions. They worked on converting between (cups, pints and quarts) (ounces and pounds), (grams and kilograms). We will continue to work on times tables and start learning division. We will also learn how to read a thermometer and probability.



Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

I need to start by expressing how proud I am of all our students. We jumped right in as we came back from break and introduced some skills that many of your children had not officially experienced before. Formalized speaking took a larger role this last quarter, and it will carry through as we approach the last stretch of the year. We will work to keep everyone focused as we head to spring break in a couple weeks.

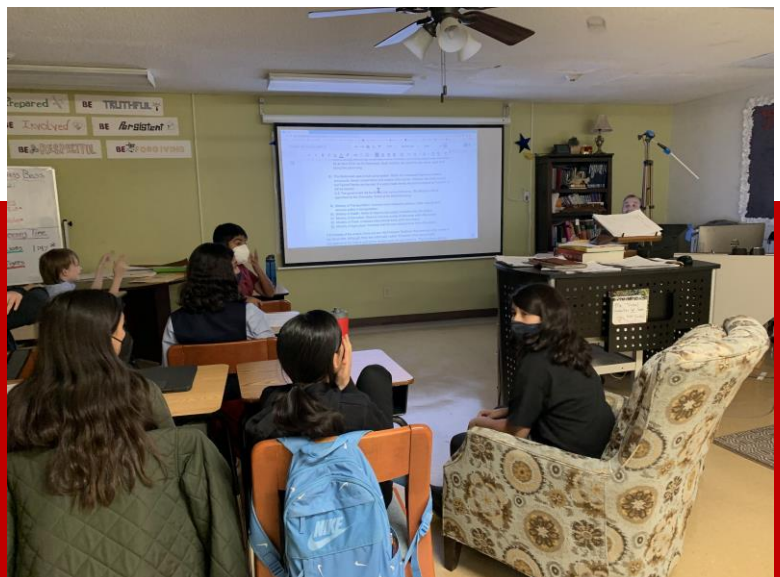
Lions

Our examination of the world's foundational cultures continues. I really hope they have been discussing our class activities and project in communication called "Agora." This unit reproduces an historical event in ancient Syracuse that saw the first formalization of the art of persuasion. We are learning of the Greek philosopher Corax who was, for all practical purposes, the world's first lawyer. In the last weeks students have learned the elements of a spoken message, how self-concept influences our communication, and have started crafting purposeful ways to influence a group for specific goals. In the next weeks the skills will focus on purposes and structure of communication for specific occasions such as speeches of thanks and introduction leading up to the final persuasive speech. Each step is an opportunity for learners to hone the use of public speaking and small group problem solving to achieve complicated goals. These are the "soft" skills that businesses will tell you are much needed in today's young professionals.

Tigers:

Events surrounding American soon after the Revolution are front and center for the Tigers. I strive to frame history beyond dates and places but as human struggles for the same quality of life issues that are sought today. I once had a student ask me of the American Revolution, who were the good guys? My response was everybody involved thinks *They* are the good guys. We see this playing out in the world right now, and it provides clarity for the goals of a free society as well as the stakes for any country. Our job is to try to understand them and to take actions in our lives that make sure *We* are the good guys—that we act with justice and honor. The class is hip deep in a constitutional convention to democratically create a document to ensure prosperity. They are proposing, debating, compromising, and working within parliamentary procedure to find common ground. These are the intellectual tools of our Republic. After break we will follow with a study of the nation's early development and how we dealt the threats, mistakes, and opportunities that shaped our country today.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful 2022 as we get into the final quarter of the school year. As always, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

Our science classes have been studying the movements of the Earth's crust. Students have learned the structure of Earth and the plates on which the crust rides. In addition, the Lions and Tigers have learned how the face of Earth has moved over time and how plates continue to reshape the Earth. All classes are learning about earthquakes and volcanoes and how they are related to the movement of the tectonic plates.

Currently, we are transitioning into units on the different types of rocks, minerals, and the rock cycle. As we move into March, students will learn about the importance of minerals and the formation of soil. Next, we will study Earth's atmosphere and how it drives daily life.



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