



# PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

November 1, 2022

## Winter is Coming!

It's finally starting to feel like Fall around here. The leaves are falling and starting to change colors! We are so excited with what this month brings. We are starting to prepare for our theater productions! Please make sure to save the dates below!

Dates to remember:

- **November 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>:** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 8<sup>th</sup>:** A Night at the Theater
- **December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Parent-teacher Conferences
- **December 19<sup>th</sup>-January 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Winter Break



## 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.

# ELA

## Mrs. Hill

### Pandas:

- Reading Log (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initialed DAILY by an adult... This is your child's responsibility. FANTASTIC JOB, Pandas!
- Treasure Chest will be every Friday...ONLY for those students who have completed reading homework (including reading log) & classwork ON TIME
- Spelling: Students will continue to receive practice packets on the first day of the week, and they will be turned in on the last day of the week, usually Fridays...tests are also on Fridays.
- We will be having a quiz next week on Winston Grammar, lessons 1-6...I'll send home a review to make sure your child understands articles, common and proper nouns, pronouns, and verbs.
- We will be finishing our novel study, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, this month! We will continue learning exciting new vocabulary words, and using text evidence to answer higher-order comprehension questions. Students must be able to answer the question in the RTQ format (Restate the Question).
- Our Pandas did an excellent job on their writing project, "How to Have the Appearance of..." Their final copies are proudly displayed on the BIG bulletin board!
- Be on the lookout for a CCF final test and project to be completed before Thanksgiving...

### Lions:

Lions continue to impress!

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHILD'S PLANNER on a daily basis to ensure they are completing each day's assignments on time...
- Spelling word lists will still go home on the first day of the week, and tests will still be on the last day of the week.
- We are actually almost finished with our first novel study, *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. We will have a final test & project this month...please be on the lookout for details to follow soon!
- The Winston Grammar Program seems to be going very smoothly! We will be covering Lessons 9-13 this month, which includes the addition of adjectives and adverbs.
- The Lions' cursive handwriting is looking amazing! I'll be making corrections with them as we go...keep it up!
- The Greek Mythology Projects were OUTSTANDING! They are proudly displayed on the BIG bulletin board in the entryway!

## ELA Cont.

### Giraffes:

Great job during the month of September!

- 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...ONLY for those students who have completed reading homework (including reading log) & class work ON TIME
- We are almost done with *The Chocolate Touch!* We will continue to learn exciting new vocabulary words, and using text evidence to answer higher order comprehension questions. Students must be able to answer the question in the RTQ format (Restate the Question).
- Spelling is going beautifully! I am loving the creative sentences that they are writing—keep up the good work! Completed packets are due/spelling tests are on Fridays
- Grammar Practice Books are looking awesome! I will send them home on the same day as our "Monthly Messages" so that you can peruse your child's ongoing progress
- PLEASE help me by monitoring your child's handwriting...I've observed that several students are not writing their letters the correct way/the correct size...I will be sending home extra handwriting practice pages for those kiddos that require additional practice.

### Penguins:

The Penguins continue to work very hard! They should have mastered all the short vowel sounds a, e, i, o, and u, as well as knowing the letter name and sound for every letter of the alphabet. We have already begun to read words following the CVC pattern (consonant, vowel, consonant). It is very important that your child understands how to stretch each sound until the next sound takes over...We DON'T want them separating after each sound (like: c...../a...../t, but rather hear it like this: ccccccaaaaaaatt) I tell them to stretch it like bubble gum!

- Reading Log (M-Th), Please read with your child a minimum of 20 minutes each day, and initial the reading log in their purple folders.
- Treasure Chest will be every Friday...ONLY for those students who have completed reading homework (including reading log) & class work ON TIME
- Please continue to practice SIGHT WORDS daily with your child...The expectation is to know the word within 3 seconds without sounding them out...these words don't always follow the rules, that's why students have to know them simply by sight.
- I have lots of fun stations this month to practice phonemic awareness, reading, and writing!
- Be on the lookout for more BOB BOOKS to come home to practice fluency and sight words

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

# Math

Ms. Jaya

## **Penguins:**

Penguins are working on writing and recognizing numbers from 1 to 50, skip counting by 5's and 10's. We will work on recognize and write the missing numbers in the given patterns of numbers. Some of the penguins are working on addition facts and we will move on to practice our subtracting facts as well.

## **Giraffes:**

Giraffes completed a unit on money, where they learnt different types of coins, calculate money and find the change. Students are now working on adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping. We are also working on solving story/word problems and problems solving applications. Once completed we will start a unit on fractions in which kids will learn to write and compare fractions. We will continue to practice addition and subtraction facts.

## **Pandas:**

Pandas are working on multiplying 3-digit by 1 digit, multiplying with regrouping, one- and two-digit quotients, 3-digit by 1 digit division (Long division). We will be starting a unit on fractions in which kids will learn to write, compare, and order fractions, find equivalent fractions, find part of a set, add, and subtract fractions, mixed numbers, problem solving strategies. We will continue to work on multiplication and division concepts.

## **Lions:**

Lions worked on factors, prime and composite numbers, finding G.C.F and L.C.M, reduce fractions, compare, and order fractions. They are now working on adding and subtracting fractions, mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators,

estimating sums and differences, problem solving applications and strategies. Some of the lions completed a chapter on probability and statistics and are now working on geometry in which they will learn to measure and draw angles, identify different types of polygons, congruent and similar figures, finding the area and perimeter of different polygons, area and circumference of circles, lines of symmetry. Some of them completed a unit on measurements in which they learnt metric units of length, capacity, and mass, finding area and perimeter of different polygons, area, and circumference of circles, find the surface area and volume of cube and prisms. They are now working on ratio, proportion, and percentages, in which they will learn to relate fractions, decimals and percent's and convert them, find percent of a number and problem-solving strategies.

## **Tigers:**

Tigers completed the lesson on simplifying variable expressions, multistep equations, inequalities and solving equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They are working on factors, fractions, and exponents with focus on prime factorization, G.C.F, L.C.M, rules of exponents, negative and zero exponents, and scientific notations. Some of the tigers completed a chapter on percentages and worked on measurements in which they learnt to measure and convert metric and customary units of length and capacity, find the area and perimeter of polygons, area, and circumference of circles. They are finding the surface area and volumes of prisms, cylinders, pyramids, and cones. Once completed they will move on to chapter on data analysis and probability in which they will study drawing different types of graphs and interpreting the data using graphs.



# Upper Humanities

## Mr. Troxel

We have been waiting for it to feel like Autumn, now it seems the season is coming upon us. This is always an exciting time of the year as we start to anticipate all the fun, hope, and wonder of the holidays.

Our learning targets continue focus on connecting the ideas explored in history and literature studies to students' lives. We write about what we've read not to simply review what happened in the story, but to find links to emotions, ideas, people, and events mirrored in the world around us every day. You might have some interesting conversations with your child if you ask about the novel they're reading and what they have written lately in essays and their ISN. Also, in both classes we are moving into preparation for our play productions debuting this December. Both classes are excited to get started, and we will shift more to drama as the next month progresses. You will be getting further information in an email soon on our Fall plays. All students have been given their roles and play books, so your help in regularly encouraging them to practice and memorize lines at home will be very helpful.

### Lions:

We are finishing our project on Native American tribes and students will be conducting their Anthropologist Symposium this week. The dioramas coming in look great; thank you parents for your help. In history we continually explore how humans are very much the same today as we were 5000 years past, and projects such as this help learners to see many of the constants that comprise all human societies. Our goal is how this understanding will help to better a build the world in front of us. We will next be examining the

early explorers and the beginning of European influence in the Americas.

### Tigers:

We recently completed some diagnostic testing for Reading, and I've collated the data by instructional standards to provide specific improvement targets for each student. I will continue reading comprehension drills for better grasp of standardized testing. We don't teach to the test, but unfamiliarity with the testing process may lead to assessment data which does not accurately reflect the learner's true skill level.

Our study in history has just finished the beginnings of colonial Texas, the rise of the empresarios, and the first tensions that forecast the war of independence to come. As we study, I strive to show learners both sides of any conflict. History is not simply black and white, good or bad. So often it is painted as such, but if citizens are to construct their best world, they must understand it is constructed of individual choices—cause and effect, rather than right or wrong. Our study has dovetailed very well with the novel we are reading, *Rebels*. Learners are seeing portrayal of historical events from a personal level through the eyes of the characters. It reinforces that history is not some distant concept, we are in fact living what will one day be considered history. Our choices today matter. Students are already making connections between our novel and the aspects of colonial Texas learned of in class. We will continue to develop written expression in essays that use both the literature and historical study as evidence.

Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep. Together we will blaze a path for success for every child.

# Science

*Mrs. Hozie*

Dear Pinnacle Parents,

As you know, science, technology, and engineering are basic skills expected by employers. As Twenty First Century citizens, these students will also have to make some of the toughest decisions of any generation based on their understanding of emerging science and technology. Doing science is key to learning science. Our school is holding an astronomy science "fair," and all students at PPS will participate.

Space-themed, hands-on scientific investigation and invention are the focus of our event. Over six weeks, your child will design, model or test, analyze, and present a project that uses scientific methods to solve a problem or the engineering process to develop a model or prototype. The sky's the limit! (Sample ideas and suggested websites are below).

Please note that students will do much of the work at school, but some work at home may be necessary. Students will receive project guidelines and timelines at school. Parents are encouraged to offer emotional support and reminders and allow children to do the projects themselves. Parents will tour the entries during Parent/Teacher Open House in December. Don't hesitate to call or email the school with any questions. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sample ideas to research:

- How do the night sky's constellations change over different periods?
- How does the number of stars visible in the sky change from place to place because of light pollution?
- Learn about and demonstrate the ancient parallax method to measure the distance to an object, such as stars and planets.
- Study different types of stars and explain different ways they end their life cycles.

Earth Science topics:

- How do the phases of the Moon correspond to the changing tides?
- Demonstrate what causes the phases of the Moon.
- How does the tilt of Earth's axis create seasons throughout the year?

Solar system topics:

- How does the size of a meteorite relate to the size of the crater it makes when it hits Earth?
- How does the phase of the Moon affect the number of stars visible in the sky?
- Show how a planet's distance from the Sun affects its temperature.

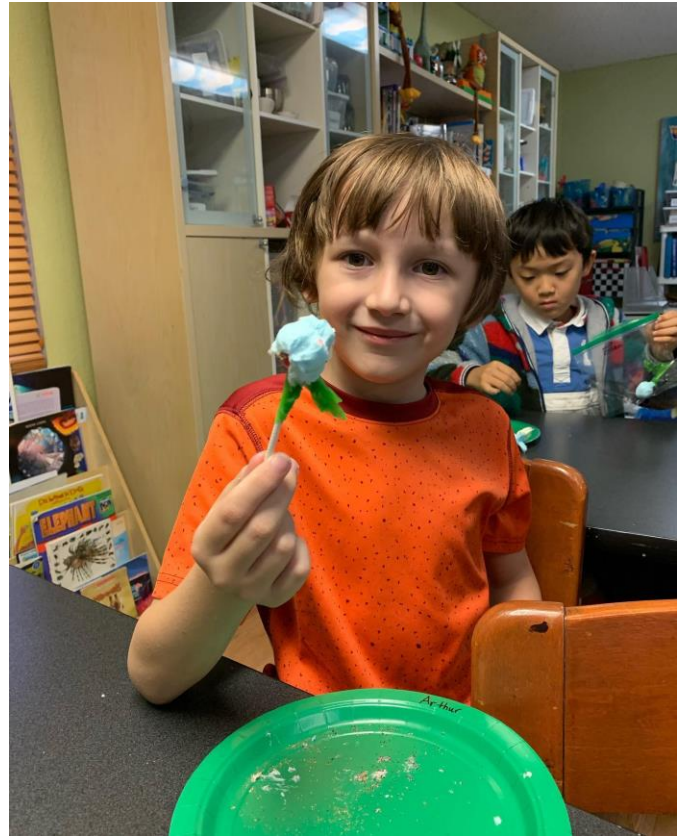
# Science Cont.

## Sun topics:

- Observe and record changes in the number and placement of sunspots over several days. **DO NOT** look directly at the Sun!
- Research how civilizations have measured time. Make a sundial and explain how it works.
- How do eclipses occur, and why don't they happen all the time?
- How effective are automobile sunshades?
- Study and explain the life space of the Sun relative to other stars

## Websites:

- <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science-projects/astronomy/middle-school>
- [Space & Astronomy Science Fair Projects for Kids - Easy Ideas, Moon, Planets \(sciencekids.co.nz\) https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/spaceastronomy.html](https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/spaceastronomy.html)
- [Space Exploration Science Projects \(sciencebuddies.org\) https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/space-exploration](https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/space-exploration)



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