



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

October 1, 2022

Fall is in the Air!

It's hard to believe October is already here! Students have settled into the rhythm of learning in the classroom! It is exciting to see the growth our students have made in a short period of time. With the weather cooling down a bit, we will be having more fun activities for our students. Please make sure you look at our calendar!

Dates to remember:

- **October 10th:** No School
- **October 21st:** No School
- **October 31st:** Dress-up Day
- **November 18th-25th:** Thanksgiving Week



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!

REMINDE 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 this month 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.
- Our novel study, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, is going great! We are about halfway through the book now...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).
- We will have a writing project this month...I'm still deciding on the topic, so stay tuned!

Lions:

Things have settled in quite nicely!

- I am very pleased that our Lions are handling their newfound responsibilities extremely well! 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 just wrapping up the Greek Mythology Unit this week, and we will FINALLY begin our first novel, *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. Please make sure your child has brought this book by Monday, October 3rd. I apologize for the delay, believe me, I know they are so excited to get started!
- The Winston Grammar Program seems to be going very smoothly...there will be a quiz soon, and I'll be sending home a review so you can make sure your kiddo is prepared.
- The Lions' cursive handwriting is looking amazing! I'll be making corrections with them as we go...keep it up!
- Our first big writing project is due next Monday, October 3...Please see the letter I sent home for ALL the specifics. We will be using class time all week to focus on superb writing skills.

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 about halfway through *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'll be sending them home on Friday so that you can see their hard work
- 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 are settling in and working very hard!

- We will continue to focus the short vowel sounds a, e, i, o, and u. We have already begun to read words following the CVC pattern (consonant, vowel, consonant). We have expanded our phonemic awareness to include ALL letters/sounds of the alphabet by the end of the month.
- 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.

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

Math

Ms. Jaya

Penguins:

Penguins worked on reading and writing numbers. Now they are working on writing numbers 1 to 100, counting by 2's, write the number that comes before and after.

Giraffes:

Giraffes learnt to compare and order number from least to greatest and vice versa. Kids worked on learning to tell time in which they focused on telling time using both digital and analog clocks, telling time to the hour and minutes. Comparing and ordering numbers from least to greatest and vice versa. We will be starting a unit on money, where the kids will learn the different types of coins and calculate money. We will continue to practice adding and subtracting facts.

Pandas:

Pandas finished a unit with money in which they learnt to calculate the change from the given amount. Kids are working on adding and subtracting larger numbers with and without regrouping, estimating to the nearest tens, hundreds, and thousands. Some of the kids are working on multiplying and dividing two-digit numbers. We will continue to work on multiplication and division concepts.

Lions:

Lions worked on properties of addition and multiplication followed by multiplying and dividing large numbers, multiply and divide money and simplify equations using order of operations. They will start working on Fractions, in which they will learn factors, prime and composite numbers, finding the G.C.F and L.C.M, reduce fractions. Some of the lions are working on probability and statistics in which they are working on finding probability of an event, tree diagrams, independent and dependent events, finding the mean, median, mode and range. Some of them are working on metric units of length, capacity and mass, area of squares, rectangles, parallelogram and triangles.

Tigers:

Tigers worked on simplifying variable expressions and solving equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They will continue to work on multi-step equations and inequalities in which they will learn to solve two step equations with like and unlike terms. Solving inequalities using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Some of the tigers are working on trigonometric ratios in which they are learning about sine, cosine, and tangent ratios. Once completed they will move on to learn about triangles, polygons, and quadrilaterals. Some of the tigers are working on percent in which they will work on solving proportions, relate fractions, decimals, and percent's, finding percent of a number, percent increase/decrease sale price, discount, simple interest, and compound interest.

Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

It has been a fun start to the year and we have been busy learning together. My goal is to facilitate each student to be the spearhead of their own learning. I feel this to be exemplary of building success in life as choices are tested and revised to match an ever-changing environment. My class leaders have been powerful in guiding their peers towards success. As we get deeper into the fall season, we will continue to set a class environment that develops self-aware learners who evaluate and adjust efforts to build effective skill sets.

Lions:

We are continuing our study of the earliest North Americans and how human beings adapt to the natural resources of a particular region. This month we begin a project exploring Native American societies that will combine research with creativity and presentation skills. After looking at the ways historians determine what happened in cultures before the time of written language, the students themselves will become the archeologists and apply what has been learned in a symposium of fellow scientists. They have been doing great work and apply amazing critical thinking and analytical skills. From here we will launch into studies of European exploration of the west. There were political and economic stresses that brought the Native American societies into direct conflict with Europeans, who had in turn been influenced by Africa and Asia. That interplay of political, ideological, and economic needs still drives our choices in the world today, which is the very reason we study History.

Tigers:

ELAR: We are continuing our current novel, *Rebels: Sons of Texas*. The book is historical fiction that will dovetail into our history studies in the next few weeks. We read to share the enjoyment of the story together, as well as provide key moments to evaluate the text, devices of literature, and author's purpose. I have started to reset some of the key practices in student writing now that I've evaluated specific needs. At times we take one step back to move forward with greater confidence. I have been teaching specific tools to evaluate and break down writing prompts, whether writing for an academic purpose or to demonstrate writing skills for advancement opportunities. This is combined with aids to tune up language and develop greater sophistication in vocabulary. Lastly, students will be required to read a book at home of their choosing. Parent support to ensure at least 30 minutes of independent reading is critical to strengthen skills and reinforce the important value of reading independently as a critical strategy for self-reliance.

Upper Humanities- Cont.

History: We are looking at the beginnings of American influence in the newly formed country of Mexico after learning how North American exploration was influenced by European power struggles. This establishes critical events in the creation of Texas. The choices societies and governments make in the face of the political challenges do not always result in desired outcomes. Choices on the large scale are often like choices made as individuals. Large or small, humanity shares commonality. We will explore adapting to unexpected consequences in the formation of Texas.

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



Science

Mrs. Hozie

Penguins and Giraffes

In September, our Penguins and Giraffes began learning about different kinds of animals, what their needs are, and how some kinds of animals grow. Just as students learn to sequence events in math, they learn to sequence the steps of a process in science. The life stages of plants and animals lend themselves to the reinforcement of this skill. In addition, Giraffes learned about the two main divisions of animals - those with backbones, vertebrates, and those without backbones, invertebrates. To round out the month, students learned about adaptations – specifically teeth – and how these help animals meet their needs. Next month, Penguins and Giraffes will learn about human growth and anatomy.

Tip: With your child, select an animal to study. Learn about the animal's life cycle, where it lives, and what things it needs to survive. Help your student draw pictures of the animal at different stages of its life. Mix up the pictures and let your child sequence them from birth to young animal to adult. Encourage your child to tell you how the animal changes in each picture.

Pandas

Our Pandas have been continuing their classification skills by differentiating between the two main divisions of animals - those with backbones, vertebrates, and those without backbones, invertebrates. We went over how all animals have the same basic needs and how different groups of animals meet these needs. We learned about the different groups of vertebrates and invertebrates – comparing how they are alike and contrasting characteristics that are different. Finally, we went over how organisms interact in their habitat.

Hint: One of the skills used in this chapter is communicating – passing on information to other people by speaking, writing, drawing, modeling, or demonstrating. Students have been researching, writing, and modeling the habitat of a chosen endangered species. Ask your child to tell you some facts they have learned about their species.

Science Cont.

Lions

Our Lions have been exploring the properties, and changes matter can undergo. We learned about physical properties and physical changes. Chemical properties and chemical changes were later explained. We finished out the month by reviewing the Law of Conservation of Mass – mass cannot be created or destroyed; it can only change form. Next month, Lions will delve into Space Technologies and the Solar System.

Tigers

Our Tigers have been studying the properties of different materials. We reviewed monomers, polymers, composites, alloys, ceramics, and glass. We finished up the month going over radioactivity, its dangers, and its uses.

Lions and Tigers will begin the process of choosing a topic for their winter project. Space-themed, hands-on scientific investigation and invention are the focus of our event. Over a 6-week period, your child will design, 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! Projects will be completed and presented in the second week of December. Look for more information to come home soon.



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