



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

April 3, 2023

Warm weather is finally here!

We are excited to finally have warm weather! With warm weather come field trips and outings to the park. We are so excited to have some fun in the sun! Students must be in uniform to go on field trips and outings.

This month we are focusing on being good citizens. We are so excited to learn about our community and those around us!

Dates to remember:

- **Photo Day: April 3rd**
- **Egg Hunt- April 6th**
- **School Closed- April 7th and April 10th**



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

Penguins:

The Penguins continue to work very hard!

- Please remember how important it is for your child to read TO YOU—Kinder/1st grade/2nd grade books, depending on your child's ability level...I have plenty of books to share if you need suggestions!
- We are emphasizing handwriting this semester...we are using the D'Nealian style since this will make the transition to cursive a very logical progression in the future...your child is already expected to be able to write his/her name and the "lowercase small letters" of the alphabet: a,c,e,i,m,n,o,r,s,u,v,w,x and z, AND NOW they also know the "tall lowercase letters": b,d,f,h,k,l,t !!! Our last section will be the "descending letters": g, j,p,q and y...
- Work Stations will continue after daily handwriting, reading, & sight word work is done...It's so exciting! The Penguins have demonstrated that I can trust them to work with partners doing puzzles, magnet letters, coloring, reading, rainbow words, and so many more... this allows me more 1:1 time with each kiddo to hear them read to me, check sight word progress, and monitor handwriting—FUN!
- 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 EVERYDAY 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. Students should already have mastered the Kinder (Primer) list and moved on to the First Grade list...I even have some students on the Second Grade list, hooray!

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

Giraffes:

- 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 will continue our novel study on *The One and Only Ivan*, learning how to incorporate 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...Giraffes get to practice their grammar skills using IXL in the Computer Lab when their daily work is completed.
- We have been focusing on READING COMPREHENSION...Please keep an eye out for these weekly selections. I will be sending them home this week in their blue Monthly Messages folders.

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

ELA CONTINUED

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 continue to work on Winston Grammar, So far, the students are expected to know articles, common and proper nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs!
- I hope to wrap up *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* 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).
- After we finish MJET, we will celebrate with a lapbook project & a writing project
- We have been focusing on READING COMPREHENSION...Please keep an eye out for these weekly selections. I will be sending them home this week in their blue Monthly Messages folders.

Lions:

- 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.
- *The Giver* is finished, and I believe the students have all had an amazing learning experience...Our novel study will culminate with a writing project & another fun project
- The Winston Grammar Program continues with Lessons 16-20 this month, which includes prepositions, objects of the preposition, and identifying if each phrase is an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase.
- The Lions' cursive handwriting is looking amazing! They will continue writing a cursive paragraph daily and which will be graded on Fridays.
- IXL Grammar is running smoothly...I encourage all Lions to check in with me if they are STUCK on a certain concept—I am happy to help them get through a difficult lesson!

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



Math

Ms. Jaya

Penguins:

Penguins did a great job working on addition and subtraction using a number line, and are currently practicing finding missing addends in equations through the same method. Their next focus will be on financial literacy, where they will learn to identify and count different types of coins. We will also continue to reinforce their fluency in addition and subtraction facts.

Giraffes:

Giraffes made great strides in mastering the concept of elapsed time, which involves calculating the difference between start and end times. They have now shifted their focus to data and graphing, which involves conducting surveys, creating tally marks, and constructing different types of graphs such as bar graphs and pictographs, while also answering related questions. The children will soon commence their studies on multiplication. We will continue to work on math facts.

Pandas:

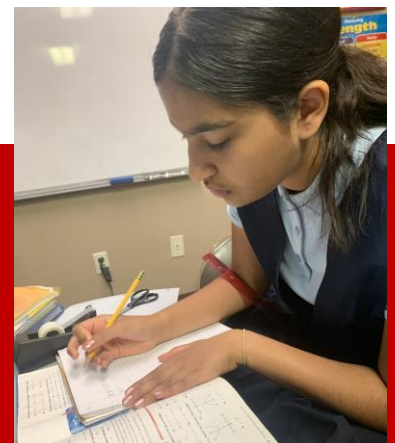
Pandas are currently studying geometry, including the identification of various types of lines, such as lines, line segments, and rays, as well as the recognition of intersecting, perpendicular, and parallel lines. They are also learning about different types of polygons and how to classify triangles based on their sides and angles. Furthermore, they will begin working on the computation of the area and perimeter of various polygons. Additionally, the pandas will practice multiplying two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers and continue to refine their skills in long divisions.

Lions:

Lions have completed their study of graphing techniques, which included line plots, histograms, line graphs, and circle graphs. They are now focused on decimals, which involves decimal place value and operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using decimals. Next, they will move into geometry. Some of the children are also learning about percents, which entails understanding the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents, converting between them, finding the percent of a number, and ultimately applying problem-solving strategies using percents.

Tigers:

Tigers have successfully completed their study of data analysis and probability, which included topics such as permutation, combinations, and probability of independent and dependent events. They have now shifted their focus to studying polynomials and non-linear functions. This includes topics like adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing monomials and polynomials, as well as the rules of exponents, negative and zero exponents, and scientific notation. Additionally, they are studying linear functions, which cover linear equations in two variables, slope of a line, slope-intercept form, function notation, and solving and graphing systems of linear equations. Soon, they will begin exploring rational numbers and equations, which will involve adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions with variables.



Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

Spring has officially sprung, and we are excited to welcome the new month of April at Pinnacle Prep School! As the weather warms up, we look forward to a variety of engaging and enriching activities, events, and opportunities for our students. From academic achievements to extracurricular adventures, this month promises to be full of excitement and growth for our school community. This is a season of new growth and new possibilities.

Wolves:

We have just wrapped up our comprehensive study of the original 13 colonies and we are now diving into the fascinating period of the American Revolution. As we embark on this new chapter of our history curriculum, students will explore the political, social, and economic factors that led to the birth of the United States. Through source analysis, critical thinking exercises, and interactive class discussions, our students will gain a deeper understanding of the events and individuals that shaped our nation's early history. We are excited to see the Lions develop their historical thinking skills and engage in meaningful conversations about the origins of our country. As we delve deeper into this pivotal period of American history, we hope to inspire our students to become engaged citizens and critical thinkers in their own right.

Tigers:

After weeks of reading, discussion, and analysis, our Tigers have completed the novel "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd. This coming week, we will begin a new and exciting journey as we transition into public speaking. Throughout the month of April, our students will learn the art of effective communication through various public speaking exercises and assignments. We will explore different styles of speeches, including informative, persuasive,

and entertaining, and work on skills such as voice projection, body language, and eye contact. By honing their public speaking abilities, our students will gain the confidence to articulate their ideas, share their perspectives, and engage with audiences effectively. We are excited to see our students grow and excel in this new endeavor.

As we continue to explore the rich history of our great state, we cannot overlook the pivotal role Texas played in the Civil War. From secession to the Battle of Galveston, Texas's contributions to the Confederate cause are a crucial part of our state's history. Through our social studies curriculum, students at Pinnacle Prep School are delving into the complexities of the Civil War and examining the impact it had on Texas and the country as a whole. The study of history involves recognizing that historical events are intertwined with human emotions and drives. By understanding this fundamental truth, we can apply this knowledge to engage in critical thinking and our decision-making. The Tigers are gaining a deeper understanding of the historical context and significance of the Civil War in Texas. We believe that by understanding our past, we can better navigate our present and future.

It has been an incredible year thus far, and I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents for their unwavering support and for entrusting Pinnacle Prep with the privilege of being a part of your children's remarkable journey. Time flies, and before we know it, this academic year will come to a close.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

Pinnacle Students have transitioned from testing mode to geography mode in the science classroom. Geography studies the relationships between natural and built environments and the people who live there. Geographers are inventors, entrepreneurs, explorers, teachers, and leaders in our communities.

According to the Texas Alliance for Geography Education, "Many of our [global] challenges have a spatial dimension or lie at the link between human and environmental systems... Geography provides essential workforce skills. It enables students to grasp the explanatory power of spatial information. It empowers students to be discerning users of maps and increasingly critical geospatial technologies such as remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and global positioning systems (GPS). Geographic literacy is important for applying these technologies toward good governance, foreign policy, economic development, environmental stewardship, and regional and local planning."

Once our Geography Unit is complete, we will transition into Life Science, specifically Body Systems.



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