



# PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

February 1, 2023

## February is Kindness Month!

We ended January participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. We are now a Kindness Certified School. During the month of February, we will continue to celebrate friendship and choosing kindness.



**We have updated the calendar to include make-up days. Students will now have classes on February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>- Picture Day**

**NO CLASSES: February 17<sup>th</sup>.**



## 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 will be expected to write his/her name and the lowercase small letters of the alphabet this month: a,c,e,i,m,n,o,r,s,u,v,w,x and z.
- Work Stations have begun in my room! 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!

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### 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.

# ELA- Cont.

*Mrs. Hill*

- Our Giraffes have finished their writing project, “My New Year’s Resolution”! I will be sending home a copy of their writing along with a February calendar and a sticker sheet of their choice...Please keep track of their progress, and every student who meets their goal will get to participate in a PIZZA PARTY!!!

## **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, pronouns, and verbs. Adjectives begin this week!
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane is fully underway, and seems to be a hit so far! 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 have finished their writing project, “My New Year’s Resolution”! I will be sending home a copy of their writing along with a February calendar and a sticker sheet of their choice...Please keep track of their progress, and every student who meets their goal will get to participate in a PIZZA PARTY!!!

## **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 going extremely well—We are having great class discussions about the pros & cons of free choice vs. control...Our unit will include vocabulary, literary elements, characterization, theme, plot lines, and critical thinking comprehension questions.
- The Winston Grammar Program will be begun with Lesson 14 this month, which includes identifying what word each adjective and adverb is modifying.
- The Lions’ cursive handwriting is looking amazing! They will continue writing a cursive paragraph daily and which will be graded on Fridays.
- The addition of IXL Grammar into their daily schedule is working GREAT! They will continue to visit the computer lab (or use their laptops) from 11:00-11:20ish each day.

Stay tuned for details regarding their new writing project— I will assign this within the first two weeks of February...

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



# UPPER HUMANITIES

## Mr. Troxel

February is a month where we find important historical reminders for the country. Two of America's most influential leaders are remembered on President's day and the month is set aside to provide special focus on the achievements of black Americans in advancing our republic. This provides a wonderful opportunity to examine the intersection of literature, History, and how we think about creating a future in the face of obstacles. We all have challenges, but those who change the world refuse to be defined by the problem but rather by the power to craft solutions.

### Lions:

Our study of early American colonization is continuing as we examine the formation of the English colonies and the significant political influence which shaped the foundations of the our nation. We will continue to examine key points that created the conditions for the United States we know to be born. History is made of sequential links in a chain. Gaining an understanding of how past events build the world we have today also allow us to reflect on how current action will influence the future. We forge each link one moment at a time.

### Tigers:

Our practice of breaking down a reading passage will continue in the next month. This skill is important for subject comprehension of text in class and for better performance in standardized testing. We are also starting our next novel, "The Secret Life of Bees", by Sue Monk Kidd. The story follows a middle school aged girl as she grows through the social realities of 1964 civil rights struggles in America. My goal is to examine one author's view our past in a manner that helps the student make informed opinions about society today. Often a work of fiction can be more inciteful than a textbook. A central theme in my approach to history is that events are never free from the attitudes of those telling the story. Always remember the role of the "truth" teller and *think* about the information presented.

In History the fight for Texas independence continues. After a hard look at the Alamo, we will examine the victory at San Jacinto and the formation of the Texas Republic. This will drive forward to the Mexican American and American Civil Wars. As I wrote earlier, the study of Texas History is a study of the entire country. Texas is at the center of what has made our country what it is today.

We hope all are doing well as we continue forward in an exciting 2023. Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep.

# Math

*Ms. Jaya*

## **Penguins:**

Penguins are learning to read and write calendars. They are also studying geometry and will learn to identify various shapes by name and count edges and vertices. Next, they will cover measurements, including how to measure length and compare lengths. The penguins will also continue to practice addition and subtraction concepts.

## **Giraffes:**

The giraffes finished a geometry unit where they studied different 2D and 3D shapes, including their names, counting faces, edges, and vertices. Currently, they are studying measurements, including units for capacity, length, and weight, as well as conversions. Their ongoing focus will be on adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, including regrouping, and practicing basic math facts.

## **Pandas:**

Pandas completed a unit on fractions where they learned how to write and reduce fractions, find equivalent fractions, and add/subtract fractions with the same denominators. They are now studying decimals, including decimal place value, converting between decimals and fractions, and performing arithmetic operations with decimals. The pandas will also work on 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication and continue to work on long division.

## **Lions:**

Lions finished a unit on fractions, where they learned how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions with unlike denominators, and apply the order of operations to fractions. They are currently studying probability and statistics, which covers finding event probabilities, creating tree diagrams, independent and dependent events, calculating mean, median, mode, and range. Some lions also covered ratio and proportion, which involved writing and solving problems using proportions, working with scale drawings and maps, and connecting percents, decimals, and fractions. Additionally, lions are studying decimals, including place value, arithmetic operations, estimation, and multistep problem-solving using decimals.

## **Tigers:**

Tigers studied various types of graphs and analyzed data by interpreting graphs. They are currently learning about permutation and combinations, as well as probability of disjoint and overlapping events, independent and dependent events, percent change, percent applications, simple interest, and compound interest. The students are also tackling equations, including understanding properties and operations, using the distributive property, writing, and simplifying expressions, and solving equations. Some students are applying their knowledge by solving linear equations with graphs, the slope-intercept form, substitution, and elimination methods.



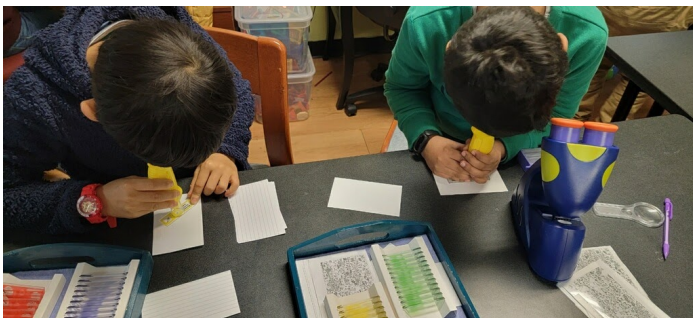
# Science

*Mrs. Hozie*

In January, all Pinnacle Prep students began learning about energy, electricity, and magnetism. Students loved doing activities that helped them understand magnets, static electricity, and circuits. We discussed what a magnet can do, where the poles of the magnet are located, and the types of things that are attracted to magnets. We even learned how to make an electromagnet. Students learned about forces and what makes things move. The laws of motion, the force of friction, and balanced/unbalanced forces were all explored.

Our upper grades are discussing the Law of Conservation of Energy. We reviewed how kinetic and potential energy are related and investigated the energy stored in chemical bonds and in the nucleus of atoms. We expanded our knowledge of thermal energy and how it moves between substances. To finish the month, we studied the relationship between magnetism and electricity – specifically, how magnets play in electricity generation.

The information your child will learn in this unit has many practical applications in our daily lives. As a family, discuss what fuel is used to generate the electricity you are using. Prediction and drawing conclusions are important science skills. Drawing conclusions is done after observations are made. It is how we make sense of the world around us. Scientific predictions are based on observations and inferences about those observations. You can help by having your student practice making predictions at home or in the car.



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