



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

January 6, 2023

Happy New Year!

We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We hope that each of you had a wonderful break and enjoyed a special time with family and friends. We had a fantastic first semester. There were so many highlights- A Night at the Theater and displaying our wonderful projects during Parent-Teacher Conferences to name a few! We are excited about this semester and look forward to seeing our students continue to flourish!

Dates to remember:

- **January 16th- MLK (No School)**
- **January 25th National Opposite Day (Wear your clothes inside out or backwards)**

“ The time is always right to do what’s right.”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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!

- 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: ccccccaaaaaatt) I tell them to stretch it like bubble gum! This semester we will be adding long vowel sounds!
- 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... Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home! I'm looking forward to another great semester together!

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 are so excited to begin our new novel, *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate! 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
 - Our Giraffes are currently working on their new writing project, "My New Year's Resolution." Stay tuned for further instructions to see if they reach their goals!
- Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home! I'm looking forward to another great semester together!

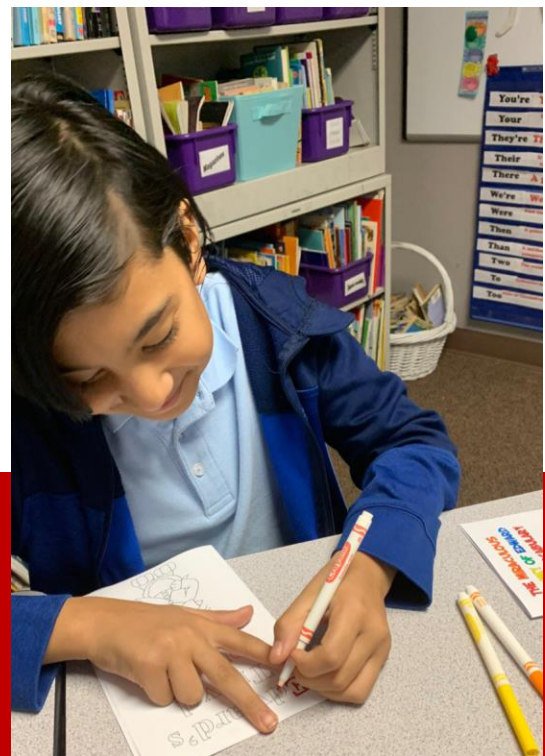
ELA CONTINUED

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, pronouns, and verbs. We will add helping verbs, adjectives, and adverbs over the next two months.
 - We have started our new novel, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo 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 are currently working on our new writing project, "My New Year's Resolution." Stay tuned for further instructions to see if they reach their goals!
- Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education! I'm looking forward to another great semester together!

Lions (ELA)

- 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 have begun our new novel study, The Giver, by Lois Lowry. Our unit will include vocabulary, literary elements, characterization, theme, plot lines, and critical thinking comprehension questions.
- We will start back up with the Winston Grammar Program...We will be covering Lessons 9-13 this month, which includes the addition of adjectives and adverbs.
- The Lions' cursive handwriting is looking amazing! From now on, their daily assignment will be to copy a cursive paragraph, and I will collect and grade these on Fridays.
- I have finally figured out a way for the Lions to incorporate IXL Grammar into their daily schedule: They will visit the computer lab (or use their laptops) from 11:00-11:20ish each day. Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home! I'm looking forward to another great semester together!



Math

Ms. Jaya

Penguins:

Penguins had a great start this year by reviewing the concepts learnt. Penguins are also learning to read and write a calendar. We will be starting a unit on geometry where they will learn to recognize different types of shapes with names and count the number of edges. We will continue to work on our addition and subtraction concepts as well.

Giraffes:

Giraffes welcomed the new year by successfully completing the unit on fractions, and reviewing the concepts learnt before the break. We have started a unit on geometry in which kids will learn about different types of 2D and 3D shapes, counting the edges and vertices. Find the perimeter of a given polygon. We will continue to work on adding and subtracting 2- and 3-digit numbers with regrouping. Also, giraffes will continue to work on basic math facts.

Pandas:

Pandas will continue to work on fractions in which they will learn to find part of a set and reduce fractions, add, and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. We will start a unit on Geometry in which they will learn to find the edges, vertices and angles of different 2D and 3D shapes, find the area, perimeter, and volume of given polygons. We will also start working on multiplying 2 digit by 2-digit multiplication and continue to work on long division concepts.

Lions:

Lions are now working on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators, multiplying, and dividing fractions, order of operations using fractions. Some of the lions completed working on geometry and are now working on ratio and proportions in which they will work on writing and solving problems using proportions, use scale drawings and maps, relate percent's, decimals and fractions. . Lions are also working on Measurements in which they will learn to convert between different units, compute customary units of measurements, compute with time, find area, perimeter and circumference of different polygons and circles.

Tigers:

It has been a great start this year with tigers working on data analysis and probability, in which they will study drawing different types of graphs and interpret data using graphs, permutation and combinations, probability of Disjoint and overlapping events, Independent and Dependent events. Some of the tigers are working on percents in which students will learn to convert between fractions, decimals and precents', percent of change, percent applications, simple and compound interest. Students are also working on solving equations in which they are working on properties and operations, Distributive property, writing and simplifying variables, expressions, and equations.

Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

Happy new year, once again. It is always exciting to see how something so small as a date change can get us all thinking about the future and new potential for the next steps in life. First thing I want to put on the record is how very proud I am of the children's play performances before break. They all took ownership and stepped up to the task as teams. That is the best hope a teacher has for their learners—to see them own the outcome and do what is necessary for success. That is life.

Lions:

Now that the Lions finished their research project and a deep examination of North America's first natives, we start looking at the exploration and colonization by Europeans. Ask your children about the continual cycle of cause and effect that drives nations to make decisions. It was the travels of Marco Polo, the invention of the printing press, the creation of the Silk Road trading routes, then the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire followed by the ship building advances of Portugal which all led to an Italian explorer currently known as Christopher Columbus (actually named Cristóbal Colón). This bouncing ball of human need, motivation and outcome is what I hope every student comes to see in our studies concerning History. We are making the History of tomorrow.

Tigers:

In Language Arts the Tigers will continue to read and write but will also now concentrate on the development of public speaking skill. Whole language means that we must learn to master all the nuanced choices to send a specific, clearly understood message. Our exploration will examine how communication is a complex process, and our messaging success is often accidental. We will be learning the basic components of human communication and will develop strategic tools to be intentional speakers. In History we are continuing to examine development of Texas through the revolution and then onto the early days of the Republic. We will follow with how Texas joined the U.S. and left very soon after as we reached the great national test of the American Civil war. As I've written before, the study of Texas is the study of American History.

I'm excited about a wonderful new year in 2023. Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

Thank you, Pinnacle parents, for your encouragement and support during our Space Fair Projects! It was great to see so many of you at conferences. The home-school partnership is key, and thank you for coming to meet us! Our students are amazing!

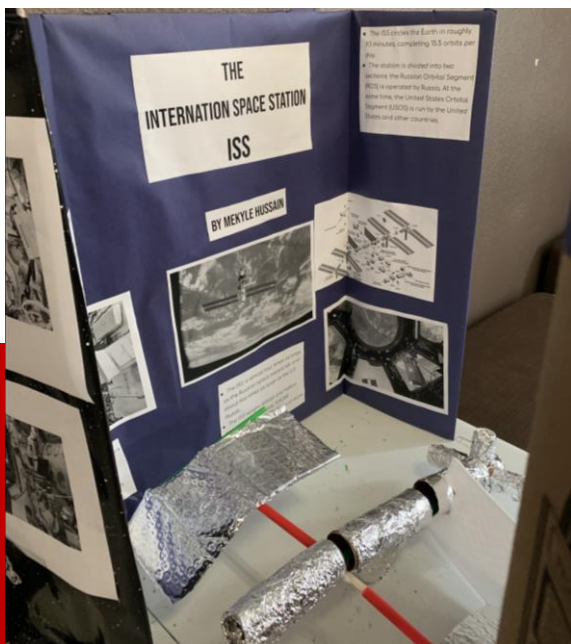
We will transition to new units come January. We all know that without the engineers of our world, no one would be able to enjoy the use of modern-day technology. We will explore real-world challenges using physics, electronics, and robotics in the coming months. Students will design, program, and test remote-controlled robots in teams. The robotics unit will culminate with spirited challenges such as obstacle courses.

Imagination + Technology + Teamwork = A
WHOLE LOT OF FUN!

If you couldn't make it to the conferences and would like to connect with any (or all) of your child's teachers, feel free to email or call the office!

The car ride to and from school is a great time to ask your child specific questions about their day:

- What did you learn today? (Don't settle for the "nothing" answer. It's not true!)
- What was your favorite part of your day?
- What did you not understand?
- What assignments do you need to accomplish tonight?
- How can I help you?
- What are your goals for the week/weekend?



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