



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

March 1, 2023

Spring is in the air!

Spring is in the air! We are excited about the wonderful progress that has taken place during this school year. In February we participated in the Great Kindness Challenge, and we are now a Kindness Certified School!

This month is Women's History Month. We will be learning about women's contributions to history, culture, and society. Please make sure to look at our calendar for activities this month.



Dates to remember:

- **Spring Break: March 13th-17th**



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 We will begin "tall lowercase letters" next week: b,d,f,h,k,l,t...
- 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!

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.
- Please send in your child's RESOLUTION CALENDAR...Every student who meets their goal will get to participate in a PIZZA PARTY on Friday, March 10!!

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!
- We are about halfway through *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*! 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 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.
- Please send in your child's RESOLUTION CALENDAR...Every student who meets their goal will get to participate in a PIZZA PARTY on Friday, March 10!!

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.
- *The Giver* will be finished this month! We continue to have great class discussions about the pros & cons of free choice vs. control...Our unit includes vocabulary, literary elements, characterization, theme, plot lines, and critical thinking comprehension questions. Be on the lookout toward the end of March for project information!
- 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 are currently working on adding and subtracting numbers utilizing a number line. Additionally, they are memorizing the days of the week and months of the year. After finishing this section, they will begin learning to read and write a calendar by months, followed by learning to tell time using hours and minutes.

Giraffes:

The giraffes did an amazing job with the unit on measurements, in which they learnt different units for capacity, length, and weight, as well as conversions. They will now be focusing on elapsed time, in which they will learn to calculate elapsed time, start, and end time. We will continue to work on math facts.

Pandas:

Pandas have finished a unit focused on decimals, where they gained an understanding of decimal place value, converting decimals to fractions, and performing arithmetic operations with decimals. They will begin a new unit of geometry, where they will learn to identify different types of lines such as line segments, rays and recognize intersecting, perpendicular, and parallel lines. The pandas will also practice multiplying two-digit by two-digit numbers and continue to work on long division.



Lions:

The lions finished studying probability and statistics, where they learned to calculate event probabilities, create tree diagrams, distinguish independent and dependent events, and compute measures such as mean, median, mode, and range. Currently, they are studying graphing techniques, including line plots, histograms, line graphs, and circle graphs. Additionally, certain students are focusing on fractions and decimals, exploring different operations involving fractions, following order of operations with fractions, identifying decimal place values, and converting between fractions and decimals. They are also working on arithmetic operations, making estimates, and solving multi-step problems involving fractions and decimals.

Tigers:

The Tigers worked on various mathematical topics such as permutation, combinations, probability of disjoint and overlapping events, as well as independent and dependent events, percent applications, simple and compound interest. They have now shifted their focus towards linear functions, delving into slope intercept, linear equation writing and solving, slope finding, and substitution and elimination methods. Additionally, some students are concentrating on polynomials, studying operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They are also tackling multistep equations and inequalities, including solving two-step equations with like terms and parentheses, and solving inequalities using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

We are about to turn the last corner and head towards the final stretch of what has been an incredible year. This 3rd quarter has really rushed by, but all the children have kept engaged after our unexpected winter ice break at the end of January. One of the strengths of Pinnacle is its ability to shift quickly when needs arise. I hope your children have also found strength in flexibility as we have all adapted to unexpected change. This is the foundation of great self-confidence—dealing with the surprises and overcoming difficulty.

Wolves:

We are moving into the specific origins of the American colonies and the concepts that created the mindset leading to a new nation. We are examining the New England, middle Atlantic, and southern colonies for the unique economic, philosophical, and religious ideas that motivated their establishment. This will lead to our study of our country's founding. Each region played a specific role in the creation of the United States which had both amazing possibilities and fundamental problems that would later have to be confronted at tremendous cost. The guiding principle I hope to impart is we should frankly study history, examining successes and mistakes, so we can continually improve our lives today. We are all links in a human chain, amazing and flawed at the same time.

Tigers:

In ELAR we have been practicing reading comprehension each week. The key to success is remaining focused on finding support for ideas in the text evidence. I teach a process for constructing or deconstructing content in writing or reading. Claim, Evidence, Commentary (CEC). Whether reading or writing a claim must be supported with evidence and finalized by a comment placing the claim in a meaningful context. We are also continuing our study of the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*.

In History we have finished studying the establishment of the Lone Star Republic and the addition of Texas to the United States. This will be followed by Texas' role in the Mexican American war and a deep dive into the role Texas Played in the American Civil War. There were six flags over Texas, after all. Moving forward we will continue to examine the challenges posed by growth, immigration, the industrial revolution, and the vital position Texas would play in the growth of U.S. power in the world.

What an amazing year it has been so far. I want to thank all the parents for your support and blessing me with the opportunity to walk beside your children for a short while on their amazing journey in life. This year will be over sooner than we might notice.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

Our science classes have been studying the movements of Earth's crust, Earth's structure and the effect plate movement has on the surface. We reviewed how Earth's continents have moved and how the crust is constantly shifting and recycling – especially where two plates meet.

Making models is one of the skills emphasized in this unit. A model is a representation of something found in nature. Scientists often make models of things that are too small, large, or dangerous to study directly.

Speaking of models, all our Pinnacle classes used February to remember to be "Heart Healthy." Students made heart models/diagrams from recycled plastic, and we shrunk them in the oven.

As we move into March, we are reviewing for testing. These tests are designed to measure what students are learning and whether or not they are ready for the next level of learning. The goal is to ensure all students receive what they need to succeed academically. This preparation helps students become familiar with the types of questions, recognize test pitfalls and poor habits, and gain confidence in the value of their knowledge.

Here are some tips to help your student:

1. Ensure your student has their clothes and school bag ready the night before so they are on time for school.
2. Make sure they go to bed early. It's more important to get plenty of sleep.
3. Read for at least 15 minutes every night with your student, or have them read to you.
4. Ensure your child has a nutritious breakfast and snack so they can concentrate.
5. Tell your child to think positively.
6. Send a little note in their backpack to let them know you believe in them.



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