



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

May 1, 2023

It's almost a wrap!

What a wonderful year this has been! The 2022-2023 school year has really flown by. As we finish up the final month of this school year, we would like to acknowledge the effort and progress made by our students. It has been a delight watching them grow and learn. We are also excited to have our parents join us for Parent's Day. Our students have been preparing and are so excited to express their love and gratitude.

Dates to remember:

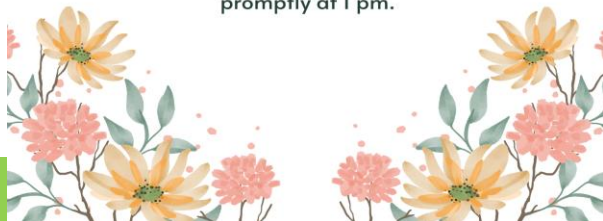
- **Perot Museum- May 4th**
- **Shine! - May 6th**
- **Parent's Day Presentation - May 12th at 1 pm**
- **Last Day of School- May 24th**



Parent's Day
Celebration

WE WANT TO HONOR OUR PARENTS
WITH A PERFORMANCE.

Join us on May 12, 2022, at 1 PM for a performance celebrating our parents! Please arrive by 12:50 pm. We will be starting promptly at 1 pm.



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!
- Please make sure to continue to practice D'Nealian style handwriting over the summer!
- 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!
- Only 3 more weeks of Reading Log this year! (M-Th), Please continue to read WITH your child a minimum of 20 minutes each day over the summer...this is crucial to your child's smooth transition to first grade and will prevent the dreaded "summer slide", aka REGRESSION!
- Treasure Chest will be every Friday...ONLY for those students who have completed reading homework (including reading log) & class work ON TIME
- Thank you for practicing 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!

I adore these sweet Penguins, and look forward to having them for a full hour next year! Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home!

Giraffes:

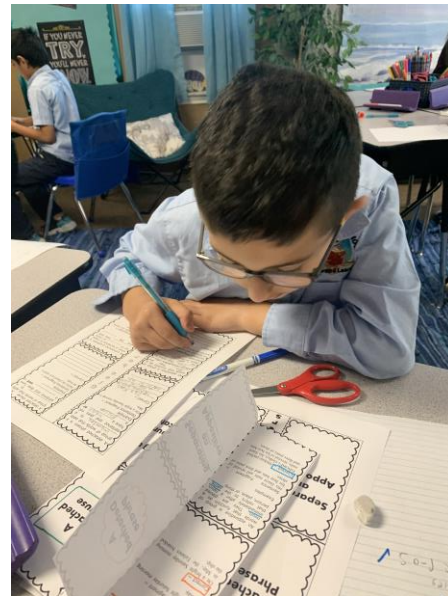
- 3 more weeks of Reading Log this year! (M-Th), a minimum of 20 min. and must be initialed DAILY by an adult... This is your child's responsibility
- Treasure Chest will be every Friday...ONLY for those students who have completed reading homework (including reading log) & class work ON TIME
- We are wrapping up 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).
- Only 2 more weeks of Spelling this year!
- Please continue to work on ALL concepts covered in the Grammar section of IXL over the summer...
- Please continue to have your child read on a daily basis during the summer—READING COMPREHENSION is the key to prevent the dreaded "summer slide"!
- I will be sending home their blue Monthly Messages folders one last time so you are able to view what we've been up to this last month. The Giraffes have all had a tremendous year of growth Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home!

Pandas:

- 3 more weeks of 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: Only 2 more weeks of Spelling!
- Winston Grammar for the year is wrapping up...Next year we will resume where we left off. Over the summer, please have your child practice on IXL the following parts of speech: articles, common and proper nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and prepositional phrases.
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane is finished, but we will end the year doing a lapbook project about the book (during class).
- Please continue to have your child read on a daily basis during the summer—READING COMPREHENSION is the key to prevent the dreaded "summer slide"!
- I will be sending home their blue Monthly Messages folders one last time so you are able to view what we've been up to this last month. It has been a pleasure teaching your kiddos this year! Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education!

Lions:

- 2 more weeks of Spelling:
- The Giver is finished, and I believe the students have all had an amazing learning experience...we only writing project & another fun project
- Only 2 more lessons of the Winston Grammar Program left to go this year! Please continue to work on ALL concepts covered in the Grammar section of IXL over the summer...
- The Lions' cursive handwriting is looking amazing! They have been working on a special writing project this past month, which showcases their beautiful cursive!
- I will be sending home their blue Monthly Messages folders one last time so you are able to view what we've been up to this last month. Teaching the Lions has been so rewarding this year! Thank you, again, for your support and partnership in education from home!



Math

Ms. Jaya

Penguins:

The Penguins have been working on identifying different types of coins and learning their respective values. They also worked on counting, creating tallies, and graphing them. Currently, they are focusing on recognizing the place and value of digits in larger numbers. Going forward, the class will continue to work on finding missing addends, as well as addition and subtraction facts up to 20.

Giraffes:

The Giraffes have completed a unit on data and graphing, where they learned how to conduct surveys, create tally marks, and construct various types of graphs, including bar graphs and pictographs. They were also required to answer questions related to the data presented in the graphs. Currently, they are working on memorizing the times tables, having already mastered the 2- and 3-times tables. The focus going forward will be on mastering the rest of the times tables. Furthermore, the class will continue to work on math facts.

Pandas:

The Pandas have successfully completed a unit on geometry that covered different types of lines, line segments, and rays. They also learned about various types of polygons and how to classify triangles based on their sides and angles. Currently, they are working on finding the perimeter and area of squares, rectangles, and triangles, and will continue to learn how to find the volume of cubes and rectangular prisms. Additionally, they are working on graphing. The Pandas will also continue to focus on

multiplying and dividing larger numbers in their math studies.

Lions:

The Lions recently completed a unit on probability and statistics, during which they learned about tree diagrams, dependent and independent events, and finding measures of central tendency such as mean, median, mode, and range. Currently, they are working on graphing and will learn to plot different types of graphs such as line plots and line graphs. Additionally, some of the Lions are working on geometry, specifically identifying different types of angles, polygons, and congruent and similar figures. They will continue to work on finding the area and perimeter of different polygons, as well as the area and circumference of circles.

Tigers:

The Tigers have successfully completed their study of polynomials and non-linear functions, which involved learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide monomials and polynomials. Currently, they are studying the rules of exponents, including negative and zero exponents, and scientific notation. Their upcoming topics include quadratic functions, exponential growth, and decay. Meanwhile, some of the tigers are focusing on the unit of real numbers and right triangles. They will be covering concepts such as square roots, simplifying square roots, the Pythagorean theorem, and the distance and midpoint formulas. Others are working on rational numbers and equations, specifically learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions with variables.

Upper Humanities

Mr. Troxel

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the parents for their unwavering patience and support throughout the year. I am immensely proud of your children's effort and adaptability, and I must say that your amazing children have been the biggest blessing I have experienced.

I am striving to keep all students actively engaged and meaningfully involved throughout the coming month. It's natural for children to focus on the future and the sunshine that lies ahead, but I have always found that this creates the perfect opportunity for students to put into practice what they've learned by creating hands-on projects. That is my objective for the upcoming weeks.

Lions:

Throughout the entire semester, we have journeyed along the roads of early American history, with our path ultimately leading to the establishment of the United States of America. Together, we have examined how a loosely connected group of colonies came together to overcome the world's superpower, Great Britain. As we approach the end of the year, I would like to conclude on an enjoyable note by having a mock trial that allows students to exercise the rights provided to us by the Constitution. This activity will require comprehensive skills in writing, speaking, and persuasion. I'm confident that it will open the students' eyes and instill a greater appreciation for the importance of the rule of law.

Tigers:

We are currently working on improving our public speaking skills in ELAR by progressively increasing the duration of our speeches. The capacity to communicate information clearly and effectively continues to be one of the most highly valued skills in the professional world today. My objective is to instill a fundamental level of confidence in your

children, allowing them to perfect these crucial skills as they progress through their education. To conclude the year, we will be engaging in a fun project that will intentionally focus on the tools of persuasion by creating a product and a commercial to sell it. Understanding the methods that influence opinions and behavior is critical, whether we are wielding these tools ourselves or being influenced by others. By exploring these concepts in a hands-on and engaging manner, students will gain a better understanding of how to persuade effectively and how to identify when they are being persuaded.

The crux of history lies in how perceptions about human nature have transformed the world. The American Civil War stands out as one of the few events that brought the clashing values of citizens to the forefront of politics and power. We are exploring how Texas played a vital role in the conflict, and its roots can be traced back to the very foundation of the United States. Throughout the year our class has delved into the establishment of Texas, scrutinizing both its achievements and errors while recognizing that any human undertaking is bound to be accompanied by mistakes. By acknowledging our flaws, we can mitigate the likelihood of repetition as we work towards building a better future.

What a fantastic year it has been! Once again, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the parents for their unwavering support and for entrusting us with the privilege of accompanying your children on their remarkable journey through life. As we continue to navigate through the ongoing national challenges, I wish you all blessings and prosperity. I am eagerly anticipating the next exciting phase of our journey together at Pinnacle Prep School. As you embark on your summer travels, I wish you all safety and success, and I remain committed to serving you in every possible way.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

Why do we teach geography in science class? Geography is taught in schools for various reasons. One reason is that it helps students understand the world around them - including how the Earth is continually reformed. "It also helps them understand the interrelationships between people and the environment. Additionally, geography helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills." ~GoGreenva.org

Our Penguins and Giraffes learned about the seven continents, five oceans, and the equator. The Pandas, Lions, and Tigers reviewed continents, oceans, latitudes, longitude, time zones, and states. Lions and Tigers added state capitals, physical features, and landmarks. Tigers are working on learning the location of select countries on each continent.



Looking ahead: Pandas, Lions, and Tigers will do body system projects in the coming weeks.

Pandas:

Students will be divided into groups to create a 3D model of an amusement park that represents their assigned system of the human body— circulatory, respiratory, nervous, digestive, muscular, or skeletal. The amusement park model must describe how it relates to the body system and its parts.

Lions and Tigers:

Each student will create a model of a ride (or game) representing one of the body systems. Each student will develop a portfolio explaining how the system is integrated into the body.

Groups build their amusement park in class and present to the class showcasing their specific system. They are encouraged to bring recycled items from home, such as recycled plastics, cardboard, paper, blocks, Legos, clay, wire, fabric, etc. The base should be approximately 60 cm by 60 cm (or larger).

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