

# NEWSLETTER

October 2, 2023

It's officially fall, and the weather is finally below 100°! Our calendar is packed with lots of fun activities this month. We will be celebrating spirit week the week of October 23rd to show our school spirit at Pinnacle Prep! With cold and flu season around the corner, we recommend that your child stay home from school if experiencing flu or cold symptoms.

Our calendar is updated and available on our [website: Calendar.](#)



## OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tue.Sday	Wedne.Sday	ThursDay	Friday	Saturday
hello FALL					WORLD SMILE DAY	
	NO School Today		NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY			
			NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE DAY		NO School Today	
SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK	SUPERHERO	SPORTS DAY	CRAZY HAIR/MISMATCH DAY	CAREER DAY	DRESS-UP	



### 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 us a Remind message.

# ELA

## Mrs. Hill

### Tigers:

- Parents: Please check planners daily; each assignment should be checked off in marker and be ready to turn in the following day...
- Continue novel study, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck...we are doing a DEEP dive into each chapter to discuss the development of characters, theme, symbolism, and vocab.
- Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1-2 lessons weekly
- I've changed the schedule for Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop...We will now complete one unit every two weeks with the work due the first Friday, review with Quizlet the second week, and the final quiz will be on the second Friday.
- There will be brief writing assignments to accompany our novel each week. Final copies should follow all the guidelines established from the first writing piece (see writing section in binder).
- Tigers did an OUTSTANDING job on their summer reading tagline posters! They are proudly displayed in the Computer Lab
- If you feel that your child would benefit from some 1:1 tutorials with me, please consult with me; I am available everyday 8:00-8:30...I would appreciate 24 hours notice in advance.

### Lions:

- Parents: Please check planners daily; each assignment should be checked off in marker and be ready to turn in the following day...
- Continue our novel study, *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson

- Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1 lesson weekly, along with mini-lessons to introduce new grammar concepts.
- We are finally in the groove with Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop! We will complete one unit every 2 weeks—work is due on the first Friday, they will review with Quizlet the second week, and the final quiz will be on the second Friday. Based on ability, your child will get the book that is most appropriate—Grade 4, 5, or 6.
- We will complete one writing project each month, usually based on the novel—more details to follow later.



# ELA CONT.

## Mrs. Hill

### Pandas:

- Our novel study, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* by Ronald Dahl is progressing beautifully! Please remind your child to answer comprehension questions in complete sentences by RTQ (Restating the Question).
- Pandas are doing a terrific job on their READING LOGS! Each child is responsible for reading 20 minutes daily, (M-Th) and getting their reading log signed by an adult.
- Students are responsible for completing two pages daily in their Abeka workbook to reinforce concepts previously taught.
- Spelling will continue with work packets due on Fridays, along with spelling tests.
- Winston Grammar Program is running smoothly! Your child should be able to identify articles, common nouns, and proper nouns. The trickiest ones for them are always the ABSTRACT nouns...We will complete approximately one lesson weekly, along with mini-lessons to introduce new grammar concepts.

### Giraffes:

- READING LOGS & SIGHT WORD LOGS: Parents please remember to each sign each log DAILY M-Thurs. This confirms that your child has completed 20 minutes of reading & 10 minutes on sight words. These will be assessed every Friday...
- Spelling has been going AWESOME! Packets go home the first day of the week, and will be due on Fridays, along with a spelling test. Students will have some class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work on at home.
- This month we will continue to do reading activities that revolve around Kevin Henkes' books, *Chrysanthemum* and *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*. There are tons of literacy activities that accompany each

story, and we celebrate the ending of each unit with a fun craft project!

- Students are progressing nicely in their *Abeka Letters & Sounds* workbooks. Right now, students are responsible for completing one page daily...The trickiest part for them right now is to label the special sounds and distinguish long vowels from short vowels...
- We are still reviewing proper letter formations and forming/reading complete sentences.
- Reading Comprehension: As students are ready, they will begin to read short passages and answer questions to show they understand what they've read.

### Penguins:

- READING LOGS & SIGHT WORD LOGS: Parents please remember to each sign each log DAILY M-Thurs. This confirms that your child has completed 20 minutes of reading & 10 minutes on sight words. These will be assessed every Friday...Of course, this includes any shared reading you do with your child. Each time a list is completed, they will receive a new list!
- Coloring, Cutting, and Pasting will be ongoing skills that we practice to get our fine-motor skills STRONG so that handwriting becomes easier for your child.
- Students should be able to recognize each letter of the alphabet and know it's corresponding sound; with the exception of SIGHT WORDS, the skill they are practicing at school is this: "Get your mouth ready to say the first SOUND, then STRETCH each sound until the word is done. Then say the word FAST!"
- Penguins will also be included in the Giraffes' story time (see above). However, the skills that accompany the story will be more suited to their academic needs...

# Humanities

## *Mrs. Hughlett*

Happy October! I am so glad that Fall is finally here and we are done with triple digit weather. We have been busy with so many engaging activities! I hope your children have been talking to you about some of the things we have been learning about.

### **Penguins:**

We have finished our unit on Citizenship and American Symbols and have begun our reading and writing activities about the 50 states of America. We will learn about the different animals and flowers for each state along with some fun facts.

### **Giraffes:**

We have finished our unit on Citizenship and American Symbols and have begun our reading and writing activities about the 50 states of America. We will learn about the different animals and flowers for each state along with some fun facts. The students will be able to write expository sentences to tell about their favorite state and explain why it is their favorite state.

### **Pandas:**

We have finished learning about different land features and the effect they have on how and where we choose to live. Now we are focusing on the 50 states. We will take time to learn about where the states are on the map, their abbreviations, and fun facts about each one. We will be reading and writing expository pieces about the 50 states. We will culminate our studies with a fun fictional novel about the adventures of Flat Stanley. The kids love his stories about his adventures around the globe.

### **Lions and Tigers:**

We have finished our culmination project from [\*A Long Walk to Water\*](#) by Linda Sue Park. We also learned physical geography about Africa! Some of the highlights were that we learned about the different climates on the continent of Africa and created a climate map. We also read about the physical geography of this region of the world and how it affects where people live. We have now moved on to our unit about the different regions of the United States. Students will be reading informational text about each region and writing expository pieces about what they learn. We will also review and test over the states and their capitals in each region.

### **Novels:**

#### **Lions:**

Upon Completion of our Regions of the U.S. geography unit, we will be moving into a novel study about the American Revolution. The title of the novel is [\*Johnny Tremain: A story of Boston in Revolt\*](#) by Esther Forbes. I anticipate starting this novel by the end of October, so your child will need to have a copy by October 23rd to be sure they are prepared.

#### **Tigers:**

Upon Completion of our Regions of the U.S. geography unit, we will be moving into a novel study about the American Revolution. The title of the novel is [\*Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution\*](#) by Avi (no...not our Avi, a different Avi LOL) . I anticipate starting this novel by the end of October, so your child will need to have a copy by October 23rd to be sure they are prepared.



# Math

## *Ms. Jaya*

### **Penguins:**

The amazing penguins have made impressive progress in their learning journey. They have successfully grasped the concept of numbers, including writing numbers that come before, after, and in between. Additionally, they have tackled the days of the week. Currently, their focus is on mastering the months of the year, and they will soon progress to arranging numbers from least to greatest and counting by 2's.

### **Giraffes:**

The Giraffes have achieved mastery in their lessons on place value, including the ability to write numbers in both standard and expanded forms. They have also been working on addition problems involving three addends, as well as regrouping when adding two-digit numbers with one-digit addends. In the upcoming lessons, they will further their skills by adding two-digit numbers to other two-digit numbers, both with and without regrouping. Additionally, they will continue to practice the important skill of estimating numbers

### **Pandas:**

The Pandas have made excellent progress in their recent chapter on Place Value. They have successfully learned how to compare and order numbers, round numbers, make and count change, and round money values.

Currently, they are diving into the realm of addition and subtraction with larger numbers, utilizing regrouping techniques. In addition to this, they are practicing estimating sums and differences and applying problem-solving skills to real-world scenarios. Furthermore, the Pandas are actively working on mastering times tables, and the next step in their mathematical journey will involve exploring division concepts.

### **Lions:**

The Lions have successfully completed their lessons on place value, as well as addition and subtraction concepts. They have now moved on to more advanced topics, such as multiplying two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers and tackling larger division problems. Currently, they are working on mastering the Order of Operations, and in the near future, they will delve into finding averages and applying problem-solving techniques. Additionally, some Lions are actively engaged in a chapter on fractions, where they are exploring prime and composite numbers, finding the greatest common factor, and determining the least common denominator. They will proceed to learn how to compare and order fractions. Furthermore, another group of Lions is focused on expressions and equations, where they will gain skills in translating and evaluating algebraic expressions and inequalities. They will also work on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing equations, as well as exploring the Order of Operations in depth. It's an exciting and varied curriculum ahead for the Lions!

# Math Cont.

## Tigers:

The Tigers have successfully completed a lesson on variables, expressions, and integers, and they are now deeply engaged in the study of solving equations. In this phase, they will further refine their skills in simplifying variable expressions and solving equations using various operations, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Additionally, they are working on mastering decimal operations and equations involving decimals. Within the Tigers group, there is a diversity of learning paths. Some are dedicated to the exploration of Linear functions, where they delve into topics such as understanding the slope of a line, the slope-intercept form, as well as the ability to write and solve linear equations and systems of linear equations. Others are immersing themselves in Data Analysis and Probability, which includes studying stem and leaf plots and histograms, with future topics encompassing permutations and combinations. Moreover, a portion of the Tigers is engaged in the study of expressions and equations. Their curriculum involves learning how to translate and evaluate algebraic expressions and inequalities, along with performing various operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on equations. Additionally, they are delving into the intricacies of the Order of Operations. The Tigers' educational journey is rich and diverse, covering a wide range of mathematical concepts and applications.



# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

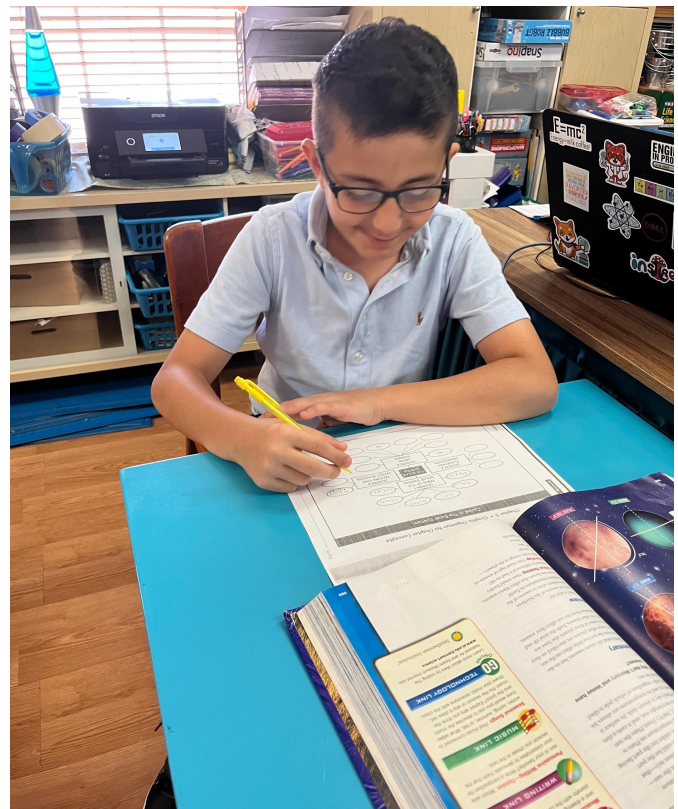
September has been jam-packed with Earth Science and Geography. Penguins have been learning about Earth's land and how it formed and re-forms over time. We studied landforms and connected them to places in the southern states. We are focusing on our home state, Texas, and the surrounding states.

Pandas have also worked on landforms, rocks, minerals, and the cycles that make these resources. Students have studied the importance of minerals and the formation, characteristics, and uses of the three basic kinds of rocks. Currently, we are discussing the soil and how we must preserve that resource.

Our Lions and Tigers have finished up seismology, geology, and tectonics. Lions are transitioning to the rest of our Solar System and its cycles. We have reviewed the different parts that make up our solar system, how the planets rotate on their axes, and how they revolve around our star. Finally, we are discussing the scientific reasons for the seasons. In addition, students are taking up the challenge of creating a model of the solar system (almost) to scale.

Tigers dug a little deeper into minerals – down to the atomic level. Students discovered how the atoms' arrangement determines the crystals' properties and shape. We covered methods of identifying minerals and how these resources are formed and harvested for industrial use. Tigers are transitioning to a unit on energy and electricity.

Happy Autumn! Autumn is the season of transition - days get shorter, the nights get cooler, and the landscape changes color.



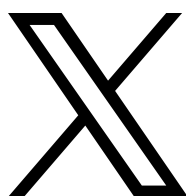
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