

# NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2023

The first three weeks of school have flown by so quickly! We look forward to partnering with you to help your child have a very successful school year. To assist in this goal, please:

- make sure your child attends daily, on time and in proper uniform.
- completes daily reading log, math logs, and math Abeka.

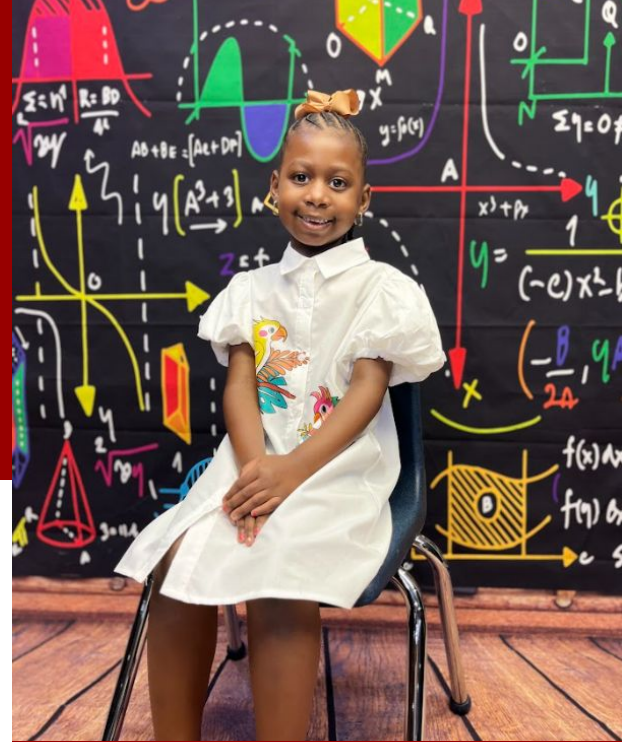
Our calendar is updated and available on our website: [Calendar](#).



## September



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 NO School Today	5	6 National Read a Book Day 	7	8 National Teddy Bear Day 
11 you are INCREDIBLE	12 National Day of Encouragement	13	14 National School Picture Day 	15
18	19 National Voter Registration Day 	20	21 	22 NO School Today
25	26 National Pancake Day! 	27	28	29



### 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:

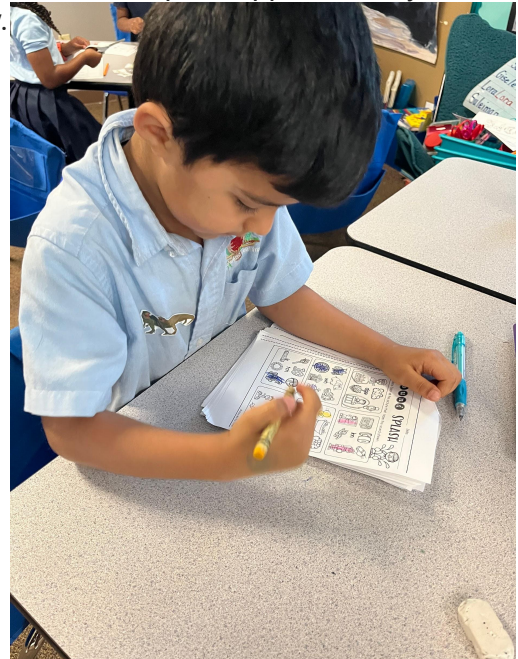
- Priority...PLEASE HAVE 1 ½" BINDERS & Of Mice & Men by John Steinbeck no later than Tuesday, Sept. 5
- Begin novel study
- Begin Winston Grammar...approximately 2 lessons weekly
- Begin Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop Unit 1. We will complete one unit each week with quizzes on Fridays.
- Our first writing project "Hanging Out" is due on Friday, Sept. 8th (typed & double-spaced). We will go over all expectations along with the grading rubric in class.
- Tigers will write down all assignments on their weekly planner, and any work not finished in class will be considered homework.
- Tigers did an OUTSTANDING job on their summer reading tagline posters! They are proudly displayed in the Computer Lab!

### Lions:

- Priority...PLEASE HAVE 1 ½" BINDERS & Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson no later than Tuesday, Sept. 5
- Begin novel study...
- Begin Winston Grammar...approximately 2 lessons weekly
- Begin Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop Unit 1...We will complete one unit each week with quizzes on Fridays. 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.
- Lions will write down all assignments on their weekly planner, and any work not finished in class will be considered homework.
- Lions did an OUTSTANDING job on their summer reading tagline posters! They are proudly displayed in the Computer Lab!

### Pandas:

- Priority...Please have Charlie & the Chocolate Factory by Ronald Dahl no later than Tuesday, Sept. 5
- READING LOGS will begin the week of Tuesday, Sept. 5...each child is responsible for reading 20 minutes daily, (M-Th)and getting their reading log signed by an adult.
- Our Pandas have already completed two writing projects, "All About Me" and a summer book review that summarizes Beg-Mid-End. They are both displayed in the hall, and they look SUPER!
- We are wrapping up Summer Review Reading Comprehension, and these will be graded and sent home on Friday.
- Spelling will begin next week, starting Tuesday, Sept. 5... Spelling Work Packets will be due on Fridays, along with spelling tests.
- We will begin the Winston Grammar Program beginning with articles, common nouns, and proper nouns. We will complete approximately two lessons weekly.



# ELA CONT.

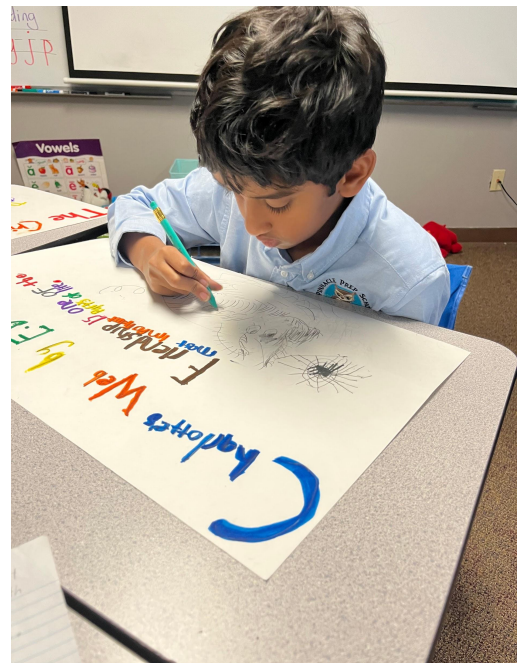
## Mrs. Hill

### Giraffes:

- READING LOGS will begin the week of Tuesday, Sept. 5...each child is responsible for reading 20 minutes daily, (M-Th)and getting their reading log signed by an adult.
- Sight words: Your child will be given a list of sight words, based on their ability, and will be assessed every Friday; Please practice this list and sign the sight word log daily; each time a list is completed, they will receive a new list!
- Our Giraffes have already completed a writing projects, "This Is Me" They are both displayed in the hall, and they look SUPER!
- Spelling will begin the week of Tuesday, Sept. 5. Packets will go home the first day of the week, and will be due on Fridays, along with a spelling test. Students will have class time to work on this, but may also work on at home.
- We are beginning a reading unit based on the author Kevin Henkes. This month we will read Chrysanthemum and Lily's Purple Plastic Purse. There are two weeks of literacy activities that accompany each story, and we celebrate the ending of each unit with a fun craft project!
- Students have already begun working in their Abeka Letters & Sounds workbooks. Right now, students are responsible for completing one page daily...
- We have been reviewing proper letter formations and forming/reading complete sentences. We will continue to complete one page a day at school.

### Penguins:

- READING LOGS will begin the week of Tuesday, Sept. 5...each child is responsible for reading 20 minutes daily, (M-Th)and getting their reading log signed by an adult. Of course, this includes any shared reading you do with your child.
- Sight words: Your child will be given a list of sight words, based on their ability, and will be assessed every Friday; Please practice this list and sign the sight word log daily; 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.
- 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*

What a great start to a new year! I have enjoyed getting to know your children these last few weeks! I am so impressed with how well behaved and respectful the students are. We have started focusing on vocabulary work and reading responses in all levels. Everyone is putting forth their best effort!

**Penguins:** After Labor Day, we will focus on reading comprehension and writing as we learn about events in history! We have already learned about being responsible citizens in our community, state, and country. This week, we started a unit on communities and our neighborhoods. The Penguins are also going to learn a bit about maps and the different places and things that we can find on them. We are also going to learn about the states and their capital cities, with a focus on Texas. My goal is to make sure the students are engaged and enjoy learning about the history of our state, country and the world! I am looking forward to a great year!

**Giraffes:** After Labor Day, we will focus on reading comprehension and writing as we learn about events in history! We have already learned about being responsible citizens in our community, state, and country. This week, we started a unit on communities and our neighborhoods. The Penguins are also going to learn a bit about maps and the different places and things that we can find on them. We are also going to learn about the states and their capital cities, with a focus on Texas. My goal is to make sure the students are engaged and enjoy learning

about the history of our state, country and the world! I am looking forward to a great year!

**Pandas:** After Labor Day, we will focus on reading comprehension and writing as we learn about events in history! We have already learned about being responsible citizens in our community, state, and country. We have started our map unit with an activity called "Me on the Map"! I know they will love it! We are also going to learn about our states and their capital cities with a focus on Texas. This year we will compare and contrast states, countries and cultures around the world. My goal is to make sure the students are engaged and enjoy learning about humanities and history! I am looking forward to a great year!

**Lions and Tigers:** After Labor Day, we will focus on reading comprehension and writing as we learn about events in history! We are almost done with our book study over [A Long Walk to Water](#) by Linda Sue Parks. We have been engaged in many reading comprehension and writing activities along with this book. The students seem to be wholly invested in the novel. Have your child fill you in on the life of Salva and Nya. I am sure they will have something interesting to share with you! We will be ending the novel with a culmination project that your child will choose from a list of options. I want them to decide what will best represent their knowledge of what we have learned from our reading of the novel. My goal is to make sure the students enjoy learning about the history of our state, country and the world! I am looking forward to a great year!

# Math

## *Ms. Jaya*

### **Penguins:**

The commencement of the school year was marked by a wonderful introduction to the incredible children. Our focus has been on developing the ability to read and write numbers ranging from 1 to 100. Currently, the children are focusing on the skill of writing numbers that come before, after, and in between given values. Subsequently, our journey will lead us towards mastering the days of the week and the months of the year.

### **Giraffes:**

The beginning of the year marked a delightful commencement for the Giraffes. Their journey started off with an exploration of place value, where the emphasis was on comprehending the positions and significance of provided numbers, extending up to the hundreds place. This involved the skill of representing a given number in standard, expanded, and word forms. The students will subsequently progress to the identification of even and odd numbers. The consistent practice of our mathematical fundamentals will remain a priority in our daily routine.

### **Pandas:**

Students began their learning journey splendidly, grasping the concept of place value up to the thousands place. They acquired the skill of representing numbers in standard, expanded, and word forms. Additionally, they mastered filling in missing numbers on the number chart, as well as comparing and arranging numbers from the

smallest to the largest, and vice versa. The students have now progressed to understanding the creation and calculation of change, along with the ability to compare and round currency. Furthermore, they have initiated their exploration of multiplication tables, which will be consistently practiced moving forward.

### **Lions:**

This fantastic year kicked off for the Lions with an exploration of place value, extending up to billions and incorporating decimals. They engaged in activities such as estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients. Looking ahead, the Lions will persist in enhancing their proficiency in solving problems related to currency, mastering the order of operations, and refining their overall problem-solving strategies.

Tigers - The commencement of this year was truly remarkable. The Tigers embarked on an enriching journey, immersing themselves in a variety of mathematical concepts. They've covered a wide array of mathematical topics, including place value, estimation, decimals, real numbers, expressions, and variables, explorations of exponents, scientific notation, and effective problem-solving techniques. A select group of Tigers are currently engaged in the study of relations and functions, as well as the art of graphing linear equations. Certain students are currently focused on the exploration of measurement, calculating the area and perimeter of diverse polygons, as well as comprehending the calculations for the circumference and area of circles. Additionally, they are actively learning about the surface area and volume calculations for various geometric solids, including prisms, pyramids, and cones.

# Science

## Mrs. Hozie

August is always a month of new beginnings. All our students finished up their Mini Motion and Energy Unit. Our younger students focused on Potential and Kinetic Energy. Our older students dug into Newton's Laws as well as types of Energy. The culmination of this unit was an exercise in the Engineering Design Process – Observing, Researching, Planning, Designing, Creating a Prototype, Testing and Improving. Students used this process to create a Kinetic Car, which uses a balloon or rubber band to store and release energy. According to Physics-Network.org, “The potential energy of the car is stored in the expanding elastic material of the balloon. As the balloon fills with air, it adds more potential or stored energy. As the air flows from the balloon, the energy changes to kinetic energy or the energy of motion. The moving Balloon-Powered Car uses kinetic energy.”

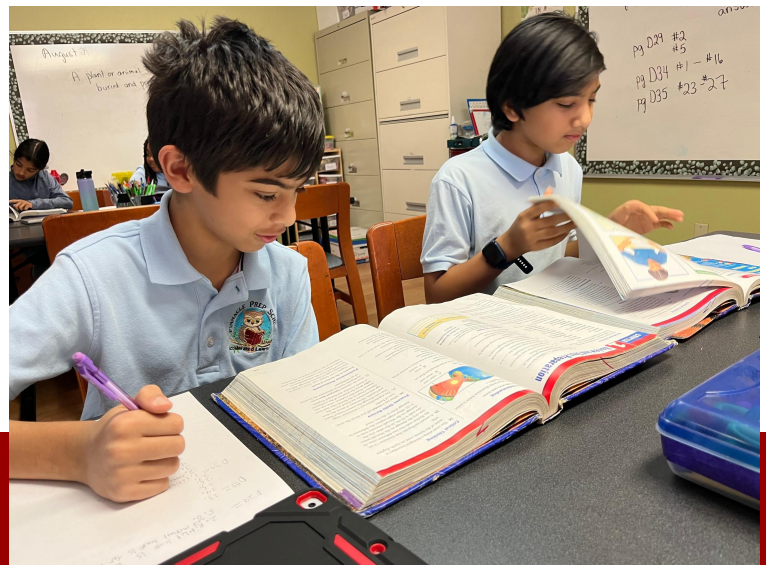
Our Penguins and Giraffes began their Earth Science Unit with Types of Rocks. In class, We studied Igneous, Metamorphic, and Sedimentary rocks and learned how they are formed. In addition, these students are going over States and Capitals. We have gone over Texas, Florida, and Louisiana.

Our Pandas are studying Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils. Students have learned about the Rock Cycle. We began with Minerals. Students discussed the importance of minerals and the formation,

characteristics, and uses of the three basic kinds of rocks - Igneous, Metamorphic, and Sedimentary. Metamorphic rocks are formed from intense pressure and heat. Igneous rock forms from molten rock (magma or lava). Sedimentary rocks are formed from the compacted deposits of sediment. This is where we find most fossils. Our students learned to distinguish between mold, cast, and trace fossils.

Lions are beginning to study the movements of Earth's crust and the clues to Earth's past. Students should be able to describe the structure of Earth (inside and out) and the tectonic plates on which the crust rides. We study how the face of the Earth is reshaped, especially where two plates meet. Earthquakes and volcanoes will be discussed.

Tigers are studying the Scientific Method and how it is used by Archeologists. One of the process skills used in this chapter is choosing and controlling variables. The most important decision in applying this skill is choosing which factor to investigate or change in the experiment. Once this factor is chosen, it is important that all other conditions be controlled or not allowed to change.



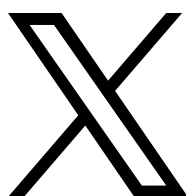
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