

# NEWSLETTER

January 5, 2024

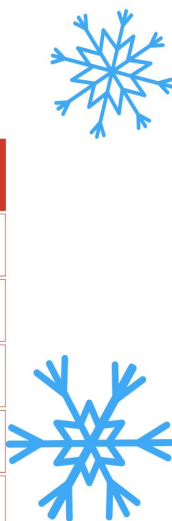
Happy New Year! We want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and abundant 2024! January is a special month at Pinnacle Prep! We will be focusing on kindness. We are so excited to participate in The Great Kindness Challenge again this year!



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

## JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <b>Happy New Year</b>	2	3 <b>WELCOME BACK</b>	4 <b>NATIONAL TRIVIA DAY</b>	5	6
7	8	9 <b>NATIONAL STATIC ELECTRICITY DAY</b>	10	11	12 <b>WINTER PHOTOS</b>	13
14	15 <b>MLK DAY NO SCHOOL</b>	16	17	18	19 <b>NATIONAL POP CORN DAY</b>	20
21	22 <b>NATIONAL COMPLIMENT DAY</b>	23 <b>KINDNESS CHALK ART</b>	24 <b>KINDNESS MAKES THE HEART GROW: WEAR RED OR PINK DAY!</b>	25 <b>HAPPY HEART HUNT</b>	26 <b>LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S DAY WITH KINDNESS: WEAR BRIGHT OR NEON</b>	27
28	29 <b>NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY</b>	30	31			



### 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

### Penguins:

- I'm sure you all will agree that our Penguins were absolute SUPERSTARS in the plays! I am beyond proud of all of them!
- 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.
- · Please help me reinforce the concept of STRETCHING out words..."Get your mouth ready to say the first SOUND, then STRETCH each sound until the word is done. Then say the word FAST!"
- I am VERY PLEASED with the progress the Penguins are making in regards to reading, memorizing sight words, and writing! Keep up the EXCELLENT work!
- In January, I will begin guided reading groups and books will be coming home with your child to read to you so that you will be an active part as they grow into lifelong independent readers!

### Giraffes:

- THANK YOU for all the support you gave so that our production of *Wemberley Worried* was absolutely adorable!
- 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 will start back up in January, and will follow the same routine: Get packets on Monday, due on Fridays with the test... Students will have some class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work on at home.
- Students are progressing nicely in their *Abeka Letters & Sounds* workbooks. My expectation is now that students complete two pages daily...They have gotten MUCH BETTER identifying and marking the special sounds and distinguishing long vowels from short vowels...
- · Please help me to encourage 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.

### Pandas:

- THANK YOU for all your help in making our performance of *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* a SMASHING SUCCESS!
- We will begin *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume when we resume school in January...Please bring the book to school on Jan. 2nd!
- READING LOGS are back on... Each child is responsible for reading 20 minutes daily, (M-Th)and getting their reading log signed by an adult.

# ELA CONT.

## *Mrs. Hill*

- Students are responsible for completing two pages daily in their Abeka workbook to reinforce concepts previously taught.
- Spelling units will follow the same routine, Get packets on Monday, due on Fridays with the test...
- Winston Grammar Program: Your child should be able to identify articles, common and proper nouns, pronouns, and verbs (both action & being). Next up: helping verbs, contractions & adjectives...

### Lions

- Parents: Please check planners daily; each assignment should be checked off in marker and be ready to turn in the following day...Remember, every assignment not completed in class is HOMEWORK!
- We will begin our new novel study, *The Whipping Boy*, by Sid Fleishman in January. Please bring the book with you to school on Jan. 2!
- Winston Grammar Program (& 4th grade Spelling) will resume...approximately 1 lesson weekly, along with mini-lessons to introduce new grammar concepts.
- Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop will follow the same schedule: 1 week for work, the 2nd to study with a quiz on the second Friday.
- We will begin the new year with a formal writing project, and will have one writing project each month from now on...details to follow when we return.
- A huge THANK YOU to all the Lions who volunteered to help with plays for lower elementary And an extended THANK YOU to Raena and Rachel for being the best curtains girls, and to Yahya for helping with all the props!

### Tigers:

- Parents:Please help me by remembering to look at BOTH their planners and the work that is expected to be done before class the next day—THANK YOU!
- Hopefully... we will finish *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton before MLK Jr. holiday. We are still discussing the development of characters, theme, symbolism, and vocab. We will begin *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald directly after that...
- Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1 lesson weekly
- Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop will follow the same schedule: 1 week for work, the 2nd to study with a quiz on the second Friday.
- There will be brief writing assignments to accompany our novel each week. We will have a formal writing project when the novel is finished— Final copies should follow all the guidelines established from the first writing piece (see writing section in binder).
- 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.
- A huge THANK YOU to all the Tigers who volunteered to help with plays for lower elementary And the BEST behind the scenes—Avi, Landen, Rafe, and Yahya

# Humanities

## *Mrs. Hughlett*

Happy New Year! I can't believe we are half-way done with the school year. I am excited to begin new units in American History and tackle some new novels!

**Penguins:** The Penguins will be listening to me read a historical fiction book entitled *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* by Blake Hoena. This story is about a stray dog named Stubby who braves the World War I battlefields alongside Private J. Robert Conroy. This brave little canine makes a big difference in the lives of many World War I soldiers. They will be doing some comprehension and vocabulary activities throughout the novel. We will wrap up the unit with a movie about the true story of Stubby the Dog.

**Giraffes:** The Giraffes will be listening to me read a historical fiction book entitled *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* by Blake Hoena. This story is about a stray dog named Stubby who braves the World War I battlefields alongside Private J. Robert Conroy. This brave little canine makes a big difference in the lives of many World War I soldiers. They will be doing some comprehension and vocabulary activities throughout the novel. Giraffes will also be doing character analysis, comparing and contrasting, and responding to questions throughout the book study. We will wrap up the unit with a movie about the true story of Stubby the Dog.

**Pandas:** The Pandas will begin a unit about World War I. They will learn where World War I took place, the countries involved and how the war started. Upon completion of the unit, the students will begin a book study of *Rags: Hero Dog of WWI* by Margot Theis Raven. This book is based on a true story. American Private James Donovan was stationed in France during WWI. His life changed when he stumbled on a bundle of rags on the streets of Paris. To his surprise,

the bundle of rags was a little dog! Donovan took the dog back to his military base and adopted him as his own. The little terrier became the division's mascot as he bravely followed Donovan through battle. Our learning will include an introduction to World War I, WWI Timeline, Compare and Contrast: Human Messengers vs Animal Messengers, and some historical facts of France.

**Lions:** The Lions will be diving deep into World War I. They will be learning about the sequence of events, the major battles, what countries were involved and how the United States became a part of the war. Upon completion of the unit, they will begin a novel study on *The Skylark's War* by Hilary McKay. Students will be completing lessons over the historical elements of the setting, character development, vocabulary and the genre of historical fiction. They should be able to identify characters and compare and contrast their traits as well as summarize the different chapters of the novel.

**Tigers:** The Tigers are going to be doing in depth research about World War I. They will be looking into the timeline of the war, different battles, key figures, wartime economics and United States involvement. Upon completion they will be doing a novel study over the book *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. This is the testament of Paul Bäumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army during World War I. They become soldiers with youthful enthusiasm. But the world of duty, culture, and progress they had been taught breaks in pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. Through years of tragedy, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principle of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against one another . . . if only he can come out of the war alive.



# Math

## Ms. Jaya

**Penguins:** The penguins have successfully finished learning how to add and subtract using a number line. Now, they are progressing to understanding fact families, which shows the relationship between adding and subtracting numbers. Their project work was impressive. Next, the kids will begin a geometry unit, focusing on discovering various 2D and 3D shapes.

**Giraffes :** The giraffes have completed their module on identifying coins and counting money, which included mastering the skills of adding and subtracting money. The kids showcased their creativity in a project where they designed their own lemonade stand, determined the items for sale, set prices, selected a location and operating time, and created an advertising poster. This project provided them with insights into running a personal small business, understanding profit and loss, and reinforcing concepts related to addition and subtraction. Moving forward, the giraffes will embark on a new learning phase centered around fractions. In this unit, they will develop the ability to recognize and write fractions, draw fraction strips, and use them for comparing and ordering fractions.

**Pandas :** Pandas undertook a project called the Dream House Project. In this activity, kids had the opportunity to sketch the exterior walls of their dream house. The dream house design required a compound figure with all right angles. Initially,

Initially, they created a list of desired rooms, and subsequently, they subdivided their dream house into these rooms. Following this, they labeled and colored each room. Finally, they calculated and recorded the area and perimeter of each room, culminating in the determination of the overall area and perimeter of their dream house. The children are learning to identify and write fractions, compare and order fractions using fraction strips, and are in the process of mastering the addition and subtraction of fractions with denominators. This phase promises to enhance their understanding of fractional concepts.

**Lions:** The lions have nearly completed their unit on fractions, where they concentrated on skills such as writing fractions, comparing and ordering fractions, as well as adding and subtracting fractions with both like and unlike denominators. Their current focus is transitioning to the exploration of finding parts of a set, probability, and statistics. In this phase, the lions will learn to determine the probability of a given number, understand compound events, explore permutations and combinations, and make predictions regarding specific events. Additionally, they will delve into various types of graphs, including line plots, line graphs, bar graphs, histograms, and interpreting circle graphs. This comprehensive unit promises to enhance their understanding of probability, statistics, and data representation.

# Math Cont.

## *Ms. Jaya*

Tigers: The tigers are concluding their unit on fractions and exponents, concentrating on mastering the rules of exponents, understanding negative and zero exponents, and delving into scientific notation. Their upcoming focus will shift to a unit on Ratio, Proportion, and Probability, where they will work on writing and solving ratios and proportions, exploring scale drawings, and delving into concepts of probability and odds. Furthermore, some of the tigers are engaged in a unit on Real Numbers and Right Triangles. This segment involves the study of square roots, simplifying square roots, applying the Pythagorean Theorem, and utilizing the Distance and Midpoint formula. Meanwhile, another group of students is working on angle relationships and Transformations. This entails exploring various aspects such as angle relationships, polygons, and transformations including Translations, Reflections, Rotations, and Symmetry.



# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

What an exciting school year we have had thus far! Our students finished off the first semester by completing a STEM project. Students engaged in the inquiry process to gather data and apply what they've learned to a real situation. The results may be more or less accurate, but the process is an authentic opportunity to conduct science and apply concepts in contexts that relate outside of the classroom. All in all, students had a great time expanding their knowledge, challenging their engineering skills, utilizing them creatively, and communicating their processes.

Thank you, Pinnacle parents, for your encouragement and support during our STEM Fair Projects! It was great to see so many of you at conferences. If you couldn't attend the conferences and would like to connect with any (or all) of your child's teachers, please email or call the office! The home-school partnership is key, and thank you for coming to meet us! Our students are amazing!

We will transition to new units in January. We all know that without the engineers of our world, no one would be able to enjoy the use of modern-day technology. In the coming months, we will explore real-world challenges using coding, electronics, and robotics.

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

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

- What was your favorite part of your day?
- What was your least favorite part of your day?
- What was one thing you did not understand?
- What do you need to accomplish tonight?
- How can I help you?
- What are your goals for the week/weekend?



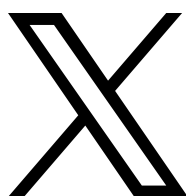
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