

# NEWSLETTER

December 5, 2023

December is one of our busiest months at Pinnacle Prep. We are busy working on our end of semester projects to showcase during parent-teacher conferences and rehearsing for our anticipated A Night at the Theater! We hope to see everyone at our performance on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.



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

DECEMBER 2023						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>A Night at the Theater</i>	13 <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Winter Break Begins</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3 <i>Classes Resume</i>	4	5	6



## 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:

- 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!
- We will be practicing our play "Going on a Yeti Hunt" AND being OOMPA LOOMPAS in the Panda play everyday! I can't wait to see our Penguins in action! Please remember the deadline for all costumes is Monday, December 4, in case I need to purchase additional items...

### 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...

- Only two more weeks of spelling before Winter Break (no spelling for the last week). Students will have some class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work on at home. Vowels...
- We will be practicing our play (based on Kevin Henkes' *Wemberley Worried*) everyday! I can't wait to see our Giraffes in action! Please remember the deadline for all costumes is Monday, December 4, in case I need to purchase additional items...
- 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.

### Pandas:

- We have completed our first novel study, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
- We will begin *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume when we resume school in January...
- 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.

# ELA CONT.

## *Mrs. Hill*

- Students are responsible for completing two pages daily in their Abeka workbook to reinforce concepts previously taught.
- We will only have two more spelling units before Winter Break (no spelling for the last week)...
- Please review Winston Grammar concepts this month...Your child should be able to identify articles, common and proper nouns, pronouns, and verbs (both action & being).
- Only two more weeks of spelling before Winter Break (no spelling for the last week). Students will have some class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work on at home.

### 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 have finished our first novel study, *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson, and the final test will be Wednesday, November 29...Please stay tuned for a writing assignment to culminate this unit...Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1 lesson weekly, along with mini-lessons to introduce new grammar concepts.
- We only have one Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop before the break—Unit 5 work is due on Friday 12/1, and the quiz will be Friday, 12/8
- We will begin our new novel study, *The Whipping Boy*, by Sid Fleishman in January.
- A huge THANK YOU to all the Lions who volunteered to help with plays for lower elementary If you have a part with a costume, please bring it by Monday, December 4th for rehearsal...

### Tigers:

- Parents:Please help me by actually looking 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 the holiday break, but since it is play season, we will take it day by day...we are still discussing the development of characters, theme, symbolism, and vocab. We will begin *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald when school resumes in January...
- Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1 lesson weekly
- We only have one Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop before the break—Unit 5 work is due on Friday 12/1, and the quiz will be Friday, 12/8
- 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).
- 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 If you have a part with a costume, please bring it by Monday, December 4th for rehearsal...

# Humanities

## Mrs. Hughlett

Welcome December and cold weather! I am looking forward to starting some new projects with

the students and wrapping up our novel studies!

**Penguins:** The Penguins finished their book study on The Magic Treehouse: Thanksgiving on Thursday! I was pleased with how well they listened and discussed the characters, plot and setting. They practiced their handwriting as well as writing complete sentences. We will begin a unit on Pocahontas. The students will do a project and activities as we learn about her life. This will bring us to the winter break.

**Giraffes:** The Giraffes finished their book study on The Magic Treehouse: Thanksgiving on Thursday! They practiced listening to the book read aloud and responding to comprehension questions both orally and in writing. I was pleased with how well they did. The students did a great job telling the beginning, middle and end of the story. We will begin a unit on Pocahontas. The students will do a project and activities as we learn about her life. This will bring us to the winter break.

**Pandas:** The Pandas enjoyed their book study on Jack London's The Call of the Wild. I am pleased with how well they were able to summarize parts of the story and I love their essays they wrote. These will be displayed at school on a bulletin board outside my room. We are beginning a short novel entitled Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. There will be vocabulary work and comprehension activities. They have already started the book study and have had trouble putting it down. They are all good readers! This will take us up to the winter break

**Lions:** The Lions are working hard on final rehearsals for the play. They are excited to show you what they can do! I am so impressed with how well they want to get into character and they have done an excellent job memorizing their lines. We have finished reading our novel Johnny Tremain: A Story of Boston in Revolt. They have come away with a better understanding of the American Revolution and some new vocabulary. We are beginning our projects on the novel and they are motivated to get them completed. Play practice and Johnny Tremain projects will bring us to the winter break.

**Tigers:** Just like the Lions, the Tigers have been working hard on their final rehearsals for the play. I have enjoyed working with them and they have even put their own spin on it! I am loving how it is coming together. The Tigers have completed reading Sophia's War: a Tale of the Revolution. I enjoyed reading this with them! What a fun way to learn some things about the American Revolution. We have begun working on our projects for the novel and we will continue practicing for the play. This will bring us to the winter break.



# Math

## *Ms. Jaya*

### **Penguins:**

The penguins finished studying how to add numbers on a number line. They've now started learning subtraction using a number line and will soon delve into fact families, understanding the connection between adding and subtracting numbers. Additionally, the kids will continue practicing the days of the week and months of the year.

### **Giraffes:**

The giraffes have finished their unit on Data and Graphing, delving into surveying, tally chart creation, and graphing data with diverse graph types like pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and line plots. They've also improved their abilities in answering questions based on these graphs. In addition, they focused on recognizing coins and counting money, including the skills of adding and subtracting money. The next learning phase involves a new unit on fractions. Here, the giraffes will acquire the ability to recognize and write fractions, draw fraction strips, and utilize them for comparing and ordering fractions.

### **Pandas:**

The pandas have completed a unit on Data and Graphing, where they explored conducting surveys, creating tally charts, and graphing data

using various types of graphs, including pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and line plots. They also enhanced their skills in answering questions based on these graphs. Currently, the focus has transitioned to fractions, with the children learning to identify and write fractions. The upcoming stages involve grasping how to compare and order fractions using fraction strips, followed by mastering the addition and subtraction of fractions with both like and unlike denominators.

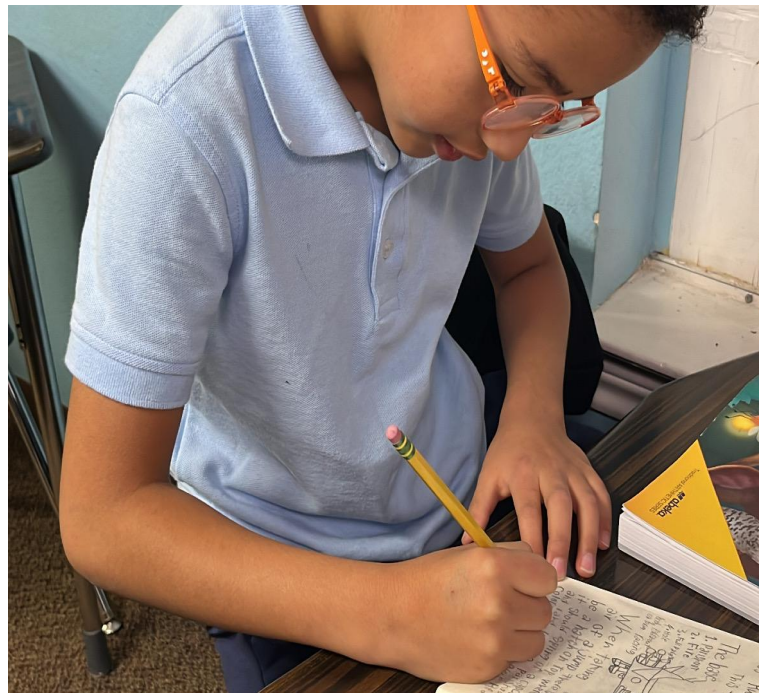
### **Lions:**

The lions have successfully concluded a unit on Fractions, where they engaged in various operations involving fractions and tackled problem-solving with fractions using the order of operations. They have now shifted their focus to Probability and Statistics, delving into concepts such as tree diagrams, independent and dependent events, and finding averages. Meanwhile, some of the lions have completed a unit on Expressions and Equations, mastering the translation and evaluation of algebraic equations and inequalities. Currently, they are immersed in the study of Integers. This new unit involves activities like comparing and ordering integers, performing all four basic mathematical operations using integers, and solving expressions and equations with integer values.

# Math Cont.

## Tigers:

Some of the tigers have wrapped up a unit on expressions and equations, where they gained skills in translating and evaluating algebraic equations and inequalities. They have now transitioned to the study of Integers, concentrating on comparing and ordering these numbers. Their activities include performing all four basic mathematical operations with integers and solving expressions and equations that involve integer values. Simultaneously, other tigers have completed a unit focused on solving multistep equations and inequalities. They are currently immersed in a unit covering factors, fractions, and exponents. This phase involves learning how to find the Greatest Common Factor (G.C.F.) and Least Common Multiple (L.C.M.) for given numbers and variables. Additionally, another group of tigers is engaged in a unit on polynomial and nonlinear functions. In this section, students are learning to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials, as well as solving problems utilizing quadratic equations.



# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

As you know, science, technology, and engineering are basic skills expected by employers. As Twenty First Century citizens, these students will also have to make some of the toughest decisions of any generation, based on their understanding of emerging science and technology. Doing science is key to understanding science. Our school is holding a science “fair” and all students at PPS will participate.

Hands-on scientific investigation and invention are the focus of our event. Your child will design, test, analyze, and present a project that uses scientific methods to solve a problem or the engineering process to develop a model or prototype. Each group has a different focus.

- Penguins and Giraffes will focus on Insects and Arachnids.
- Pandas have picked “Weather Tools” as their focus.
- Lions will be studying Kitchen Chemistry
- Tigers are focusing on Electricity.

Please note that much of the work will be done at school, but some work at home may be necessary. I will try to supply as many of the materials as possible. Parents are welcome to pitch in supplies if desired. Students will be given project guidelines and timelines at school. Parents are encouraged to offer emotional support and reminders but to allow children to do the projects by themselves.

Parents will be able to tour the projects during the Parent/Teacher Open House in December. Don't hesitate to call or email the school with any questions.



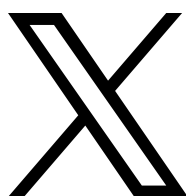
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