



NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2024

In January, we participated in The Great Kindness Challenge. We participated along with 20 million students from 41,103 schools and 115 countries around the world! We are now a Kindness Certified School. During the month of February, we will continue to celebrate friendship, show compassion, gratitude, and choose kindness.



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

2024 FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 TEXAS DAY	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3
4	5	6	7 PERIODIC TABLE DAY	8	9 NO SCHOOL (TEACHER WORKDAY)	10
11	12	13 ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY I am Kind	14 SQUISHY SCIENCE DAY	15	16	17
18	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY NO SCHOOL	20 NATIONAL MUFFIN DAY	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 LEAP DAY		



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:

- The Penguins are listening to *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* by Betty MacDonal along with the Giraffes...They are laughing and learning in all the right places! I hope that they are sharing the life lessons that the children learn from Mrs. Piggle Wiggle!
- **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!
- Spelling continues to 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.
- We have begun reading *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* by Betty MacDonald...They are laughing and learning in all the right places! I hope that they are sharing the life lessons that the children learn from Mrs. Piggle Wiggle! We are covering comprehension and vocabulary in each chapter.
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Pandas:

- Our Pandas are definitely enjoying *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume, especially Fudge's crazy antics!
- **READING LOGS...**Each child is responsible for reading 20 minutes daily, (M-Th)and getting their reading log signed by an adult. Pandas have been very responsible for coming to class with completed homework~THANK YOU!

Giraffes:

- **READING LOGS & SIGHT WORD LOGS:** Parents, please remember to sign BOTH logs 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...

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!
- *The Whipping Boy*, by Sid Fleishman has begun! In addition to comprehension and vocabulary, we will be covering prefixes, suffixes, root words, and other literary elements. I encourage you to look through the novel section in their binders to see their assignments and view their progress.
- Winston Grammar Program (& 4th grade Spelling) are 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 have one writing project each month from now on...details to follow!

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

I am so excited for February! That means Spring is just around the corner. Spring is one of my favorite seasons. In my class, we are going to continue to focus on kindness and how we treat others. Showing respect to others is a quality we want to cultivate in our students. Enjoy your February!

Penguins: We changed up a few things in January and we focused on Guided Reading and collaborative partner work to build vocabulary. So, we are just starting the 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: We had to be flexible and change up a few things in January. We focused on Guided Reading and collaborative vocabulary work. Therefore, we are just now starting our 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: We have completed our WWI unit. It took a little bit longer than anticipated, therefore, we are just now beginning our 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 have completed their WWI unit and they will begin the 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 have completed their WWI unit and they will begin their 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 done well in completing the geometry unit, where they explored different 2D and 3D shapes. Children gained the ability to discriminate between 2D and 3D shapes. In 2D shapes they got to learn to count the number of edges and vertices and in 3D shapes they learnt to count the number of faces, edges and vertices. Our next unit of focus will be on measurements where kids will learn to compare units, learn different units of length, weight and capacity.

Giraffes: The giraffes have successfully completed their fraction module, where they learned to identify and write fractions, draw fraction strips, and apply them for comparing and ordering fractions. Additionally, they acquired the skills of adding and subtracting fractions. Currently, they are immersed in a geometry unit, focusing on distinguishing between 2D and 3D shapes. In 2D shapes, they are mastering the counting and writing of edges and vertices, while in 3D shapes, they are in the process of determining the number of faces, edges, and vertices for a given shape. The upcoming topic involves learning how to calculate the perimeter of specific shapes. Simultaneously, the kids will continue to explore concepts related to multiplication and division.

Pandas: Pandas class have finished a module on fractions, where they acquired skills in

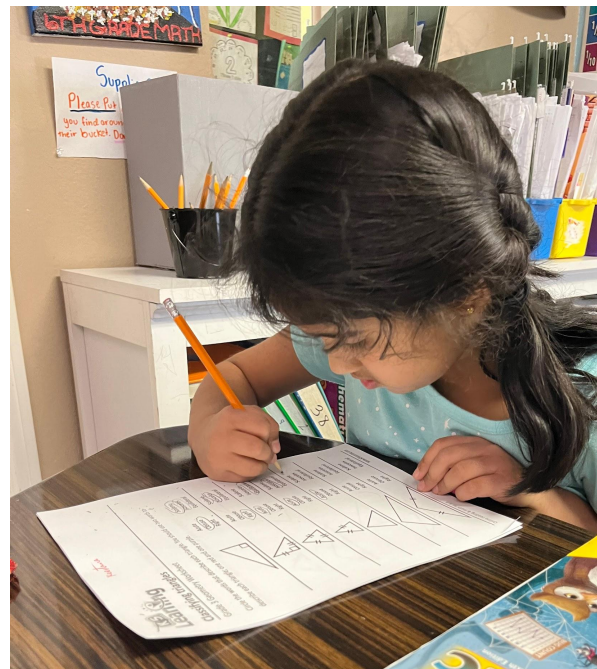
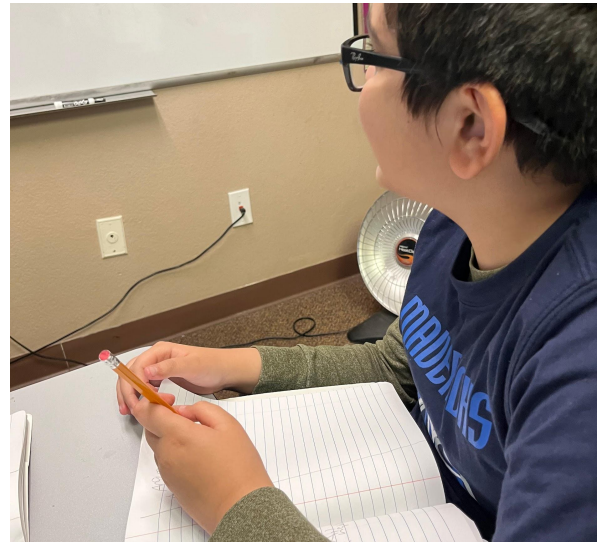
recognizing and expressing fractions, comparing them, and arranging them in order using visual aids like fraction strips. They have progressed to another unit focused on geometry, where they explored various 2D and 3D shapes. They learned to determine the edges and vertices of 2D shapes and the faces, edges, and vertices of 3D shapes. Additionally, they gained knowledge about basic geometric concepts such as lines, line segments, rays, and angles. In the upcoming sessions, they will further go through identifying different angle types and categorizing triangles based on their sides and angles.

Lions: The lion students are currently mastering the concept of probability, where they learn to calculate the likelihood of a given number, comprehend compound events, explore permutations and combinations, and make predictions about specific outcomes. Additionally, they are delving into the world of various types of graphs, such as line plots, line graphs, bar graphs, histograms, and interpreting circle graphs. Some of the lions are simultaneously engaged in a geometry unit, where they are introduced to distinguishing between lines, line segments, and rays. They are also learning to classify different types of angles and triangles. The students have gained the skill of measuring and constructing angles using a protractor. Their next focus will be on understanding decimals and percents.

Math Cont.

Ms. Jaya

Tigers: The tiger students are currently engaged in studying Ratio, Proportion, and Probability. They are acquiring the skills to write and solve ratios and proportions, exploring the world of scale drawings, and delving into the concepts of probability and odds. In addition, some of the tigers are focusing on finding square roots, utilizing them to solve the Pythagorean theorem, and applying distance and midpoint formulas to problem-solving. They are also learning to calculate the slope of a line. Their current area of concentration involves determining the surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. Meanwhile, another group of students among the tigers is immersed in a unit that involves Classifying special angle pairs. They are working on identifying angles formed by a transversal intersecting two lines, finding measures of interior and exterior angles of polygons, transforming figures in a coordinate plane, and describing line symmetry and rotational symmetry.



Science

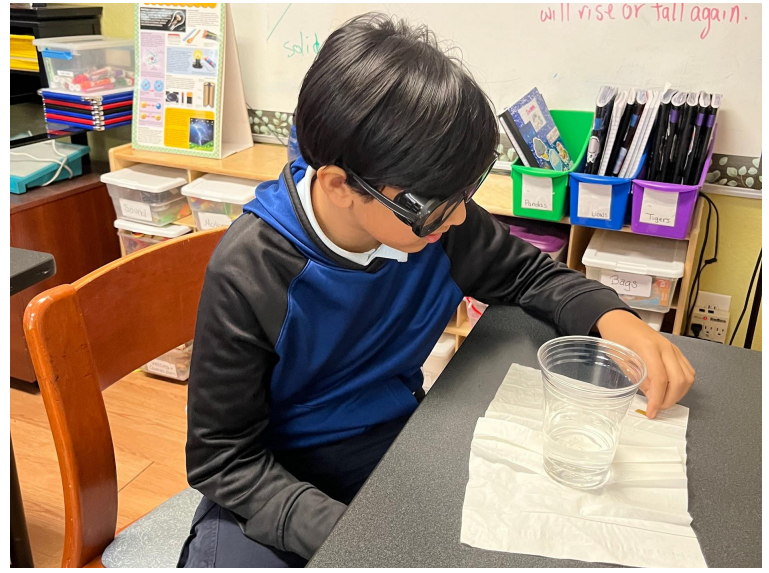
Mrs. Hozie

We have had a fun month discovering the properties of matter. With the arrival of 2024, all classes focused on the physical as well as chemical properties and changes matter can undergo.

Penguins and Giraffes learned that matter is anything that takes up space and has mass. They also learned that solids, liquids, and gases are matter and have properties (size, shape, texture, or color). Students observed liquids, solids, and gases while discussing their properties.

Pandas and Lions had fun learning about chemical properties, chemical changes, and ways of avoiding unwanted chemical changes such as rusting. Finally, we explored the differences among mixtures, solutions, and colloids. Lions also had labs on Acids/Bases and Chromatography.

After learning about chemical properties and chemical changes, Tigers advanced to balancing chemical equations. We finished out the month by reviewing the Law of Conservation of Mass (mass cannot be created or destroyed; it can only change form) and discerning between substitution and decomposition reactions.



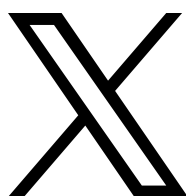
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