

# NEWSLETTER

March 1, 2024

It is hard to believe that March is already here. It won't be long before the warm weather arrives. With warm weather come some fun outdoor activities! National Bubble week is going to be so much fun! We will also be learning about sun safety and the spring equinox.



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

## 2024 MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6 NATIONAL OREO COOKIE DAY	7	8 PI DAY	9
10	11-14 SPRING BREAK			15	16	
17	18 NATIONAL BUBBLE WEEK	19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 SUN SAFETY DAY WEAR A HAT	27	28	29 NO SCHOOL	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:

- The Penguins are listening to Mrs. Piggie 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. Piggie 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!
  - **WRITING, WRITING, WRITING...**Everyday, the Penguins will write sentences about Mrs. Piggie Wiggle. My goal is for them to do the first version all by themselves, because I want to see them sounding & stretching out the words phonetically (also called "invented spelling"). THEN, I will help them make corrections as needed...This way, I can focus on each student's educational needs based on their ability.
  - 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.
  - Mrs. Piggie Wiggle by Betty MacDonald is going so well! 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. Piggie Wiggle! We are covering comprehension and vocabulary in each chapter.

### Pandas:

### 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...
- 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!**
  - Students are responsible for completing two pages daily in their Abeka workbook to reinforce concepts previously taught.

# ELA CONT.

## *Mrs. Hill*

- 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 are about halfway through our novel study, *The Whipping Boy*, by Sid Fleishman. 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.
- FREE READING PROJECTS: Students will choose a grade-level book, complete a plot diagram AND a project of their choice...due dates will be March 18, April 15, and May 15. Please refer to the extensive information in your child's binder, including the rubric I will use for grading.
- 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.

### 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!

- RESPECT is something that this group has been struggling with lately...Respect for teachers, respect for one another, and respect for our time together to meet educational objectives; for the rest of the year, students will receive one verbal warning, and if the behavior continues, he or she will be removed from class to complete a written essay regarding RESPECT. If this occurs three times within a week, after school detention will be scheduled. I love the Tigers, and want them to remember that we still have three months of chock-full learning to go—Let's FINISH STRONG!
- *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald is moving along smoothly! Since this book has extensive symbolism, themes, and advanced vocabulary, we will be taking each chapter SLOWLY...I will be giving simple 10-question chapter quizzes to ensure that reading is being done at home as stated on their planners. Then we will do a thorough analysis while discussing in class.
- 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.
- FREE READING PROJECTS: Students will choose a grade-level book, complete a plot diagram AND a project of their choice...due dates will be March 18, April 15, and May 15. Please refer to the extensive information in your child's binder, including the rubric I will use for grading.
- 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.

# Humanities

## *Mrs. Hughlett*

Spring break and a little luck are coming in March! The kids have been working hard preparing for Spring assessments. This is not their favorite thing, but they should all know that I am their biggest cheerleader!

**Penguins:** February was full of fun and learning! We finished our book study on *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* and we also read about *Rags: Hero Dog of WWI*. Upon completion of our book studies, we watched a movie about Stubby. We enjoyed learning even more about how dogs were utilized in combat. They had an important role and the students were invested in learning all about how they helped the American soldiers of WWI. Coming up in March, we will continue to work in guided reading groups and practice new vocabulary we find in the fun stories we read.

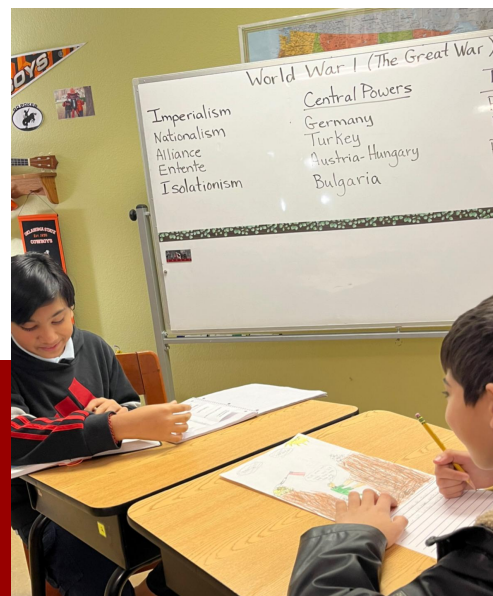
**Giraffes:** February was full of fun and learning! We finished our book study on *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* and we also read about *Rags: Hero Dog of WWI*. Upon completion of our book studies, we watched a movie about Stubby. We enjoyed learning even more about how dogs were utilized in combat. They had an important role and the students were invested in learning all about how they helped the American soldiers of WWI. Coming up in March, we will continue to work in guided reading groups and practice new vocabulary we find in the fun stories we read. The Giraffes will also work on comprehension by retelling stories that we read.

**Pandas:** The Pandas thoroughly enjoyed reading about Stubby and Rags from our book studies *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* and *Rags: Hero Dog of WWI*. They are finishing up their unit with a Compare/Contrast (Double Bubble) Thinking Map. We have spent a lot of time looking at similarities and

and differences in the two books and how WWI affected communities. We are going to spend some time preparing for the upcoming Iowa Assessment. We will be working on some reading comprehension skills and test taking strategies. The students will begin working on Quick Writes about different topics that will provide a timesaving form of writing practice for them to become clear and fluent thinkers and writers.

**Lions:** The Lions have begun the novel study on *The Skylark's War* by Hilary McKay. We are finding it very fascinating. We have discussed the time period and discussed the historical elements of the setting, character development, vocabulary and the genre of historical fiction. We recently paused our reading to prepare for the upcoming Iowa Assessment this month. We have been practicing reading comprehension and test taking strategies. We want the students to be well equipped with the skills they need to be successful.

**Tigers:** The Tigers have begun the novel study on *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. We are finding it very intriguing. We are paying attention to historical elements of the setting and character development. We recently paused our reading to prepare for the upcoming Iowa Assessment this month. We have been practicing reading comprehension and test taking strategies. We want the students to be well equipped with the skills they need to be successful.



# Math

## Ms. Jaya

### **Penguins:**

The penguins are currently engaged in the process of determining missing addends and establishing connections to subtraction. Additionally, they are actively exploring fact families, aiming to understand and comprehend the relationships inherent in both addition and subtraction facts. Simultaneously, the children are focusing on measurements, gaining an understanding of various units for length, weight, and capacity. Subsequently, our next focus will be on the comprehension of time.

### **Giraffes:**

The giraffes have accomplished a successful geometry unit, concentrating on the differentiation between 2D and 3D shapes. Proficiency was achieved in counting and recording the number of edges and vertices for 2D shapes, while for 3D shapes, the focus was on determining the number of faces, edges, and vertices. The giraffes also acquired the skill of calculating the perimeter of specific shapes. Presently, they are immersed in a unit on measurement and time, where they are acquiring knowledge about various units of length and weight. Concurrently, the students are continuing their exploration of multiplication and division concepts.

### **Pandas:**

The pandas have been engaged in exploring geometric concepts, including lines, line segments, rays, and angles. They also delved into the understanding of different types of triangles, congruent and similar figures, and the concept of

symmetry. Currently, their focus has shifted to determining the area, perimeter, and volume of various geometric figures. Looking ahead, the next unit will concentrate on Measurement and Time. During this phase, the students will learn about customary units of capacity, metric units of length, the process of renaming units of measurements, and concepts related to time. Additionally, they will develop skills in calculating elapsed time, reading a calendar, and applying problem-solving techniques.

### **Lions:**

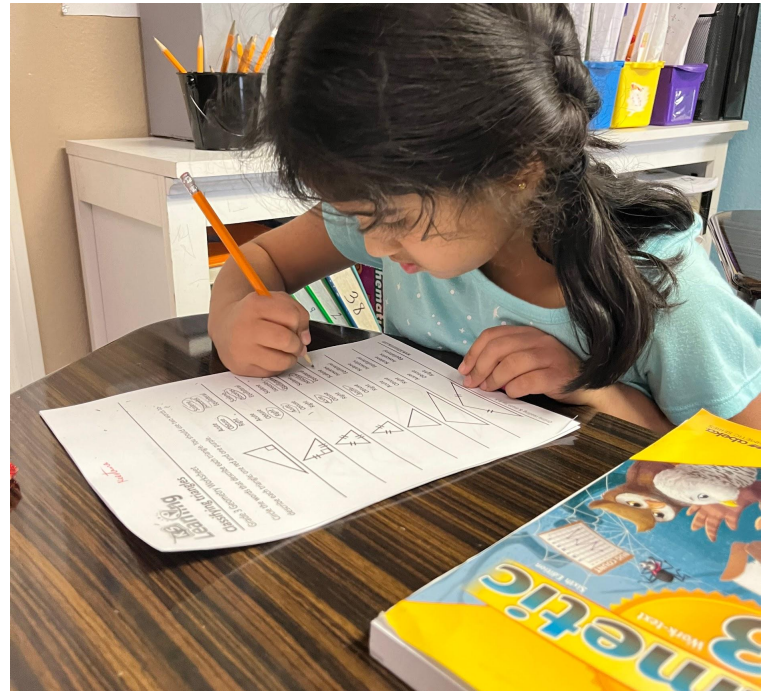
The lions have successfully completed a graphing unit, where they learned about various types of graphs such as line plots, bar graphs, histograms, and box-and-whisker plots. They have now shifted their focus to decimals, encompassing topics like decimal place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals. Additionally, they are applying decimals to problem-solving scenarios, and mastering the conversion between fractions and decimals, and vice versa. Simultaneously, some of the lions are engaged in a unit on Ratio, Proportion, and Percents. In this segment, they are learning to write and solve proportions, establishing connections between fractions, decimals, and percents. Their subsequent lessons will delve into percent applications, covering areas such as finding rates, sales tax, total cost, commission, and simple interest.

# Math Cont.

*Ms. Jaya*

## **Tigers:**

The tigers have successfully completed a unit on Ratio, Proportion, and Probability, and they have now transitioned to studying linear functions. In this phase, they will delve into understanding relations and functions, solving linear equations in two variables, determining the slope of a line, and exploring the slope-intercept form. Subsequently, they will engage in graphing linear equations before progressing to the study of real numbers and right triangles. Simultaneously, a subgroup of the tiger students is focusing on Data Analysis and Probability. This segment covers different types of graphs, interpretation of data, permutations and combinations, probabilities of disjoint and overlapping events, and dependent and independent events. Their upcoming topics include delving into polynomials and non-linear functions, which encompasses adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials, as well as understanding quadratic functions.



# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

All our Pinnacle classes used February to remember to be "Heart Healthy." All our students studied the parts of the heart and how they work with the lungs to sustain us.

Our Penguins and Giraffes have been exploring Simple Machines. We explored how many simple machines can be combined to make compound machines that help us with our daily tasks. Ask your student to list the six simple machines for you. They are lever, pulley, inclined plane, wedge, screw, and wheel and axle. Look for different simple machines in your home.

Our Pandas have been learning about Light and Sound and how they travel through different mediums, such as air and water. As we move into March, we will cover what gives sound pitch and loudness.

Our Lions and Tigers have been reviewing motion, speed, and acceleration. Our studies extend to how force is related to motion, friction, as well as balanced and unbalanced forces.

Looking ahead, we are anticipating the Total Solar Eclipse this April. Please consider getting your students some solar glasses for the event. I suggest purchasing them from a reputable source. I have a list of verified vendors if you are still looking for a pair.

As we move into March, we are reviewing for testing. These tests are designed to measure how well students use what they have learned and whether they are ready for the next level of learning. The goal is to ensure that all students receive what they need to succeed academically. This preparation helps students become familiar with the types of questions, recognize test pitfalls and poor habits, as well as gain confidence in the value of the knowledge they possess.

Here are some tips to help your student be ready:

1. Make sure your student has their clothes, school backpacks, lunch, and snacks ready to go the night before so they arrive on time on testing days.
2. Make sure they go to bed early. It's more important to get sleep.
3. Read at least 15 minutes every night with your student.
4. Make sure your child is well-rested and has had a nutritious breakfast; that way, they'll be able to concentrate on the exam.
5. Tell your child to try and stay as relaxed as possible.
6. **Tell your child they will do great on the test and that you believe in them!**



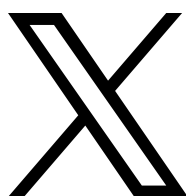
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