

NEWSLETTER

November 1, 2023

October was a wonderful month full of school spirit at Pinnacle Prep! We loved seeing all the great ideas on Spirit Week dress days! We look forward to enjoying the fall weather with lots of fun activities and learning.



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

NOVEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Sugar Cookie Day	4
5	6	7	8 National STEAM Day	9	10 Fall Photos	11
12	13	14	15 National Bundt Day	16	17	18 Thanksgiving Break Begins
19	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Thanksgiving Break Ends	27	28 Red Planet Day	29	30		



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:

- We will begin our new novel study, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton on Wednesday, Nov. 1...we are doing a DEEP dive into each chapter to discuss the development of characters, theme, symbolism, and vocab.
- Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1-2 lessons weekly
- Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop... work is due on the first Friday, review with Quizlet the second week, and the final quiz will be on the second Friday.
- 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).
- Tigers did an OUTSTANDING job on *Of Mice and Men* and I am looking forward to seeing their One-Pager projects on Edgar Allan Poe!
- 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.

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!
- Continue our novel study, *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson.
- Continue Winston Grammar...approximately 1 lesson weekly, along with mini-lessons to introduce new grammar concepts.

- We are finally in the groove with Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop! We will complete one unit every 2 weeks—work is due on the first Friday, they will review with Quizlet the second week, and the final quiz will be on the second Friday. Based on ability, your child will get the book that is most appropriate—Grade 4, 5, or 6.
- Our next writing assignment is coming soon...Be sure to look in the front of the binder for details!

Pandas:

- Our novel study, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* by Ronald Dahl is progressing beautifully! Please remind your child to answer comprehension questions in complete sentences by RTQ (Restating the Question).
- 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.
- Winston Grammar Program is running smoothly! Your child should be able to identify articles, common nouns, and proper nouns, and PRONOUNS...The trickiest ones for them are still the ABSTRACT nouns—I'll be doing a special unit on these next week. We will complete approximately one WG lesson weekly, along with mini-lessons to introduce new grammar concepts.
- EXCITING NEWS-We will begin working on our class play for the December performance starting in November! The play will be based on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*...You will receive more detailed information in their purple homework folders on Nov. 1st.

ELA CONT.

Mrs. Hill

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...
- Spelling has been going AWESOME! Packets go home the first day of the week, and will be due on Fridays, along with a spelling test. Students will have some class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work on at home.
- This month we will continue to do reading activities that revolve around Kevin Henkes' Lily's Purple Plastic Purse. There are tons of literacy activities that accompany this story, and we celebrate the ending of each unit with a fun craft project!
- 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.
- EXCITING NEWS-We will begin working on our class play for the December performance starting in November! The play will be based on Kevin

- Henkes story, Wemberly Worried...You will receive more detailed information in their purple homework folders on Nov. 1st.

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!"
- 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...
- 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!

Humanities

Mrs. Hughlett

I am thankful for November! The students have wrapped up learning about the different states and regions of the United States. The Pandas, Giraffes and Penguins have learned that the different states have different state symbols like the state birds, flowers, and animals to name a few! The Tigers and Lions have learned that these states all fit into 5 different regions of the United States and with that comes different climates, landforms, and economic activities. We have some very busy weeks coming up and I can't wait to get started!

Penguins: We will be doing many fun activities with the book *Magic Treehouse: Thanksgiving on Thursday!* The students will practice listening to the book read aloud and responding to comprehension questions both orally and in writing. We will practice our penmanship as well.

Giraffes: We will be doing many fun activities with the book *Magic Treehouse: Thanksgiving on Thursday!* The students will practice listening to the book read aloud and responding to comprehension questions both orally and in writing. Giraffes will also work on summarizing the beginning, middle and end of the book.

Pandas: I am looking forward to starting a novel study with the Pandas! We will be doing our study on the book by Jack London titled *The Call of the Wild*. I have so many activities planned as we read this book together that includes comprehension and vocabulary activities. We will also practice summarizing and looking at character development. They will also learn about Canada and the region of the Klondike in the territory of the Yukon. I truly believe that the students are going to love this book!

Lions: The Lions have been working hard on their play! We are in the process of memorizing and running lines until they get comfortable with the script. I am so thrilled with how they all have embraced their parts! We are also starting our next novel study with the book *Johnny Tremain: A Story of Boston in Revolt*. I anticipate that they are going to enjoy this novel and they will come away with an understanding of the American Revolution.

Tigers: Just like the Lions, the Tigers have been memorizing and running lines for their play. They seem to be having so much fun with it! I can't wait to see how it comes together. The Tigers have a new book study that we have started titled *Sophia's War: a Tale of the Revolution*. I am looking forward to reading this novel with them! It is filled with some suspense and mystery as they learn about the American Revolution.



Math

Ms. Jaya

Penguins:

The penguins had an awesome time learning how to count by skipping numbers. They learned to skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's up to 100. They also had fun with picture addition, where they looked at pictures, counted the items, and connected it to addition. Right now, the kids are focusing on adding numbers using a number line. They'll keep practicing this and then move on to subtraction.

Giraffes:

The Giraffes have become experts in their lessons on adding and subtracting two-digit numbers, both with and without regrouping. They've also been busy learning how to round and estimate numbers to the nearest tens and hundreds. Currently, they are applying their skills to find the sums and differences by estimating to the nearest tens and hundreds. Additionally, they are actively enhancing their problem-solving skills by tackling word problems. Our upcoming unit will focus on Data and Graphing. In this unit, the kids will explore taking surveys, creating tally charts, and graphing the data using various types of graphs.

Pandas:

The Pandas have successfully finished the unit on estimating sums and differences and have

now shifted their focus to the Data and Graphing unit. In this unit, the kids have learned about various survey techniques, how to conduct surveys, create frequency and tally charts based on the results, and then represent the data using different types of graphs such as pictographs, bar graphs, circle graphs, line plots, and line graphs. They have also been working on interpreting these graphs, writing about the results, and answering related questions. Furthermore, some of the Pandas have completed their multiplication and division concepts and will be progressing to more advanced multiplication and division involving larger numbers. They will also continue practicing their math facts to improve their speed.

Lions:

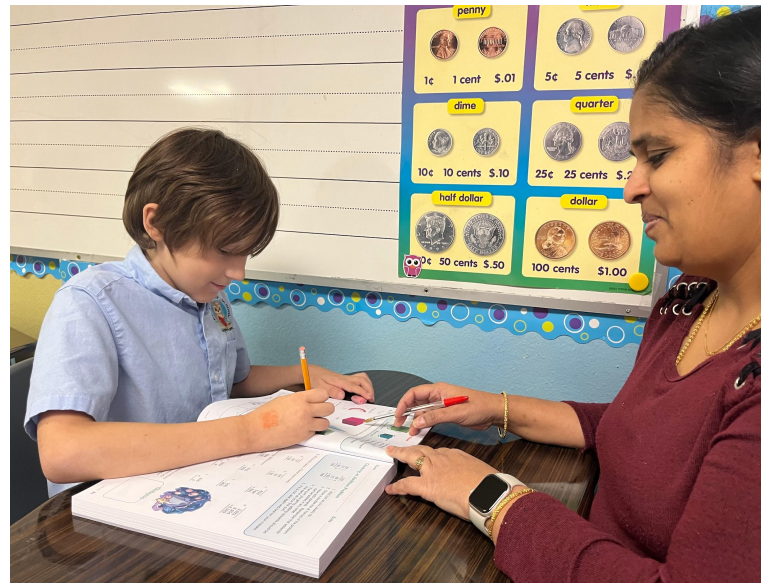
The Lions have finished learning about the Order of Operations and are now moving on to a new topic about measurements. In this unit, they will focus on renaming units of length, calculating customary and metric units for capacity and weight, measuring temperature and time, and solving problems related to these concepts. Additionally, some of the Lions are working on a unit about fractions, where they're studying how to find the least common denominator, the greatest common factor, and how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, including mixed numbers. There are also Lions working on

Math Cont.

expressions and equations, where they will learn about the order of operations, translating and evaluating algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities. They'll also practice adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing equations and solving equation-related problems. After this, they'll begin studying integers.

Tigers:

The Tigers are learning to make math simpler by dealing with variable expressions and solving equations. They use different operations like adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing, even with decimals. Some are also focusing on expressions and equations, where they understand the rules for doing math, translate and solve algebraic problems, and work on equations and inequalities. Later, they'll dive into integers. A few kids are exploring function notation, solving sets of linear equations, and creating graphs for linear inequalities. Next up is a unit on Real Numbers and right triangles. Another group is getting into polynomials and non-linear functions, which involves adding, subtracting, and multiplying polynomials and binomials before moving on to quadratic equations. Some kids are sharpening their skills with percentages.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

All our PPS students enjoyed learning about the Annular Eclipse that occurred on the 14th of this month. We will revisit this information in March to prepare for the Total Eclipse on April 8. This is a school day, and we will be in the "Path of Totality." Students will be allowed to bring their own Eclipse glasses to school. To purchase ahead of the rush, there is a list of safety-approved glasses dealers on my website, teamhozie.com. We will also make some indirect viewing boxes for anyone to view.

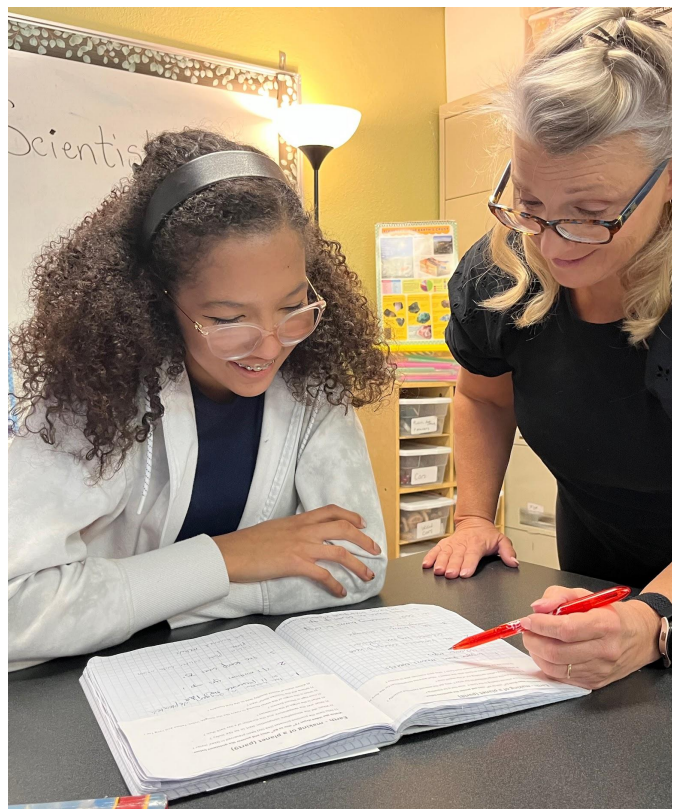
Penguins and Giraffes are finishing a Paleontology Unit. We had fun learning about different kinds of fossils and creatures that inhabited our Earth millions of years ago. These last two weeks, we have focused on the dinosaurs of the Jurassic and Triassic periods.

Pandas have been working on a Paleontology-focused unit in their textbook. We studied the soil, the layers where we would find fossils, how fossils are made, and how fossil fuels are used today. They loved painting their Fossil Dig Diorama with watercolors.

The textbook focus for our Lions in October has been Space Science. Students enjoyed making the lunar cycle with Oreo Cookies and learning about the birth and death of stars. In groups, they completed a LARGE-scale solar system model. These will be viewable during parent-teacher conferences.

On and off this month, our Tigers have been working on an anchor chart diorama. Each student picked a topic to teach our younger PPS students. They made a 3D diorama and will plan a lesson to teach it in November. They have been learning about Geological Time and finished their Geology Unit test this past week.

Each class will begin their Science Show projects for the PT conference in November. More information and possible supply needs will be sent out in a couple of weeks.



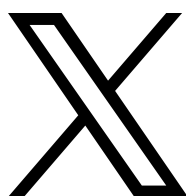
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