

# NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2024

We are so excited to start a new month at Pinnacle Prep and to get to experience a once in a lifetime experience of the Solar Eclipse! We will be learning all about that week in science class.



## 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.

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

20  
24 **APRIL**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	2	3 <b>NATIONAL FIND A RAINBOW DAY</b>	4	5 <b>SPRING CELEBRATION</b>	6
7	8 <b>ECLIPSE</b>	9 <b>NATIONAL UNICORN DAY</b>	10	11	12 <b>SPRING PHOTOS</b>	13
14	15	16	17 <b>ANIMAL CRACKER DAY</b>	18	19	20
21	22 <b>EARTH DAY</b>	23 <b>PICNIC DAY</b>	24	25 <b>DNA DAY</b>	26 <b>PRETZEL DAY</b>	27
28	29	30 <b>NATIONAL HONESTY DAY</b>				

# ELA

## Mrs. Hill

### Penguins:

- We have begun using Abeka first grade workbooks for phonics and language skills!
- Please help me to encourage proper letter formations and forming/reading complete sentences.
- 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. Piggle 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! ...

### 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...

- 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 completed the *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* unit, and I am so proud of their progress in reading!
- We have already begun our last unit— Nonfiction Text Features, which will continue through the end of the year. Students will be creating their own books with a page for each feature. This will really help them when we move into nonfiction books and writing reports!

### Pandas:

- Our Pandas will begin our last novel study of the year, *Charlotte's Web*, by E.B. White when we return to school on Tuesday, April 2.
- 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!

# 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 (action, being, & helping). Next up: 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 last novel, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, by Scott O'Dell when we return to school on Tuesday, April 2.
- FREE READING PROJECTS: Students will choose a grade-level book, complete a plot diagram AND a project of their choice...due dates will be 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!
- We will be finishing *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald the first week of April. Our last novel, *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick will begin the following week. Please anticipate a lot of reading to be completed at home, so we will be sure to finish it! As usual, 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 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*

April showers bring May flowers! Be sure to send your kiddos with appropriate attire for the April weather. Temps can be all over the place. We will go outside for lunch and recess regardless of the temperature. Sometimes it is windy and chilly so supplying a jacket each day would be helpful so they aren't complaining of being cold. They can always remove the jacket if they get too warm.

**Penguins:** March was a busy month! We started our book study on Matilda and we will continue through April. We are working on comprehension skills and writing skills. As we work through the book, the students will be responding to questions about each chapter in writing. Also, during the month of April, we will continue to work in guided reading groups and practice new vocabulary we find in the fun stories we read.

**Giraffes:** March was a busy month! We started our book study on Matilda and we will continue through April. We are working on comprehension skills and writing skills. As we work through the book, the students will be responding to questions about each chapter in writing. Also, during the month of April, we will continue to work in guided reading groups and practice new vocabulary we find in the fun stories we read.

**Pandas:** The Pandas worked hard practicing for the Iowa test in March. Their efforts will surely pay off. After spring break, we started a new novel: Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery. We will be focusing on comprehension skills. After each

chapter, they will respond to specific questions about the characters, plot and setting. We will continue 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 are continuing the novel study on The Skylark's War by Hilary McKay. The novel study was interrupted by the Iowa test and spring break, so we have spent time reviewing what we have already read and are moving forward with the novel. We will continue researching the historical elements of the setting, character development, vocabulary and the genre of historical fiction. Reading comprehension will be our main focus. After each chapter, students will answer key questions about the main idea and summarize what they have read.

**Tigers:** The Tigers are continuing the novel study on All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque. The novel study was interrupted by the Iowa test and spring break, so we have spent time reviewing what we have already read and are moving forward with the novel. We are paying attention to historical elements of the setting and character development. Reading comprehension will be the main focus of this novel. Students will answer key comprehension questions after each chapter using a short answer format.



# Math

## *Ms. Jaya*

**Penguins:** The penguins finished learning about missing numbers in addition and how it connects to subtraction. They also practiced writing fact families. They spent time understanding measurements like length, weight, and capacity, and comparing them. They learned about "gallon man" too. Currently, they're practicing reading and writing time to the nearest hour and minute. After that, they'll start learning about data and graphs, where they'll read graphs and answer questions about them.

**Giraffes:** The giraffes finished their measurement unit, where they learned about different ways to measure using standard and non-standard units. They practiced measuring lengths to the nearest centimeter, inch, and half-inch. They also learned about converting units, understanding how inches, feet, and yards relate to each other. Additionally, they explored capacity units like cups, pints, quarts, and gallons. Next, they'll dive into a unit on time. Here, they'll learn to read and write time down to the nearest minute, figure out elapsed time, and use problem-solving strategies. They'll also continue practicing their multiplication and division facts.

**Pandas:** The pandas have been exploring a unit on measurement and time. They learned how to convert between inches, feet, yards, and miles, and practiced measuring to the nearest quarter-inch, half-inch, and inch. They also tackled customary units of capacity, mastering conversions between ounces and pounds. Additionally, they delved into metric units like kilometers, meters, liters, grams, and kilograms. Next, they'll dive into learning about different measuring tools and selecting the right one for various tasks. They'll also cover temperature and delve into a unit on time, where they'll read time to the nearest minute, calculate elapsed time, and learn how to read a calendar.

**Lions:** The lions have successfully wrapped up a decimals unit, focusing on decimal place value and mastering operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. They also honed their skills in converting between fractions and decimals. Currently, they're diving into place value up to the nearest billions place, along with decimal place value, exponents, understanding the difference between expressions and equations, and how to evaluate equations. In parallel, some lions are delving into Data and Statistics. They've learned about surveys, distinguishing between samples and populations, and understanding biased versus unbiased surveys. They're now analyzing data, calculating measures like mean, median, mode, and range, and practicing graphing data using various types of graphs such as Box and Whisker plots, stem and leaf plots, line graphs, bar graphs, line plots, histograms, and interpreting circle graphs. Meanwhile, other lions have completed a unit in geometry and have moved on to Ratio, Proportion, and Percent. In this unit, they'll learn to write and solve different proportions, use scale drawings and maps, relate fractions, decimals, and percents, and apply problem-solving strategies to solve word problems.

**Tigers:** The tigers have successfully completed a unit on Linear Functions, where they learned about linear equations in two variables, using intercepts, finding the slope of a line, and graphing linear equations. They've now shifted their focus to a unit called Connections to Algebra, which covers exponents, order of operations, equations and inequalities, tables and graphs, and functions. Additionally, they're working on understanding the properties of real numbers and solving problems using different operations with real numbers. They'll also delve into matrices, including adding and subtracting them, before moving on to solving linear equations.

# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

We had a few special days this month, especially for our Penguins and Giraffes. On March 8, we observed Pi Day. Pi Day is celebrated worldwide on March 14th, the first three digits of Pi (3.14). In class, we talked about Pi and its connections to science. March 18th began National Bubble Week. We took this opportunity to study the science behind bubbles and their colors. The older students compared soap bubble hydrophobic/hydrophilic structure to eukaryotic cell membranes. On March 19th, we covered the Vernal Equinox and the first day of Spring. Finally, we observed Sun Safety Day on March 25th. Students learned about UV rays and how to protect their skin and eyes from the sun's harmful rays. Along with all these special days, Penguins and Giraffes are learning the names of the states and capitols of the Midwest and geography.

Since many in the Panda class were taking the IOWA test for the first time, we spent a few days practicing our test-taking skills. This class also began a chapter about how plants grow and respond to their environment. This chapter discusses how plants grow from seed, what plants need, and how they get what they need to germinate, grow, and reproduce. We just finished plant dissection and made some "nature art."

The Lions worked on the Waves, Sound, and Electromagnet Radiation unit. This unit began with wave properties, parts, and types. Students investigated how wave speed, frequency, and wavelength are related. We discussed sound and how sound travels through different media, such as air or water. We uncovered how pitch and loudness relate to the parts of a sound wave. Finally, we reviewed the visible spectrum of electromagnetic radiation. Students learned how we observe the world and how different wavelengths and frequencies can interact with our bodies.

The Tigers have been covering the hydrosphere. We started with the Earth's atmosphere and then graduated into weather and climate. We looked at global winds, their causes, and their effects on our weather. We also touched on ocean currents and how they affect climate. Next, we will explore air masses and the characteristics of fronts. We will discuss weather prediction and meteorology tools.



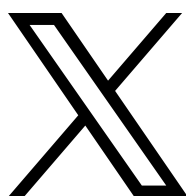
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