

NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2024

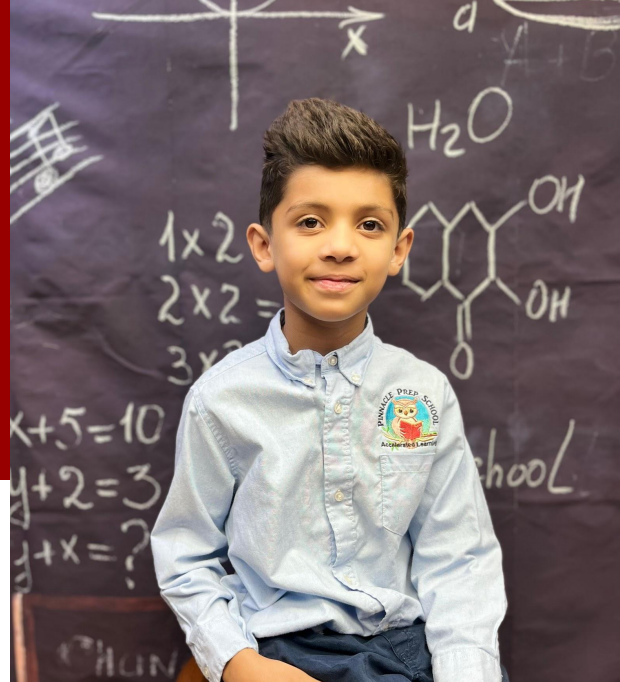
It has been a fun and exciting start to the new school year. As we embark on this journey together, we are committed to creating a positive and enriching environment where every student can thrive. We look forward to a fantastic year filled with growth, discovery, and lost of learning!. Thank you for your continued support!



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

2024 SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 NO SCHOOL	3	4	5 NATIONAL HIGH FIVE DAY	6 READ A BOOK DAY	7
8	9	10	11 POPSICLES	12	13	14
15	16 NATIONAL PLAY-DOH DAY	17	18	19	20 NO SCHOOL	21
22	23	24	25	26 JOHNNY APPLESEED DAY	27	28
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

Giraffes:

- READING & SIGHT WORD LOGS: Parents, please remember to each sign *each* log DAILY M-Thurs. This confirms that your child has spent 20 minutes reading & 10 minutes practicing sight words. I will assess each student's progress on sight words every Friday...Reading must be done *with* your child—I encourage you to read to your child...UNTIL...as your kiddo builds his or her phonemic skills, I will let you know when it's educationally appropriate to move to shared reading. It is my ultimate goal for your child to become an independent, fluent reader, all on their own. Remember, comprehension is KEY!
- We will be spending the first month reading and doing activities that revolve around Kevin Henkes' books!
- 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!"
- WRITING...Each day, the Giraffes will write sentences about the story we are reading. I want to see them sounding & stretching out the words phonetically (also called "invented spelling"). I will be monitoring and working with each student to help them according to his or her educational needs.
- Please help me to encourage proper letter formations and forming/reading complete sentences.
- 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.

Pandas:

- NOVEL:We will begin our first novel of the year, *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate on Tuesday, Sept. 3! We will begin our first novel of the year, *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate on Tuesday, Sept. 3! As we read in class, they will reread to you at home ...this will increase reading fluency, and improve their comprehension.
- READING & SIGHT WORD LOGS: Parents, please remember to sign BOTH logs DAILY M-Thurs. This confirms that your child has spent 20 minutes of reading & 10 minutes practicing sight words (until he/she has mastered the 4th grade list). These will be assessed every Friday...
- LANGUAGE/GRAMMAR: Students are responsible for completing two pages daily in their Abeka workbook to reinforce concepts previously taught in class.
- SPELLING: Students will receive spelling work on the first day of the week, and these are always due on the last day of the week. TESTS will also be on the last day of the week...They will have *some* class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work at home.
- Please help me to encourage proper letter formation! I have noticed that several kiddos have gone back to old habits, and I'll be monitoring this closely since we will be starting cursive soon!

ELA CONT.

Mrs. Hill

Lions:

- PLEASE INITIAL YOUR CHILD'S PLANNER EVERY DAY! Students are expected to show you their planner AND their finished work daily...Owl Bucks will be fined when work is incomplete or planner is not signed...
- NOVEL: We will be starting our first novel, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by Kate DiCamillo on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd. We will begin by doing the reading together in class, and move to reading assignments the students will do on their own. (It is always beneficial for students to reread what we are doing in class, and be able to give you information about characters and key events).
- GRAMMAR: Winston Grammar Program: Based on your child's instructional needs, I will meet with small groups to learn about grammar concepts...
- LANGUAGE : Students will be responsible for completing one page of Abeka daily. This will increase to two pages when our routine is established. Although time will be given in class, students may need to finish at home...
- WRITING: Usually this is embedded within the novel study... I will send an email if I assign a separate assignment.
- VOCABULARY: We will be using the Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop as a resource. We will spend two weeks on each unit, following this schedule: week 1 spent on work, the 2nd week is intended to form good study habits to be ready for the quiz on Friday.
- CURSIVE: We will begin learning cursive letters in October in the hopes that all students can write a paragraph by the winter holidays!

- SPELLING: (ONLY THROUGH GRADE 5) Students will receive spelling work on the first day of the week, and these are always due on the last day of the week. TESTS will also be on the last day of the week...They will have *some* class time to work on this, but they may have to complete work at home.

Tigers:

- PLEASE INITIAL YOUR CHILD'S PLANNER EVERY DAY! Students are expected to show you their planner AND their finished work daily...Owl Bucks will be fined when work is incomplete or planner is not signed...
- NOVEL: We will be starting our first novel, *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd. We will begin by doing most of the reading together in class, and move to reading assignments the students will do on their own. (It is always beneficial for students to reread what we are doing in class, and be able to give you information about characters and key events).
- GRAMMAR: Winston Grammar Program: Based on your child's instructional needs, I will meet with small groups to learn about grammar concepts...
- WRITING: Usually this is embedded within the novel study...I will send an email if I assign a separate assignment.
- VOCABULARY: We will be using the Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary Workshop as a resource. We will spend two weeks on each unit, following this schedule: week 1 spent on work, the 2nd week is intended to form good study habits to be ready for the quiz on Friday.
- CURSIVE: We will begin learning cursive letters in October in the hopes that all students can write a paragraph by the winter holidays!

Humanities

Mrs. Hughlett

September is here! I have enjoyed getting back into the swing of things with all of the students. We have been busy with so many engaging activities! I hope your children have been talking to you about some of the things we have been learning about.

Giraffes: The Giraffes are practicing handwriting and working with word families in the Bob Book series. We also read The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon and have been working on positive energy. When we focus on positive energy, it affects ourselves and others in a good way! We will continue to spend time reading and working on our comprehension skills as well as practicing our handwriting.

Pandas: The Pandas have been a joy to work with. We have read The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon. It is so nice to see them focusing on positive energy for themselves and others. We also did a Mind Mission to introduce the regions of Texas. We created a rope out of limited materials to rescue a stranded hiker in the Mountains and Basins region of Texas. We will continue to learn about the regions of Texas and end the unit with a Texas Region Brochure project. They are learning many fascinating things about each of the four regions including landforms, vegetation, climate, major cities and economic activities.

Lions: We have started off the year with our Regions of Texas unit. The students did a Mind Mission to introduce the regions of Texas. We created a rope out of limited materials to rescue a stranded hiker in the Mountains and Basins region of Texas. We will continue to learn about the regions of Texas and end the unit with a Texas Regions poster and written description of their favorite region. They are learning many fascinating things about each of the four regions including landforms, vegetation, climate, major cities and economic activities.

Tigers: We have started off the year with our Regions of Texas unit. The students did a Mind Mission to introduce the regions of Texas. We created a rope out of limited materials to rescue a stranded hiker in the Mountains and Basins region of Texas. We will continue to learn about the regions of Texas and end the unit with a Texas Regions Google Slideshow of the 4 regions. They will also create a quiz for their classmates! They are learning many fascinating things about each of the four regions including landforms, vegetation, climate, major cities and economic activities.



Math

Ms. Jaya

A warm welcome to all the students! I'm genuinely excited to have each of you in my class this year. I'm sure that by working together, we can make this a year full of accomplishments and success.

Giraffes- This year, the giraffes began by reviewing their addition and subtraction facts, and are now focusing on place value up to the hundreds. During this time, they will learn how to identify the position and value of each digit in a number, and how to express numbers in standard, expanded, and word forms. Later, they will tackle rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. Additionally, some of the giraffes are practicing tracing and writing numbers from 1 to 10.

Pandas- The pandas have had a fantastic start to the year. We began by revisiting all the concepts they've already covered, and are now diving into Unit 1, which focuses on place value. In this unit, they will learn to identify the place and value of numbers up to 1 million, and to write them in standard, expanded, and word forms. Following this, the pandas will move on to rounding numbers to the underlined place and to comparing and ordering numbers.

Lions: The lions kicked off this exciting year by reviewing previously learned concepts. They are now focusing on place value up to billions, decimal place value, estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients, as well as problem-solving strategies. They are also tackling 3-digit by 2-digit multiplication and will soon progress to learning long division. **Tigers-** The tigers began the year by revisiting previously learned concepts. Some of them are concentrating on understanding place value up to billions, including decimals, and practicing how to write numbers in standard, expanded, and word forms. Currently, they are solving larger multiplication and long division problems, with plans to tackle order of operations and problem-solving strategies next. Additionally, some tigers are focusing on expressions and variables, learning to solve equations involving variables, use integers, apply order of operations with exponents, and work with the coordinate plane. They will later progress to simplifying variable expressions using various operations and the distributive property.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

August is always a month of new beginnings. This month in science, we began the first few days by reviewing expectations and procedures. All students designed a composition notebook that we'll use to take notes and publish science assignments. Students found magazine pictures depicting their science interests. Personalizing notebooks boosts confidence and ownership. This strategy also helps students make connections between their interests and science.

Our first weeks always focus on Science Lab Safety, STEM, the scientific method, and the Engineering Design Process. Our final week of August involves an Engineering Challenge: Observing, Researching, Planning, Designing, creating a Prototype, Testing, and Improving. Students learned about the Criteria for a successful prototype and Constraints such as limited supplies and sticking to Budgets.

The coming months will be filled with motion, chemistry, life, earth, and space science. It's going to be an awesome year!



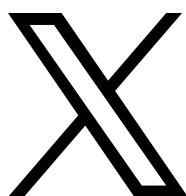
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