

NEWSLETTER

October 1, 2024

October is a fun and eventful month at Pinnacle Prep! We will be collecting canned goods the week of October 7th to donate to a local food bank on Oct 11th for World Homeless Day. Students can also wear their favorite Crocs on October 23rd for National Croc Day!



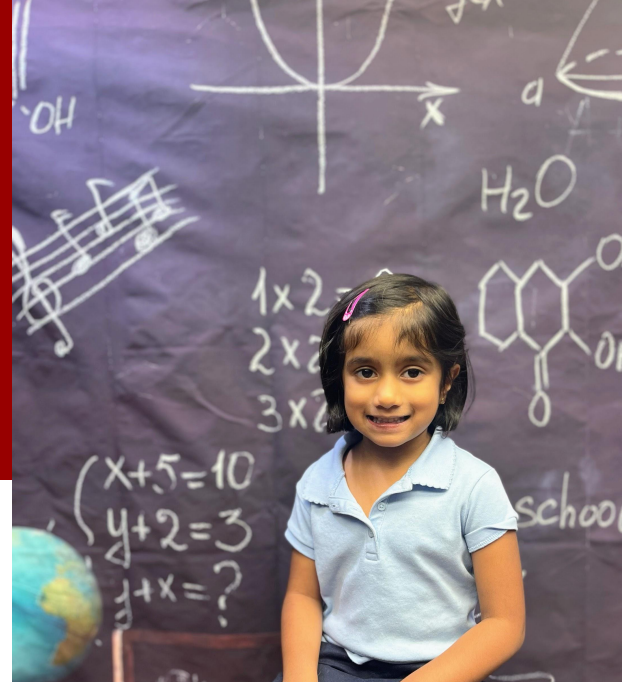
SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK
OCT. 28 - NOV. 1

- MONDAY**
MISMATCH SHOE DAY
WEAR TWO DIFFERENT SHOES.
- TUESDAY**
SUPERHERO DAY
DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO.
- WEDNESDAY**
CRAZY HAIR/HAT DAY
WEAR A CRAZY HAIRDO OR HAT.
- THURSDAY**
CAREER DAY
DRESS UP LIKE WHO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP.
- FRIDAY**
STUDENTS CAN DRESS UP IN THEIR MOST CREATIVE COSTUME/OUTFIT.

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

20 OCTOBER 24

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4  WORLD SMILE DAY	5
6	7 COLLECT CANNED GOODS 	8	9	10	11 WORLD HOMELESS DAY	12
13	14 NO SCHOOL	15	16 NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY 	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 NATIONAL CROC DAY 	24	25 NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29	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

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. 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. 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. 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

I am so excited for Fall Y'all! We have so much we are going to be covering this month!

Giraffes: The Giraffes are working on reading comprehension. We are reading short passages and answering an assortment of questions about what we read. We have also been practicing how to write our letters correctly. It is hard sometimes to remember where our pencil should start and stop! 😊 They are working hard and bring so much joy to the classroom!

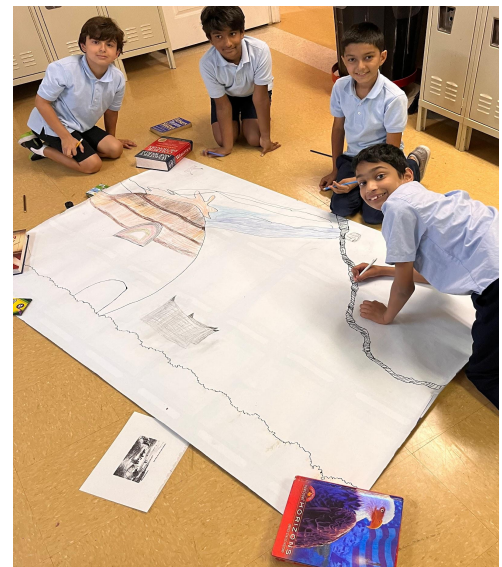
Pandas: The Pandas have been learning about the different native tribes of Texas. We have studied how they lived, where they lived, and what type of political and economic system they had. We tied all of this back to the different regions of Texas and how each tribe adapted to its environment. The students each chose a tribe and created a native American scene on paper. They are culminating the project with an essay about their chosen tribe.

Next, we will participate in Celebrate Freedom as we learn about the different important documents of the United States and Texas. 🎉

Lions: The Lions have been learning about the different native tribes of Texas. We have studied how they lived, where they lived, and what type of political and economic system they had. We tied all of this back to the different regions of Texas and how each tribe adapted to its environment. Each student compared two tribes of their choosing as well. Finally, the students each chose a tribe and created a native American scene on paper. They are culminating the project with an essay about their chosen tribe.

Next, we will participate in Celebrate Freedom as we learn about the different important documents of the United States and Texas. 😊

Tigers: The Tigers have been learning about the different native tribes of Texas. We have studied how they lived, where they lived, and what type of political and economic system they had. We tied all of this back to the different regions of Texas and how each tribe adapted to its environment. The students were assigned groups and they are designing a backdrop from a chosen tribe. This backdrop will be used in an "Act it Out" activity to show what they have learned about their chosen tribe. They are culminating the project with an essay about their chosen tribe. Next, we will participate in Celebrate Freedom as we learn about the different important documents of the United States and Texas. 🙌



Math

Ms. Jaya

Giraffes : The Giraffes have successfully completed a unit on place value, focusing on identifying ones, tens, and hundreds, as well as writing numbers in both standard and expanded forms. They also practiced rounding numbers to the nearest ten. Currently, they are working on adding and subtracting two-digit numbers without regrouping. Next, they'll move on to adding and subtracting two-digit numbers with regrouping. Some of the Giraffes are also practicing tracing, writing, and recognizing numbers from 1 to 20.

Pandas: The Pandas have successfully completed Unit 1, which focused on place value. They learned to identify the place and value of numbers up to 1 million and how to write them in standard, expanded, and word forms. They also practiced rounding numbers to the nearest tens and hundreds, as well as comparing and ordering numbers from least to greatest and vice versa. Currently, they are working on adding and subtracting larger numbers with regrouping and will soon begin learning about money and time. Meanwhile, some of the Pandas are memorizing their multiplication and division facts.

Lions: The Lions have successfully completed a unit on place value, where they learned about place values up to billions, decimal place value, estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients, along with various problem-solving strategies. They also worked on 3-digit by 2-digit multiplication and long division. Additionally, the students focused on solving problems using the order of operations. Currently, they are working on a unit about measurements, concentrating on computing customary units of length, capacity, and weight. They will soon move on to metric units of measurement, covering length, capacity, and mass. Some of the Lions are working on memorizing times tables, and once they've mastered those, they will begin working on division facts.

Tigers: The Tigers have completed a unit on Place Value, where they learned about place values up to billions, including decimals, and practiced writing numbers in standard, expanded, and word forms. They also tackled multiplication, long division, and problems involving the order of operations. Currently, the students are working on a Fractions unit, focusing on adding and subtracting fractions with like, unlike, and mixed numbers. They will soon move on to multiplying and dividing fractions with mixed numbers and simplifying them. Additionally, some Tigers have completed a unit on expressions and variables, learning to solve equations involving variables, work with integers, apply the order of operations with exponents, and navigate the coordinate plane. They are now working on solving equations with variables using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, both with and without decimals. The next focus will be solving multi-step equations and inequalities.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

Happy Fall, Pinnacle Prep families! According to EnchantedTexas.com, "Texas has several national forests full of oaks, maples, and cypress trees that change color in the autumn. The best areas in the state to see the fall colors are definitely the state parks and natural areas. Fall colors in Texas also vary a lot depending on the region." I hope you take the time to enjoy some fall foliage and fun. Now that we are past the Autumnal Equinox, the Northern Hemisphere is tilting away from the Sun. From September to March, we will get less light and less heat.

Our Giraffes have been practicing writing and reading about amazing animals. We are discussing different animal needs and how some animals grow. In October, we will be observing animal behavior and making model animals.

Our Pandas, Lions, and Tigers just took their first science tests of the year. They have been studying diligently, learning typing skills, and improving their reading comprehension. Remember that Typing Practice and Test Review Games are available on my website: www.teamhozie.com.

The Pandas finished their chapter on Rocks and Minerals. Students learned the importance of minerals and the formation, characteristics, and uses of the three basic kinds of rocks. We also learned about the rock cycle, weathering, erosion, and deposition. In October, they will be studying the forces that shape our land.

Our Lions and Tigers have been learning about the amazing organization of life from cells to organisms. The Lions focused on cell organelles and body tissues, while the Tigers worked on some major body systems: muscle, skeletal, excretory, and integumentary. In October, the Tigers will finish the chapters on the major body systems (digestive, circulatory, and respiratory) while the Lions move on to their chapter about interactions in nature.



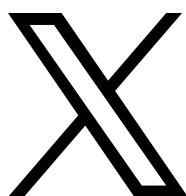
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