



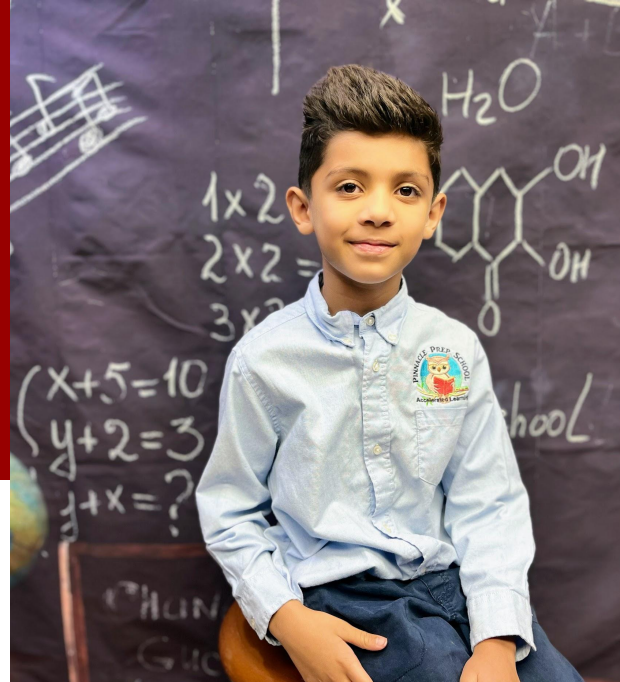
# NEWSLETTER

November 1, 2024

Our students showcased incredible school spirit during Spirit Week! As we embrace the fall weather, we're excited about all the activities this month has in store. We're especially thrilled to begin preparations for our upcoming theater production! Please be sure to save the dates below!

Dates to remember:

- November 25th-29th: Thanksgiving Break
- December 18th: A Night at the Theater
- December 19th: Parent-teacher Conferences
- December 23rd-January 6th: Winter Break



## 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.


**November 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
	4	5 	6	7	8 NATIONAL STEM DAY	9
10	11 	12	13 WORLD'S KINDNESS DAY	14	15 NO SCHOOL	16
17	18	19	20	21 	22	23
24	25 <b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	26	27	28 HAPPY THANKS GIVING	29	30

# ELA

## Mrs. Hill

### Giraffes: 🦒

- READING & SIGHT WORD LOGS: Parents please remember to 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! 😊
- 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!" 🧠
- READING: Our focus for November will be on Thanksgiving 🦃🍂🍁
- 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: 🐼

- 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...
- NOVEL: We will continue our novel study, *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.
- 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...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, so I will be assigning practice pages as needed...



# ELA CONT.

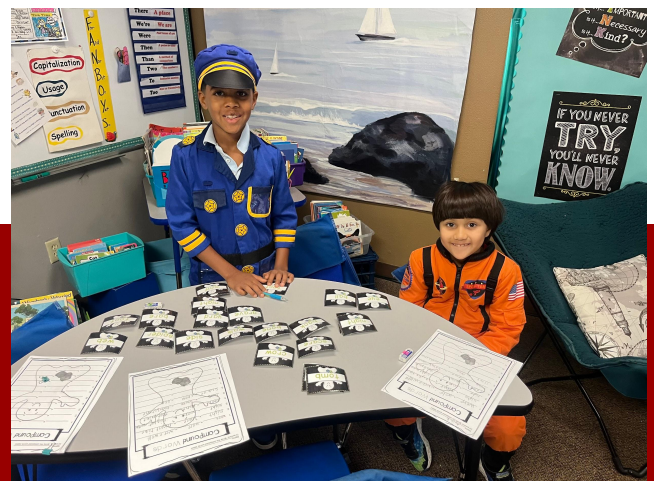
## Mrs. Hill

### 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 are continuing our novel study, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by Kate DiCamillo. (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 soon...stay tuned for further details!
- 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.
- My tutoring times are from 8:00-8:30 before school, Mondays–Fridays. I am happy to provide additional help in all ELA subject areas.

### 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 are continuing our novel study, *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan
- 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 soon...stay tuned for further details!
- My tutoring times are from 8:00-8:30 before school, Mondays–Fridays. I am happy to provide additional help in all ELA subject areas.



# Humanities

## Mrs. Hughlett

The months are moving fast and we are quickly approaching the mid-way point! Hard to believe! The students have been working hard on multiple tasks and I am proud of how diligent they have been. We will begin practicing for the play. The kids are excited to start rehearsing and learning their lines and songs.

**Giraffes:** The Giraffes are continuing to work on reading comprehension. I am seeing improvement in their fluency as well as sounding out and stretching the words they are reading. We are also working on our penmanship. Holding our pencil correctly helps out so much. 😊 One of their favorite things is storytime. They practice their listening skills and answer interesting questions about the fun stories they hear. It is important to read aloud and model how fun it is to read stories to each other. Great job Giraffes!

**Pandas:** The Pandas have continued to learn about the different native tribes of Texas. We are wrapping up this unit with two books, The Legend of the Bluebonnet and The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola. We will be moving into European exploration next week. Students will understand how the Europeans made their way to North America and how that impacted Texas. Texas is rich in so much history! 🎉

**Lions:** The Lions continue to learn about the different native tribes of Texas. We are wrapping up the unit with a novel. The Novel is entitled Children of the Longhouse by Joseph Bruchac. We are enjoying learning the language of the people of the Flint Nation. We will be moving into European exploration next week. Students will learn about different explorers and how they made their way to North America. They will also learn how that impacted Texas. Texas is rich in so much history! 😊

**Tigers:** The Tigers continue to learn about the different native tribes of Texas. We are wrapping up the unit with a novel. The novel is entitled Soft Rain by Cornelia Cornelissen. This novel is written through the eyes of a young Cherokee girl and her experiences on the Cherokee Trail. The students are researching different aspects of the trail as we read through the chapters. We will be moving on to European exploration next week and how this impacted Texas. Texas is rich in so much history! 🙌



# Math

## Ms. Jaya

**Giraffes:** The Giraffes have successfully completed a unit on telling time, focusing on reading and writing time to the nearest 5 minutes. They then progressed to a unit on money, where they learned to identify and name different coins. Next, they will begin a unit on data and graphing, practicing how to write tally marks, read graphs, and answer questions based on the data. Additionally, they will continue developing their skills in adding and subtracting two-digit numbers, both with and without regrouping.

**Pandas:** The Pandas have successfully completed work on adding and subtracting larger numbers with regrouping. They also finished a unit on Time and Money, where they learned to read and write time to the nearest minute and calculate elapsed time. They practiced recognizing coins, counting them, and working with money addition and subtraction. Next, they'll begin a unit on data and graphing, where they'll learn to read and write tallies, interpret and create various types of graphs, and answer questions based on the data. Some students are also working on multiplying two-digit numbers. They will continue to reinforce their multiplication and division facts.

**Lions:** The Lions have successfully completed a unit on measurements, focusing on calculating customary units for length, capacity, and weight, as well as metric units for length, capacity, and mass. They are now working on a unit in Data and Graphing, where they have learned to create and interpret various graphs, including bar graphs, line graphs, circle graphs, and pictographs. Currently, they are studying probability and combinations, practicing skills in predicting probabilities, events, and outcomes. Additionally, some of the Lions are working on memorizing times tables, and once mastered, they will move on to division facts.

**Tigers:** The Tigers have completed a unit on Fractions, where they learned to find the Least Common Multiple, Greatest Common Factor, estimate fractions, and add and subtract fractions with like, unlike, and mixed numbers. They also practiced multiplying and dividing fractions with mixed numbers and simplifying them. Their next unit will cover Probability and Statistics, focusing on predicting probability, using tree diagrams, exploring independent and dependent events, collecting and organizing data, graphing, and interpreting data to find the mean, median, and mode. Additionally, some Tigers have worked on solving equations with variables through addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, both with and without decimals, as well as multi-step equations and inequalities. Soon, they will begin a unit on Factors, Fractions, and Exponents, where they'll learn to find the Greatest Common Factor, Least Common Multiple, rules of exponents, negative and zero exponents, and scientific notation.



# Science

## *Mrs. Hozie*

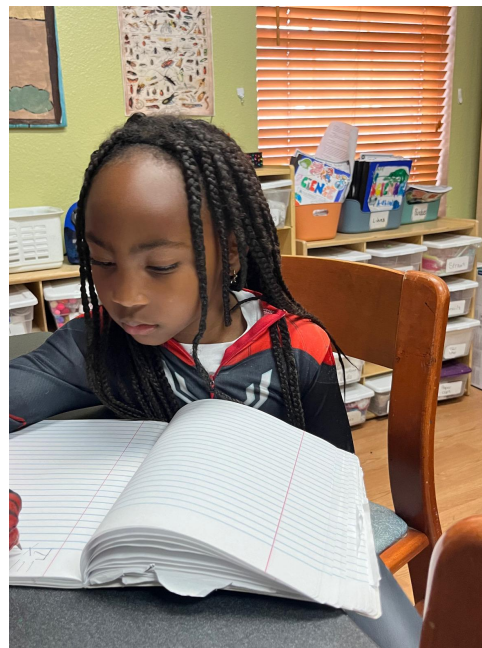
As you know, science, technology, and engineering are basic skills expected by employers. As Twenty-First-Century citizens, these students will also have to make some of the toughest decisions of any generation based on their understanding of emerging science and technology. Doing science is key to understanding science. Our school is holding a science "fair," and all students at PPS will participate.

Our event focuses on hands-on innovation and presentation of what students have learned. Your child will design and present a project using the knowledge gained during the first semester. Each group has a different focus.

- Giraffes will focus on Earth and Space.
- Pandas will present on a Weather Phenomena or Natural Disaster.
- Lions will be focusing on Biology and Botany. They will make carnival games to teach others what they have learned.
- Tigers will each make model amusement rides that teach one or more Human Body Systems.

Please note that much of the work will be done at school, but some work at home may be necessary. I will try to supply as many of the materials as possible. Parents are welcome to pitch in supplies if desired. Students will be given project guidelines and timelines at school. Parents are encouraged to offer emotional support and reminders but to allow children to do the projects themselves.

Parents can tour the projects during the December Parent/Teacher Open House. Don't hesitate to call or email the school with any questions.



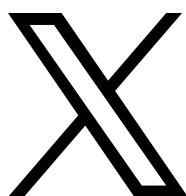
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