

NEWSLETTER

December 2, 2024

December is an exciting time at Pinnacle Prep! We're hard at work on our end-of-semester projects, which we'll be showcasing during parent-teacher conferences. Additionally, we're rehearsing for our play, "Schoolhouse Rock" we will be performing for our annual, A Night at the Theater. We hope everyone can join us for the performance on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Dates to remember:

- December 18th: A Night at the Theater
- December 19th: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December 23rd-January 6th: Winter Break
- Classes Resume on January 7th

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



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.

DECEMBER

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 A NIGHT AT THE THEATER	19 PARENT- TEACHER CONFERENCES	20	21
22 WINTER BREAK	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 7TH

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! 😊
- 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, WRITING, and SPELLING will resume after Winter Break...
- HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE: Our annual winter play, Schoolhouse Rock, will involve all students this year! Please save the date Wednesday, December 18!

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, when we return from Winter Break.
- LANGUAGE/GRAMMAR, & SPELLING will resume after Winter Break...

- HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE: Our annual winter play, Schoolhouse Rock, will involve all students this year! Please save the date Wednesday, December 18!

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 have completed our novel study, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by Kate DiCamillo. The final exam will be on Tuesday, December 3.
- GRAMMAR, WRITING, VOCABULARY, & CURSIVE will resume after Winter Break
- HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE: Our annual winter play, Schoolhouse Rock, will involve all students this year! Please save the date Wednesday, December 18!

Tigers: 🐅

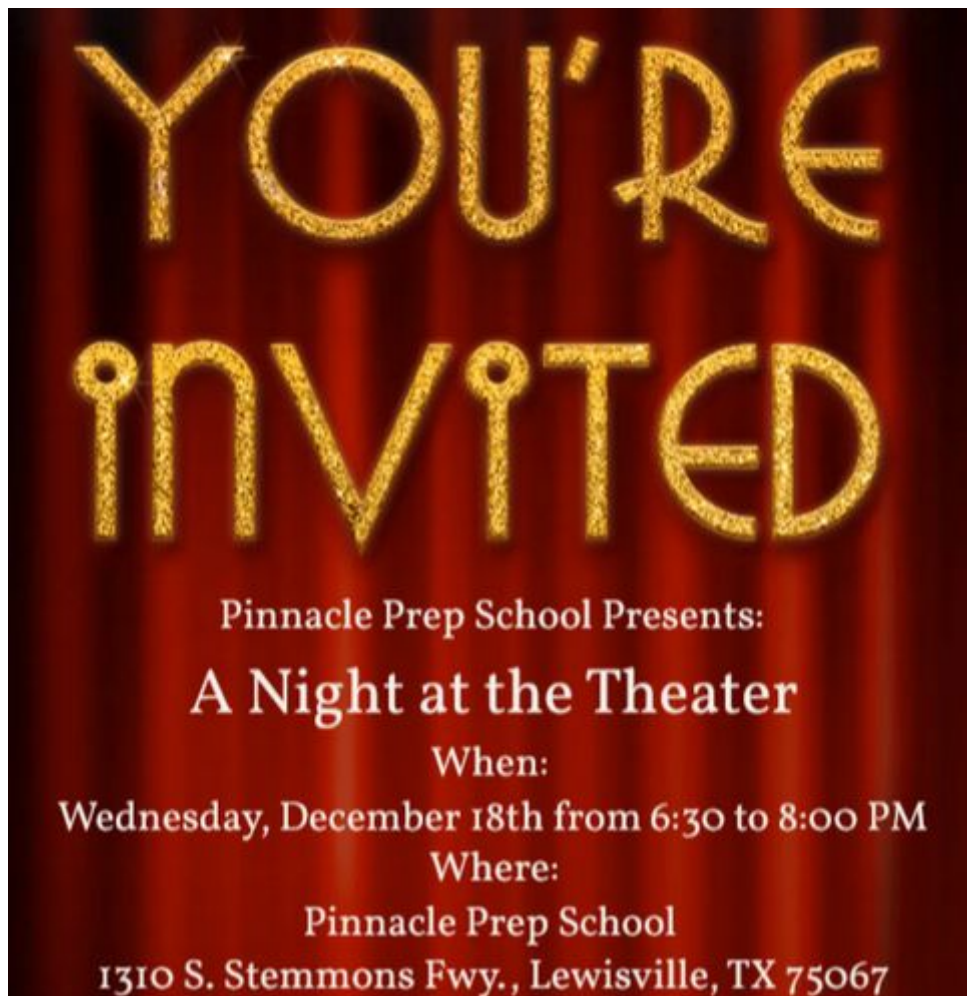
- PLEASE INITIAL YOUR CHILD'S PLANNER EVERY DAY! Students are expected to show you their planner AND their finished work daily...Owl Bucks will be fined when work is incomplete or planner is not signed... 😞
- NOVEL: We have finished our novel study, *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan, and will have the final exam on Tuesday, Dec. 3
- GRAMMAR, WRITING, VOCABULARY, & CURSIVE will resume after Winter Break We will begin learning cursive letters soon...stay tuned for further details!
- HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE: Our annual winter play, Schoolhouse Rock, will involve all students this year! Please save the date Wednesday, December 18!

Humanities

Mrs. Hughlett

I can't believe it is almost a new year! I am looking forward to the play on December 18th and Parent Conferences on December 19th. We will be focusing on the play until Christmas break! As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

- **Giraffes:** Play Practice - We will contact you with any specifics you need to know
- **Pandas:** Play Practice - We will contact you with any specifics you need to know
- **Lions:** Play Practice - We will contact you with any specifics you need to know
- **Tigers:** Play Practice - We will contact you with any specifics you need to know



Math

Ms. Jaya

Giraffes: The Giraffes recently completed a unit on data and graphing, where they practiced writing tally marks, interpreting graphs, and answering questions based on data. They have now started a unit on fractions, exploring the relationship between fractional parts and the whole. The students are learning to divide shapes into equal parts, identify and write fractions as parts of a group, and express fractions in word form. Additionally, they will continue practicing two-digit addition with regrouping and reinforcing basic math facts.

Pandas: The Pandas have recently completed a unit on data and graphing, where they learned to read and write tallies, interpret and create various types of graphs, and answer questions based on data. They are now working on a unit in fractions, exploring the relationship between fractional parts and whole numbers. Students are learning to divide fractions into equal parts, identify and write fractions as parts of a group, and express fractions in word form. They are also practicing writing equivalent fractions and comparing fractions using fraction strips. Soon, they will focus on adding and subtracting fractions while continuing to reinforce their multiplication and division facts.

Lions: The Lions have successfully completed a unit on Data and Graphing, where they learned to create and interpret various types of graphs, including bar graphs, line graphs, circle graphs, and pictographs. They also explored probability and combinations, practicing skills such as predicting probabilities, events, and outcomes.

Currently, the kids are working on a unit about fractions. They will focus on recognizing and writing fractions in both number and word forms, finding equivalent fractions with and without fraction strips, and simplifying fractions. Following this, they will move on to adding and subtracting fractions, both with and without the same denominator. In addition, the kids will continue to practice and memorize their times tables.

Tigers: The Tigers have completed a unit on Probability and Statistics, where they focused on predicting probabilities, using tree diagrams, exploring independent and dependent events, collecting and organizing data, graphing, and interpreting data to determine the mean, median, and mode. Currently, they are working on finding the Greatest Common Factor (GCF) and Least Common Denominator (LCD), multiplying and dividing fractions, applying problem-solving strategies, and estimating products and quotients with mixed numbers. They will soon begin a unit on decimals, where they will learn to read and write decimals, estimate decimal values, and perform operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Additionally, some Tigers have mastered finding the GCF, Least Common Multiple (LCM), and the rules of exponents, including negative and zero exponents. They are now moving on to scientific notation and will progress to learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers, use the multiplicative inverse to solve equations, and solve equations and inequalities involving rational numbers.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

Many of our students have been busy with their science research projects for the past several weeks. Students went through the process:

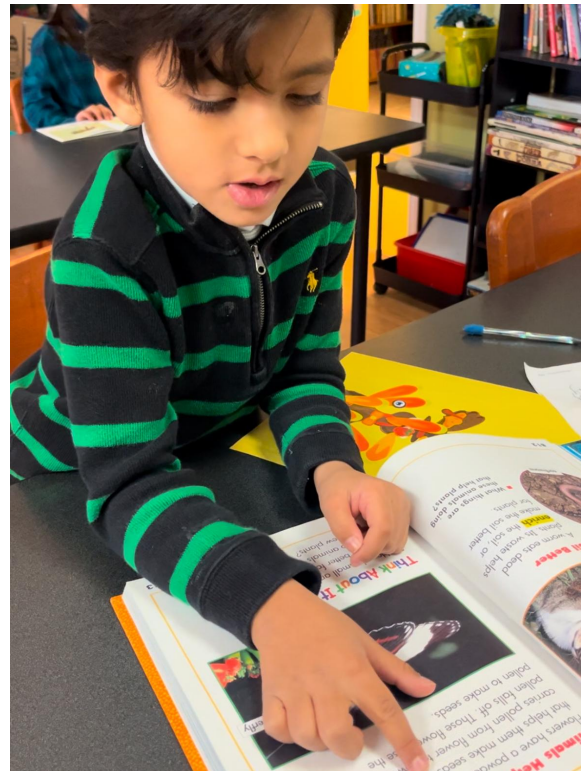
- brainstorming ideas
- narrowing down a topic
- making a proposal
- researching a topic for background information
- taking good notes
- citing sources

Many Pinnacle Prep students completed their research notes before the Thanksgiving break. Others will be finishing up this past week. Now, the real fun begins! Our students are exploring their engineering side. This project allows students to educate others about their topic through a carnival game or amusement park ride model. Students apply concepts of measurement, estimation, gravity, motions, forces, and systems. Finally, each student will assemble a presentation board with pictures, analysis, etc. The results may be more or less accurate.

According to the Stem Wizard website, “Because of the nature of science fairs, the hardest and most important part of the process is presenting the research to judges who may or may not understand the material in the project. Explaining intense research to qualified scientists can be incredibly intimidating. However, presenting and breaking down complex information is a critically important skill for students to learn, yet is typically not taught directly in school. Being able to talk to others and articulate a viewpoint is an incredibly valuable skill that science fairs help instill in students.”

The finished products will be available for viewing during the December Parent Teacher Conferences. Contact the office if you have questions regarding your student’s participation in this exciting hands-on experience.

The Benefits of Competing in Science Fairs — a Student's Perspective - STEM Wizard.
<https://www.stemwizard.com/benefits-competing-science-fairs-students-perspective/>



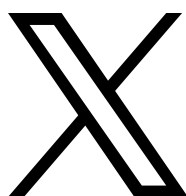
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