

NEWSLETTER




January 6, 2025

Happy New Year to you all! Here's to a year full of love, joy, and lots of learning! January is a special month at Pinnacle Prep! We will be focusing on kindness. We are so excited to participate in The Great Kindness Challenge again this year to become a Kindness Certified School!



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

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4
5	6	7 WELCOME BACK	8	9 NATIONAL STATIC ELECTRICITY DAY	10 	11
12	13 	14	15 NATIONAL HAT DAY 	16	17	18
19	20  NATIONAL STICKER DAY	21	22 NATIONAL COMPLIMENT DAY	23	24  WINTER PHOTOS	25
26 	27 KINDNESS MOVES!: WEAR YOUR FAVORITE WORKOUT GEAR	28 LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S DAY WITH KINDNESS: WEAR BRIGHT OR NEON CLOTHING.	29 MAKE KINDNESS A PATTERN: WEAR A PATTERN: STRIPES, PLAID, DOTS...	30 TEAM KINDNESS: WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM	31 DREAM OF KINDNESS: PAJAMA DAY	



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! 😊
- 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 January will be on winter, snow, and MLK
- **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. abc

A	B
C	D
- 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. **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, 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 beginning our new novel study, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. (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 beginning our new novel, *Out of My Mind*, by Sharon M. Draper
- 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

- Welcome back and happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a safe and fun filled winter break. I am excited to get the 2nd semester rolling with some fun and exciting Texas History activities!
- **Giraffes:** We will be doing a lot of reading and writing this month in the Giraffes! I will read aloud an assortment of books about the early European explorers of Texas. I will also be spending time on Guided Reading with the focus on fluency and comprehension strategies. We will be reviewing and learning letter sounds and digraphs!
- **Pandas, Lions, and Tigers:** We are beginning the European exploration unit of Texas History. Each group will be learning about exploration, colonization, settlement, missions and presidios. We will learn why Europeans wanted to explore and settle Texas and we will discover what mission life was like in Texas. The unit will begin with some note taking, notebook activities and will culminate with a project that will highlight mission life in Texas in the 1600's through the 1800's.



Math

Ms. Jaya

Giraffes: The Giraffes recently completed a unit on fractions, where they explored how fractional parts relate to the whole. They practiced dividing shapes into equal parts, identifying and writing fractions as parts of a group, and expressing fractions in words. The students did an amazing job on their projects! Next, they will begin a new unit on Geometry, focusing on different types of 2D and 3D shapes. Alongside this, they will continue practicing two-digit addition with regrouping and strengthening their basic math skills.

Pandas: The Pandas have recently completed a unit on fractions, where they explored the relationship between fractional parts and whole numbers. Students learned to divide fractions into equal parts, identify and write fractions as parts of a group, and express them in word form. They also practiced writing equivalent fractions, comparing fractions using fraction strips, and adding and subtracting fractions, all while reinforcing their multiplication and division facts. As part of their learning, the kids worked on a fraction pizza project and a budgeting project, where they learned how to plan and budget for a birthday party. Next, they will begin a geometry unit, focusing on naming different types of 2D and 3D shapes, as well as counting the edges, vertices, and angles of various shapes.

Lions: The Lions have successfully completed a unit on fractions, focusing on recognizing and writing fractions in both number and word forms. They practiced finding equivalent fractions with and without fraction strips, simplifying fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions with and without common denominators. Some students also explored multiplying and dividing fractions. The Lions showcased their skills through a fun fraction pizza project and a budgeting activity. Next, they will dive into a geometry unit, where they will learn to identify different types of 2D and 3D shapes, explore lines, rays, angles, and segments, and calculate the area and perimeter of regular and irregular polygons. Additionally, they will continue practicing and memorizing their times tables.

Tigers: The Tigers did an outstanding job on their dream house project! They planned and built their dream homes, calculated the area, and determined the cost of different types of flooring. They also successfully completed a unit on exponents, mastering the rules—including negative and zero exponents—and working with scientific notation. Following this, they moved on to solving equations with rational numbers, using the multiplicative inverse, and tackling inequalities involving rational numbers. Next, they will begin a unit on ratios, proportions, and probability. In this unit, students will learn to write and solve proportions using cross products, explore similar and congruent figures, and work on scale drawings and probability.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

What an exciting school year we have had so far! Our students completed the first semester with a STEAM project, where they engaged in the inquiry process to research data and apply what they've learned. Overall, students enjoyed expanding their knowledge, challenging their engineering skills, using their creativity, and communicating their findings.

Thank you, Pinnacle parents, for your encouragement and support during our STEAM Fair Projects! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the conferences. If you couldn't attend but would like to connect with your child's teachers, please email or call the office! The home-school partnership is essential, and we appreciate your effort in meeting with us. Our students are amazing!

We will transition to new units in January. We all know that without engineers, we couldn't enjoy modern technology. In the coming months, we will tackle real-world challenges using coding, electronics, and robotics.

Imagination + Technology + Teamwork = A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!

The car rides to and from school are a great time to ask your child specific questions about their day, such as:

- What was your favorite part of the day?
- What was your least favorite part of the day?
- What was one thing you didn't understand?
- Could you tell me what you need to do tonight?



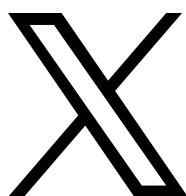
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