

NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2025

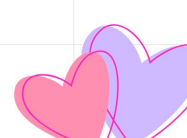
January was Kindness month at Pinnacle Prep! During the last week of January, we participated in the Great Kindness Challenge with over 20 million students from around the world and became a Kindness Certified School! We will continue to celebrate friendship, show compassion, gratitude, and choose kindness.



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

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 PERIODIC TABLE DAY	8
9	10	11 NATIONAL INVENTORS' DAY	12	13	14 NO SCHOOL	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 TELL A FAIRY TALE DAY	27	28	




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 February will be on winter, snow, kindness and Valentine's Day
- **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. **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...
- **CURSIVE:** We have begun learning lowercase cursive letters! I am so proud of their determination and effort! We are learning one letter each day with “assessments” on Fridays 😊

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: Our new novel study, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan is so much fun! We have already made it through chapter 4! (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, ESPECIALLY my younger Lions 😊)
- 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 have begun learning lowercase cursive letters! The students are doing well! 🙌
- 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: Continue novel study, *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 have begun learning lowercase cursive letters! The students are doing well! 🙌
- 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.

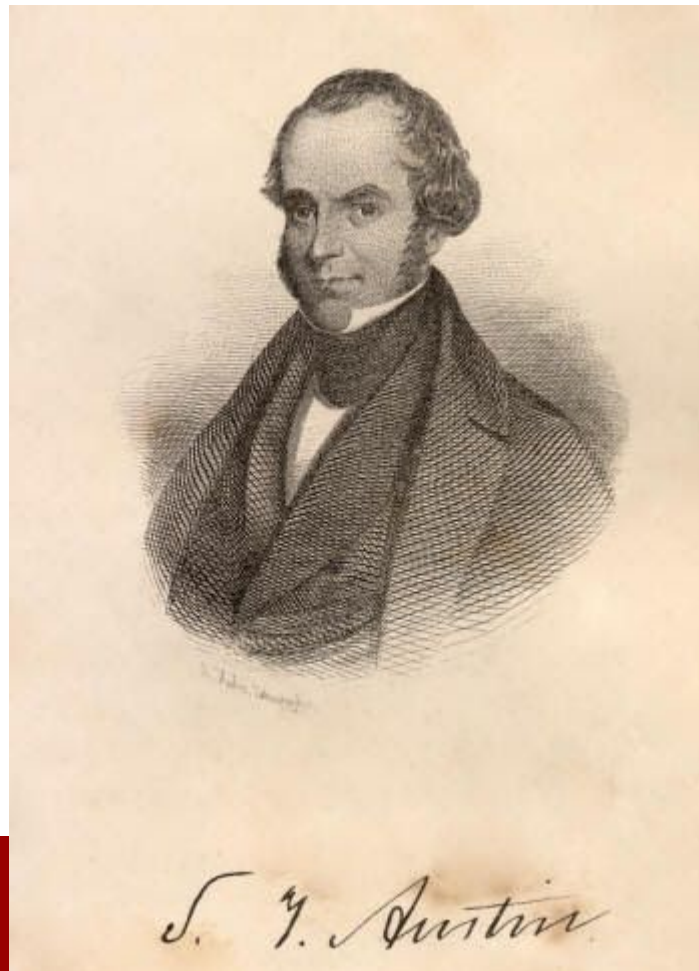
Humanities

Mrs. Hughlett

January flew by and we are so excited to be heading into February! There is so much we have to accomplish in the next few months. The students are learning so much about Texas History and this will prepare us for our novel studies this spring.

Giraffes: We are going to focus on reading text with grade appropriate sight words and listening to stories read aloud for comprehension! I will continue to spend time on Guided Reading with the focus on fluency and comprehension strategies. The Giraffes are also working hard on writing answers in complete sentences to basic questions.

Pandas, Lions, and Tigers: We have completed the European exploration unit of Texas History. The students enjoyed learning about the different Spanish explorers and the daily life of working and living on a mission in Texas. We have begun the unit on Texas Colonization and the Empresario System. We will identify Texas' role in the Mexican War of Independence and the war's impact on the development of Texas and compare characteristics of the Spanish colonial government and the early Mexican governments in Texas.



Math

Ms. Jaya

Giraffes: Giraffes completed a unit in Geometry in which they learnt to recognize and name different types of 2D shapes like square, rectangle, triangle, circle etc and then kids are now working on different types of 3D shapes in which they focused on differentiating between cube, rectangular prism, sphere, cylinder and cone. Once completed they will move on to unit on Measurements in which they will focus on measuring length, width and comparing units of measurements.

Pandas: Pandas are currently exploring a geometry unit, focusing on identifying various 2D and 3D shapes, as well as counting their edges, vertices, and angles. They have learned about foundational concepts such as points, lines, rays, line segments, angles, and the relationships between parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines. Additionally, they have been studying different types of 2D shapes (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, etc.), classifying them by counting their vertices and edges. Moving forward, the students will continue working on calculating the area and perimeter of different polygons before progressing to 3D shapes.

Lions: The Lions are currently working on a unit about fractions, where they are learning to find the GCF (Greatest Common Factor) and LCM (Least Common Multiple) of given numbers, as well as adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators. They will soon move on to multiplying fractions, including mixed numbers, before

transitioning to a geometry unit. In geometry, they will focus on identifying various 2D and 3D shapes, counting their edges, vertices, and angles. They have already covered foundational topics such as points, lines, rays, line segments, angles, and the relationships between parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines. Additionally, they have explored different types of 2D shapes (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, etc.), classifying them by counting their vertices and edges. Next, they will continue working on calculating the area and perimeter of polygons before diving deeper into 3D shapes.

Tigers: The Tigers recently completed a Geometry unit where they focused on measuring, drawing, and identifying different types of angles. They also learned about various polygons, similar and congruent figures, triangles, quadrilaterals, lines of symmetry, and circles. Their studies included finding the area and perimeter of polygons, as well as the area and circumference of circles. Tigers are currently working on a Measurements unit, where they are learning to relate customary units of length, capacity, and weight, along with understanding different time zones. Additionally, some Tigers are exploring Ratio, Proportion, and Probability. In this unit, they are learning to find ratios and proportions, identify similar and congruent figures, work with scale drawings, and understand probability and the counting principle. After this, they will progress to studying Percent.

Science

Mrs. Hozie

As part of the final week of January 2025, all PPS students proudly participated in The Great Kindness Challenge, a week-long program dedicated to creating a culture of kindness and compassion in communities worldwide. We had theme days to help our students practice kindness and put their compassion into action. We encouraged all students to complete as many acts of kindness as possible at school, and hopefully, they felt inspired to continue them at home. We lift each other up, cheer each other on, and show the world that KINDNESS MATTERS!

The Lions and Tigers are reviewing motion, forces, and simple machines in science. We have discussed the definitions of force and the formulas for calculating force. We emphasized that a force always acts when an object changes its motion—starts/stops, accelerates, or changes directions.

We went over gravity and how it relates to mass and distance. Our studies in February will extend how force is related to work, power, energy, momentum, the laws of motion, friction, and simple machines (inclined planes, screws, wedges, pulleys, and levers).

Pandas are finishing their Solar System and its cycles. We have covered the parts of the solar system, and they are all interdependent. We have reviewed how planets rotate on their axis and revolve around the sun. We also went over the reasons for the four seasons. Next, we will discuss the waxing and waning of the moon. Giraffes continue to do cross-curricular activities that exercise their reading and writing skills.



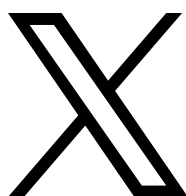
Follow us on social media!



[@PinnaclePrepSchool](https://www.facebook.com/PinnaclePrepSchool)



[@pinnacleprepschool6265](https://www.youtube.com/pinnacleprepschool6265)



[@PPrepSchool](https://www.x.com/PPrepSchool)



[@PinnaclePrep](https://www.instagram.com/PinnaclePrep)