



**PINNACLE
PREP SCHOOL**
Accelerated Learning

NEWSLETTER








March 3, 2025

Spring is in the air and we've been looking forward to it after these past couple of cold months! Spring break this year will fall March 17th to 21st. School will resume on Monday, March 24th. We hope you all have a restful, fun, and healthy spring break!



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

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 ALAMO DAY 	7	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 	10	11	12	13	14 PI DAY 	15
16 SPRING BREAK 	17 SPRING BREAK 					22
23	24	25	26 NATIONAL SCIENCE APPRECIATION DAY 	27	28	29
30	31 NATIONAL CRAYON 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! 😊 Owl Bucks will be fined when work is incomplete or planner is not signed... 😞
- 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 March will be St. Patrick's Day, and springtime.
- **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. 📝
- **PHONICS & SOUNDS:** Students are responsible for completing two pages daily in their Abeka workbook to reinforce concepts previously taught in class.
- 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...Owl Bucks will be fined when work is incomplete or planner is not signed... 😞
- **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 (manuscript)...I have noticed that a few students continue to write their letters going from the bottom up, and/or going in the opposite direction—this is a problem, since cursive letters always flow from the left to the right, making it extremely challenging for students who have not mastered manuscript letters... I will be assigning extra practice pages as needed...
- **CURSIVE:** We will continue learning one new lowercase cursive letter each day... I am so proud of their determination and effort! ★★★

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... 😞
- NEW HOMEWORK ROUTINE has been going smoothly! 🎉 I hope that having only 2 things to do each night has made it easier on both students and parents...
- READING COMP PRACTICE was done in class the last week of February in order to prepare for IOWA testing which will take place the first week of March
- NOVEL: Our novel study, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan is so much fun! We have already made it through chapter 8! (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. I highly recommend the QUIZLET website!
- CURSIVE: We have learned all letters, both upper and lower case, and have begun writing words and phrases in cursive! 🙌
- SPELLING: Students will receive spelling work on the first day of the week, and TESTS will be on the last day of the week.
- 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... 😞
- READING COMP PRACTICE was done in class the last week of February in order to prepare for IOWA testing which will take place the first week of March
- 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. I highly recommend the QUIZLET website!
- CURSIVE: We have learned all letters, both upper and lower case, and have begun writing paragraphs in cursive! 🙌
- SPELLING: (ONLY THROUGH GRADE 5) Students will receive spelling work on the first day of the week, and TESTS will be on the last day of the week.
- 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

Spring fever is coming! 🍀 March holds many important events. We have been preparing for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The Lions and Tigers will be taking the ITBS the first week in March. We will all be glad when it is over! 🥳 and we can look forward to spring break. The kids have been putting in a lot of work. I have seen so much growth in all of the students. It is like spring has sprung!! 🌸

Giraffes: I will continue to spend time on Guided Reading with the focus on fluency and comprehension strategies. We will also be honing our skills in sounding out words with long vowels. Writing will be a huge focus. We will practice writing sentences with capitalization and punctuation in the correct places.

Pandas, Lions, and Tigers: We are flying through Texas history! The students seem to be enjoying it immensely. We have finished colonization. The kids did some writing projects about the important people and dates of this time period. We have started the Texas Revolution. I know the kids are going to really immerse themselves in this part of Texas history because the Revolution is what really set things in motion to where we are today! They are going to learn about so many important events and people during this time period. They are excited to learn more about the Alamo. I hope they come home with excitement to tell you what they have learned. We will culminate the Texas Revolution with a historical fiction writing piece.



Math

Ms. Jaya

Giraffes:

The Giraffes recently completed a unit on shapes, where they explored various 3D figures and learned to distinguish between a cube, rectangular prism, sphere, cylinder, and cone. They are now diving into a unit of measurements, focusing on understanding length and width, and comparing different units of measurement. Key concepts include identifying which objects are longer or shorter, taller or shorter, heavier or lighter, and using terms like "more" and "less" to describe quantities when making comparisons.

Pandas:

The Pandas are currently immersed in a geometry unit, where they are identifying various 2D and 3D shapes and counting their edges, vertices, and angles. They've explored foundational concepts such as points, lines, rays, line segments, and angles, along with understanding the relationships between parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines. The students have also been classifying different 2D shapes (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, etc.) by counting their vertices and edges. Moving forward, they will continue working on calculating the area and perimeter of different polygons before transitioning to 3D shapes. Afterward, they'll begin a unit on measurements, focusing on units and systems of measurement, learning how to measure quantities using both standard units (meters, seconds, kilograms) and non-standard units (such as paper clips and pencils).

Lions:

The Lions recently completed a geometry unit, where they focused on identifying points, lines, rays, line segments, angles, and understanding the relationships between parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines. They explored different types of 2D shapes (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, etc.), classifying them by counting vertices and edges. The students also practiced calculating the area and perimeter of polygons before advancing to 3D shapes. In this section, they learned to: Identify and name different 3D shapes and figures. Understand and describe the properties of these shapes. Recognize and compare angles (right angles, greater than, or less than a right angle). Sort shapes and figures based on their attributes. Identify congruent shapes and figures. Create pictures and models of shapes and figures. Next, the Lions will begin a unit on measurements, where they'll focus on understanding and applying standard units such as inches, feet, yards, centimeters, meters, liters, grams, and units of time (hours, minutes, seconds). Emphasis will be placed on converting between units within the same system, measuring length, weight, capacity, and time using appropriate tools, and solving real-world measurement problems.

Math CONT.

Tigers

The Tigers recently completed a unit on Ratio, Proportion, and Probability. In this unit, they explored the fundamental concepts of ratios, learning to understand ratio language, represent ratios in different forms ($a:b$, a/b), identify equivalent ratios, use ratio tables, calculate unit rates, and apply ratio reasoning to solve real-world problems. They also worked on identifying similar and congruent figures, creating and interpreting scale drawings, and writing proportions for given scale measurements. Now, the students are diving into a unit on Percent. They are developing an understanding of percent as a part of a whole, converting between fractions, decimals, and percent's, finding the percent of a number, and calculating percentages in everyday situations, such as sales tax and discounts. This unit also reinforces concepts like ratios and unit rates, helping students make connections between these mathematical ideas.



Science

Mrs. Hozie

On February 7, 2025, Periodic Table Day, we celebrated 154 years of the Periodic Table. National Periodic Table Day recognizes the publication of the first element table and honors scientific achievements in chemistry. American chemistry teacher David Steineker created the day to share his passion for chemistry and mapping the known elements. All students enjoyed learning the updated song of the elements. Lions and Tigers did a Periodic Table Scavenger Hunt while Pandas picked out their favorite element and made a fact cube with details about their chosen element.

All our Pinnacle Students turned National Inventors Day on February 11th into Inventors Month by using simple machines like pulleys, inclined planes, screws, wedges, and wheels/axles to create complex Rube Goldberg Machines! These “machines” take very simple tasks, like sharpening a pencil or eating a banana, and make them into chain reactions. Students took a group of ordinary objects and connected them with a bunch of simple machines in a weird but workable way.

According to Brains & Motion Education, building Rube Goldberg machines allows students to:

- Build creative contraptions that merge imagination and engineering.
- Learn fundamental physics principles like energy transfer, forces, and motion.
- Work through exciting challenges that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving.



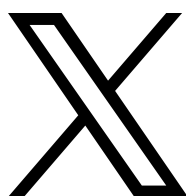
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