



# THE PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

## February 2018

### Principal's Corner.....

We started off the new year with a lot of excitement here at Pinnacle Prep School! After taking a nice break from school, the students were anxious to get back to work. Most grade levels took mid-term exams in math and reading toward the end of January and other benchmark tests were administered in early February.

Students in the upper grades began researching and writing

essays on career choices. They will be choosing a job that interests them from a list of related occupations. They will then write an essay and present it to the other students. Each week the students will choose from a different set of career choices.

Theater Arts classes have been working on their scripts and learning their lines for the plays they will be presenting. Speech and Debate are also being

taught during the theater arts periods.

The older boys have continued to work on their basketball skills and the younger students and older girls now have activity periods of their own throughout the week. In addition, students are continuing to do the Dale Carnegie book study.

Thank you for all your support!

# CONGRATULATIONS MR. SPIVEY

We want to **CONGRATULATE** our Principal, Mr. Gregg Spivey for receiving the Honorary Life Members Award.

The Texas Association of School Administrators Honorary Life Members are school administrators who have demonstrated extraordinary devotion to education and to the association.

The Constitution provides for awarding Honorary Life Memberships to retiring administrators who meet the following criteria:

- Retirement from one of the administrative

positions listed in Article III, Section 2, of the TASA Constitution

- At least 25 years of experience in education
- Ten years of membership in TASA
- A member of TASA upon retirement
- A record of outstanding service to the education profession Approval by the TASA Executive Committee
- Honorary Life Members receive regular news and information from the association through our popular *TASA Daily*.

- Honorary Life Members also are listed in the TASA membership directory, *Who's Who in Texas Public Schools*.

- Honorary Life Memberships were presented at the TASA Midwinter Conference on Monday, January 29, 2018, at the Austin Convention Center.



# STUDENT CLASSROOMS

## **Ms. Anu Math**

Our Geometry students will continue working on two column proofs. Students will work on special quadrilaterals and will be identifying various quadrilaterals based on their properties.

Algebra 1 students will be working on Polynomials and Factoring. We will be performing different mathematical operations on polynomials. Students will be solving polynomial equations using factorization. Kids will be learning various methods to factorize the given polynomial.

Our second batch of Algebra 1 students will be working on writing liner equations in different forms like slope intercept form, point slope form and standard form. We will also be working on best fitting line to data and study the concept of correlations.

Seventh graders will be working on Ratio, Proportion and percent. Concept of proportions will be used to solve different word problems, scale drawing and different percent problems.

We will be working on percent increase and decrease and applying this concept to various daily life problems. Students will also learn about different applications of percent's which will include commissions, discounts, royalties, simple and compound interest.

## **Ms. Bagbey 1st - 2nd Grade**

We have made an excellent start for the New Year 2018! February is going to be a great month as we acknowledge Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day and Washington's Birthday!

Our young learners will be growing and applying their grammar knowledge to their writing responses. We will be building dictation skills in our weekly spelling and vocabulary words as they continue to use their language skills in their writing responses. As we work to increase our math concepts, we will continue to increase math strategies in solving word problems, counting money and using measurements.

Our class is moving right into space as we will look at the different atmospheric levels these next several weeks!

## **Mrs. Bradford English/Social Studies**

Social Studies took a break from the history textbook to complete a novel study. This one was Frederick Douglass's autobiography, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave." This brought us to winter break and when we returned, we also returned to the history textbook. After this chapter, which is the American Revolution, we will begin another

novel study (student's choice) of Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup. This will also coincide with February's Black History Month. Novel studies include vocabulary lists, book discussions such as author intentions, and essay writing throughout. After, we will return to the textbook to continue history lessons.

This year is going great and the students are fun to work with. I feel I am learning as much from them as they are from me and I enjoy our class times together.

## **Mr. Martin English**

It's amazing to look back on all students have accomplished in January! With the holidays leaving us just 14 school days this month, they've been very productive.

In upper grade English, students are well into George Orwell's *1984*. In addition to numerous comprehension questions and summaries, students have done two research assignments requiring textual support from the novel- comparison and contrast essays on our society and the society depicted in the novel, and on 'Big Brother' and the real-life dictators, namely Josef Stalin, who served as the inspiration for the character. As always, we will continue engaging weekly with writing, grammar, and vocabulary, and our weekly vocabulary tests

will continue to include a writing component.

In lower grade English, we are continuing to read Richard Adams' *Watership Down*. In addition to numerous comprehension questions and summaries, students have done two research assignments requiring textual support from the novel- a description of two prominent characters, and a description of one of the more important places the characters of the novel have visited so far. The first novel test is coming up shortly, and the students continue to show great enthusiasm for the text. As with upper grade English, we will continue engaging weekly with writing, grammar, and vocabulary, and our weekly vocabulary tests will continue to include a writing component.

In the upper level writing and history class, students will continue to work through *The Skilled Reader*, a college-level reading comprehension text and workbook that provides invaluable strategies for reading nonfiction texts at an advanced level. In addition, students will continue to practice formal academic writing using the outline - rough draft - final draft progression to produce quality work.

### **Mrs. Hozie Science**

Students began the new year by beginning a study of the engineering, physics, and biology behind Winter Olympic events.

NBC Learn, the educational arm of NBC News, teamed up with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to produce Science of the Olympic Winter Games, a video series that explores the science

behind individual Olympic events. This groundbreaking project between the NSF and NBC Learn uses the global spotlight of the Olympics to make science more accessible and more interesting to students by showing how science helps athletes fulfill the Olympic motto: *Citius, Altius, Fortius--* Swifter, Higher, Stronger.

In addition to the curriculum, students were assigned an individual event to do research. Each student explored the history, the equipment, and the skills needed to become an Olympian in that sport. Their efforts will culminate in a written report and presentation.

### **Ms. Jaya Math**

We started this year by covering a lot of ground on fractions and getting ready to begin with probability, data and statistics. At the same time, some of the other students are learning about different types of graphs and to compute the mean, median mode and range. On completion, they will start with ratio and proportions. Remaining students are continuing to learn about area and perimeter of different polygons.

### **Ms. Jessica English/Math/ Science**

At Pinnacle Prep, we focus on integrated learning as well as varied learning styles. Therefore, my 3rd and 5th graders have been participating in our classic novel studies. My third grade students are enjoying reading How to Eat Fried Worms. After we finish the book, we will be watching the movie so that we can

compare/contrast the movie with the book. We will be creating venn diagrams, T charts and journal entries to record our observations. The fifth graders are reading one of my favorites this month, The Incredible Journey. This book has been made into a movie and we will be comparing the two in that class as well. Continue to ask your students what he or she read about during class. This is a great way to check for understanding. Simply asking questions is a useful way to reinforce learning and comprehension. Both classes have done research on Martin Luther King Jr. and written a three paragraph paper. Their papers included facts that they have learned and what their own dreams are for our world. We will also be doing research on the history of Valentine's Day as well as other activities. There will be a class party on Valentine's Day during class for both 3rd and 5th grades.

All About Science - The students have been doing so well with their research projects and papers. I am so proud at how quickly and easily they have learned the steps and processes.

In February, the third-grade class will be learning about static electricity (including an experiment with balloons,) magnets, and forces of motion. Feel free to ask your child what we are learning in class. Asking your child what they learned is a great way to continue the learning and create a school to home connection.

Fifth graders are going to be learning about weather, climate and climate changes, as well as oceans. As a reinforcement and to extend our knowledge base, we will continue to go to the computer lab

for further research. This includes educational videos, games, and experiments about the designated topic. Technology is a great way for students to learn and practice many different concepts. Both grades will be conducting an experiment on acid rain. We will submerge various materials in vinegar and observe the changes over a two week period. The steps of the scientific process will be recorded in their science journals.

## **Mrs. Kennedy**

### **Pre-K**

It's so exciting to be back at school and working toward our goals. I was impressed with how quickly the students returned to our routine and rekindled their excitement to learn. Each day I see progress in your children.

In language arts each child has a journal, and they're showing great interest, effort, and commitment to completing their personalized pages. I'm hoping you are seeing increases in oral expression and attempts to read, write or color at home. Remember to have them speak in complete sentences at home even when making simple requests like asking for a glass of water. And, as always, prompt them to use their manners' words like please and thank-you. We are incorporating our life skills/manners in our weekly selections of students to celebrate.

Math in our class still centers on learning to match visual representations of numbers, shapes, and objects, with their verbal partner. We use many different manipulatives and artistic activities to increase this knowledge.

In Social Studies our focus was on Martin Luther King Jr. and how we

can be spread kindness and acceptance in our worlds at home, school, and in public. Our motto is, "Only kindness matters." This has paired well with the introduction of our six life skills. They really enjoy practicing these skills especially when they get to be the "wrong" way actor.

Science we've discussed the effects of longer colder days, the position of the earth to the sun, and how animals adapt to these changes all over the world. Once again the puppets on a stick have been a fun and informative tool. I hope they're sharing these with you at home.

February 12th is the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and we're inviting the students to dress as 100-year-old. Sweaters, slacks, skirts, and inexpensive sunglasses with the lenses popped out, truly transform your babies to centenarians. We will be investigating Ground Hog Day, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day as well. Another very exciting month for sure.

## **Ms. Laura**

### **1<sup>st</sup> grade**

February is National African American History month. We will be learning about their important contributions and achievements throughout our nation. I will be focusing on my favorite, George Washington Carver. We might get messy and plant a flower to commemorate his many wonderful contributions.

Another fun activity will be to find out if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not? This will be a whole day affair with painting, cutting and gluing our burrows for fun and discovery. So make sure they know if he sees his shadow, six more weeks of winter. The

legend goes that if he doesn't see his shadow it implies an early spring is around the corner. I am sure everyone would be delighted with early warmth across the land.

Next, we will celebrate Valentine's Day with all the goodies and lovely sentiment of appreciation for family and friends. Our class will learn how others in different countries celebrate and bake a delicious goody to share.

The month would not be complete without honoring our President Washington and President Lincoln on the 19th. The students will pose for a silhouette outline to commemorate this grand occasion.

Our class will continue to work on our comprehension and ability to tell a fun story to the class. We start off our week with the kids presenting to the class all the things they learned over their breaks, be it weekend or Holidays.

The spelling list continues to get a little bit more challenging but this way they are empowered with a larger vocabulary.

Reading aloud has come along so wonderfully, please keep up the great work at home. They all are sounding out and deciphering the phonics to read well. I have enjoyed the leaps and bounds these students are performing in class.

I always say there is not a "no attitude, but an I can, I try and I do" in all tasks. In real life, these are the best attributes to carry with them for success.

# BOOKS OF THE MONTH

**How to Win Friends and Influence People** by Dale Carnegie

**1984** by George Orwell

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams

**Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume

**The Incredible Journey** by Sheila Burnford

**Clementine and the Family Meeting** by Sara Pennypacker

**Frindle** by Andrew Clements

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## My Ohio Adventure

At 3 o'clock in the morning, last Friday my family and I flew in an airplane to Ohio. First, we sat in a plane. Then we took a bus to get a white rental car to drive to my cousin's house. On Friday, I went to a store called Best Buy with my cousin Nabeel. Nabeel is very special to me.

I stayed in Ohio on Saturday and I ate biryani with delicious soup and red chicken, my favorite! Also on Saturday, I watched a movie with my cousin called The Man from Uncle. Henry Cavill is superman, but he is in the movie The Man from Uncle. We watched this movie in my cousin's basement. Basements are cool.

Before we saw the movie, I played in the snow with Asiya. The snow tasted good. I tasted the fresh snow, and it tasted like snow cones. I made snow balls with by gloves. I threw my snow balls at my sister. She became laughable because she laughed so crazy. We went inside when we became freezing wrecks.

On Sunday morning we left from Ohio I was upset because I'm going to miss my cousins. When we were home, I ate Chinese food and watched television. I miss Ohio, but I am glad to be home. **Numair G.**

## The Gift

The best gifts I have ever gotten are a Drone and a Dallas Cowboys Blanket. The drone is gold and it is

pretty small. The agility is amazing! The drone's name is Quadrone and it has a 2.4K camera. My favorite football team is the Dallas Cowboys. The blanket is furry and it's like the Dallas Cowboys field. Those are my best gifts.

One of my gifts that was the worst was a pogo stick. I hate pogo sticks. One reason why is because you can get severely hurt. One thing that would be the worst would be if someone gave me a one year old's toy. It would be a baby rattle. That would be the worst gift.

The best gift would be a DJI Phantom 4. It would have a 4K camera. It would be gold and white. The next one would be a Karambit. It would be a rainbow and will fold. The last one would be

a car. I would get a McLaren PI. It would be orange and black.  
**Zaheer**

### **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. He was born on January 15, 1929. He was 39 when

he died. He died in a motel. He was assassinated by James Earl Ray. He went to college at age 15.

His birth name was Michael. He was an American Baptist minister. He was arrested about 30 times. He tried to commit suicide at age 12. He has 4 children: MLK III, Yolanda King, Dexter Scott King,

and Bernie King. Three children are alive today.

My dream is that women will be paid and treated as men. I have a dream that your gender will not affect your pay. We are all equal. They work just as hard as men. They should get the same benefits as men. **Shiv**

## MATH NEWS

### **Researchers Probe Connections Between Math, Reading Difficulties**

Are reading and math difficulties two sides of the same coin?

Researchers are finding that students with dyslexia—defined as difficulty in reading accurately and fluently—often also have trouble with math fluency. Reading and math struggles often manifest themselves in the same part of the brain, and interventions that help in one area, such as math fluency, may also boost a student's word skills.

A recent two-day National Science Foundation-sponsored conference here brought together experts in brain research, learning disabilities, and math and reading education to talk about the connections in their worlds.

Among the findings shared at the conference: an unpublished study of Finnish elementary students found that 40 percent of the group

scoring below the 16th percentile on a reading achievement test also scored below the 16th percentile on a math test. That study also showed that it was particularly difficult for interventions to make a significant improvement in the group of students who showed struggles in both areas. A separate study of a group of American elementary students also showed that many students had overlapping reading and math difficulties.

Difficulties sometimes show up well before children start school. For example, research has shown that [children who struggle with vocabulary as toddlers](#) are at risk of developing math difficulties later.

But some interventions showed success in tackling both challenges at the same time. For example, a study of elementary students conducted by researchers from Vanderbilt University showed that children who spent 30 minutes in a reading intervention and 15 minutes in a math intervention had better results in reading than

children who got the 30-minute reading intervention alone.

### **Practical Challenges**

The challenge is getting all these interventions to schools. Several presenters said that schools generally focus on reading interventions, and helping students who also struggle in math takes a back seat.

"When we say 'learning disabilities,' we are mostly talking about reading," said Rose Vukovic, an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Minnesota. Vukovic, who has done research on groups of elementary-age students with reading difficulties, showing that many of them had problems with math as well.

"We have to pay attention to other facets as well," she said. "We can't do reading to the exclusion of everything else."

There also are challenges when it comes to translating research-based practices to schools, said

Nicole Bucka, the response-to-intervention coordinator for the Cumberland district in Rhode Island.

For example, for middle schoolers, there was little time in the school day to receive both a math intervention and support on the other goals outlined in their individualized education programs, she said.

And, for older students, there was no way to ignore behavior as a component of the intervention, Bucka said. Older students have often had so much experience with failure that teachers had to be explicitly taught how to address

math anxiety and learn helplessness. Positive self-talk had to be embedded in the interventions as well, Bucka found.

### **Building Collaboration**

The two-day event was born out of the federal [Research Excellence and Advancement for Dyslexia](#), or READ Act.

That act, passed in 2016, requires that National Science Foundation to make grants related to dyslexia research, specifically in the area of early identification, professional development, and curricula development. Science, technology, engineering and

math is also a focus of the READ Act. But Jack Fletcher, a professor of psychology at the University of Houston and the principal investigator for the Texas Center for Learning Disabilities, said during his presentation that many schools are still struggling to implement the strong reading instruction that all students need.

"It circles back to what's happening in the classroom," Fletcher said after the conference. "If we don't have strong core instruction in reading, math, and writing, we're starting at a deficit."

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### Black History Month

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, at least a preliminary version given with the Emancipation Proclamation, abolished slavery in the United States, as of January 1, 1863. This did not actually set the more than 3,800,000 known slaves free, but it was the beginning of the end for legalized slavery in the USA.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 31, 1865 and sent for ratification to the individual states on December 6, 1865. Slavery was officially eradicated but not forgotten.

The Confederate states were made to follow the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment; however, they were not going to give in easily. In retaliation on losing their slave labor, southern states passed the Black Codes, or Jim Crow Laws, limiting freedoms and rights of African-Americans. This prompted the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments, which gave equal protection to all and equal voting rights (both only applied to men). The Amendments are only as good as the enforcement of them though, and with white supremacist organizations on the

rise, by the late 1870's most gains, personal, professional, and political, the former slaves had made, were undone.

Of course, many know it was another 100 years before the civil rights movement, led by many prominent and influential people, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was able to break many of those barriers for African-Americans; however, before this, two outstanding African-Americans made their mark in history, in 1915, by establishing the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). This was founded by Carter G. Woodson, an historian who studied at Harvard, and Jesse E. Moorland, a prominent minister of his time. The ASJLH was formed to research and promote achievements by black Americans and others of African descent. Today, the organization is known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). With Woodson and Moorland as founders, the organization decided, in 1926, to dedicate a week in February (one that coincided with Frederick Douglass's and Abraham Lincoln's

birthdays) to sponsor a national black history week. The event was designed to inspire schools, clubs, and communities to host performances, lectures, celebrations, and history lessons of African Americans, across the nation. This event had taken root and began to grow every year, so that by the time the civil rights movement and black identity erupted in the 1960's, Negro History Week had become Black History Month. Past President Gerald Ford recognized February as Black History Month in 1976 and every President since has also done so.

Black History Month 2018 theme is "African Americans in Times of War." It has been 100 years since the end of World War I and this year we honor the African Americans that have played a role in the United States military matters from the American Revolution to today.

All information gathered from [www.history.com](http://www.history.com). Retrieved January 26, 2018.

## SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

### Is There A Ticking Time Bomb Under The Arctic?

By Michaeleen Doucleff from NPR Morning Edition

A short drive north of Fairbanks, Alaska, there's a red shed stuck right up against a hillside. The shed looks unremarkable, except for the door. It looks like a door to a walk-in freezer, with thick

insulation and a heavy latch. Whatever is behind that door needs to stay very cold.

Behind the door is a geological time bomb, scientists say. No one

knows exactly how big the bomb is. It may even be a dud that barely detonates. But the fallout could be so large that it's felt all around the world. Now there's evidence that, in the past few years, the bomb's timer has started ticking.

Douglas opens the shed door, and we step inside. Immediately, we're standing 40 feet below ground, inside a tunnel carved into the hillside. "That's a mammoth leg right there," Douglas says as he points to a giant femur protruding from the tunnel wall. All around are signs of extinct creatures. Tusks poke out of the ceiling and skulls stick up from the floor. But it's the material between the bones that interests Douglas the most: the permafrost.

In the 1960s, the Army dug the tunnel so it could study this unique surface, which covers about a quarter of the Northern Hemisphere. In some places, the

frozen soil extends downward more than 1,000 feet, or about the height of the Empire State Building.

Technically, permafrost is frozen soil. But it's helpful to think of it in terms of chocolate cake. Typically, cake is soft, moist and spongy. Now if you take that cake, dip it into water and freeze it, the cake becomes hard or stiff. That's exactly what happens to soil when you freeze it: Moist, soft soil turns hard and stiff. That's permafrost.

For the first time in centuries, the Arctic permafrost is beginning to change – rapidly. It's warming up. Some places are softening like a stick of butter left out on the kitchen counter. In northern Alaska, the temperature at some permafrost sites has risen by more than 4 degrees Fahrenheit since the 1980s. And in recent years, many spots have reached record temperatures.

The consequences of this warming could have ripple effects around the world. The permafrost is packed with the remains of ancient life and all this life is made of carbon. So there's a massive amount of carbon buried down here. In fact, there's more carbon in the permafrost, Douglas says, than all the carbon humans have spewed into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution.

Right now the permafrost carbon is inert and trapped in the frozen soil. But what happens when the soil thaws? Scientists don't know yet how much carbon will get released from thawing permafrost or how fast it will happen. [One thing we know for sure.] Thawing permafrost is a big wild card of climate change.

## ENGLISH NEWS

### Writing: Simple is (Almost) Always Better

There's a saying about the nature of wisdom that first, mountains are like mountains and rivers are like rivers. Then, mountains are not mountains and rivers are not rivers. Finally, mountains are like mountains and rivers are like rivers.

The general idea is that there's an evolution to the way we conceptualize the world- first, there's a simplicity because simplicity is all we have in our first years of experience. As we grow,

we learn all about subtleties, complexities, and imprecisions. We learn about fiction and fable, and about the value of analogy and symbolic language.

Finally, though, at the apex of consciousness (at least according to this saying), we return to a profound clarity, understanding the infinite subjectivities inherent in communication and expression but embracing the common and the everyday as, in their elegant simplicity, often more evocative than even the most poetically sophisticated figurative language.

Another way of understanding this would be to skip the first paragraph of this article (written to be artful but using far too many words) and read the following by George Orwell (from his essay *Politics and the English Language*):

1. Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
2. Never use a long word where a short one will do.
3. If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
4. Never use the passive where you can use the active.

5. Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
6. Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

Ultimately, the simple that's explained with too much

complexity sounds forced, whereas the complex, simply explained, is elegant and refined. This can be a guiding principle in writing and in conversation, as a natural fluency occurs when we allow ourselves to stop trying to sound one way or another, and just let the words out. Expression will refine itself over time as we are exposed to properly

written and spoken language. When we stop trying to form the perfect sentence and instead focus on clearly expressing what we're trying to say, our writing will benefit.

## THE FLU: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Infants and young children are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. Most health departments recommend children 6 months and older get the flu vaccine.

What is the flu? Flu, or influenza is an infection of the nose throat and lungs? This can be spread from person to person.

How to protect your child:

1. Get the flu vaccination, encourage others to get the flu vaccine. If your child has chronic health problems such as asthma (breathing disease) or diabetes it is highly recommended, they get the flu vaccine.

2. Wash your hands often and cover your mouth each time you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue and quickly through it away. If you don't have a tissue, use your upper sleeve, not your hands

3. Stay away from people that are sick, keep hands away from your face.

Signs of the flu: the flu comes on suddenly. Most people with the flu feel very tired and high a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and sore muscles. Some people complain of stomach issues such as vomiting or diarrhea.

Children should get in the habit of washing their hands with soap and

water. Have your child sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice before rinsing their hands.

If soap and water are not handy, use hand sanitizer.

If your child gets sick, make sure they drink plenty of fluids and get adequate rest. Talk or visit your health care provider.

Do not send your child to school if they have a fever or flu like symptoms. If you are unsure, contact your school to see what their policies are.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2423/>

# THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE

Valentine's Day has been celebrated in February and is known for the month of Romance. The Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus.

One legend states that Valentine was a priest who served in the third century in Rome. When the Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine did not agree with Claudius and continued to perform marriages in secret. When Claudius discovered Valentine was continuing to perform marriages, he ordered Valentine to be put to death.

Additional stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape Roman prisons, where prisoners were beaten and tortured. One legend stated that Valentine was in prison and sent the first valentine greeting himself to a young girl he fell in love with, it was the jailor's daughter who visited him often. It has been alleged that he signed the letter "from your valentine", which is still used today.

It is said that Americans began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Ester A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in

America. She is known as the "Mother of the Valentine". She made valentines out of real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as scrap.

According to the greeting card association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year. This makes Valentine's day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas) Women purchase 85% of all Valentine cards.

<http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day>

## PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

**Ms. Jessica Webb**

**English/Math Science Teacher, Lower Students**

I graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's degree in English and Education. I have been teaching for 13 years. I have worked with children of all ages ranging from infants to 5th grade. I am a third-generation teacher; it must run in the family! Teaching has always been my passion and I have taught in a variety of programs and schools, including public, early childhood centers and Montessori schools. I am so happy to have found a home at Pinnacle Prep School. I love my students and it is a joy to watch them learn and find their passion.

## CURRENT EVENTS

**February 2** – Report Cards

**February 2** – Groundhog Day/Puppets (Pre-k – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

**February 9** – Dr. Seuss – Rhymes & Legos (Pre-k – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

**February 14** – Chocolate Cupcakes (Pre-k – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

**February 15-19** – February Break

**February 23** – President Collage (Pre-k – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

**February 28** – Book Reports Due

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