



THE PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

April 2018

Principal's Corner.....

After a well-deserved Spring Break, everyone at Pinnacle Prep School is back at it! The teachers and the students are all gearing up for the home stretch of the 2017-2018 school year.

The students have been presenting some very informative career investigation essays during assembly time. The reports generally contain information about the amount of education required, the skills needed, the duties involved and the potential salary of each occupation. Recent essays have included information about becoming an artist, photographer,

advertising agent, botanist, attorney, anesthesiologist, psychiatrist, photographer and software engineer plus several more.

We have also reached the end of the Dale Carnegie book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. The students have been presented many valuable lessons on how to be successful in life and become an effective leader. They have written and presented various essays over the topics discussed in the book. Feel free to ask your son or daughter about what they have learned during this book study and see if they are putting the

principles into practice in their everyday lives.

Spring is also the time of year when we are able to schedule some field trips. In addition to trips to the gym and park, we recently took a large group of students to the movies. The kids seemed to really enjoy the shows and they did an excellent job of representing Pinnacle Prep School well in a public setting. The annual camping trip is coming up soon too and we will be getting the details finalized in the near future.

Have a great April and thank you for all your support!

STUDENT CLASSROOMS

Ms. Anu Math

Our Geometry students have been working on test prep for most of March. So now students will be working on properties of circles.

Students will be working on detailed concepts of circles including tangents, secants, arcs, angles and angle relationship within and outside the circle. They will be working on segment lengths within in a circle which will also include segment of chords theorem, secant theorem and secants and tangent theorems.

Algebra 1 students, morning class, will be working on radicals and connections to Geometry which will include operations with radicals and solving radical equations. Students will be working on solving quadratic equations by completing the squares. They will also be working on trigonometric ratios.

Algebra 1 students, afternoon class, will be starting with polynomials and factoring. They will be working on various operations on polynomials. Students will be learning factoring various expressions and equations.

Seventh graders will be working on areas and volumes. They will be working on volume and surface area of various three-dimensional figures.

The second class of seventh graders will start with statistics and probability. Students will be working on histograms, frequency polygons and frequency distribution tables. Students will be working on probability and odds, stem and leaf plots and box and whisker plots.

Ms. Bagbey 1st - 2nd Grade

Wow...what a great month we just had! Now, we are quickly moving into the heart of Spring season as April is just around the corner! We are enriching our understanding of the natural environment and continue to study our state capitals.

Our writing responses have significantly improved as we increase our resources of new vocabulary and spelling words. Our young learners are about to embark into different ways to express thoughts and feelings in reading and writing poems.

As we enhance our expressive language we will dig into different reliable resources that provide information for topics as we learn to gather and report information on topics relative to our Spring Season!

Mrs. Bradford English/Social Studies

The school year is moving like a monorail and most students are doing well, enjoying the ride. A few students didn't pay attention to the conductor and are hanging on to the outside of the train trying not to fly off!

Social Studies/Writing: Social Studies has taken another break from the textbook, after we have won the Revolutionary War, to complete another novel study, *Twelve Years A Slave* by Solomon Northup. This book has great vocabulary the students are learning, and the essay writing is really taking them to another level. This book has also brought up some great class discussions regarding discrimination in our country, both past and present, how we use language as a barrier, and what positive activism looks like.

The essay writing, at this point in the school year, should be at a relatively spelling error free. With self-editing and editing on the computer, there is no excuse for spelling errors. That is number one in

editing and with computers, it is not an issue. Students really should be self-editing before turning work in for grading.

Reading/Writing:

Reading/Writing class has had a few bumps along the way this grading period; however, that was just life throwing us some curve balls. The students have been great with adapting, which shows great resiliency, a skill that will carry them far. We are in two novels right now, *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Hunger Games*. *The Hunger Games* is developing some great discussions about government and how governments around the world work. Essay writing is also integrated in this class and the students have improved tremendously. They should be very proud!

Dr. Lynne English

Students in upper school English have had a very thought-provoking month. We just finished reading *Life of Pi*, which incorporates themes of self-awareness, accountability, religious

sincerity, and ambivalence about reality - some very sophisticated material which is well suited to the abilities of these students. Currently they're looking forward to watching the film that was based on the book, after which they will have an opportunity to consider whether the novel was well-interpreted in the film and to discuss it in writing, justifying their opinions with evidence from both. As a warmup for this kind of higher order critical thinking, one of the three weekly writing assignments asked the students to read a professional review of the book and think about whether they agree or disagree with the conclusions and to support their views with examples from the novel. Another gave them the opportunity to explain which of the novel's two very different stories (about the shipwreck and castaway period) they believed and why. Thought problems like these provide excellent mental workouts and strengthen the students' skill and confidence in writing clearly and persuasively with careful reasoning.

Our study of the Civil Rights struggle in America continues in Social Studies, where a viewing of the movie *Selma* perfectly illustrated the historical facts we'd been reading about. The work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was highlighted, along with the disputes among the various factions working for civil rights for African Americans. Students discussed the fact that all human endeavors are multi-sided, relating it to today's political scene and the still-uncompleted quest for full equality for all. Essays dealt with the differences in the approach of Dr. King's organization and that of Malcolm X and others, explaining which they believed was the more successful in achieving the long-term goals of civil rights. We're also continuing to develop media literacy through skillful use of evaluation criteria in electronic and print media. These students may be technologically fluent, but we're guiding them to become thoughtful and discriminating users of the technology they've mastered.

Mrs. Hozie Science

When writing a scientific lab report, step-by-step procedural details are very important! In computer science, step-by-step instructions are essential to getting a program to run effectively.

This month, students are beginning an Introductory Computer Science course in coding. Coding develops procedural thinking and problem-solving skills. My plan is to have a coding exercise 1-2 day a week. We will start with block-based programming. This allows students to layer and order commands by dragging and dropping blocks of code with premade constructs and commands. We are also working with JavaScript and Python languages. These are more traditional, text-based languages which require coders to conform to formal syntax.

Our early morning class is working on simple machines, work, effort, mechanical advantage, and efficiency.

Our afternoon class just finished a unit on energy. Students answered questions like "What fuel is used to generate electricity?" and "What part do magnets play in the generation of electricity?"

One of our morning classes is finishing up a unit on waves, sound, and light. Students explored the various kinds of waves, wave properties, the electromagnetic spectrum and the relationship between wave speed, frequency, and wavelength. Students can identify what makes pitch and loudness.

Finally, we are finding how waves travel through different media. Our chemistry students are learning about valence electrons and practicing balancing equations. FUN!

Ms. Jaya Math

Students have made tremendous progress this month and are keen to take on more complex mathematical concepts. Soon terms like polygons, angles, area, perimeter and volume will fuel their interest in geometry and its application in day to day life.

You might notice them checking the weather regularly and trying to convert the temperature from Fahrenheit to Celsius with the newly learnt chapter about measurements.

Students are inching closer to learning about algebraic expressions, equations and properties of equality. I am very proud of the progress they have made.

Ms. Jessica English/Math/ Science

Happy Spring Pinnacle Prep Students!

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 Tuck Everlasting. This is a new genre (fantasy) that I think the students are going to enjoy exploring. As always, we write journal entries every day to target critical thinking skills.

The fifth graders are still reading The Lightning Thief and they are loving it. Along with this book, we will be conducting research on Greek mythology.

Continue to ask your students what he or she read about during class. This is a wonderful way to check for understanding. Simply asking questions is a useful way to reinforce learning and comprehension.

Both classes have done research on assorted topics. Some include the history of St. Patrick and the Winter Olympics. In their three paragraph papers, they had to also write about a way in which they are lucky.

Next, we are researching hot air balloons and how they work. For this assignment, the students are including details about where they would go in a hot air balloon and what they would like to bring with them. They have also been writing about their spring break. We are

creating outlines and webs to organize information as a pre-writing activity.

Future writing includes research on Helen Keller; we will examine an authentic Braille book from the 1920's. Next, students will create their own video game using descriptive details and sequencing in their writing.

3rd - All About Social Studies - In social studies, we are continuing to study early explorers and Native Americans. Geography is also integrated into the curriculum. We will also be studying and creating bar and line graphs. As with science, we will study diverse types of outlines and graphic organizers. The students will be taking the information they have learned through text, videos, and internet research to write a research paper about three Native American Tribes.

5th - All About Science - The fifth graders are studying the three states of matter. This includes their properties. Next, we will learn about force, work, and laws of motion. The last sections of the book discuss various forms of energy and energy sources. By mid-April, we will finish the science text book and move on to Social

Studies. We will start with regions, landforms and climate before moving on to early Americans and government.

Mrs. Kennedy

Pre-K

What a wonderful and fast month we've shared. I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break with family and friends. Look at everything we've accomplished this month.

Everyone is continuing to progress in their reading abilities. Every child in my class asks if they can read a book if they finish their work early. I have a great passion for reading and I'm trying to grow that in your children. The kids have been introduced to the concept of soft "C" and soft "G". The rule is if the C or G is followed by an I, e, or y the "C" copies "S". The same vowels apply to "G" to make a "J" sound. Words like city, cement, and cylinder, one of our math words are examples. Gem, magic, and gym are soft "G" examples. This concept is tricky, but my students are so bright many of them were noticing the "C" and "G" copying other sounds in words. We're also working

to find and pronounce the H Brothers-ch, sh, th, wh, gh, and ph correctly. They are really starting to find and read these words; it's awesome! After reading I'm always asking comprehension and prediction questions. Even our youngest classmates understand stories, their characters, and the outcomes! Please keep reading and talking about stories at home.

In writing everyone is continuing to work on proper letter formation-ALL LETTERS AND NUMBERS START AT THE TOP-while several students are starting to write with sound spelling. This goes hand in hand with our work in syllables to break up words and apply the rule-EVERY WORD OR SYLLABLE HAS TO HAVE A VOWEL. We're growing a group of word wizards.

Math work is to increase the amount of numbers the students can identify and order. Properly forming those numbers and reading two-digit numbers from left to right to say the correct number. Naming and finding two and three-dimensional shapes is so much fun as

we walk through the halls. A couple of the students have started to add two numbers using a number line and are so excited to be doing big kid math.

We've had much to celebrate and investigate especially with the start of spring on March 20th. We discussed the change of seasons, the Roy G. Biv color order of rainbows that come with spring showers, as well as legendary leprechauns who look for pots of gold at the end of rainbows. Even though St. Patrick's Day was over our break, of course Mrs. Kennedy shared some of the traditions and stories of Irish history past and present.

Manners class continues to be an opportunity for long term application of appropriate manners and life skills. Perseverance is a favorite topic I invite you to share, suggest and praise at home. Puzzle Friday has become a hit and a way for me to observe manners and life skills in peer to peer settings. It's a joy to see kids working together in a kind way and to see many students persevering and

completing puzzles together or on their own.

Thank you for trusting me with your children each day. It is an honor and pleasure to watch them grow.

**Ms. Laura
1st grade**

We are loving the springtime season all around us. All the new beginnings just waiting to be discovered. The students are starting to understand the world we live in and that coincides with our geography of placing the compass rose to where we are in this wonderful world. Our class has been sharing all the sights, sounds and places they we have been to in our big state of Texas. We continue to focus on all the wonder that surrounds our state.

Texans can't talk about spring in Texas, without painting our wonderful bluebonnets from memory. If you hear the holler of the Deep in the

Heart of Texas just yodel along with the fun catchy song. The clap, stomp is sure to please all households. Carry the tune beyond our class and into many years being a part of this state.

We will be adding field trips and camping this month and awaiting all the fun to be had. With the biggest star shining down on us the sun. Learning about our environment and enjoying the great outdoors is the best education. We continue to appreciate you all letting Pinnacle Prep School be a part of that important stepping stones for your child's success.

Our class is enjoying cooking some treats that the kids enjoy with hands on activity. They will be having some extra fun reading and skip counting to learn our coins and money system. That reinforces the Presidents and National leaders that makes our nation so great.

**Mrs. Kelley
Drama, Speech,
Debate, English**

Happy spring! We have been busy in our ELA classes. The 7th/8th grades have just finished the novel, Life of Pi. What a great adventure it was to read and experience this compelling novel together! Next, we will study the classic play, Twelve Angry Men. This is a wonderful courtroom drama that explores human nature, social justice, racism and the workings of the American judicial system. The 5th/6th grades have just completed reading the science fiction novel, The Giver. We read this together and had some very thoughtful discussions about our society and how it compares to the dystopian community depicted in the novel. We will now dive into The Westing Game, a Newberry Award winning mystery that the students will enjoy reading and studying.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Banks
Wolves of the Beyond: Frost Wolf 4th Edition by Kathryn Lasky
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Pi's Favorite Escape

What is an escape method? It can be a strategic one for spies, or it can be a straightforward one for fires. However, for Pi an escape method is none of the above. In the book, "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel, Pi describes one of his favorite methods of escape. This method is spiritual and is like no other.

Pi describes that he likes to escape reality and then open a portal to a wonderland of his imagination. He does this by soaking a piece of cloth and then put it over his face to make him breathe a certain way. It restricted his intake in a certain way where he dozed off into another dimension. Everything he saw was completely out of the ordinary. So many things such as dreams, trances, thoughts, sensations, and remembrances, would happen all at once. Overall, it was just an unimaginable feeling like no other.

If I were to be able to, I would also try this. It seems like a great method of both deprivation and meditation. Everything about it seems

very calm and relaxing. It could be a nice break from the real world and all its problems. Summing it up, it's pretty much like a temporary visit to heaven. **Saad Z**

The Campfire

Crackle! The fire flew up. The whole city gathered at the huge fire in which a man was supposed to tell the story of the city we live in.

Once upon a time there was a man by the name Spongebob; I chuckled a little bit because the name was so weird. He wanted the descendants of his family to have peace and no slavery. He stood up for his rights. Azgard was still very tiny compared to Hogwarts. The Hogwarts were very greedy, they would capture as much land as they could. They did whatever they had to do to capture it. They terrorized the people by making them work all day long with no sleep. If you fell asleep you would be killed. They only fed you three times a day, which was one piece of bread at a time. Many people died, just from starvation, and falling asleep.

The rebels needed recruits that were ready to fight and wanted freedom. They gathered people who were desperate for peace, and they fought. People were killed, and slaughtered. Many people died for this country. Azgard was still very tiny compared to Hogwarts, but they did what it takes. Today is the day they signed the Declaration of United. I commemorate this night for them. We all sang the anthem of Azgard. Oh, great citizens of Azgard, we celebrate day for our ancestors, Who brought peace to our community, For the land of the free, And the home of the Brave

Afterwards we all knelt down. I can't wait for next year, because we are talking about how the witches invaded Azgard for this diamond and gold beacon. On the inside was gold and on the outside was diamonds. This beacon, was the Beacon of Hope. **Kazim H.**

MATH NEWS

Scanners give scientists pictures of genius: this is your brain on math

Mathematical geniuses like Alan Turing, Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking or John Nash are certainly awe-inspiring. The way their minds work remains unclear, however. Why is it that some people can grasp advanced mathematical ideas that baffle the rest of us? Is there something special about the way they think?

What Makes Their Brains Special?

Scientists are now starting to answer those questions. They are beginning to pin down the ways in which the brain of a math whiz works differently from the brain of a non-mathematician.

Scientists have long debated whether high-level mathematical thought is tied to the parts of the brain that deal with language.

Some believe thinking at a very high mathematical level requires not only number skills, but language skills as well. Higher-level

mathematical thinking, they say, requires the use of ideas that can only be conceived and expressed through words. It also requires an understanding of sentence structure.

Other scientists claim higher-level mathematical thinking has nothing to do with language. They maintain it is tied only to independent regions of the brain associated with number and spatial reasoning.

Brain Scans Show the Way

A new study by French researchers provides evidence that supports the second view. The French team ran a series of tests that looked at what parts of the brain are activated during diverse kinds of mental tasks. The tests show that the brain areas involved in high-level math are different from those used in high-level nonmathematical thinking.

The team studied a group made up of 15 professional mathematicians and 15 non-mathematicians who are experts in other fields. Each subject was placed in a brain-imaging scanner that allowed the scientists to monitor his or her brain activity. The scientists could see which

specific areas of the subjects' brains were activated during different tasks.

The subjects listened to a series of 72 high-level mathematical statements, as well as 18 high-level nonmathematical statements. They had four seconds to think about each statement and determine whether it was true, false or meaningless. Throughout this process, the subjects' brain activity was carefully monitored.

Brain Regions Activated by Math

The researchers say they discovered something unique about the mathematicians. When the mathematicians listened to math-related statements certain parts of their brains were activated: the bilateral intraparietal, dorsal prefrontal and inferior temporal regions. These regions are usually not associated with language processing. Among the non-mathematicians, those areas of the brain were not activated at all.

They also were not activated when the mathematicians listened to nonmathematical statements. Instead, areas of the brain that are

involved in language processing were activated in both mathematicians and non-mathematicians.

The study helps resolve a long-standing debate about mathematical thinking, study co-author Marie Amalric said. It shows that high-level mathematical thinking uses brain regions associated with number and spatial reasoning.

Born with A Sense of Numbers?

Previous research has found that these non-language-related areas of the brain are active when we perform simple arithmetic calculations. They are activated even by just the sight of numbers on a page.

In fact, study co-author Stanislas Dehaene has done research that suggests humans are born with a sense of numbers. For example, we are born with the ability to recognize that two pieces of fruit are greater than one.

The new study suggests a link between such basic mathematical abilities and the ability to perform high-level math. How one gets from having a built-in “number sense” to being able to perform higher-level math remains unknown, however.

Most people master basic arithmetic, scientist Daniel Ansari pointed out. They are already using the parts of their brain involved in number reasoning. However, “only a fraction of us go on to do high-level math.”

Can They See How All Adds Up?

The relationship between basic and higher-level mathematical skills is still unclear, Ansari said. Does becoming a mathematical expert change “the way you do arithmetic?” Or does learning basic math lay out the foundation for developing higher-level mathematical skills?

Ansari said it would be useful to run a study in which non-mathematicians are taught advanced mathematical ideas. Such a study could provide a better understanding of the connections between basic and advanced mathematical skills and how they form.

The new French study suggests that developing expertise in math could involve decreasing activity in certain non-math-related parts of the brain. The French scientists say the mathematicians they studied had reduced activity in certain visual areas of the brain. These regions are involved in recognizing faces

and interpreting people's expressions.

Does Math Displace Other Skills?

Perhaps this could mean that the focus required to grasp certain mathematical ideas may weaken some of the brain's other abilities. However, additional studies are still needed to determine if mathematicians actually do process faces differently.

Researchers hope to learn more about how math expertise shapes brain activity. They also hope to better understand how such advanced abilities develop in the first place.

“We can start to investigate where exceptional abilities come from,” Ansari says. “I just think it's great that we now have the capability to use brain imaging to answer these deep questions about the complexity of human abilities.”

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Is Your Child Getting Enough Exercise?

by Carolyn Bradford

The benefits of physical movement have been touted for years and many of us know how well we feel after a good workout, even after a nice walk, but what happens when our kids don't get enough movement in their day. I'm not talking about walking from class to class movement or to the kitchen. This is intense, heart-pounding, sweat-inducing movement. We, as parents and educators have witnessed the slow disintegration of the beloved recess and now the "dreaded" gym class is under attack to make room for more academic time, mainly to pass standardized testing. This is worrisome with the rise of childhood obesity on the rise.

We know the minimum requirements for a healthy heart is 30 minutes a day of rigorous movement, or exercise if you prefer, even for children. The American Heart Association reports only 4% of elementary schools in the US achieve this amount of activity in their P.E. classes. Middle Schools

do not fare any better with 7% and high schools only provide 2% of daily P.E. classes. That isn't the worst part of AMA's reported statistics; 22% of US schools don't even require P.E. classes, at all. Couple this with kids going home and sitting for hours of homework or television watching, video game playing, watching siblings while parents work, too dangerous to be outside in their neighborhood, or whatever the situation may be, and now you have children not getting any physical exercise in their life at any time, learning bad habits from childhood and their little bodies are deteriorating years before they should.

Why is this so important, other than the obvious obesity issue on the rise? A well-rounded P.E. class has many benefits that extend outside the physical realm. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) lists the benefits of k-12 P.E. classes besides improving physical endurance, flexibility, and strength. A decent work-out in P.E. can reduce stress, improve students' self-

esteem by building confidence, and make peer relationships stronger. The chemicals released when we exert our bodies contribute to increased alertness and mental capacity. That is why it is suggested to go for a run or walk when you have a problem or troubled; the exercise assists with releasing the

right chemicals in the body and brain to work through solutions.

Pinnacle Prep School has incorporated a P.E. class for all students in some form to get movement teach valuable skills to the students. We are working to implement more in the future. If you have any suggestions, please email the school. You can also

get involved by having "Home P.E." where the family has exercise together. This is a fun way to get family time together and everyone takes a turn choosing the activity. You set the schedule and rotation just remember you need at least 30 a day!

Resource: Education.com

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

The Science Behind How We Preserve Historical Documents

Summary of article By Tanya Lewis, Staff Writer for LiveScience.com

Sophisticated technologies are used to preserve old documents, like the Declaration of Independence. But documents are made from fallible materials that often fade, rip or degrade over time. Thanks to new technologies, researchers can preserve these age-old relics for posterity, as well as uncover secrets regarding their makers and origins.

[Scientists] use a method called hyperspectral imaging to discover fine details of ancient texts and maps. The human eye can only see light in the visible spectrum, from red to violet. But hyperspectral imaging

divides light into bands that extend outside this part of the electromagnetic spectrum into the ultraviolet and infrared.

The images contain a wealth of information about the artifact's origin and degradation mechanisms. Trace elements in the ink pigments hint at when and where the artifact was made. Sometimes the images reveal something new, such as a watermark or hidden text.

For example, in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote the phrase "my fellow citizens," but the word "citizens" was written over another, illegible word. Hyperspectral imaging revealed Jefferson's original phrase was "my fellow subjects."

Oxygen-rich environments accelerate degradation, so

preservation experts sometimes store artifacts in encasements where the oxygen has been removed. Controlling moisture is also critical. [Many documents are] hermetically sealed and filled with the inert gas argon instead of oxygen, because oxygen reacts with the materials in paper and ink to degrade them. The argon maintains the atmospheric pressure that the air would normally exert on the map.

The main purpose of preserving documents is so people can study them. "Libraries face the challenge of making collections accessible and available, while also juggling preservation," said Fenella France, chief of the preservation research and testing division of the Library of Congress.

ENGLISH NEWS

Communication Forms and Tools Are Constantly Changing

Have mobile phones affected the way people use English? The speed of texting and instant messaging means that mistakes and shorthand expressions are common but are not often corrected because people generally know what was meant. However, teachers have expressed concern about dropping levels of literacy and handwriting due to frequent use of social media on computers, tablets, phones, and other devices. Some texting terms have made it into common usage (“lol,” “pls,” “thx,” etc.), and the craze for shortening words that started with mainly teen usages are becoming mainstream. Opinions are divided over

whether this is a good or a bad thing.

On the one hand, research suggests that schoolchildren in the 1970s were far more literate than today’s children. Students in 2013 were found to struggle with spelling, grammar, and essay-writing, essential skills which before now were considered key to a good grasp of the English language. Proponents of this side of the controversy contend that social media and text messaging are alienating English speakers from their native language and confusing non-natives who try to learn the language because these forms of communication promote misspelling, poor grammar, and lack of critical thinking.

On the other hand, according to linguists, language is not a static thing. The changing

sounds, expressions, and usages of a language are merely reflections of the developments in society. English (or any other language) can’t be expected to remain the same while the world and the way we communicate are being subjected to so much variation.

The important lesson for education in this debate is to teach children how to use a variety of modes and tools of communication. Writing an essay and writing a blog are different things and children can certainly learn to do both appropriately, just as adults have always had to learn to make appropriate use of formal and informal speech and writing in their professional and personal lives. It’s all part of developing excellent communication skills.

TEXTBOOKS VS. SCREENS

New study shows students learn more effectively from print textbooks than screens.

Students today are the first generation surrounded by technology. (smartphones, tablets and e-readers)

In 2009, California passed a law that all college textbooks be available in electric form by the year 2020. In 2011, Florida passed legislation that all public schools convert their textbooks to digital form.

Researchers are now focused on the differences between reading print and digital media. This research revealed: students prefer having their textbooks in digital form, however their performance suffered.

Research that was conducted in 1992 found that students were able to comprehend information in print for texts that were greater than one page in length. This is

contributed to the disruptive effect that scrolling has on comprehension.

Further research was conducted on college students and their ability to comprehend information on screens or on paper.

Students were told to read two passages, one online and one in print. They were given three tasks: Describe the main idea, list key points covered in the reading and provide relevant content they could recall. The findings are as follows:

Consider the purpose: We all read for many reasons. We are either looking for an answer to a specific question or wanting to browse the newspapers for headlines. We should keep in mind why we are reading. There is no “one medium fits all” approach.

Analyze the task: If students are being asked to only understand the main idea or

just remember the main points, then there is no benefit in selecting one medium over another.

When reading assignments are more demanding or students need a deeper comprehension, students do better in the print version.

Slow it down: Among college students it was noted that they comprehend better when they read print not digital. Students read slower when the text is in digital form. Using this as a model, students could possibly be taught/directed to glide through online texts.

Something that can't be measured: There are significant costs and consequences to discounting the printed word's value for learning and academic development.

<https://amp.businessinsider.com/students-learning-education-print-textbooks-screens-study-2017-10>

CURRENT EVENTS

April 1- Easter Sunday
April 6- Progress Reports
April 8- Orthodox Easter
April 11- Isra and Mi'raj
April 13- Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
April 17- Tax Day
April 21- San Jacinto Day
April 26- Take our Daughters and Son's to work day
April 27- Book Reports Due
April 30- May 4- Camping

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1-4- Camping
May 28- Holiday
May 31- Book Reports Due

June 6- Report Cards
June 7- Last Day of School

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