



PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

February 1, 2019

We started off the new year with a lot of excitement here at Pinnacle Prep School! Our teachers have been doing an excellent job of challenging the students and pushing them to reach their full potential.

Thank you for all of your support!



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Pinnacle Prep!

Pre- K and Kindergarten

Morning circle time this month included learning about winter, snow, and kindness. We have continued to practice our numbers, shapes, days of the week, months of the year, consonant sounds, and our short and long vowel sounds.

Students have been enjoying story time and picking out who the characters are in a story. We have also learned about the conflict or problem in a story and follow how the resolution comes together with problem solving or help from. These ideas are put on the board and discussed with student participation. The class can sometimes pick out ideas or a solution before the story is even over! Along with reading aloud, we have continued with our phonics and blending consonants. During rhyming time, the students love to enjoy made up words to put in front of vowel and ending consonant letters. Some words would even make Dr. Suess proud! They are quick and want to eat up the language set in front of them.

During math time, we have been working with counting aloud. We have been learning how to read and use a number line, and the students are enjoying finding what number comes next in the 100 chart. We are going over money and how coins are represented by numbers. Keep a ear out for our catchy Penny, Nickle, Dime, Quarter song. Our students enjoyed an eye-opening introduction to instruments that was brought about by Kazoo Day January 28th. We learned about recycling and made our own instruments to make a little noise.

Our students learned all the wonderful changes our Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. brought. We have learned about equality, justice, and happiness for all. The students have continued demonstrating great manners and learned of the power that acts of random kindness bring about here at Pinnacle Prep School.

During February, we will be anticipating our furry friend Punxsutawney Phil to know if we will have 6 more weeks of winter or spring. Hibernation is an important aspect of the animal kingdom, and the kids will be learning all the different ways this happens to amphibians and mammals.

If the students have a special books, drawings or writings they would like to share with the class on hibernation, please do. Valentine's Day will be enjoyed this month and we will reinforce how special each and every student here at the school is. We look forward to discovering possibility in our reading, comprehension, calendar, and number chart that are sure to amaze us all.



Lower English

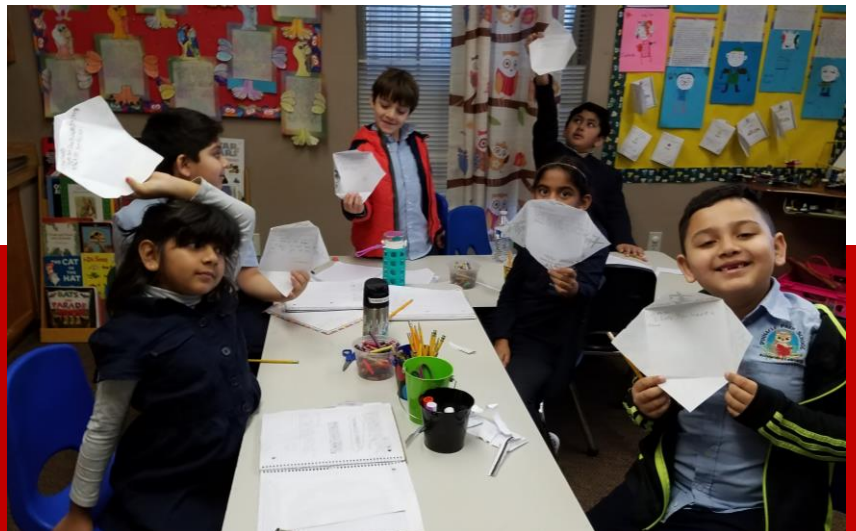
Happy February Pinnacle Prep School students; this year is flying by. On February 14, for Valentine's Day, we will be having a party. The students need enough Valentines for their class and may bring a treat to share. There are 9 kids in 2nd grade and 6 in 3rd. We will be doing Valentine's activities all of that week.

We have been working on a variety of review items such as spelling, grammar, and handwriting. We have also been working on putting our spelling words in alphabetical order. The students are now at the point where they can take three words that start with the same letter and alphabetize them. Every morning, students work on D.O.L. (Daily Oral Language) or pre-cursive handwriting. We are reviewing "r" controlled vowels such as -er, -or, -ur and -ar. You can find these grammar activities in their interactive notebooks. We continue to review syllables as well. Students are still enjoying our "making words" lessons and our "mini sight word" books. They look forward to the books every Thursday!

Also, we are reading short stories every day in class as well as dissecting poems. With every story, the students are also learning vocabulary and how to look up definitions in a dictionary and in the provided glossary. Some of the themed poems for this month will include penguins, Valentine's Day, President's Day and polar bears. You can find these poems, and other activities, in their journals. The students are writing every day in their journals for D.O.L., story responses, spelling, and other word lists and charts.

The students did a great job writing about snowflakes and acts of kindness for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Upcoming assignments include: If I Had Magical Powers, Things I Love, If I was President and If I Had a Pet Polar Bear. For every writing assignment, the students go through the writing process (pre-writing, rough copy, edit/revise and final copy). Every child receives one on one attention during the editing phase as well as mini lessons throughout the week.

Please be reading at home with your child every night. Students need to be doing a combination of reading aloud to you and reading to themselves. You can have students write a short summary or write about their favorite part after reading to assist with reading comprehension. Please be filling out the reading log that has been going home. A new book is sent home on Mondays and they are due back to school on Fridays. If your child is reading their own book at home, please fill out the log indicating the book and how many minutes they read. I have sent home a current, master spelling list. Please study these words at home with your child. They can write them, spell them out loud or use in a sentence. Even writing them in pen or marker makes it fun for the kids. These are words that they should have memorized and be able to spell correctly in their writing.



Lower Math

Second Graders have successfully learned to tell time with five-minute increments. Kids are doing great adding numbers with regrouping. They are now working on measurements and their conversions. (For Ex: cups to pint, quart to gallon). Kids will soon start to learn times tables and problem solving. We will also continue to work on addition and subtraction facts.

Third Graders worked on Statistics, Data and Surveys. They also worked on different types of graphs, Probability and Outcomes, Problem solving methods and its applications. Kids are now working on Estimating measurements, Conversion of measurements, Comparing and ordering measurements. They will then learn time and temperature, multiplying 2-digit by 2-digit. We will also continue to practice our multiplication and division facts.

Fourth Graders successfully completed working on Statistics, Data and Surveys. Students then learned writing function tables and graphing them on graph paper. Students are now working on Measurements in which students will learn converting measures. They will also learn Computing (adding and subtracting), customary measurements and converting them. They will also work on converting between temperature (Fahrenheit to Celsius) and problem-solving strategies.



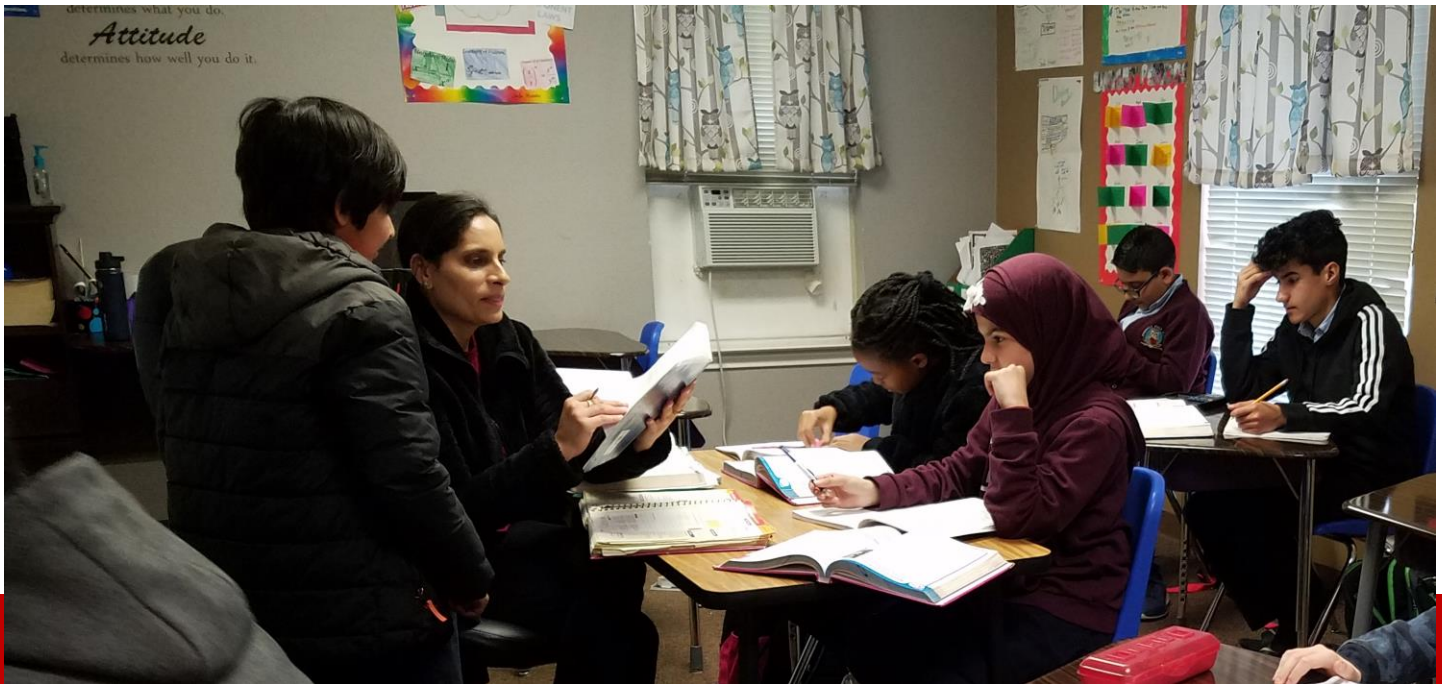
Upper Math

Fourth Graders worked really hard on measurements. In February we will be starting with fractions. Students will start from fractions on a number line. We will be learning how to estimate fractions. Students will practice writing equivalent fractions. We will be learning concept of Greatest Common Factor and use this concept for reducing fractions to lowest terms. It will be fun learning mixed numbers by using the concept of fractions. Students will work on comparing and ordering fractions. We will continue working on Problem Solving Strategies and methods using fractions.

Fifth Graders will spend some more time practicing multiplication and division of fractions. We will be starting with decimal addition and subtraction. We will also be working on decimal multiplication and division.

Sixth Graders will be reviewing Expressions and Equations. We will be starting with the concept of integers. Students will learn addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers. We will be using this concept to solve Expressions and Equations involving Integers.

Algebra 2 students will continue working on powers, roots and radicals. We will be working on n th roots and rational exponents. Students will be learning properties of Rational Exponents. We will be working on new concepts of Inverse Functions and Graphing Square root and Cube Root functions.



Upper English

The students in Mrs. Kelley's English classes have been very busy this month! Both classes have worked hard on their writing and grammar skills. They are also close to finishing their first novels for this semester. The students have really enjoyed these books. Hopefully, they're sharing some details about their books with you!

Please note that we will begin new novels soon. **Students will need to bring their own copy of the following books by Monday, February 11th:**

3rd/4th grade: Bridge to Terabithia

5th/6th grade: Where the Red Fern Grows



Science Lab News

With the arrival of 2019, upper school classes are talking about the properties and changes matter can undergo. This includes physical properties and physical changes. We all had fun learning about the elements and the periodic table. We are moving on to Chemical properties and chemical changes. Later in February, we will explore the differences among mixtures, solutions, and colloids.

Our younger scientists began 2019 learning about the earth, moon, and sun system. We had fun making the phases of the moon with cookies. Now we are broadening our scope to include objects in our solar system. Students will be memorizing the order of the planets and completing some related projects.



Science in the News

Excerpt from *Ocean Cleanup fail?*

By Elizabeth Weise, USA Today

Published by <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/12/06/ocean-cleanup-system-great-pacific-garbage-patch-wont-hold-plastic/2231554002/>

Millions of tons of small and large pieces of plastic are constantly being washed into the world's oceans, where they tend to collect in specific areas determined by currents and weather. These slow-moving whirlpools create vast areas of water infested with plastic pollution that hangs in the water like fog, harming marine life and leaching chemicals into the sea.

The passive system created by The Ocean Cleanup [a Dutch nonprofit focused on cleaning plastic pollution from the world's oceans] involves a floating series of connected 4-foot booms that form a giant horseshoe at the surface of the ocean.

It was meant to corral the plastic garbage via a 9-foot skirt that hangs down in the water below the boom. The action of the currents and waves was expected to push trash into the system's center while the tiny pieces of floating plastic were captured by the hanging barrier.

Unfortunately, the system is moving too slowly at times to keep the plastic inside the U-shaped device, allowing it to float out again. The group's engineers and scientists have been studying the problem since it first became evident and have tried various fixes via computer models. But as they expected from the beginning, there's no replacement for on-the-ground (or in this case in-the-water) experience.

[This system] is meant to be the first of as many as 60 such devices the group hopes to deploy to clean the world's oceans of plastic debris. In his post, Slat said it "must work before we can look to scaling up, so there is no time to waste."

Leadership News

In leadership, we are working on Thinking Win-Win and Seeking First to Understand. Here are some ideas to reinforce these habits at home.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

Think Win-Win is the belief that everyone can win. It's not me or you—it is both of us. It is a belief that there are enough good things for everyone; it is an abundant way of thinking. Think Win-Win is being happy for others when good things happen to them. As a parent, not everything is negotiable, but if you go into discussions with your child with a win-win mindset, you'll find a lot less resistance.

Ways to reinforce Habit 4: Think Win-Win at home:

- Discuss point of views and different perspectives.
- Think about how to give back to others, even if it means taking a little from themselves.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood means that it is better to listen first and talk second. By taking the time to listen to another person, you reach a higher level of communication. This habit is best approached by introducing listening as a skill that should be practiced. Learning to listen without interrupting and learning to listen with your ears, your eyes, and your heart will help children build a foundation for Habit 5. Simply put, we have two ears and one mouth so that we can spend more time listening with the intent to understand.

Too often instead of really listening, we are busy forming our response in our mind. This Habit is about not just hearing with our ears, but looking at body language with our eyes, and using our hearts as well. We listen to understand who that person is, how they feel about something, and how they view the world.

Ways to reinforce Habit 5: Seek First to Understand at home:

- Use a Talking Stick when discussing something as a family to show the
- importance of listening to everyone who has something to say.
- Practice looking people in the eye when having a conversation.

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