



# PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

September 8, 2020

Welcome back students!

Happy September Pinnacle Prep School! The first few weeks have been wonderful. Our students are now back in the rhythm of learning. We want to take the time to thank our parents for all your help as we adjusted to our online learning. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year.

## Let's Stay Healthy!

Please continue going over the following healthy tips with your child:

- Wash your hands after playing with pets, after using the bathroom, after sneezing, after blowing your nose or coughing, after touching a cut or open sore, after playing outside, and before eating.
- Wash your hands with warm water.
- Soap and scrub for 20 seconds- say the alphabet slowly.
- Cough into a tissue or your elbow (not your hand), then throw tissue away and wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.



## 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 a remind message.

# Ms. Laura's Brilliant Stars

## *Giraffes & Pandas*

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! It is so exciting to be back at school and working toward our goals. Each day we see progress in your children.

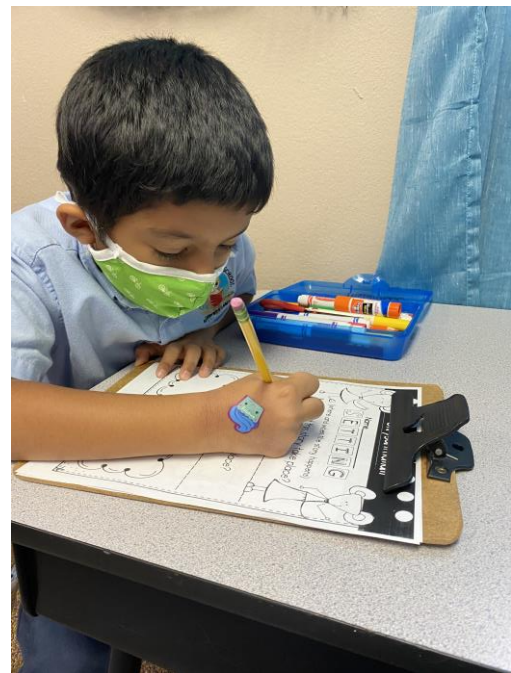
Our morning class explores the calendar, alphabet, and its sounds, weather, and shapes. Each day we share news, read a story or two, and have playtime to boost imaginations, relationships, and manners. We are reviewing motor skills, numbers, phonics, sight words, and the joy of reading.

As the next month unfolds, we will be working on each child's skill set and setting individual or small groups as well as individual work for specific center times.

In math, we have been reviewing the number line, addition and our hundred chart.

In Science we have discussed reptiles. We have learned about their habitat and what they look like. We also learned about our own special Texas Horned Lizard.

Please read to your child every night. Ask them open-ended questions and have them answer in complete sentences.



# Mrs. Hill

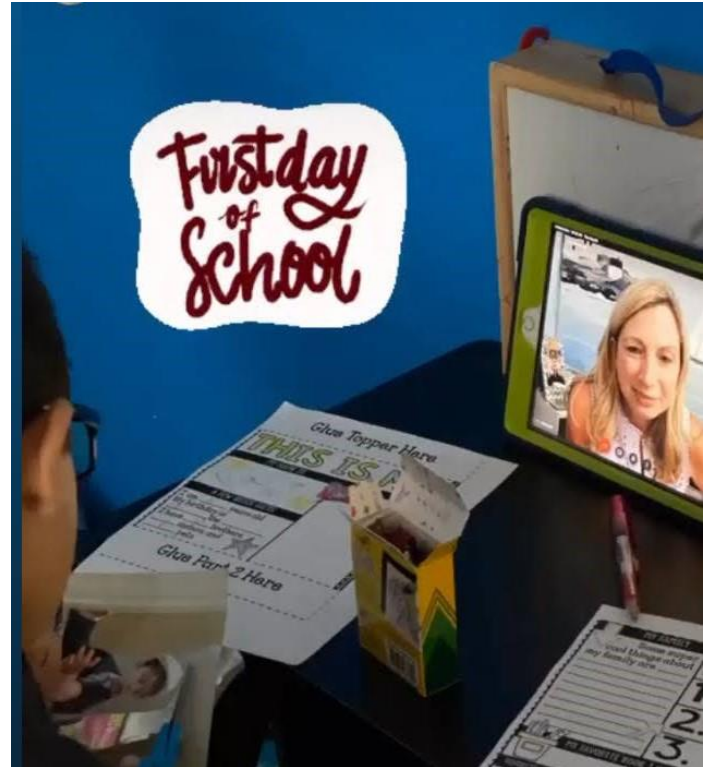
## *Pandas and Zebras*

### Pandas:

We will continue our Kevin Henkes author study...We began this year with Chrysanthemum and have seven more beloved books to help us learn about literary elements. Additionally, we will be reviewing all Kinder phonics, such as short & long vowel sounds, word families and chunking. I'll be on the lookout for beautiful handwriting and interesting complete sentences!

### Zebras:

What an impressive start! We have already conquered place value through the millions, and our focus will move to addition and subtraction of LARGE numbers, including money. I can't wait to see our Zebras use several different strategies in order to solve real-life problems!



# Lower English

*Ms. Jessica*

Welcome back to school, everyone! We have had a great start to the year! Our themes for September include: Labor Day, Mexico Independence Day, Native American Heritage Day, and owls. Our writing topics include: My Favorite Things, The Beach, Me Poem, Native American research and letter writing. The students have been doing very well with their essays. I look forward to seeing more of their thoughts and ideas as we go through the year.

We have been reviewing nouns and will continue to review all of the parts of speech. These include: concrete and abstract nouns, possessive nouns, and irregular plural nouns. We are also going to work on proper punctuation when using quotation marks and commas. Students will also be reviewing capitalization rules for proper nouns and titles. I edit every student's essay and go over these concepts as well as practice them in class.

All students should be reading every night. You can have students write a short summary or write about their favorite part after reading to assist with reading comprehension. Also, please practice spelling words. Some activities include: ABC order, counting syllables, writing rhyming words for each spelling word, use in a sentence or poem, and write with rainbow colors. All of the kids love Bitpaper; that would also be a great way to let them practice. We practice spelling at least 4 days a week, but students should practice them outside of class, especially if they are having trouble remembering them.



# Lower Math/Spanish

*Ms. Alma*

**Pandas** have been doing an excellent job in math! We have been learning all about numbers. We have learned to model, read, and write numbers to 120, understand tens and ones digits, and how to represent numbers in different ways. We will continue to learn to compare numbers: less than, greater than, and use symbols to compare. Towards the end of September, we will learn two-digit addition!

In **Spanish** we have started learning the basics of the language. We have learned how to greet one another, the alphabet, and are learning our numbers from 0 to 1,000. In September we will be learning our subject pronouns and begin to conjugate verbs.



# Upper Math

*Ms. Anu*

## **Wolves**

We will be working on GCF, simplifying Fractions, Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing Fractions

## **Tigers**

We will continue working on Percents and eventually move to Applications of Percents which will include finding Rates, finding percent of a number and Original number, Sales Tax, Mark Ups and Discounts, Simple Interest, Commission and Best Buy.

## **Black Panthers (Pre-Algebra)**

We will continue working on linear functions. We will introduce the concept of slope, writing equation in slope intercept form, writing linear equations, and function form, system of linear equations and graphs of linear inequalities.

## **Black Panthers (Algebra 1)**

We will be working on solving different forms of equations which will include solving equations with variables on sides, absolute value equations and solving equations for a variable in terms of other variables. We will also be working on applications of Ratios, Proportions and Percents.



# Upper English

## *Mr. Troxel*

Welcome back for another exciting year. This has been a unique experience for us all, but it is certainly proof that learning is a never-ending process. Let me start by sharing a bit about my background and core educational philosophy. I spent 28 years in Texas education both in the classroom and as a school Principal prior to joining Pinnacle. I'm here to teach humans, not a subject. In all I seek to help every learner discover their power and develop excellence to succeed in any role life places before them. Ask your child to share our core class values (the 6 BE's) and you'll understand my beliefs concerning success. I look forward to learning how your child thinks, determining which skills require perfecting, and working beside them in creating tools to thrive in any endeavor.

Allow me to share some of my key practices for all classes.

- We are using Interactive Student Notebooks (ISN's) as a method of recording and organizing key concepts. I have created an online version of what I have used in class. They take the form of reflective written journals as well as important notes for content. Occasionally I will have students share their ISN's for you to review. Ask them questions about what you read there. As parents you are your children's first and most important teachers. I am an extension of your desire for learning, so it's critical that we understand the learning goals and activities in place at school for your child.

- We will write every day and will be learning to analyze our own work product critically. This will be accomplished through peer writing workshops, class discussions, and a tactic called Socratic Seminar. We will be learning and perfecting these as the year progresses, but the core principle for all is reflective self-analysis as vital for quality work.

- We will practice grammar both in class interactively and by utilizing the IXL Learning online system for diagnosing/practicing specific needs according to each learner.

- We will utilize the Sadlier-Oxford Workshop to increase working vocabulary with a combination of in class and homework activities throughout each week. Again, I have adapted it to online learning.

- We will read classic and contemporary literature in the form of novels, short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfictional prose. Students will analyze and respond to each in writing, public speaking, debate, and theatrical performance.

As year progresses, we will incorporate social, government, economic, and historical studies into our curriculum. I use the classic term *Humanities* to describe the curricular focus in toto, because history, literature, and art all interplay to give meaning to our experiences. As we get started with our novel studies our first text will be provided to students via online PDF.

## *Upper English Continued....*

The **Wolves** will be starting with the classic novel *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne. Although exciting reading, this is more than a simple adventure novel as Verne recalls themes explored in the *Odyssey*. The **Tigers** will be starting the novel *The Hobbit* by Tolkien. The classic book explores the nature of friendship, discovering unknown strength when faced with frightening situations, and how to be true to your values when there are inevitable conflicts. The **Black Panthers** will be reading *The Count of Monte Cristo*, by Alexander Dumas. Set in the Napoleonic era of France, this classic explores the meaning of justice as Edmond Dantès takes matters into his own hands, dismayed by the limitations of society's criminal justice system that allowed his enemies to slip through the cracks. I look forward to discovering these and a variety of other topics with your child as we grow together throughout the new year.

As a quick final note, I ask for your patience as I get to know your child's strengths, teach my basic routines and expectations, and create the best learning environment to meet their needs. Our technology challenges are teaching us all many things, but with persistence we will succeed. Great structures start with solid foundations for which time is essential to properly construct. Thank you in advance for your support, and thanks for sharing your amazing child with us here at Pinnacle Prep school.



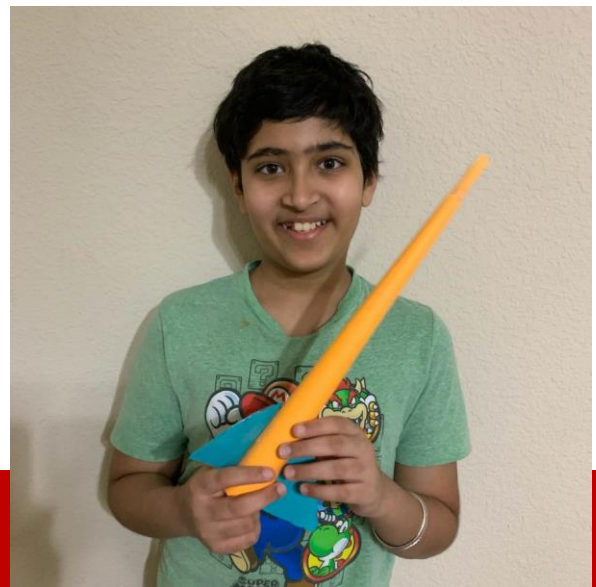
# Science Lab News

## *Mrs. Hozie*

All students started the year off by learning lab safety. Science activities at home and in the classroom are safe when our students are aware of potential hazards and take all necessary and appropriate precautions. "By modeling safe lab practices and instructing students to do the same, they will not only avoid injury now, but they will also be better prepared for lab experiences in their upper-level science classes." – American Chemical Society

After lab safety, we took advantage of an important "teachable moment" to help the students learn about tropical storms and hurricanes. The typical areas that are affected by these storms in the US are the states that border along the Gulf of Mexico or along the Atlantic up the east coast. Many of our distance learners are in these areas. Hurricane season is from June 1st until November 30th with the peak of the storm season between mid-August and mid-October. Science, history, and math were all be tied into our lesson on hurricanes.

Zebra class students learned about the weather elements behind storm formation along with the impact that such a strong storm can have on communities. We are finishing up with climates and biomes around the world. Wolves are learning about robotics and drones. This cross-curricular unit covers the origins of all machines and the history of automatons, looms, computers, programming languages, circuits, and much more. Tigers are beginning to study the brain. This unit covers CNS anatomy, function, cell biology, evolution, chemical energy, and electric potential. And our Panthers are starting a CSI Forensics Unit. This unit is cross-curricular and covers topics in chemistry, physics, life science, applied mathematics, and criminal justice.



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