



# PINNACLE PREP SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

October 8, 2020

## Fall is Here!

Happy fall, Pinnacle Prep School!

Fall is finally here and with fall comes flu season. We want to continue to stay safe as a school and want to emphasize the importance of social distancing.

Please continue to avoid large gatherings so that our school can continue to stay healthy.

Please continue to emphasize to your children the importance of frequent hand washing.

If your child is not well, please do not send them to school for the safety of all of our staff and students.

It is important that parents monitor their children for any COVID-19 Symptoms. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms.

All of our holidays are on the calendar.

### October:

**No school on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**



## 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*

Welcome Fall! Fall is my favorite season and I love all the colors that it brings. In Science we are learning all about the fall colors. We are learning all about deciduous trees and all the beautiful colors that the leaves turn into!

We continue to practice our calendar, days of the week, months of the year and weather songs during circle time.

In math we are working on our number line and have begun adding and subtracting numbers using our number line. We are also learning our place values. We now know the difference between our ones and tens place. We are learning how to add doubles (2+2, 3+3 ) and counting by 2's.

We continue to practice our phonics, sounding out our consonants and vowels. We are starting units on rhyming.

During story time, we are focusing on our characters, the problem and the solution of the story.

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

Happy Fall,

Ms. Laura



# Mrs. Hill

## *Pandas and Zebras*

### Pandas:

We concluded our Kevin Henkes author study, and have four exciting Halloween books to explore this month! Our focus will be on literary elements and learning how to write great COMPLETE sentences...I have really enjoyed my Pandas' enthusiasm each day and the outstanding work they are submitting!

### Zebras:

I am very proud of our Zebras for showing me their exceptional addition and subtraction skills...even with numbers stretching into the millions! We are focusing on estimation and problem-solving strategies before we head into multiplication and division— PLEASE go ahead and start practicing your multiplication facts!



# Lower Math/Spanish

## *Ms. Alma*

### **Pandas**

In September we compared numbers and concluded our chapter on modeling numbers. We also began learning how to add two-digit numbers with and without regrouping! During the month of October, we will be focusing on learning our addition facts. A child is considered to have learned a math fact when he or she can give an answer in less than 3 seconds. We will continue adding more addition facts until mastery is reached. We will also continue practicing our two-digit addition and will move on to two-digit subtraction!

In **Spanish** we have learned the days of the week, months of the years, and colors! We have also learned our subject pronouns. We also learned some adjectives and how to use them in a sentence. We formed our first sentences in Spanish during September! We learned our first verb, "ser" and how to conjugate it. In October, we will learn our "ar" verbs and how to conjugate them and we will learn how to tell time in Spanish!

# Lower English

Ms. Jessica

Happy fall, everyone! I'm so grateful for the cooler weather. The kids and I love being outside for lunch and recess.

Our themes for October include: dinosaurs, Columbus Day and explorers, the human body, and, of course, spiders. We will be watching videos and reading about these themes, as well as taking notes. During Columbus Day week, we will learn about other explorers, like Henry Hudson and Ponce de Leon. As we get closer to Halloween, we will study the human body, including bones and being healthy. We will finish October with studying spiders!

Writing topics include: creative writing practice, parts of a letter and letter writing, a mystery story, and "Our City was Attacked by Giant Spiders." Students have class time to write and the essays are due on Fridays. When students have finished writing, they turn it in to me so that I can edit. After I edit, I return it to them so that they can make any corrections. The corrected essay should be turned in again for final grading. We will also be practicing dictionary skills, including guide words, parts of speech, multiple definitions and pronunciation.

My Zebras are enjoying reading Matilda by Roald Dahl. Our novel studies include vocabulary, chapter quizzes, response journals and other activities related to our reading. So far, we have learned about inferencing, story elements and themes. For October, we will focus on point of view, main idea, fact and opinion, and fiction and nonfiction texts. We are halfway through Matilda. I will let everyone know ahead of time what book we will be reading next!

All students should be reading at least 30 minutes every day. Reading comprehension is a very important skill. After students read, they can write a brief summary, discuss their favorite part, describe a character, and/or discuss the problem and solution presented in the text. Also, if your student has me for spelling, they should practice those as well. We practice spelling every day in class; the students write the words, use them in sentences, identify parts of speech, and identify patterns.

Have a great October!



# Upper Math

## *Ms. Anu and Ms. Jaya*

Wolves did an amazing work with G.C.F, Simplifying fractions, Adding & Subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators and Estimating sums and differences of mixed numbers. We will be working on multiplying and dividing fractions with whole numbers, fractions & mixed numbers followed by Estimating products and quotients with mixed numbers.

Tigers worked on Percentages, Sales Tax and Simple Interest calculations. We will start geometry, in which kids will learn to measure and draw angles, find angles of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, congruent and similar polygons. Some of the students are working on writing and solving proportions, relate percentages to fractions, relate between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Black Panthers (Pre-Algebra) will continue to work on writing Linear equations & function form, system of linear equations and graphs of linear inequalities. Students will start working on Real numbers and right triangles in which students will learn to find out square roots, simplify square roots, solve right angled triangle using Pythagorean theorem and distance & midpoint formula.

Black Panthers (Algebra 1) will be working on Inequalities which will include solving multistep Inequalities, Inequalities with variables on both sides, Compound Statements, solving Compound Inequalities and solving absolute value Inequalities. We will also be working on Relations and Functions. Students will be writing and graphing functions. Students will be introduced to scatter plots and Trend lines. We will also be working on Arithmetic Sequences.



# Upper English

## Mr. Troxel

It has been a fun start to the year and we have been busy learning together. My goal is to facilitate each student to be the spearhead of their own learning, and this has never been more critical as we tackle online schooling. The challenges of this new learning model continue to stretch us all, but it is also a perfect example of building success in life as our plans are tested and revised to match an ever-changing environment. My class leaders have been powerful in guiding their peers towards success. As we get deeper into the fall season, we will continue to set a class environment that develops self-aware learners who evaluate and adjust efforts to build effective skill sets. Lastly, students will be required to read a book at home of their choosing. Parent support to ensure at least 30 minutes of independent reading is critical to strengthen skills and reinforce the important value of reading independently as a critical strategy for self-reliance.

**Wolves:** A strategy incorporated daily is reflective journal writing. Each writing prompt provides an anticipatory frame for the upcoming lesson, reviews concepts, and provides opportunities for learners to evaluate thinking. Our sharing and discussion help develop strategies to formulate strong responses to inquiry. We are continuing our vocabulary expansion will continue to incorporate language and critical thinking in regular essays. Grammar is reinforced by both sharing/peer evaluation of work product and drills in class. Grammar will be further supported through the IXL Language Arts online program that fine tunes skills according to student need.

We are reading the Novel *20,000 Leagues under the sea* and will be exploring the many themes in this classic adventure tale. Captain Nemo was, after all, the original ecological avenger.

**Tigers:** We are continuing our current novel, *The Hobbit*. We are reading this together to share the enjoyment of the story together, as well as provide key moments to evaluate the text, devices of literature, and author's purpose. It is important to note how writers make purposeful choices, which in turn inform learners of their own decision-making process in writing. In the midst of our novel study, students continue to write every day, develop weekly vocabulary, and complete grammar on both the computerized IXL system and peer lead lessons in class. Opportunities to review and critique other students' product will remain a powerful tool for exploring effective use of language.

**Black Panthers:** The Panthers are in the early sections of the novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Students are noting the complex moral, ethical, and legal themes explored in the novel. As we continue to write essays, they will delve into and expand upon some of the flaws in humanity that still haunt us today. I'm looking forward to the debate prompted by various concepts of justice or revenge, and our continued Writers' Circle analysis to sharpen student skill. Amid this we maintain our daily ISN entries, vocabulary lessons, and grammar.

Again, thank you for sharing your amazing kids with us here at Pinnacle Prep. Together we will blaze a new path for success for every child.

# Science Lab News

*Mrs. Hozie*

The Zebras finished up a study of different biomes across the earth, how plants and animals adapt to those biomes, and how an ecosystem tries to stay in balance. More recently, the Zebras have been looking at food webs, photosynthesis, predator-prey relationships, and interdependency. Sounds like a lot, but these students are eager to learn.

Wolves have been working on a robotic hand design project. With it, we have been covering electricity and basic circuits. Now, we are switching gears and studying animal adaptations. Students are writing a research paper on a chosen animal, highlighting those special traits (physical, behavioral, and physiological) that help them survive in their environment.

Tigers have been doing a deep dive into the workings of the brain and nervous system. Tangent topics covered include the mechanics of the eye and sight, how the brain can be deceived through optical illusions, color blindness, and the electromagnetic spectrum.

Our Panthers have been doing some CSI training including the importance of observation as opposed to just "seeing." They have been discovering how important chemistry knowledge is to solving crimes. As they progress, each student is increasing their mastery of atoms, elements, and the periodic table as well as how our nervous system communicates.

In leadership, we are studying the first habit of effective students: BE RESPONSIBLE. BE PROACTIVE. It is the habit of "personal vision." Students are exploring their ability to choose how they respond to life and how they practice good "self-talk." We have talked about carrying your own weather. Seeing the world with new eyes by knowing that integrity can be greater than moods. Beginning this week, students will be practicing on focusing their time and energy on things they can control (circle of influence) in lieu of reacting to or worrying about conditions over which they have little or no control (circle of concern). In so doing, they will become more RESPONSE-ABLE. "Who I am is not determined by what happens to me, but by how I choose to respond to it."

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