K-1 News
March

Pinnacle Charter School

Miss Clark's K-1

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Math

This month the students will be learning how to measure to the nearest inch and the nearest centimeter. They will practice telling time to the hour and the half hour. Last December the students learned how to count combination of pennies and nickels. This month we will add dimes to the mix. The most difficult part of counting coins for the children is learning how to count by 10s, then by 5s and then by 1s without going back and starting from 0. A great way to help your child count coins is to play coin exchange. Even though we haven't covered quarters yet it would be helpful to start working on them with your child at home.

Coin Exchange- Math Game from Everyday Math
Materials: 20 pennies, 10 nickels, 10 dimes, 2 quarters, 2 dice and 1 sheet of paper labeled "Bank"
Players: 2
Skill: coin equivalencies
Object of the Game: to have more money
Directions:

1. Place all of the coins in the "Bank."
2. Players take turns, When it is your turn, roll both dice and collect from the bank the amount shown on the dice.
3. Whenever you can:

- Exchange 5 pennies for a nickel in the bank
- Exchange 2 nickels , or 5 pennies and 1 nickel for a dime
- Exchange a combination of nickels and dimes for a quarter

MONTHLY REMINDERS:

- **The last day of the second trimester is Thursday, March 31st**
- **5,6 and 7 year old children should get 10-12 hours of sleep each night**
- **Don't forget to sign your child's behavior calendar each night!**

The end of the trimester is quickly approaching. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for **Friday, April 1st.** I will send home a sign– up sheet. Please remember that the school requires parents to meet with their child's teacher at least once during the year. There will be no parent–teacher conference's at the end of the third trimester.

Theme of the Month: Community

Long Ago vs. Today

Social Studies: Essential Question: How are patterns in communities evident?

This month we'll continue learning about what makes up a community. We'll talk about different types of stores, homes, churches, restaurants and parks. We will talk about what people need to survive and what they want. Then we'll talk about how they go about getting these things in their community. Students will be looking at maps and learning how different communities can be mapped. They will learn about the different types of jobs and careers that keep each community in working order. Students will be asked to write about their own communities and about what type of job or career they would like to pursue when they grow up.

Writing

A great way to help your child become a better writer is to have him/her keep a journal. Everyday when your child gets home from school have them write about what happened that day. Before they begin writing you can ask them questions to get them thinking. For example, "What did you do during centers today?" or "What happened during clubs? Try not to spell any words for you child or correct them if the spelling is wrong. In K-1 students are encouraged to stretch out a word and then write down the letters that make the sounds they here. Remind your child that all sentences start with a capital letter, end with punctuation and have spaces between words. When finished, have your child go back and read what they wrote to make sure it makes sense. If it doesn't have them fix it.

Spelling Words

The last three spelling tests of the second trimester will focus on the digraphs sh, ch, wh and th. Their spelling words will have the digraphs at the beginning and at the end. By focusing on these chunks in words the students will become accustomed to reading though an entire word and not just looking at the first letter to figure out what the word is.

Science Fair

Pinnacle will be holding its annual science fair this month on the 18th. Even though K-1 students will not be doing work for it, there will be activities and experiments for them to do at the fair while they walk around and see the work the older students have done. This is a great way to see what your child will do at Pinnacle in a few years.

How You Can Help at Home

Our trimester break is quickly approaching. The students will have a few weeks off. In the past students have had a difficult time remembering what they have learned after they come back from a break. Here are some suggestions for activities you can do with your child over the break:

- www.starfall.com (phonics and reading skills)
- Go to the Buffalo Public Library and pick out at least two books for your child to read each week
- Ask you child questions about the order in which things happen, why things happen and what could happen next
- Ask your child to spell old spelling words– practice the words your child missed
- Ask your child basic addition and subtraction math facts

I will be sending home work for the break. Try not to help your child while they are working on it. This will help you to see what your child is capable of doing on their own without prompting from an adult. When they are finished you can go over it with them and correct any mistakes.