



January Newsletter 2021

Happy New Year!

May 2021 give you and your family an abundance of blessings.

In **Math 7** this month the students will continue to use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions, and simplify algebraic equations and inequalities. The students will begin to translate verbal phrases to mathematical expressions. The students will also continue to reinforce and extend their understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with rational numbers and apply their understanding of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.

In **Math 8** the students will be studying angle relationships that are formed when two parallel lines are cut by a transversal. Then they extended this information to understand why a triangle has a sum of interior angles equal to 180° and why the exterior angles of a triangle is the sum of the two remote interior angles of the triangle. Later we will explore the Pythagorean Theorem.

In **Language Arts** we are concluding a unit on facing adversity. To knit both the fiction and nonfiction stories together we will read the novel, *A Long Walk To Water*. This tells the struggles of Salva, a Lost Boy, as he tries to survive in a war torn country. As students read they will be asked to cite textual evidence and determine the central idea. They will determine the connotative, and technical meaning of words as they are used in writing. They will also learn to analyze how structure is used to convey meaning, and determine the author's point of view and purpose. We will continue to work on the elements of writing, the use of transition words and finding the main idea and theme. The $\frac{7}{8}$ Cohort is reading *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. We defined the aspects of a fable and an allegory. To lay an historic foundation we also took a look at the events of the Russian Revolution and

the birth of communism. This novel will fit nicely into the social studies curriculum.

In **Social Studies** we will continue to follow the path of the brave and innovative figures that stood up to England and demanded a voice in government. Students will follow the chronological timeline of the American Revolution and determine the causes and effects of this great endeavor. They will focus on key events and figures and use different text structures to get a clear picture of the 1700's. Then we will explore how our new nation created an independent government. The 7/8 Cohort is immersed in an early reform movement that focused on the issues of slavery and women's rights. This will provide a base for sectionalism and the Civil War.

In **Science**, we are continuing our exploration of genetics. By now students are familiar with inherited and acquired traits, and will use this knowledge to make observations about how animals use behavior to increase chances of survival and reproduction. We will also be drawing comparisons between animal migration patterns and human movement patterns.

In **Religion** the students are studying the Good News that God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. We will begin the month looking at the synoptic Gospels written by evangelists Matthew, Luke, and Mark. Later this month the students will explore the Gospel of John, specifically how he explores the mystery of the Incarnation.

God Bless,
Mrs. Balcanoff