February News 2021
Grade 7

February begins with the celebration of Catholic Schools. During the first week of February be sure to follow the calendar for the upcoming activities and dress down days.

In **Math 7** this month the students consolidate and expand upon their understanding of equivalent expressions as they apply the properties of operations to write expressions in both standard form and in factored form. They use linear equations to solve unknown angle problems and other problems presented within context to understand that solving algebraic equations is all about the numbers. Students use the number line to understand the properties of inequality and recognize when to preserve the inequality and when to reverse the inequality when solving problems leading to inequalities. Later this month they interpret solutions within the context of problems.

In **Science 7** the students are working on ecosystems. The students are looking at different factors that can affect a species population. The 7th grade is also discussing types of ecosystems and the habitats in them, as well as how organisms interact with one another in these varying habitats.

In **Language Arts** we are reading *A Long Walk to Water*. As students read they will be asked to cite textual evidence and determine the central idea. They will make inferences about characters, analyze their actions and support their claim. Then we will complete a unit on the elements of writing, the use of transition words and providing supporting details to expand and enhance our written responses.

In **Social Studies**, we will take an in-depth look at the structure of our government. We will investigate the origins of our democratic ideals, the roles of three branches of government and our system of checks and balances. We will see how it worked for the young nation from 1789-1800. We will also research George Washington's administration, the economy of Alexander Hamilton, foreign policy and the rise of political parties.

In **Earth Science**, students will study erosion and deposition. Deposition is the geological process by which sediments, soil, and rocks are added to a landform or land mass. Wind, water and ice, transport previously eroded sediment. At the loss of enough kinetic energy in the fluid, sediment is deposited and accumulated. Students will complete labs that will highlight this process and study its effects.

In **Math 8** students will begin to study about translations, reflections, and rotations in the coordinate plane and, more importantly, how to use them to precisely define the concept of congruence. Students will explore the definitions and properties of the basic rigid motions, as they verify experimentally their basic properties. Later this month the students will study and explore the Pythagorean Theorem.

Stay Warm,

Mrs. Balcanoff