



Grade 7 Newsletter March 2021

Spring is almost here and we are ready for it!

In **Social Studies**, we are taking 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. Then we will focus on the Jefferson administration and the Louisiana Purchase.

In **Language Arts** the students will focus on writing skills. Together we will read a variety of both fiction and nonfiction selections that highlight the attribute of courage. The stories include the lives of Clara Barton, Rosa Parks and the Pea Island Rescue crew. Then we will pull all the information together into an expository essay. We will also complete a unit on figurative language. We will continue to work on finding the main idea and theme in preparation for the Common Core NY State ELA Test. Students should read each evening to build stamina and background.

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 **Math 7** students are completing the unit on inequalities. Later this month they will begin to explore how to use samples to draw inferences. The students begin their study of probability, learning how to interpret probabilities and how to compute probabilities in simple settings. They also learn how to estimate probabilities empirically. We will also begin preparing for the NYS Math test later this spring.

In **Earth Science**, students will wrap up our exploration of weathering, erosion, and deposition. Later this month we will begin our study of our

weather and climate. In this unit, students observe models and analyze data to learn how the interplay between atmospheric variables such as temperature, air pressure, and moisture leads to the typical and sometimes extreme weather events that humans experience. Analyzing weather data to make predictions is a key part of this unit and the students' understanding of how weather patterns can help us to predict future weather events. Coming up we are going to be looking more at our footprint and how what we do can have positive and negative impacts on our ecosystem as well as ecosystems around the globe.

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.



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day.