



## 7th Grade April Newsletter 2021

Our days are getting brighter as spring is here!

In **Math 7** 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. The concept of probability provides a foundation for the thinking required to make inferential reasoning that is developed in the second half of this unit. Additionally, students will build on their knowledge of data distributions that they studied in earlier grades, compare data distributions of two or more populations, and are introduced to the idea of drawing informal inferences based on data collected from random samples.

In **Science 7** this month the students will be investigating waves and electromagnetic radiation. They will learn about the properties of waves and how they transmit energy. Your child will also explore sound, the electromagnetic spectrum, and how light interacts with matter. In the following weeks of study, the unit will provide the students with a deepening understanding of waves and electromagnetic radiation

In **Social Studies** we are investigating the opposing viewpoints developing within the new nation and the birth of political factions. We also are comparing the differing views of Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton. Next we will look at the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, the War of 1812 and US industrialization.

In **Language Arts** we are focusing on a unit entitled "Generations". Through a variety of both fiction and nonfiction selections we will investigate what one generation can learn from another. Mrs. Nuzzo is also reading a novel with the class. The ELA Common Core test is scheduled for April. We are reading practice stories and questions to develop strategies for success. We will also refine our writing skills as we focus on written responses that tackle the question and provide text evidence. Students should read each evening to build stamina and background.

In **Earth Science** the 7th graders have been studying The Earth's Changing Surface. A unit that focuses on some processes that change Earth's surface slowly, over a long period of time, or abruptly. In order for students to develop an understanding that the surface is constantly changing, they take part in a variety of guided inquiries geared towards scaffolding this understanding. Last month students explored the study of physical and chemical weathering, erosion and deposition. Students can now apply

their understanding of these processes as they investigate the formation of rocks and the cycle of changes they go through in a lifetime. This month the students will be learning about the atmosphere and the science behind weather forecasts. Later they will study the effects of climate change with global warming.

In **Math 8** the students have learned about translations, reflections, and rotations in the plane and, more importantly, how to use them to precisely define the concept of congruence. Up to this point, congruence has been taken to mean, intuitively, same size and same shape. Translations, reflections, and rotations are examples of rigid motions, which are, intuitively, rules of moving points in the plane in such a way that preserves distance. What needs to be emphasized is that the importance of these basic rigid motions lies not in the fun activities they bring but in the mathematical purpose they serve in clarifying the meaning of congruence. Later this month the students will be shown the “square within a square” proof of the Pythagorean theorem.

Don't forget to get out and enjoy the sun this spring!

Best,  
Mrs. Balcanoff