



## 6-2 TEAM NEWS

### **English Language Arts**

In December, we will continue with the Critical Literacy unit for Reading Workshop. This unit focuses on reading to deepen our interpretation of how authors craft stories to convey messages. The essential question for this unit is: *How can we read to be alert to social issues and analyze how authors develop perspectives and power dynamics in stories and other texts?*

For our December Writing Workshop, we will continue to look at the Literary Essay and how to elevate the complexity of our writing. This unit helps students understand that writing can be a way to hold onto one's thinking about a particular subject or text, and to help them clarify and elaborate on that thinking.

For January, we will begin the Nonfiction unit for Reading Workshop. This unit will focus on text complexity as we learn to tackle more dense nonfiction, synthesizing ideas and details while increasing our knowledge of text and broadening our interests.

For our January Writing Workshop, we will look at Information Writing and how to add to our knowledge by using research-based topics.

Please remind your child to read each school night for 30 minutes.

### **Math**

#### **Math 6/7**

Students are continuing to work with expressions and equations. In this unit, we will begin solving equations and translate, solve, and graph inequalities. We continue to address both Math 6 and Math 7 learning targets in our math studies.

#### **Math 6**

In Math 6, we are continuing our unit on Integers and the Coordinate Plane. This involves working in all four quadrants and working with positive and negative numbers. Students have begun working with reflections of coordinate points in the coordinate plane. We will take our knowledge of the coordinate plane and apply it in our geometry unit where students will create shapes by plotting points and then finding both area and perimeter.

### **World Geography**

December and January will be spent studying Europe and Russia. We look forward to investigating the influence of Europe on other regions of the world. Students will describe how life in different European regions relates to other regions of the world. Our geographers will also analyze modern Russia and its evolution to the federation it is today.

### **Science**

December is a month we'll devote to the study of living organisms/biology. We will start with the basics of cells and some specific differences between plant and animal cells. We'll continue to emphasize the difference between uni- versus multi-cellular. We should have a chance to take a look at some small organisms and other prepared slides using microscopes.

In January we'll learn how cells build up to an entire multicellular organism with special emphasis and some research on specific human organ systems. Additionally, characteristics of living things and an overview of photosynthesis are on the horizon.

Throughout the year we'll be utilizing our science notebooks to keep track of everything. Additionally, graphing skills and experimental design are a theme throughout the year. We spent quite a lot of time early in the year laying the foundation for this skill set.