

# Peek at the Week

## 12/19–12/21

From the classrooms of Ms. Friedman & Mrs. Walls

**Announcements:** Even though the snow is gone, we are asking students to bring full gear on hike days. It can be soggy and icy out on the trails and we want students to stay warm and dry. On Wednesday next week (12/21) we are having our annual Winter Festival. Students will spend the afternoon doing different activities that will most likely get them dirty. They need to have all of their gear for the festival (coat, snow pants, hat, gloves, boots).

### STEM

**So Far:** Students began learning about how rectangles can have lengths and widths represented by expressions such as  $(x+1)$  or  $(2x-3)$ . When this happens, they now can multiply those amounts to find the inside area expression. In science, they designed experiments using the material salol, to test how different variables, such as time or space, can change the size of the crystals in an igneous rock.

**Coming Up:** Due to the Winter Festival, 8th grade will only meet twice this week. We will spend that time learning how to write lab reports to share the results from the salol experiments as well as beginning to explore how to solve systems of equations, particularly when they are not in the  $y=mx+b$  format that the 8th graders are used to seeing.

### HUMANITIES

**So Far:** This week we continued to work on grammar and are struggling a bit to fully understand and identify prepositions and adjectives. We also started the next Word Up Unit (7) and wrote some shape poetry. Students showed a high level of creativity in their poetry. We are also cementing our understanding of market systems in Economics and practicing our typing speed and accuracy.

**Coming Up:** In the short week ahead we will work on writing a rhyming poem, take a quiz on market systems, wrap up our current Word Up unit, and work toward mastery of pronouns and prepositions in grammar.

### DEVELOPMENTAL DESIGN TOOL OF THE WEEK

An important part of our daily Morning Meetings is the daily news. Students are expected to come in every morning and read the message waiting for them in the classroom. These daily news highlight everything from the day's schedule to important reminders about upcoming tests. The messages always conclude with some sort of daily question, ranging from the simple "What did you do this weekend?" to the more thought-provoking "What would you do if you won the lottery?" This helps establish a daily routine of getting started right away, give extra reminders to those students who may need them, and give students a chance to think ahead for what they will share during morning meeting. The daily news can also be a chance to review prior learning with the inclusion of vocabulary words, grammar, and concepts from previous lessons.