

# Peek at the Week

## 1/30–2/3

From the classrooms of Ms. Friedman & Mrs. Walls

**Announcements:** Even though we are still having some rather warm days, students are required to be wearing a coat outside at all times. If students want to spend time outside during recess, they must also have boots. 8th grade will be going on a hike Wednesday of this week. They need all gear for the hike.

### STEM

**So Far:** The 8th grade “chemists” finally uncovered the “mystery mixture,” of baking soda and citric acid! They got their first look at the periodic table and some history behind its creation. In math, students continued their work on systems of equations and different methods to use in finding the solutions, or where the lines may meet on a graph.

**Coming Up:** Science will start this week with investigating how elements are used in everyday products at home. If you have any empty packages of food, cosmetics or medicine, send them in! We also begin to develop ways to collect gas. In math, students will wrap up Chapter 6 this week. Not only will they have a quiz on Tuesday, but the final test on Friday! Please make sure they are preparing at home.

### HUMANITIES

**So Far:** Much of this week was spent critiquing the poems students have been writing over the past few weeks. Students are now ready to choose their favorite and write a second draft. We were also introduced to the geography text we will be using. Students also finished unit 10 of Word Up and took a quiz on GDP and inflation.

**Coming Up:** This week we will delve more deeply into geography with an exploration of the tools geographers use to interpret and create maps. We will continue working on vocabulary and editing our poems. Students will work toward publishing their poem by the end of the week.

### DEVELOPMENTAL DESIGN TOOL OF THE WEEK

In the Fall 2011 Minnesota Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) newsletter, a featured article described homework as a tool to enhance and reinforce learning. This is probably the most common reason given for homework. However, the article also went on to explain that homework helps students develop their own personal-learning strategies and develop self-regulating skills. Dr. Richard Cash wrote, “In more recent work by Cooper and colleagues (2006), they applied meta-analytic studies to the controversy regarding homework and concluded that students who complete homework not only achieve higher scores in school but, just as importantly, are more likely to have developed strategies to manage time, are well prepared for school, and have a more positive attitude toward school. All of these are considered self-regulation skills.” This year at CRSS, we added a percentage score for homework completion on the report card in an effort to help hold students accountable. This also supports the DD philosophy that it is important to provide students opportunities to build the skills they need to be successful in learning after their school years. It is our number one goal that our students are continuing to build the self-regulation and study skills they will need to be successful in school and life.