

# NEWSLETTER

## PALI TRIP



## AWARDS



### Important Dates:

- 02/2 - 2/4: Middle School PALI Trip
- 02/07: Clash of the Classes Event
- 02/16 - 2/20: No School
- 02/25: Minimum Day
- 02/27: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Grad. Photos
- 02/27: Spirit Dress " Career Day"

### Mr. Valencia-Barron

7<sup>th</sup> grade scholars are currently reading an excerpt from *The Giver* and discussing point of view and story elements. 8<sup>th</sup> grader scholars are reading an excerpt from *The Diary of Anne Frank* and focusing on informational text elements. In writing, both grade levels are focusing on research, credible sources, citing and critiquing sources, and using research to strengthen a claim.

Scholars in ELA support have been receiving additional practice with writing fundamentals, as well as continuing work with context clues and active reading strategies. Scholars in Journalism have begun a brief introductory lesson on the topic of headlines.

### Mr. Whipple

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, we are learning geometric constructions in tandem with reading the novel *Flatland*, a book about space, geometry, flexible mindsets, and the folly of rigid thinking.

In Computer Science, we are making our own adventure games! We will be using branching narratives with *if/else/elif* statements.

In Math Intervention, we are practicing performance tasks for the CAASPP. 8<sup>th</sup> grade has finished theirs and will begin skills review later this month.

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## Mr. Reyes

*7th Grade History: Students have completed their unit on Medieval Japan, where they learned about Shintoism, the daily life of samurai, and fashion trends of the time period. To wrap up the unit, students created their own samurai characters, complete with names and original haikus. Once Japanese cultural projects are presented, students will begin learning about Medieval China.*

*8th Grade History: Students explored the early challenges of the United States as it formed as a nation. Lessons focused on the differences between foreign and domestic policy, as well as the often-overlooked War of 1812. After finishing presentations for the Presidents Project, students will move into a new unit on westward expansion.*

## Ms. Hasselberg

*In 7th grade science, students completed geologic time period posters, studying Earth's changes from the Ordovician to the Quaternary. We are now learning how processes shape Earth and will move into Earth's systems.*

*In 8th grade science, students are finishing the non-contact forces unit and have been exploring gravity, magnetism, and electrostatic forces. Students will have a unit test covering the solar system and non-contact forces coming up.*

*In Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering, students are learning about biomimicry—how nature can be used to solve engineering and environmental problems. Students are creating a presentation on a real-world example of biomimicry and will identify a problem in their life or surroundings, then develop a solution inspired by an organism (plant or animal).*

*In Spanish, we have been focusing on vocabulary building through lists and games. We are moving into conjugating regular verbs ending in -ar, -er, and -ir.*

## Service / Leadership

*In Community Leadership, students continue to work on our Water Wells for Africa fundraiser by collecting spare change from parents outside of school to support communities in need of clean water. Later this month, students will also be writing thank-you letters to local firefighters to show appreciation for their service to our community.*

## Reminders

*Each week, scholars should complete 45 minutes of Edmentum per subject (Reading, Language, and Math) and 200 minutes of Lexia Power Up.*

*Please review/sign your scholar's Weekly Assignment Tracker to ensure they have completed and submitted their assignments.*