

**7th Grade  
Blue House  
Newsletter  
February  
2023**



# February & March Reminders

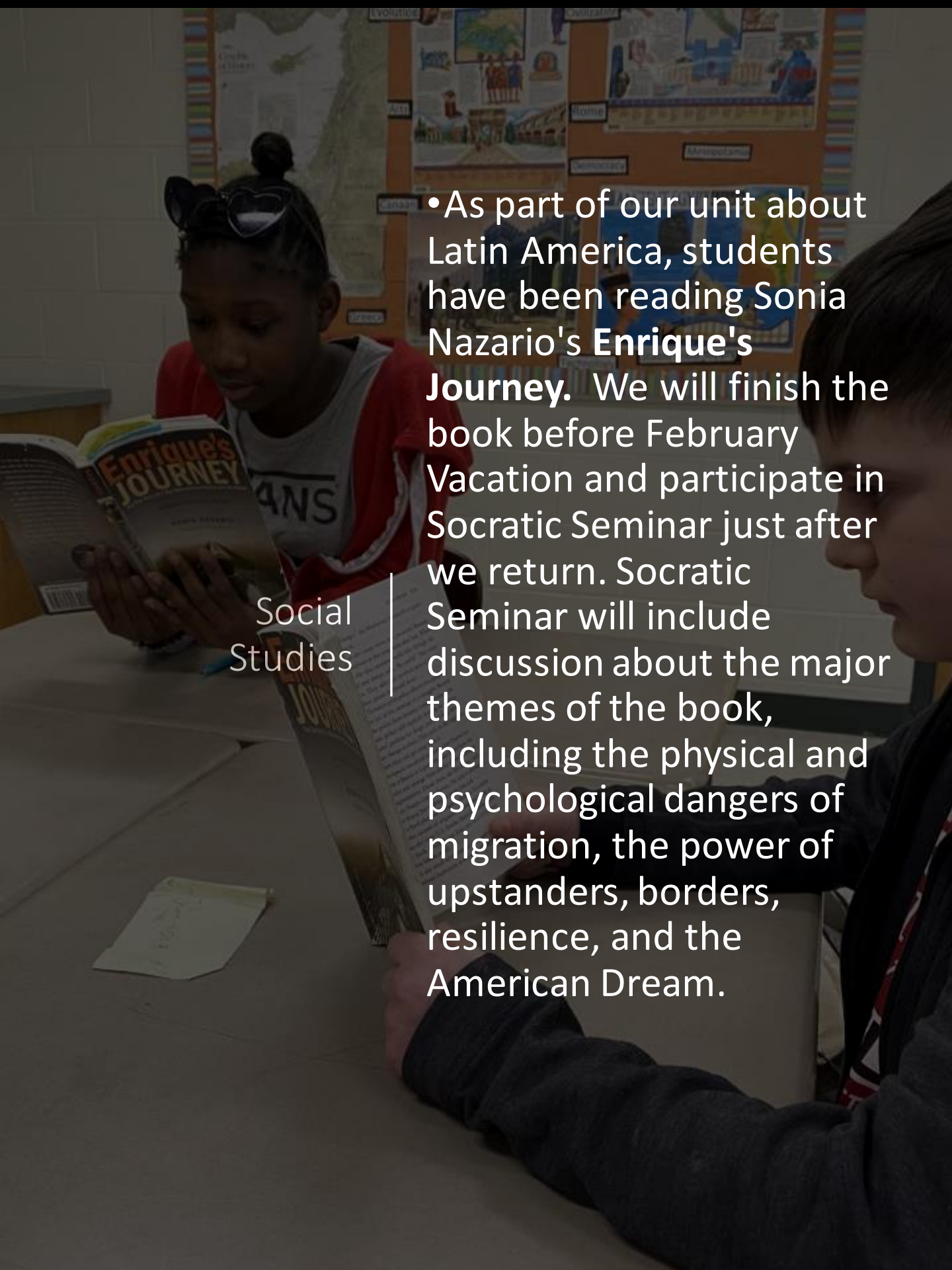


- February Vacation: 2/20-2/24
- **March 17:** This is a Professional Day for teachers. Students will have no school.
- Please continue to remind your students to charge devices at home.
- Pictures from "lights out" today.



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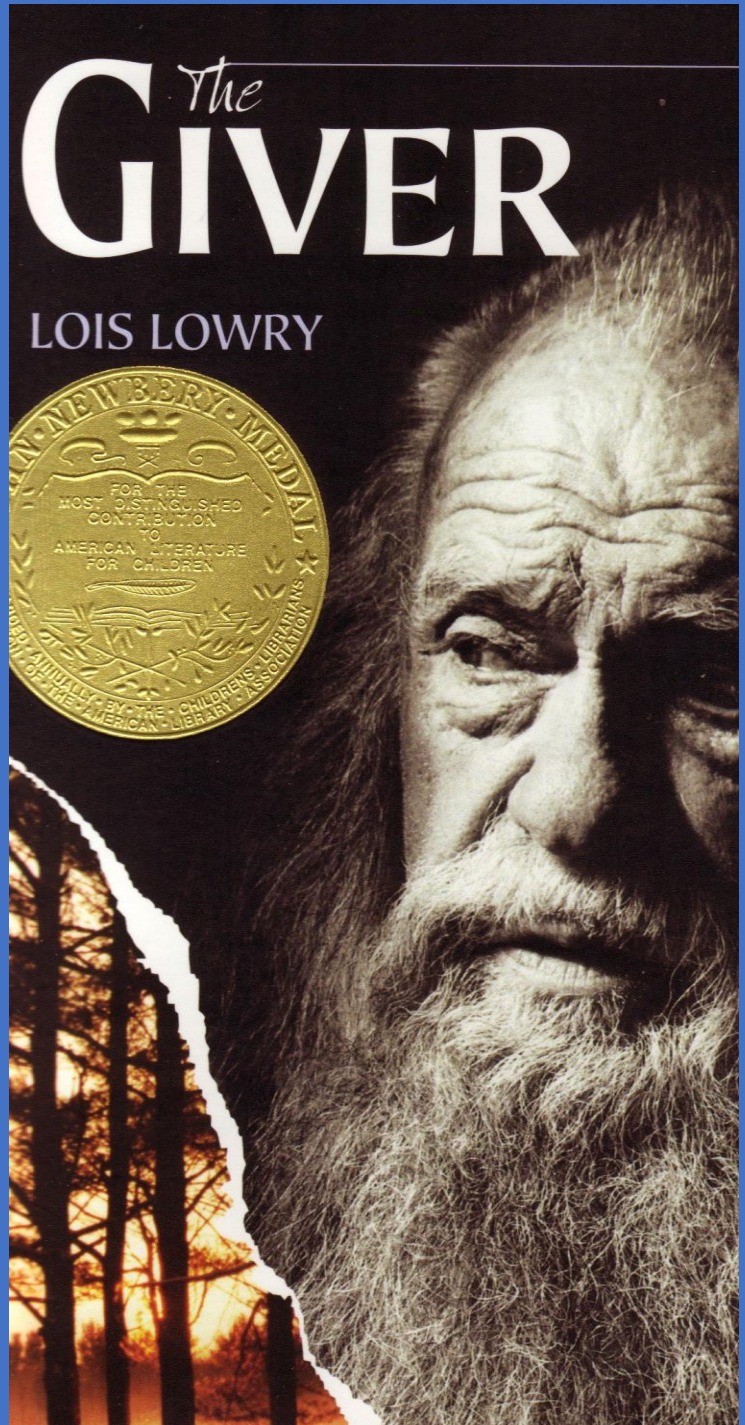


Social  
Studies

•As part of our unit about Latin America, students have been reading Sonia Nazario's **Enrique's Journey**. We will finish the book before February Vacation and participate in Socratic Seminar just after we return. Socratic Seminar will include discussion about the major themes of the book, including the physical and psychological dangers of migration, the power of upstanders, borders, resilience, and the American Dream.

# Mr. Walker- ELA

- We have started our novel unit by exploring the themes and insightful questions in the Newbery Award winning book, *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry.
- This story questions ideas around freedom, peace, control, relationships, and community.
- We will be reading the novel until February vacation. Following the break, students will be constructing an involved literary essay before we move on to our fourth unit of the year- an argumentative unit on the topic of social media.



# Mrs. Ryan-Math

Thank you for helping design our awesome winter themed door!



All Blue House Math classes are working on expressions. We are learning to combine like terms, use distributive property and factor linear expressions.

**All classes will take an Expressions Assessment the week of February 6-10.**



# Science



## Physics is Phun!!!!

We are now in the Physical Science portion of the year and the students are enjoying the labs. We have started Kinetic & Potential Energy. Students have been calculating their speeds & the amount of KE they have at each speed. We are moving into how the mass of an object affects its Kinetic Energy today.



Meet Sandy! Sandy the leopard gecko is our new classroom pet, who was donated by a former student in her family.

MRS. FELPER &  
MRS. MCTIGUE

Seventh graders write in all content areas. Recently, they've been responding to two texts, "Enrique's Journey", in Social Studies, and "The Giver", in English. In the Academic Lab, we're reinforcing the writing skills taught in these classes by providing additional instruction and guided practice. The seventh graders are sharpening their writing skills so that they can compose a cohesive response that is on topic, developed with details, and supported by specific text evidence.

This visual from Empowering Writers is a good reminder of what good writers do when they're responding to text.

**ELABORATION TOOLS FOR RESPONSE TO TEXT TASKS**

When writing in response to text, it's important to cite evidence from the source material without copying word for word. Here are some ways to cite evidence in interesting ways:

- **SUMMARIZE**  
In a sentence or two, summarize the topic and main ideas of the source material.
- **PARAPHRASING**  
In your own words, rephrase specific details in the source material in order to support your summary.
- **CITE THE SOURCE TEXT**  
Cite specific words, phrases, examples from the source material, using quotation marks to indicate the source author's exact words.

Seventh graders are also solving multi-stepped math problems with positive and negative numbers. In the Academic Lab, we remind ourselves of the 'integer rules' often, so that calculation errors are avoided. The students are understanding that these rules really do need to be followed and mastered in order to apply all the new concepts being studied.

This is a copy of the rules for calculating with positive and negative numbers.

+++++ Adding Integers +++++

**SAME signs -**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - ADD
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Keep the Sign

Examples:  $-4 + -7 = -11$        $5 + 3 = 8$

**DIFFERENT signs -**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Think about the chips... "What is there more of?"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Think, "By how much?"

Examples:  

	$-12 + 9 =$	$16 + -4 =$
What is there more of?	Negative	Positive
By how much?	3	12
Answer	$-12 + 9 = -3$	$16 + -4 = 12$

----- Subtracting Integers -----

1<sup>st</sup> - Change to ADD THE OPPOSITE.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Follow the Rules for Adding Integers.

Examples:  
 $4 - 7$  is the same as  $4 + -7$        $-13 - -2$  is the same as  $-13 + 2$   
 $4 + -7 = -3$        $-13 + 2 = -11$

xxxxx Multiplying and Dividing Integers +++++

SAME sign (or even number of negatives) = POSITIVE answer

DIFFERENT sign (or odd number of negatives) = NEGATIVE answer

Examples:  $-(-4)(-5) = +20$        $24 \div (-6) = -4$   
 $(-2)^3 = -2 \times -2 \times -2 = -8$



# Spanish – Sra.



## Cordone

- For quarter 3, students are encouraged to create original sentences and questions. We have been working on this daily and students are doing great!



- What is your true passion? People may think they know you, but do they really know you?
- In our most recent story, we talked about a student's true passion. Ask your child today about their class story!





