



# 5th Grade Updates

January 11, 2019

Exciting Events	Willow Creek Community
<p><b>January 16th: De Young Art Museum -</b> Please let your classroom parent know whether you can drive, and if so, how many students.</p> <p><b>January 21st: NO SCHOOL- MLK Day</b> As usual, there is a celebration in Marin City of his life. For details, please look at the school wide Friday Post.</p> <p><b>January 29th: Colonial Night @5pm</b> in the MPR.</p> <p>Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for details. The event will go from 5-7:30, with a break in the middle (6-6:30) for potluck dinner.</p>	<p><b>Integrity</b> is the character trait of the month. We have been focusing on the meaning as follows: Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching!</p> <p><b>Changes in HOMEWORK:</b> <b>Next week geography is off the homework calendar! We switching Friday geography quizzes to math drills.</b> We noticed there is a big need for multiplication fact practice. We want our students to be well prepared for middle school and are prioritizing this.</p> <p>Reading: The students started a new literature circle book and they might have reading or packet work assigned based on what they finish in class. The 50 minutes of homework is broke down like this:</p> <p>20 minutes: Math 10 minutes: Writing 20 minutes: Reading</p>

## Curriculum Corner

### **Math:**

This past week, we have been learning about GRAPHING. We are learning the vocabulary x-axis, y-axis, x-coordinate, y-coordinate, data. We have been studying how an increase is represented by a line trending up, and that the steepness of the line represents the rate of increase. Posted on the Google classroom are a few videos for you and yours to watch for further clarification.

### **Science**

We started our new unit on Earth Science. We outlined that there are 4 'spheres' that interact on the earth- Hydro, Bio, Geo and Atmo. We reviewed examples of how they interact, and what the impacts can be. We began by posing an engaging question about the 1920's Dust Bowl here in the Great Plains of the US. We asked: What caused the Dust Bowl?

### **Reading**

In class, we are reading books that take place between 1600-1745 in the US. They are mostly historical fiction: Indian Captive (true story), Chains, Arrow Over the Door, The Witch of Blackbird Pond, The Sign of the Beaver, Blood on the River, and The Color of Fire. These novels will expose the students to 'colonial life and times' stories, which will help students imagine what life was like for the colonial character.

### **Writing**

We are now in the third bend of our Writers Workshop unit on Informational Writing. Students will create a Colonial Character through writing about them in the third or first person. Students will tell the story of that character -- their family, why they came to the Colony, what their 'trade' or 'role' is there. This will, in two weeks' time lead us to Colonial Night, where students will perform a piece based on their character.

**ELA/Social Studies - Unit 2: Colonization of North America**

Students will research the 'day in the life' of their colonial character using their own writing as a resource! Social Studies and writing are aligned this week. This culminating project will be a performance a speech as their character.

## References

[Homework Calendar Link](#)

**Math:**

Website: [www.pearsonrealize.com](http://www.pearsonrealize.com)

Login: Willow Creek email address --

For most students that is [firstinitiallastname@stu.willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@stu.willowcreekacademy.org)

**Example:** [jdoe@stu.willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jdoe@stu.willowcreekacademy.org)

Password: Wca31 \_ \_ \_ (followed by their student number) **Ex:** Wca31000

Website: [Dreambox](#)

Login: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/z7a8/willowca>

Username: (firstinitial)(lastname) **Example:** jschmidt

Password: Wca31 \_ \_ \_ (followed by their student number) **Ex:** Wca31000

[Multiplication Blaster Game](#)

[Multiplication Games](#)

**Science:**

Website: [Mystery Science](#) Our current unit is Watery Planet!

**Contact Info:**

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**5th Grade Specials:**

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2:20-3:00 <b>P.E.</b>	8:35-9:00 <b>Library</b> (every other week)  1:10-2:00 <b>Music</b> (St. Denny) <b>Art</b> (Schmidt )	10:20-11:10 <b>Music</b> (Schmidt) <b>Art</b> (St. Denny)	10:20-11:00 <b>P.E.</b>