



5th Grade Updates

November 9, 2018

Exciting Events	Willow Creek Community
<p>November 12: No School-Veterans Day November 16 - End of Trimester 1 November 19-23: No School-Thanksgiving Week</p>	<p>There was a devastating event with a 2nd grader's family this week. If your child knows about it, there are counselors on deck ready to talk to students to help them process. Please let your teacher know if those services would be helpful for your child.</p>

Curriculum Corner

Math:

This week we added and subtracted mixed fractions! That is when there is a whole number and fractional part. Some students even began borrowing fractions with subtraction, but this is not meant to be mastered this year. Students can add or subtract fractions with visuals of fractions bars, clocks, or on a number line. Our unit test will be next Thursday!

Science

We learned about the other parts of our ecosystem, producers and decomposers. Unlike consumers who eat other organisms, producers are plants that make their food through photosynthesis. We showed how plants get their mass from the air itself, by proving air has mass in a balloon. Then we learned about the next elements very important role, decomposers! Fungi; which is mushrooms and mold, break down all the dead plant and animal matter into simpler parts. Not only do they make sure dead things don't just collect on the surface, but they leave behind soil with micronutrients. This fortifies producers, which feed consumers, and the circle of life continues! We made a "mold terrarium" with fruits in a plastic bag, and where each group came up with one variable to test to see if it improves or slows mold's growth. We will record the growth over the next 10 days.

Reading

We are reading 5 different books in small groups. For the next few weeks, we'll be reading historical fiction books that are mostly about pre-Columbian Native American experiences. We meet with small groups twice each week to discuss the book, answer questions, define new words and learn to love to read and discuss our reading. We are reading:

Sees Behind Trees by Michael Dorris; Morning Girl by Michael Dorris, Children of the Longhouse by Joseph Bruchac; Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich; and To Spoil the Sun by Joyce Rockwood.

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

The next era in our history is the "age of exploration" starting with Columbus and many other famous explorers. Since exploring implies finding something peacefully, the students came up with a different term, "takers" or "conquerors" We read part of the Zinn's chapter from his adapted book A Young People's History of the United States about Columbus and his spark for others to come to

the “new world”. The 3 G’s that motivated Europeans where: Gold, Glory, and God. We traced routes and discussed the devastating impact of diseases brought on the Native populations of North and South America. This sets the stage for the first colonies of the United States.

References

[Homework Calendar Link](#)

Math:

Website: www.pearsonrealize.com

Login: Willow Creek email address --

For most students that is firstinitiallastname@stu.willowcreekacademy.org

Example: 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 next unit will be the Web of Life!

Contact Info:

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5th Grade Specials:

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