



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - December 14, 2018

Dear Willow Creek families,

We hope you had a good week! Here's the news from our middle school team:

Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars: Gabrielle Myers and Maeyana Vogt!

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade: We began this week with students concentrating on 'book club' work. Students have been pushing themselves to do club work that fuels reading plans and deeper thoughtful talk. They have been asking themselves, "What moves do book club members make so that they grow ideas *together*?"

We ended the week with students understanding how power dynamics between characters affect relationships by asking, "Who has more power in this relationship? Who has less? How does this power differential cause trouble in the relationship?"

Eighth Grade: As we near the end of Bend I, students have been pausing in their readings to consider trouble, to locate that trouble in a relationship, and to think about how the trouble is not just about one or the other character, but somehow connected to them both.

As we enter Bend II, the focus shifts toward issues that are more systemic in nature. Students will consider how group issues are often related to power issues and start practicing analyzing how group power dynamics are playing out in a story.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th and 8th Grade Announcements:

We spent most of the week engaged on MAP testing.

We will be introducing new units for 7th and 8th grade on Friday, with 7th graders moving into proportions and expressions, and 8th graders doing graphing transformations.

It is my sincere wish that we work together to encourage students and get ahead of any issues that may arise, so don't hesitate to email me at [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:ssst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

This week 7th graders finished their Environmental Science projects and presented in front of the class. As part of this project students created a slideshow and designed a t-shirt to wear during their presentation. The t-shirt design is introducing students to 2D CAD design. Next week students will have sex education during science class.

8th Grade:

This week 8th graders finished their Natural Disaster Science projects. Half of the Students have presented in front of the class and the other half will present on Wednesday. Next week students will have sex education during science class.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

7th Grade: This week we spent our time finishing our unit on Medieval West Africa. Half the class researched the Influence of Islam on West African culture, and the other half of the class researched the Cultural Legacy of West Africa beyond Islam, including oral traditions, music, art, and architecture...etc. Next week, we will finish the year with an in class project culminating our West African studies.

8th Grade: This week students did a jigsaw project where they studied the three different colony groups -- New England, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. Each group was responsible for an essay, a visual project, and a presentation that will be given to our 5th grade class buddies next week!

As always, if you need to reach a teacher for any reason, email is best.

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