



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Oct. 13th, 2017

Announcements

- ★ 7th Grade - **Outward Bound Next Week!** Packing Lists have been sent home again and are attached (page 5). [Packing List - Last Page](#)

- ★ If you've already donated to the SMART campaign...THANK YOU!
We rely on your contribution to fund classroom supplies, classroom field trips, the art program, music, reading and language, computers and new this year...the 5th grade week-long overnight and the Middle School Outward Bound program. So, please donate if you haven't already...
www.WillowCreekAcademy.org/donate
Every dollar makes a difference!

- ★ Congratulations to our **ACADEMIC ALL STARS** of the week for their leadership both academically and in our WCA community! Your all stars this week are:
 - 7th Grade - CJ Ceral
 - 8th Grade - Lillie Roller

- ★ A message from the foundation: “Did you know that Willow Creek Foundation is now funding the Outward Bound program? Their generous donation covers 150 students backpacking! If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.”

- ★ Did you know that WCF is now funding the Outward Bound program? If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.

- ★ Please make sure to sign up for a Parent Teacher Conference with your child’s homeroom teacher.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: This week we began writing the first draft of our Realistic Fiction. I have been guiding them along by supplying them with many plotting tools, such as story arcs, timelines, lists, mentor text, etc. I have also had our ELA Specialist, Mrs. Creedman come in and teach some mini-lessons concerning fiction writing. All this seems to have helped, because their essays are progressing beautifully. Next up, we will begin bringing our writing into 3-D. We will do this by increasing tension and intensifying action. I am very much looking forward to reading their finished work.

8th Grade: This week we began drafting our Thematic Essay. We have finished up the introduction and are concentrating on the body of the essay, backing our claim up with specific evidence from their

independent books. We continue to concentrate on the power of Symbolism and Author's Craft. Next up Framing Essays with Relevance and Context.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - This week we continued work with positive and negative numbers, and did some practice with multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. We ended the week with a fun data collection and modeling activity.

8th Grade - This week was about using input output tables to make connections and predictions. We are on our way to using these tables and rules to graph algebraic expressions.

Algebra 1- This week's algebra 1 work supports the work that they are doing in the 8th grade class. The focus has been on solving one and two-step linear equations symbolically.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Science with Mr. Devol

7th Grade Driving Question of the Week (cont'd): How did we get to where we are as a planet / human species?

In 7th grade, students worked hard on their presentations and continued our look at the six major Eons. Students are working in groups of 4 and are each responsible for at least 3 slides as part of the presentation (when we return from backpacking). Presentations begin on 10/26.

Next Week: *Backpacking with Outward Bound*

8th Grade Driving Question (cont'd): How is energy transferred on earth? We continued on last week with this question and students looked at the various types of ways in which energy moves through systems.

Next Week: *Backpacking with Outward Bound*

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

***The Google Classroom for all Social Studies classes are up and running, and you can see what we are working on in class there. Your 7th or 8th grader student can provide access for you, or you can contact me and I will provide you your own log in.*

7th Grade: We spent this week learning about Hadrian's Wall in England. This marked the farthest expansion of the Roman Empire and signified many things to both the Romans and the Picts and other

people living north of the wall. Next week, we will have a special lesson on the barbarian tribes that lived in Europe.

8th Grade: We created and gave presentations on the Columbian Exchange this week. We learned about how the trading of ideas, goods, and disease affected Europe, Africa, and the New World; and how this facilitated the growth of colonialism and the population of the New World by European settlers. This week, are exploring the creation of Jamestown, first by watching a hollywood movie: The New World; and then we will watch a documentary about Jamestown. Finally, we will analyze how much Hollywood got right about the first successful English colony in the New World.