



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - October 5, 2018

Announcements

- ★ Congratulations to our ACADEMIC ALL-STARS of the week! These students displayed leadership both academically and in our WCA community!

Your all-stars this week are:

- **Estella Wong**
- **Feodor Malakov**

- ★ So far, our new drop off route on Buchanan Drive has been going better than expected!
 - Please continue to follow the new drop off route to Buchanan Drive, or better yet encourage kids to walk or bike to school!
 - Please be mindful of making legal turns and avoid trying to turn down Buchanan Dr. from Nevada Street. Mr. Baker and other students will be there to help guide families to the proper route.
 - Lastly, the upper parking lot is closed for student drop off from 8:00 am to 8:15 am.
- ★ Progress reports were sent home Monday, October 1st. If your family did not receive a copy, please contact your homeroom teacher to get an electronic copy sent via e-mail or another hard copy sent home with your student.
- ★ OUTWARD BOUND Rock Climbing for 8th graders
 - 8th grade is Rock Climbing at Ring Mountain in Tiburon on Oct. 10, 11, & 12.
 - Only 12-15 students will attend each day, and groups return to school by 2:00 daily.
 - OB Liability and Medical Forms were sent home this past Monday.
 - The LIABILITY RELEASE is the only form needed for this outing.
 - Signed Liability Release forms will be needed no later than Tuesday, October 9 for students to attend this outing.
 - There is a link to download the Outward Bound forms on the Friday Post Website Page.
 - Students should dress appropriately while think about what we are doing, and how best to dress for safety and comfort. Remember, you will be climbing above everyone while we look up to encourage you and make sure that you are safe.
 - Weather will be variable and multiple layers will keep you the most comfortable as temperatures can vary greatly between the shade and the sun.
 - Please contact Mr. Baker with any questions about this particular outing.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade: This week we began Bend II of our reading unit (A Deep Study of Character). In this next bend of the unit (Investigating How Setting Shapes Characters) students will be analyzing the complex interactions between characters and setting. Our focus this week was on how setting can change over time, not just physically, but psychologically. Students traced the setting over time, investigating how the place changes, and how it affects characters differently in different ways.

Eighth Grade: This week marked the end of Bend II (Investigating How Setting Shapes Characters). The major goal of this bend was to guide students in tackling new reading work (attending to interaction of setting and character) while continuing their prior work (analyzing complicated character traits). Student notebooks have shown how their thinking, insight, and volume of reading has grown.

Yearbook/Journalism: This week Gina Risso taught the students about lighting and the impact it has on photos. Light, more specifically the quality of light, has a profound effect on the mood of your photos. We studied the angle of light, indoor versus outdoor lighting, silhouettes, side lighting, and direct lighting.

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

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

The first progress reports are in, make sure you've seen your student's!

7th Grade Announcements:

We expanded our work with fractions, using “giant one” to make common denominators and add unlike fractions.

8th Grade announcements:

8th grade has been killing it with algebra tiles, and we are starting to transition to symbolic manipulation of algebraic expressions.

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

SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

We started the week by engineering a scribblebot using Circuit Cubes. Students assembled the scribblebots, modified and tinkered with it to make a multiple marker robot that made a design on their paper when turned on. For the second half of the week students programmed on paper and used the computers to learn how to debug a program.

8th Grade:

We started the week by engineering a scribblebot using Circuit Cubes. Students assembled the scribblebots, modified and tinkered with it to make a multiple marker robot that made a design on their paper when turned on. For the second half of the week students programmed on paper and used the computers to learn how to make a while loop in their program.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

7th Grade: This week was an introduction to European Feudalism, Charlemagne, William the Conqueror, and the first few hundred years of Medieval Europe. We are becoming more comfortable with the class structure, and making sure to use our class time wisely to get our work done without having to do homework. Next week, we will introduce the Jigsaw reading strategy for students to learn how to divide a book to explain to each other the important information to maximize team efforts.

8th Grade: This week, we gave our presentations on the Social Contract Theory based on what various Enlightenment and Modern philosophers have written. After we finished our presenting, we moved on to the Age of Discovery/Exploration and learned about Vasco de Gama and Zheng He, both of whom could be considered as influential as Christopher Columbus and really began to unpack what the age of discovery really meant for indigenous peoples.

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

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