



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - September 22, 2017

Announcements

- ★ An announcement from the Marin Community Foundation:

Hello everyone:

In record time, MCF has made two emergency grants to Mission Asset Fund (MAF) and Canal Alliance (CA) **to cover the full cost of renewal application fees** for any DACA recipient who lives, works, or attends school in Marin County.

These grants are in direct response to the recent announcement by the U.S. Attorney General of the rescission of DACA, the program that provided a level of protection and opportunity to undocumented youth brought to the U.S. as children. We estimate between 300-500 Marin residents are eligible to **renew by the October 5 deadline**, but they must pay an application fee of \$495. MAF and CA have set up scholarship funds for this specific purpose. Canal Alliance, in partnership with 10,000 Degrees, is also offering two free workshops this weekend that will include DACA application assistance, immigration screening, and 1:1 consultations with pro bono attorneys. Whether people go through Canal Alliance or choose to self-renew, they can access fee application assistance through either organization.

With October 5 just two weeks away, time is of the essence to ensure DACA holders get their applications in on time. Literally every minute counts right now! Please share widely to help us get the word out immediately to our local Dreamers, especially with organizations and institutions that serve immigrant families. We stood by them when DACA started, and we stand by them now.

If you'd like to know more, here is the link: [APPLICATION FOR DACA FUNDING](#)

- ★ 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:
 - Kai Christman - 8th Grade
 - Athena Jones - 7th Grade

- ★ Please look for the Outward Bound paper work (Medical Form and Liability Release). We need to have that packet of documents filled out and turned in ASAP for the upcoming 7th grade camping trip October 17-19. 8th graders need to have forms turned in to prepare for the Rock Climbing Trip November 7-9. These forms, with the Presentation Slides from Back to School Night, are available via the Friday Post Page link here: <https://www.willowcreekacademy.org/domain/134>
- ★ 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.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: We have had a busy week of reading. We just finished our first novel “*The Outsiders*.” The students really enjoyed this read. As I mentioned last week, the Marin Theater Company will be coming in next week to (September 25th, 27th, and 29th) host a workshop where students will be exploring “*The Outsiders*” through exploration of character, physicality, voice, and relationship. Next on our agenda is Writing Realistic Fiction. Students will engage in writing a short fiction essay (six to ten pages), creating action-filled plots and believable characters and by crafting nuanced, memorable scenes. We will be using “*The Outsiders*” as our mentor text, along with other short fictional stories. Also, I will be giving the first vocabulary test of the year on Friday, September 22nd.

8th Grade: We have finished our first novel “*A Long Walk To Water*.” Along with our classroom reading, each student is reading their independent book for homework, minimum of a half hour a night, along with answering prompts I have given them in class. Students should be finished with their independent book reading no later than October 1st. It is in this week we will begin writing our Literary Essay. This is where students craft essays that make arguments about characters and themes, learning strategies essayist use to gather, analyze, and explain evidence from the text to support their claims. I will be giving the first vocabulary test of the year on Tuesday, September 26th.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

Algebra 1- Great first week! We hit the ground running, and covered entire the foundations section by Thursday. Your kids have done over 60 problems for homework this week, with a class average well above 90%! Toward the end of the week we moved into sets and set notation, including subsets, unions, intersections, and complements, and we also explored the number system (real numbers, rationals, irrationals, integers, whole, and natural numbers).

7th Grade: 7th Graders continued work on probability, which we expanded as a basis from which to model addition of fractions, including finding common denominators through multiple methods.

8th Grade: 8th grade is getting back into algebra tiles to model work with algebraic expressions on our way to solving equations and systems of equations. My favorite part of the week was the “Safari” in which

pairs built animals from algebra tiles, and then went around the class finding the area of each animal (some nice African folk music and jungle animal sounds were playing in the background). Cool video of math in action: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NJmYPAEr8KQLveI23>



Name	Area
Jeff	$y^2 + xy + 4x + 7$
Stewart	$6y + x^2 + 10$
Dog	$4 + xy + x^2 + 2x$
Lele	$2xy + y^2 + y^2 + 4 + x$
chicken	$x^2 + xy + 3x + 10$
Bob	$xy + x^2 + 2 + 2x$
Shelah	$2 + 4x + xy + x^2$
max	$2y^2 + 5 + 4y + x$
Josiah	$q + ax + 2y + x^2 + xy$

Lele the Elephant has an area of $x^2 + y^2 + 2xy + x + 4$

q

Science with Mr. Devol

We spent this week beginning to dive in to academics and our Interactive Journals. Both 7th and 8th grades have spent quality time the first few weeks of school getting familiar with processes like taking notes, how discussions should “feel”, and learning how to construct our interactive journals.

In both classes, we are now using Google Classroom so students can see what their current and past assignments are

7th Grade In 7th grade, students looked at what defines something as being alive. Students learned the 10 traits of that all living things share. We will be using this info. Throughout the year when looking at cells, genetics, reproduction and body systems.

8th Grade 8th graders spent the week reviewing the fact that acceleration is a vector and how to determine the change in speed of an object. We then covered 4 different frictions and talked about how friction comes into play when determining loss of energy or the amount of energy needed to carry out a task must take into account the energy lost to heat and friction.

Reminder: *EACH THURSDAY we will have a science quiz (usually) or end unit test.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

This week we spent two class sessions taking the MAP Language Usage test.

***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: This week, we had our first introduction to our Textbook, and we watched a fun video with singing and really awesome art about the 8 Reasons Rome Fell. The video, and class notes, are on the Google Classroom.

8th Grade: Aside from the two days of MAP Testing, we gained an understanding of the effects of the various Reformation movements in Europe and how European Christianity split into Catholics and a variety of Protestant movements. We also began our exploration of Enlightenment Philosophers whose ideas created the climate that led to the American Revolution.