



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - October 12, 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:

- **Trinity Chancellor**
- **Addie Vida**

- ★ 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.
- ★ Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled over the next two weeks. Parents will conference with their child's homeroom teacher, and homeroom teachers will have grades, notes on areas of strength and challenge, and comments from all teachers to share at conferences. Your child's homeroom teacher will reach out to schedule conferences.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade: This week marked the end of Bend II (Investigating How Setting Shapes Characters). Students were also introduced to reading logs. These logs offer insight into (1) how often they are in a reading zone and (2) how they are doing with increasing volume, choosing books wisely, and keeping track of their reading. Next week we will begin the final session of our Deep Study of Character reading unit. In this last Bend we will analyze characters as vehicles for themes.

Eighth Grade: This week we entered the final session of character study. Students began analyzing characters as vehicles for themes. We worked to find places in their stories where a theme becomes visible, and they considered the particular author's craft the writer used to develop these themes.

Yearbook/Journalism: This week Gina Risso educated and inspired students with a hands-on lesson specifically tailored to our cameras. Students had the opportunity to take photos, acquainting themselves with the basic functions as they captured moments with a camera.

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

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade Announcements:

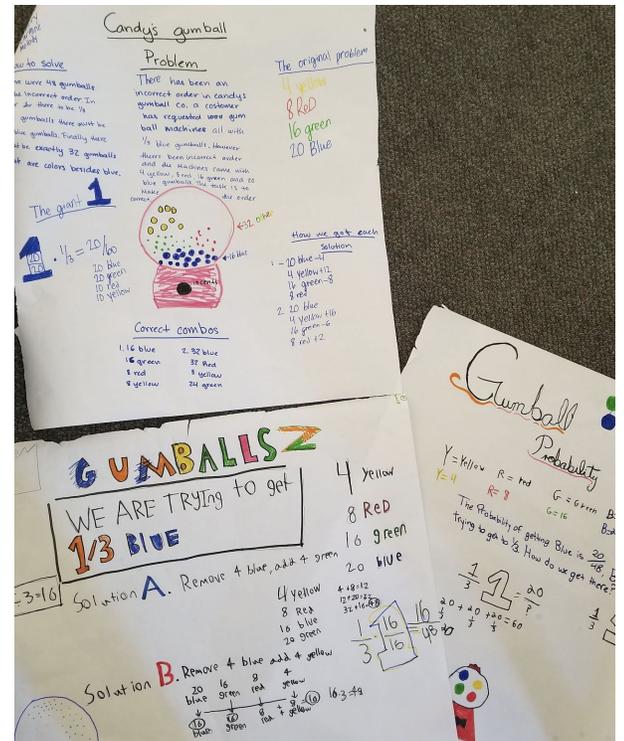
First unit done! We've finished up the first unit on probability, which included work in adding and manipulating fractions. We've practiced modifying sample spaces, determining experimental and theoretical probability, and adding fractions with unlike denominators. There will be a unit test next Thursday.

8th Grade announcements:

Second unit done! We are now moving into a unit on ratio, proportions, and percents. We've begun by finding missing numbers in x,y tables and coming up with algebraic rules. We will finish the week by working with graphing tools as we begin to understand the connections between linear graphs, tables, and their equations.

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:

This week students used the STEAM Lab to design, build, and test their flashlights. Students learned how to solder, build a circuit, and complete their own flashlights. Students who completed their flashlights on Thursday are able to bring home their final product.

8th Grade:

This week students completed their fans and continued to learn programming. Next week students will begin a new unit on forces.

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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Sean St. Denny - Math - sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org

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