



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Dec. 1st, 2017

Announcements

- ★ 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:
 - 8th Grade - Josiah
 - 8th Grade -

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: This week students have continued building their close reading skills as they consider the crisis of war coming close to home. As we continue reading *Inside Out & Back Again*, students have been concentrating on how text structure, figurative language, and specific word choice contribute to a text's meaning as they closely read selected poems. Students also completed their Mid-Unit Assessment, where they analyzed how key incidents in the novel reveal Ha's character.

8th Grade: Investigative Journalism - students have learned why many people like opinions more than facts, reflecting on the negative and positive consequences of this tendency. Students practiced three strategies for determining the difference between opinions and facts to discover the power of critical thinking.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - 7th grade began a new unit this week which focuses on arithmetic properties. This brings us back to work with negative numbers, fractions, and decimals, expanding to grouping operations and decimal division.

Here's a challenge problem from this week (which several students solved)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4(3 - (2 + 3(4+5) - 6) + 7(2-3)) \\
 &4(3 - (2 + 3(9) - 6) + 7(2-3)) \\
 &4(3 - (2 + \checkmark 27 - 6) + 7(-1)) \\
 &4(\checkmark 3 - (23) - 7) = 12 - 92 - 28 \\
 &\quad (-20 - 7) \\
 &\quad \checkmark 4(-27) \\
 &\quad -108
 \end{aligned}$$

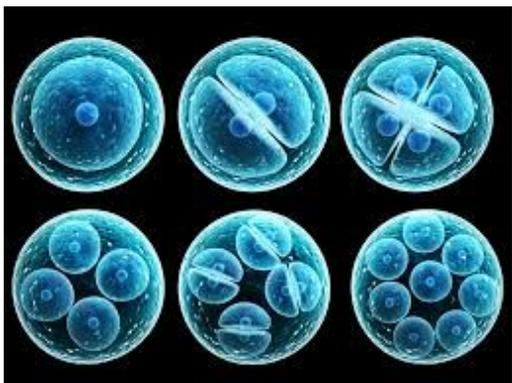
8th Grade - Most of the 8th graders are now comfortable with multi-step solutions of systems of linear equations. Now we relate the algebraic work that they've been doing to graphs and relationships, building understanding of what it means to solve an equation.

Algebra 1- It was a short week for Algebra, but we will be quickly burning through unit 4 since our awesome young mathematicians have already had significant exposure to most of the topics.

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

SCIENCE

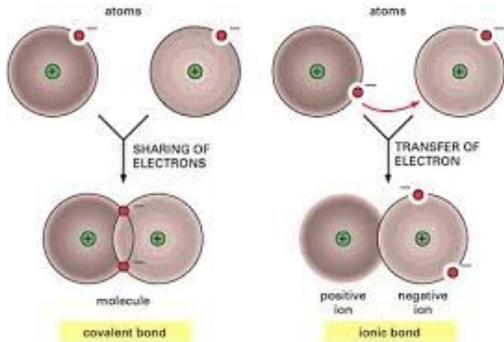
7th Grade: This Week - Cells and more cells! Students had their first quiz on the cell identifying organelles and being able to explain the function of the 10 most important organelles.



Next Week: Begin organelles and our deep dive into the body. Frog dissection in two weeks!

8th Grade: This Week - Atoms, valence electrons and what is the glue that holds it all together? Students had a quiz Thursday detailing their knowledge of the atom.

Next Week: We will look at the bonding process next week so in order to understand how atoms and various elements form and bond!



Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th & 8th Grade: Wishing all families a Happy Thanksgiving! All final essays and projects have been turned in. Some presentations still need to be given, and we will have those presentations when we return from break. Also, all Journals should have been turned in.

Middle School Final Thoughts:

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

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Enjoy the Weekend! - Your MS Team.