



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - February 15, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

We hope you had a good week! Here's the news from our middle school team:

- ★ Outward Bound forms have been sent home multiple times over the past couple weeks for the March 4, 2019 camping trip for the 8th grade! Please see the link on the Friday Post webpage for an electronic version. You may also download from the 8th Grade Google Classroom.
- ★ Outward Bound forms need to be completed and submitted by February 15, 2019 (today!).

**Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars!**  
**Jainab Azam and Evan Fequiere**

### **Class Meetings and Film and Lecture Series**

Each week, we include a description of our middle school class meeting topics for the preceding and upcoming weeks. Middle schoolers meet with their homeroom teachers for class meeting on Monday and Friday afternoons to talk about important social-emotional learning topics and build community. On the last Friday of each month, our 7th and 8th graders come together for a college lecture-style series focused on civil rights, current events, and social issues.

This week's class meeting topic was **equity and anti-racism**. Next week's class meeting topic is **community building**. Please check in with your students about their class meetings and assemblies. We want to keep these conversations going!

If you have questions about class meetings or social-emotional learning in grades 7 and 8, please reach out to Mr. Baker: [rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org).

### **English Language Arts with Ms. Powers**

**Seventh Grade:** This week we started our final reading unit, *“Tapping the Power of Nonfiction.”* Across this unit, students will develop flexibility by reading across text types, including nonfiction chapter books, articles, trade books, and online sources. By the end of Bend I of this unit, students will learn to build up their background knowledge, so they aren't intimidated by unfamiliar texts and topics, but instead have skills to confidently read and learn from those texts.

## **Eighth Grade:**

Nonfiction reading skills are essential to students' achievement in virtually every academic discipline. As we enter our final reading unit, "*Tapping the Power of Nonfiction*," students will develop a solid set of nonfiction reading skills: discerning central ideas, summarizing to create a concise version of a text, synthesizing within and across texts, building vocabulary, growing ideas, and reading critically to question an author's point of view and perspective.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: [jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org)

## **Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny**

### **7th Grade Announcements:**

7th graders further extended work in probability to making probability tables and probability trees to find outcomes for multiple events.

**8th grade** was introduced to interest rates. We had a great chance to explore social context through the mathematics of lending and interest, looking specifically at predatory lending and the ramifications of bad credit.

**Algebra students** worked on multiplication and division with monomials, extending their knowledge of exponents. They also multiplied binomials and are going toward factoring, graphing, and solving quadratic equations.

[sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## **SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald**

### **7th Grade:**

This week 7th graders completed a project on chemical reactions. Students chose a topic on chemical reactions, wrote down guiding questions, and taught a lesson to the class. When we return from break students will have a test on chemical reactions.

### **8th Grade:**

The 8th graders finished their lessons to the class on Space and Gravity. We ended the week with a test on Space and Gravity. Students did an excellent job on the lessons they taught to the class and on the test.

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

### WISHING YOU ALL A WONDERFUL MID-WINTER BREAK!!!!

**7th Grade:** This week we organized and wrote an in-class essay to show our learning for this unit. When we return from break, we will begin our studies on Medieval Japan, focusing on their unique version of Feudalism and the emergence of the warrior class -- the Samurai!!!

**8th Grade:** We had an interesting week where we spent a lot of time preparing for Outward Bound (making sure students understood the expectations for paperwork and what to bring). We also spend some time going over our art auction project!!! The rest of our time was spent discussing news articles that focused on instances where citizens of the United States had their rights diminished and how knowing your rights can be of great help. We also spent time discussing concepts of privilege, discrimination, and how our rights are protected by our government.

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

Roy Baker - Social Studies - [rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org)

Sean St. Denny - Math - [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

Joann Powers - ELA - [jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org)

Nate MacDonald - Science - [nmacdonald@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:nmacdonald@willowcreekacademy.org)

Belinda Ingraham - Spanish - [bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org)

Lauren Haberly - Art - [lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org)

Dave Singleton - PE - [dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org)

Lynnette Egenlauf - PE - [legenlauf@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:legenlauf@willowcreekacademy.org)

Phil Logan - Music - [plogan@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:plogan@willowcreekacademy.org)