



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - April 20th, 2018

### Announcements

- ★ The 8th grade spent this week out in nature as they embarked on a fun-filled week of backpacking with Outward Bound! They come back today and are probably tired and most assuredly in need of a hot shower!
- ★ State Science Testing is next week. Please have your student get plenty of sleep and a solid breakfast.
- ★ 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:
  - 7th Grade - Jade Rosenberg
  - 7th Grade - Bruno Condit

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers and Ms. Alagna

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all of your kind words and well-wishes--it means a lot! Students are in excellent hands with Ms. Alagna as you can read in her biography below.

As you can see, Ms. Alagna is an experienced ELA teacher, and I know your student will have a great learning experience in my absence. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Sincerely,  
Joann Powers

*Hello, my name is Ms. Alagna, and I am so excited to become part of the Willow Creek Academy team. I just wanted to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about who I am.*

*First and foremost, I am new to the Bay Area! I grew up on the East Coast in a small town called Hopedale. I was an English teacher at my old high school where I taught for 5 years. Massachusetts will always hold a special place in my heart. I completed both my undergraduate and graduate education in Boston. However, I decided I wanted a change and set my eyes on the West Coast. I am thrilled to have found Willow Creek Academy and look forward to finishing the remainder of the school year together. Here are a few fun facts about me:*

1. *I am a certified yoga instructor.*
2. *I absolutely love dogs!*
3. *I completed 2 half marathons on the East Coast and now plan to complete one on the West Coast.*

4. *I love Mediterranean food.*
5. *I am a diehard Patriots fan! (Sorry – what did you expect!?)*

*To me, teaching is all about connection and creating a welcoming environment that fosters learning. Please feel free to contact me at any point if you have any questions – communication is so important! That's it for now. I hope everyone had a restful vacation and is ready to finish out the school year! - **Ms. Alagna.***

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

**7th Grade:** We began a new unit on statistics, and have been working on population and sampling methods in preparation for a student driven statistics project.

**8th Grade:** Most of the 8th graders were out this week, but those who stayed went on a couple of hikes of our own across the Golden Gate bridge and to Mill Valley.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## **SCIENCE with Mr. Devol**

**7th Grade:** This week the 7th graders wrapped up their unit on evolution and began to explore the evidence that leads us to evolution as an explanation for the differences in species.

**Next Week:** Finish EVOLUTION and dragon genetics.

**8th Grade:** Backpacking this week.

**Next Week:** Review for State Science Testing and then Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we are testing!

## **Social Studies with Mr. Baker**

**7th Grade:** This week we learned about the Japanese Feudal system and are preparing to write our midterm essays next week about Medieval China and Japan.

**8th Grade:** Students are returning today from Outward Bound Camping! Students who did not attend worked on an individual research project on a topic from 19th century American history.

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:ssst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

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

Jaclyn Alagna - ELA - [jalagna@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jalagna@willowcreekacademy.org)

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