



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Feb. 16th, 2018

Enjoy your Ski Week!

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:
 - 7th Grade - Colette Tate
 - 8th Grade - Mikiko Whitehorn

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: This week we started writing our own companion books. Students have learned ways to write powerfully about reading. Some key components to this form of writing is to record-and-cite important details, explore big ideas/themes, use academic language, and elaborate on thinking.

8th Grade: All 8th grade journalists met their February 16th deadline. All articles have been finished, edited, saved, and are ready to be published in the yearbook. Also this week, the 8th graders had the opportunity to meet with journalist from Tam News. After the break we will continue our collaboration with the Tam Journalism Department.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - Seventh graders spent the week working with the 5d process. This is a process that helps students organize their thinking for word problems and work toward the correct answer. By Thursday teams were able to solve problems and present their solutions to the class, all while being grilled by yours truly. They did great!

8th Grade - We spent the week working on visualizing data. One of the highlights for me was examining maps where the area of countries was based on different factors like GDP, land use, or birth rate. They are getting adept at identifying relationships from scatterplots, and building skills in identifying independent and dependent variables.

Algebra 1- Another week, another unit! This week we refreshed and built new skills in factoring quadratics. We also took a chunky unit test on Thursday dealing with multiplying monomials, negative, and fractional exponents.

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

SCIENCE with Mr. Devol

7th Grade: This Week - Student worked this week on our new project / interactive game, 3rd Rock! Students are in 1 of 4 groups per class and choose a classification of plant and animal. They will research these living things as well as have other “challenges” as a group which they must complete to earn gems. They then compete against other groups, all the while learning Science!

Next Week: Enjoy the Family!

8th Grade: This Week - In 8th grade, everyone got new journals and we continued looking at waves, their properties and how they behave. Students learned the different parts of a wave and began investigating the relationship and differences when light separates to form rainbows. (Why do the fish I always catch look bigger when they are in the water??? Refraction of course!)

Next Week: Enjoy the Family!

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

This had been amazing week of subbing for Mr. Baker. I have really enjoyed myself getting to know the students and truly look forward to the weeks ahead.

Parents feel free to reach out to me about any questions or concerns.
Paul Austin

7th Grade: This week the students focused on West Africa and the influence of Islam. The students were assigned an essay that they will have to present in the near future. They must describe what they have learned about West Africa so far.

8th Grade: This week our students focus was on the meaning of the Constitution of the United States of America. The students did a wonderful job of reciting the Preamble this week. We are currently working on translating articles of the Constitution in their own words and should wrap up the translations next week. They will need to define our government and its many processes.

Middle School Final Thoughts:

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

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