



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Feb. 9th, 2018

### One week until 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 - Hadrian Adams
  - 8th Grade - Mikayla Butts

#### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

**7th Grade:** We started our new unit *Writing About Reading*. In this unit students will intensify their engagement with reading by writing innovative, reflective companion books that explain, develop, and extend ideas about books they love.

**8th Grade:** Our 8th grade Journalist are busy meeting their February 19th deadline. Students have completed their first rough drafts this week. Next week journalist will be concentrating on engaging readers' interest and moving them towards a bigger truth, with narrative and information techniques.

#### 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 relationship hips 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 too a chunky unit test on Thursday dealing with multiplying monomials, negative, and fractional exponents.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at

## **SCIENCE with Mr. Devol**

**7th Grade: This Week** - We finished our projects this week on evolution. Students drew pictures of what they think humans will look like in 1 million years with explanations as to why they chose the physical changes they did. They also wrote Formal, 3 paragraph expository or persuasive papers. The topic was animal trafficking and we watched a documentary about the trafficking of endangered animals... for people to eat!

**Next Week: ECOLOGY PROJECT and TAXONOMY**

**8th Grade: This Week** - This week, 8th grade finished 3 tasks from the NGSS preview as we continue to prepare for the CAST. Students are learning test taking strategies which they will use to attack problems and writing prompts when we take the CAST (the new state science test) in March.

**Next Week: WAVE ENERGY**

## **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.

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

Paul Austin - Social Studies, (Long Term Guest Teacher) - [paustin@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:paustin@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)

Carter Devol - Science - [cdevol@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:cdevol@willowcreekacademy.org)

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

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

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