



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - January 18th, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

- ★ Outward Bound forms will be going home next week for the March 4, 2019 camping trip for the 8th grade! Please see the link on the Friday Post webpage for an electronic version.
  - These forms need to be completed and filled out by February 15, 2019.

Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars: Sanaa Green and Enzo Condit

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

#### **Seventh Grade:**

This week we continued our unit on persuasive writing. We focused on the current debate around whether or not competitive sports are good for kids. Students were asked to state a position; weigh and evaluate different perspectives, reasons, and evidence; and rehearse and compose their own positions.

#### **Eighth Grade:**

This week students were engaged in the debate about whether video games with fictional violence are perilous or diverting for kids. Students used their knowledge of argumentative writing to cull implicit as well as explicit support from text sets to support their position.

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

### Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

#### **7th and 8th Grade Announcements:**

7th grade finished their section on unit rates, and are now transitioning to working with algebra tiles. We use algebra tiles to great effect for learning the concepts and inner workings of algebraic terms.

They completed a test on Thursday. There will be a make up session next week for any student who missed the test, or is trying to improve their score.

8th grade completed their unit on transformations. They took a unit test on Thursday as well.

Algebra students worked on solving systems of linear inequalities in which we find a region of possible solutions, rather than a single solution. They completed a test on Thursday.

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## **SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald**

### **7th Grade:**

7b completed an engineering challenge where students designed a functioning mini arcade game. The students completed the design practice and the games were super fun to play. 7a finished the movie Martian and saw what it might be like to land a human on Mars. Next week students will be building high velocity cars and a high torque cars using Circuit Cubes.

### **8th Grade:**

The 8th graders have begun a new unit on Space and Gravity. We explored orbits by swinging different sized balls on different length strings. Students are starting to form an understanding of how objects orbit in our solar system. We started a TV series by National Geographic called Mars, a series looking into the future of what it might be like to colonize Mars in the year 2033.

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

### **WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK**

**7th Grade:** We took a side step this week and focused on the development of Chinese religion, as well as agriculture, commerce, and urbanization in China during the 10th to 13th Centuries. Next week, we will study 25 different Chinese inventions and students will have an opportunity to dive deep into one invention while writing an essay, creating a visual project, and presenting that invention to the rest of the class.

**8th Grade:** Our studies this week focused on the Revolutionary War. Students worked in teams to create a visual project that reflects their learning about the American Revolution. These team projects will be presented next Tuesday. On Wednesday, we will learn about our first government -- The Articles of Confederation.

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

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