



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - March 23rd, 2018

Announcements

- ★ Outward Bound 8th Grade Camping Trip
 - April 16 - 20
 - Optional Parent Meeting on April 5 @ 6 PM in Room 28
 - Details on the hiking route, camp sites, and what to bring and what OB can provide (which is almost everything).
 - Rosters have been set and OB is preparing the equipment and vetting the paperwork. You may receive a call from Chelsea at Outward Bound if they have any question regarding the medical release forms.
- ★ Civil Rights Film and Lecture Series: The History of Women’s Rights in America
 - On March 31st, the WCA middle school will host guest speaker Dr. Amy Kittelstrom, Associate Professor of History at Sonoma State University. Dr. Kittelstrom is a historian of modern thought and culture who specializes in nineteenth-century American thinkers and their contexts. She is particularly interested in the intellectual connections between individuals and cultures of the past; how their ideas on religion and democracy informed one another; how Americans engaged with books and thinkers from India, Great Britain, and the Romantic movement; and how it affected the lives of marginalized and underprivileged classes of people in America. While on a year long fellowship at Princeton, she recently wrote and published her book, The Religion of Democracy: Seven Liberals and the American Moral Tradition. This book explores how religion and democracy have historically worked together as universal ideals in American culture—and as guides to moral action and to the social practice of treating one another as equals who deserve to be free.
 - Before the presentation, 8th grade girls will have a chance to meet with Dr. Kittelstrom to talk about ways they can empower themselves in academics as they move forward into high school and college.
- ★ 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:
 - 8th Grade - Angie Padilla
 - 8th Grade - Sedric Reynolds

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: Tuesday we completed our Information Writing essay (Companion Book). Although it was a hard concept to digest, the students really pushed themselves to a higher level of thinking. We began MAP testing Wednesday (Reading), and will continue testing over the next week. This test is essential for showing their growth over last trimester, as well as preparing them for the upcoming CAASPP.

8th Grade: This week we began our next unit, Position Papers (Research and Argument). Students will learn ways writers explain complex issues and compose arguments by drawing on evidence, contextualizing their positions, and addressing multiple perspectives. On Wednesday we began MAP testing in Reading, and testing will continue through the week.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - The week was focused around MAP testing. We did a little work with proportions and velocity, some test prep, and then MAP testing at the end of the week.

8th Grade - We also focused on testing, going some prep early in the week and testing toward the later part.

Algebra 1- since several of it algebra students have been getting trigonometry quotations on the MAP test, we did an intro to trigonometry. We are also getting into the unit on statistics, and introduced permutations and combinations on Thursday.

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

SCIENCE with Mr. Devol

7th Grade: After last week, we dove deeper in to how DNA replicates in both MEIOSIS and MITOSIS. Students drew and labeled the chromosomes splitting and creating new zygotes!

Next Week: We begin adopting our baby dragons next week! What traits will they have? Only random chance can determine the answer...

8th Grade: This week, students brushed up on their old pal Sir Isaac Newton. Was he a madman? Did he really stick a leather sewing needle in his eye just to see what would happen? Did he become famous by stating the obvious? YES! His 3 laws of motion are so obvious and so genius at the same time! Students are making graphic novels about these laws this week.

Next Week: Test PREP!

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: It has been awesome to witness the Chinese Invention presentations. The students really seemed to enjoy making connections to everyday items that trace back to the early years Chinese Empire. Next week, we finish our presentations and visit the world of Feudal Japan and the Samurai!

8th Grade: This week, we have learned about the structure of an academic debate. Students have had a chance to research their proscribed stances (there are 6 opinions that have been assigned to 6 different teams so that students learn how to support an argument that they may not necessarily hold themselves and also to learn how to argue from multiple sides of an issue. Next Thursday, we will hold the actual debate event. Then, on April 6, we will hold an open debate with 7th grade as the audience. It will be awesome!!!

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

Roy Baker - Social Studies - rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org

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

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

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