



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - March 29, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars!
Velvet Lopez and Zebah Mamoon

Class Meetings and Film and Lecture Series

Each week, we include a description of our middle school class meeting topics for the preceding and upcoming weeks. Middle schoolers meet with their homeroom teachers for class meeting on Monday and Friday afternoons to talk about important social-emotional learning topics and build community. On the last Friday of each month, our 7th and 8th graders come together for a college lecture-style series focused on civil rights, current events, and social issues. This month, we hosted Jasmin Gerraty from Bay Area Community Resources for an assembly about **vaping prevention**.

This week's class meeting topic was **unpacking bias**. Next week's topic will be **diversity and privilege**. Please check in with your students about their class meetings and assemblies. We want to keep these conversations going!

If you have questions about class meetings or social-emotional learning in grades 7 and 8, please reach out to Mr. Baker: rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade:

Seventh grade spent the first part of the week finishing up MAP testing. Students spent the rest of the week reading through a volume of texts and drawing on the repertoire of strategies they learned not only in this Bend, but also in Bend One. Along the way they gathered vocabulary words to help them learn the academic language associated with their topics.

Eighth Grade:

This week 8th grade began summarizing complex texts. They learned that readers hold on to the biggest ideas in complex nonfiction text by summarizing central ideas and important details. These are skills they have been practicing throughout their middle school years, and my goal is for them to develop full confidence in applying these skills to highly complex texts as they prepare for high school.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade Announcements:

We moved on from MAP testing and spent the week working with algebra tiles. They compared several collections of algebra tiles to see which had the greater value. The moves they use for this are precursors to combining like terms and simplifying expressions, which we will soon be doing symbolically. This all leads up to solving algebraic equations for an unknown.

8th graders We MAP tested this week, which yielded some very encouraging results as students get ready to head off to high school. We saw strong growth, especially in categories, like number systems and algebra and operations, that we've spent much of the last couple of months covering.

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions: sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org

Science with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

This week 7th graders are carefully assembling their bridges which will be loaded with weight next week. The assembly of bridges is taking longer than expected and students requested more time to complete.

8th Grade:

The 8th graders are continuing to add motors and lights to their cardboard arcades. Students are learning how to wire up a circuit in order to add motion and lights to their games. Students have also been using CAD to make vinyl stickers for their arcades.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: This week's Medieval Japan art projects have been pretty awesome! We have Tanka poems, paintings of cherry blossom trees, and bonsai trees! We have only had a couple days to really work, so we will need another day to finish our projects. Next week we will post some of finished work!

8th Grade: This week, we learned more about King Andrew, his Indian policy, the Spoils system, and the creation of the modern democratic party. We will spend next week gaining a better understanding of the political and social forces that pushed the American population West and how these new territories and states compromised morality for political balance.

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

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