



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - May 24, 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!**  
**Evelyn Agnew and Ryan Crump**

### **Class Meetings and Film and Lecture Series**

Each week, we include a description of our middle school class meeting topics. 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. Each month, our 7th and 8th graders come together for a college lecture-style series focused on civil rights, current events, and social issues.

Next week we will continue to discuss goal setting over the summer. 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](mailto:rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org).

### **English Language Arts with Ms. Powers**

**Seventh Grade:** Students continue to analyze and translate *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. Their final project will be a scene-by scene plot summary. Each group will then perform their chosen Act/Scene for the class.

**Eighth Grade:** Students continue to expand their poetry portfolio. My hope is that students will gain an appreciation of poetry as an art form because they will understand that poetry surrounds us in our everyday lives. This week students explored *free verse* poetry. These poems have no set meter, no rhyme scheme, or any particular structure.

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

### **Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny**

**7th grade** continued work on proportion using scale factors to compare drawings of giants, discussing what made things “to scale” versus “not to scale”. Toward the end of the week we used proportional reasoning to estimate and how many steps it would take to walk to the creek from my classroom. We then verified our work and reasoning by walking to the creek.

**8th grade:** We worked on measurement, scale, surface area, and volume. Specifically, we are trying to gain competence working with circles, cylinders, spheres, and cones.

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions: [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:ssst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## Science with Mr. MacDonald

### 7th Grade:

Students finished up CAASPP testing this week. Students who were not testing worked on their Eco Dream House Project. For this project students are learning how to calculate the square footage of a house and the square footage of the walls in a house. Once they have calculated this they then use the square footage to figure out the cost to renovate a house floor with carpet or tiling and walls with wallpaper or paint. Students will then design their own dream house on paper and then on the computer using architecture software or Minecraft. Some students are beginning to build their physical scaled house out of laser cut cardboard.

### 8th Grade:

Students finished up CAASPP testing this week for Math and ELA. Starting Tuesday 8th graders will take the CAASPP for science. Students who were not testing worked on their Eco Dream House Project. For this project students are learning how to calculate the square footage of a house and the square footage of the walls in a house. Once they have calculated this they then use the square footage to figure out the cost to renovate a house floor with carpet or tiling and walls with wallpaper or paint. Students will then design their own dream house on paper and then on the computer using architecture software or Minecraft. Some students are beginning to build their physical scaled house out of laser cut cardboard.

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

**7th Grade:** Our studies this week brought us to South America and the Andes Mountains. We watched a documentary about Machu Picchu, which focused on how researchers continue to investigate the purpose of this stone city and how it may have affected the communities around it. Next week, we will begin our final project of the year and prepare for our upcoming in class essay and final exam.

**8th Grade:** The Civil War divided our country on so many levels, but it also created technologies and methods of warfare that changed the way war was fought. We studied the way the medical practices used for wounded soldiers also took a heavy toll on soldiers of both North and South. Finally, we spent some time translating the Gettysburg Address into more modern language. Next week, we begin our 16-page final project booklets.

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

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