



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - May 25th, 2018

### Announcements

- ★ Great job with our testing focus! We wrapped up testing this week and students are ready to get back to the regular schedule.
  
- ★ Congratulations to our **ACADEMIC ALL-STARS** of the week! These students displayed leadership both academically and in our WCA community! Your all-stars this week are:
  - 6th Grade -
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### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers and Ms. Alagna

*7<sup>th</sup> grade:* This week, as students prepare for CAASPP testing, we learned helpful strategies for writing an open response. Together, we brainstormed, planned, and revised our writing. Students also continued reading Unbroken.

*Next week:* Academic Vocabulary and Socratic Seminar

*8<sup>th</sup> grade:* It was a pleasure hearing all about the 8<sup>th</sup> grades adventure on the Outward Bound field trip. Students composed narratives about their trip and specifically focused on a common theme. As students prepared for CAASPP, we continued to review close reading strategies for informational text and the steps of the writing process by planning and drafting an open response.

*Next Week:* Introduce short stories unit and academic vocabulary.

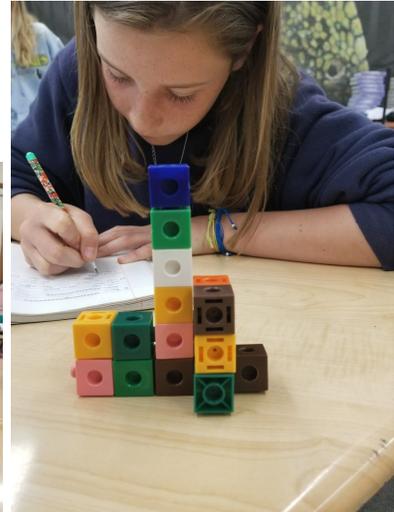
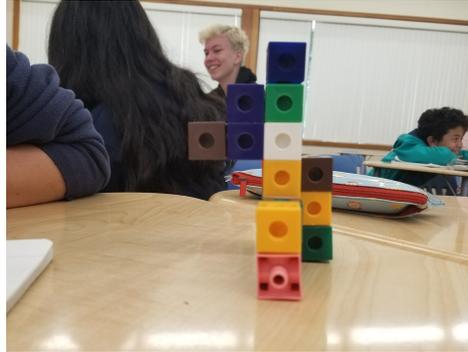
*Reminder:* Students will be CAASPP testing Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week. Remember to get lots of sleep and have a healthy breakfast on the day of testing! :)

*7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders:* We are still missing a lot of books. Please check at home and return them as soon as possible. If you do not return them, you will have to pay for replacements. Thank you!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

### Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

**7th Grade:** We were working on geometry this week, expanding from finding surface area by drawing front, side, and top views, to stacking 2D shapes to find the volume of prisms and cylinders.



## **8th Grade:**

The major question this week was, “How much would it cost to wrap my car in Luis Vuitton leather.” The exploration combined working with composite shapes, using scale factor in two dimensions, organizing information, and perseverance. All they really had to work with were a couple of images, measurement tools, and their brains. It was really cool to verify measurements on the actual car and see students on-paper predictions come within an inch of the real-world dimensions.

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

## **SCIENCE with Mr. Devol**

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

We wrapped up testing this week and students are in the last stages of their 20% projects. Next week we present what all of our hard work yields which is always fun and exciting. Here is a small sample size of what students are covering:

A new version of the **FLASHLIGHT**,  
A better way to make and use **BABY WIPES**,  
A **MAGNETIC MOTOR**,  
**PAINT MADE OUT OF EGG**,

A better way to **EXERCISE** and **A REAL, WORKING HOLOGRAM MADE OUT OF A CD COVER...** just to mention a few. Students really buy in to this project which is useful way beyond the classroom.

**Next Week:** Final Presentations: 20% project

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

**7th Grade:** We finished up our studies on the Aztec Empire and the daily life in Tenochtitlan. The Aztec were an interesting people, and it was a treat to learn about how a civilization could enter the Iron Age without having access to Iron.

**8th Grade:** This week, we broke up into groups to learn about the experiences of various social groups in 19th century America. One group studied the Mexicano immigrants, another group studied the experience of Africans and Black Americans (both free and enslaved), and the final group studied women and children.

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

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