



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Nov. 10th, 2017

Announcements

- ★ There is field trip next Thursday, Nov. 16 to the Throckmorton Theatre. 7th grade will be taking the bus to Mill Valley to watch the play Annie, starring **Charlotte Crowl!**

- ★ 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 - Mikayla Butts
 - 8th Grade - Aiden Fredline

- ★ A message from the foundation: “Did you know that Willow Creek Foundation is now funding the Outward Bound program? Their generous donation covers 150 students backpacking! If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.”

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English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: This week students finished their realistic fiction stories and wrote flap copy. We celebrated the end of the unit by reading and giving positive comments on their fantastic stories!

During our next trimester, we will write about and analyze literature, and study Shakespeare. This week students chose independent reading books from a selection of fantasy and science fiction novels. They're expected to read 30 minutes a day and finish several books during the trimester. We'll read and analyze *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai in class.

8th Grade: With our thematic and author crafts essay behind us, students finished up the unit by writing comparative essays. They used all that they've learned to complete their comparative essay in one classroom period. Later this week, students studied the parts of a book review and used portions of their essays to create their own book review. They're posting their book reviews to share with their classmates. I'm proud of how hard the eighth graders have pushed themselves in this unit!

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - 7th grade began a new unit this week which focuses on arithmetic properties. This brings us back to work with negative numbers, fractions, and decimals, expanding to grouping operations and decimal division.

Here's a challenge problem from this week (which several students solved)

The image shows a handwritten solution for a challenge problem on a whiteboard. The problem is to evaluate the expression $4(3 - (2 + 3(4 + 5) - 6) + 7(2 - 3))$. The student's work is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &4(3 - (2 + 3(4 + 5) - 6) + 7(2 - 3)) \\ &4(3 - (2 + 3(9) - 6) + 7(2 - 3)) \\ &4(3 - (2 + 27 - 6) + (-7)) \\ &4(3 - (23) - 7) = 12 - 92 - 28 \\ &(-20 - 7) \\ &4(-27) \\ &\quad \checkmark \\ &-108 \end{aligned}$$

8th Grade - Most of the 8th graders are now comfortable with multi-step solutions of systems of linear equations. Now we relate the algebraic work that they've been doing to graphs and relationships, building understanding of what it means to solve an equation.

Algebra 1- It was a short week for Algebra, but we will be quickly burning through unit 4 since our awesome young mathematicians have already had significant exposure to most of the topics.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org if you have any questions or concerns.

SCIENCE

7th Grade: This Week - An intro. to Chemical Reactions and how they relate to our planet. Students conducted an experiment to understand how electrons from one atom bond with another atom(s) to create all of the things we see in our world!

Next Week: Continue looking at Chemical Reactions and how they influence everything we know.



How do you inflate a ziploc bag to the maximum with no electricity? Chemical reactions!

8th Grade: This Week - 8th grade was divided this week into small groups and learned what it would be like to travel inside of a drop of dew. What is going on in there? There are wars happening between paramecium and bacteria that can shoot darts! There is creature called a TARTIGRADE, aka “The Water Bear”, with 6 strong legs and is able to survive in outer space (with no jacket!). Who knew so much was going on inside a drop of dew?

Next Week: Continue with a look at the world beneath and also, Project X - Where am I? (using Y-Intercept to determine your location).

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th & 8th Grade: As we come to the end of the Trimester, we will begin working on our Tri1 Final Essays, Projects, and Presentations. Students will have a lot of choice to show what they have learned this trimester. These final assignments will take the next two weeks to complete and will require some work being done as homework. All details will be posted on the Google Classroom on Monday, November 6 and the due date will be at the end of the day on November 17. Essays and Projects will be assessed and included in Trimester 1 report cards. Presentations will begin when we return from Thanksgiving Break and will be part of Trimester 2 grades.

Middle School Final Thoughts:

As always, if you need to reach a teacher for any reason, email is best. Here they are once again:

Roy Baker - Social Studies - rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org

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

Joann Powers - ELA - jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org

Carter Devol - Science - cdevol@willowcreekacademy.org

Belinda Ingraham - Spanish - bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org

Lauren Haberly - Art - lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org

Dave Singleton - PE - dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org

Enjoy the Weekend! - Your MS Team.