



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Nov. 17th, 2017

Announcements

- ★ 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 - Manpreet Kaur
 - 8th Grade - Ricky Gallardo

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: This week we continued analyzing our in-class novel, *Inside Out & Back Again*. Students have been concentrating on how critical incidents reveal the dynamic nature of the main character, Ha. This book is written in the form of short free-verse poems. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

8th Grade: This week the 8th graders started their new unit, *Investigative Journalism*. In this unit students will learn to use their observation skills to write news and investigative articles about meaningful topics, crafting vivid narratives and elaborating multiple perspectives. Students will also study mentor texts and learn the craft of nonfiction writing that will serve students well in their future writings. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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)

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

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 - Chemical reactions, cells and photosynthesis... How do these things power life on earth? The idea of a free electron powering plant growth which in turn enables us to live like we do was the topic of the week. On Thursday we also took a fun adventure to Mill Valley to see Annie!

Next Week: Football, turkey, naps and family (not in that order..... necessarily!)

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

8th Grade: This Week - What is an atom and how does it stay together? We looked at elements, the periodic table and how the parts of an element determine what makes something soft, dry, rough smooth, etc and it is the molecular make-up of the object!

Next Week: (see 7th grade...)

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th & 8th Grade: Wishing all families a Happy Thanksgiving! All final essays and projects have been turned in. Some presentations still need to be given, and we will have those presentations when we return from break. Also, all Journals should have been turned in.

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:ssd.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.