



## **7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - November 2, 2018**

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

**Seventh Grade:** This week we started writing our Realistic Fiction Essay. In this writing, students write engaging short fiction by creating action-filled plots, and believable characters and by crafting nuanced, memorable scenes. Students began the week by exploring the fictional possibilities in their own true lives.

**Eighth Grade:** This week students started their Literary Essay where they will analyze craft and theme. In this essay, students will write arguments and counterarguments about themes in texts, supporting their positions with details of plot, character and author's craft. Students began to write about and reflect upon the themes they see in the texts they have chosen to write about.

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

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

#### **7th Grade Announcements:**

7th graders continued to work with fractions, order of operations, and signed numbers. We are working toward building fluency with multiplying, adding, and subtracting mixed numbers. Students across the board did well with adding positive and negative numbers in our board game, but many still need work with understanding what we do with different types of operations with fractions. Advanced students are beginning to better understand why and how to reduce large fractions.

#### **8th Grade announcements:**

8th graders have just completed unit 3 which focused upon finding algebraic rules from tables, graphing, and solving equations. Most students are exhibiting mastery in solving two and three step equations! The next step in this domain is to build graphing fluency.

It is my sincere wish that we work together to encourage students and get ahead of any issues that may arise, so don't hesitate to email me at

[ssd.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:ssd.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald



### 7th Grade:

This week students explored what happens when sugar water, salt water and sand water are poured through a coffee filter. Students also experimented with what happens to the mass of chewing gum when you chew it over 10 minutes. Students wrote a hypothesis, recorded the data, graphed the data and then wrote a conclusion.

### 8th Grade:

At the beginning of the week students learned about velocity of an object by using a baseball to see how fast they are able to throw it. Students used the equation  $V=D/T$  to determine how long it takes their pitch to reach home plate. During the second half of the week students began to test their LEGO Egg Cars down the ramp and will use their data to explore the equation  $V=D/T$  and potential and kinetic energy.

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

### WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

**7th Grade:** We have spent the last two weeks learning about the history of the Middle East and the development of Islam. We have learned about the polytheistic culture of the nomadic tribes on the Arabian peninsula and how the religious teachings of Islam united the different cultures and helped create one of the largest empires the world has ever seen.

Next week, we will begin our final essay of the 1st trimester.

**8th Grade:** Our focus for the last two weeks has been the Great Debates between de Las Casas and Sepulveda and how that influenced the creation of the Mission System (of conquest) and changed the views that Europeans had regarding the Natives of the Americas.

Next week, we will begin our final essay of the 1st trimester.

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

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