



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Nov. 3rd, 2017



HAPPY FALL!

Announcements

- ★ Report Cards for the 1st Trimester will be mailed home the first week of December. Because of the timing of report cards, we will not be sending home Progress Reports for both November and December. If you need a progress and grade update during that time, please email your student's homeroom teacher. Families will still receive an October progress report next week.
- ★ If you've already donated to the SMART campaign...THANK YOU!
We rely on your contribution to fund classroom supplies, classroom field trips, the art program, music, reading and language, computers and new this year...the 5th grade week-long overnight and the Middle School Outward Bound program. So, please donate if you haven't already...
www.WillowCreekAcademy.org/donate
Every dollar makes a difference!
- ★ 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 - Mikyla Williams
 - 8th Grade - Lashanti Walker
- ★ 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."
- ★ Did you know that WCF is now funding the Outward Bound program? If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.
- ★ There is an upcoming OB rock climbing trip for the 8th grade. Annika Granholm has been reaching out to get drivers. Please let Annika, or Mr. Baker know if you are available to drive to and from

Ring Mountain Park (Turtle Rock) on either November 7th, 8th, or 9th! Each day, 15 students will attend. The other students will have school as usual. Rosters for who will attend on which day are being sent home today. The list is also available via link on the WCA Friday Post page.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: We are continuing to revise our realistic fiction. This week we have concentrated on creating character depth, revising authentic dialogue, weaving in symbolism and imagery to bring out meaning, and conducting the rhythm of language by creating cadence and meaning through syntax. Students have been reflecting on the deeper meanings/central ideas of their stories and considering objects, settings, actions that they can develop as symbols, images, or metaphors. Students' realistic fiction stories are due Monday, November 6th.

8th Grade: Students took notes on author craft looking for patterns and powerful craft moves. Students used these strategies to revise their thematic essays. On Monday, students will use what they've learned in this unit to writing a compare and contrast essay using two texts.

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 whiteboard with handwritten mathematical work. The expression being simplified is $4(3 - (2 + 3(4 + 5) - 6) + 7(2 - 3))$. The student uses various colors (red, green, black) and arrows to show the order of operations, starting with the innermost parentheses. The final result is -108 .

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

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.

7th Grade: This Week - Presentations! This week our presentations ran a bit long but all students completed the nerve-wracking assignment of presenting a 3 - 5 minute slide show about a specific Era or Eon in the history of our planet. Students listened to presentations to create their own timeline of the history of Earth.

Next Week: The Carbon Cycle

8th Grade: This Week - A big week for the 8th grade! Students will be working on a project to figure out where the velocity needed to reach a destination based upon $y = mx + b$ (the Y-intercept formula). Yes, it is math which most Physics based science requires. Students have worked the past two weeks on acquiring formulas and then applying those various formulas to problems. A lot of learning

Next Week: 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: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.