



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - November 30, 2018

Dear Willow Creek families,

We hope you had a good week! Here's the news from our middle school team:

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

**Seventh Grade:** Since the beginning of this unit, students have been working to craft compelling, tension-filled, and meaningful stories. As we approach the tail end of that journey, students have been tackling the arduous work of editing their stories (paragraph checking, spelling, punctuation, etc.) After several days of revising and fine-tuning their drafts, students are nearing the publishing finishing line. *Realistic Fiction Essays are due Tuesday, December 4th.*

**Eighth Grade:** This week students spent time putting the final touches on their Author's Craft Essay. They have been focusing on sentence structure, punctuation, and word choice. We are now entering the last Bend of our Literary Writing Unit. In their final essay, students will demonstrate how to compare-and-contrast the themes in two different texts. They will use all they have learned this year to draft a Comparative Essay, looking at similarities and differences. This is an apt way to end this unit, as it will most clearly reflect the way in which students will write in high school. *Author's Craft Essays are due Friday, November 30th.*

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 spent week multiplying with decimals. We have gone into greater depth with this new skill, and also built upon previous skills of adding, multiplying, and subtracting negative numbers.

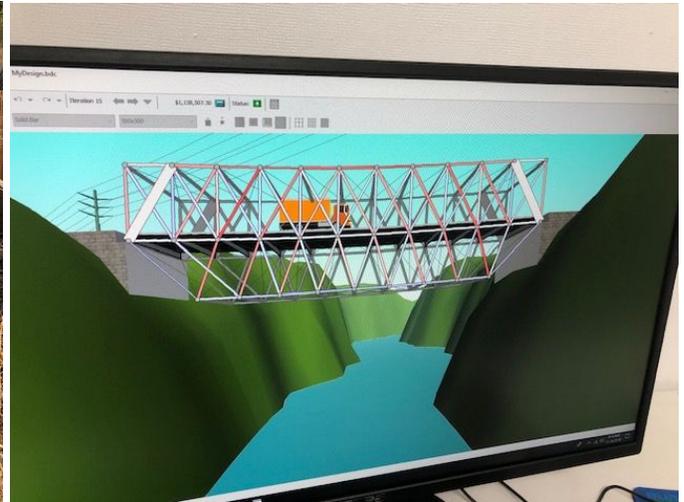
Several students have chosen to work on skills-buildings sheets for homework.

#### 8th Grade announcements:

8th graders are continuing to build skills with linear equations. They'll have finished another unit by the end of the week, and we'll be building more fluency with going between different representations in the upcoming unit.

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

## SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald



### 7th Grade:

This final week of the semester students designed, built, tested and presented their desalination device. To test the desalinator we took some salt water out of the Sausalito Bay. The smoke blocked enough of the sunlight to make the testing phase less successful, but the majority of students were able to collect some fresh water.

### 8th Grade:

This week 8th graders started a new lesson on bridges to explore compression and tension in a structure. Students used a computer simulation to test and reduce the cost of their bridge designs. After Thanksgiving break students will be building physical bridges.

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

### WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

**7th Grade:** Welcome back! Hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday week!

We decided to dive right back into our new trimester with a journey to West Africa. We are learning about how family groups joined to form tribes and villages. As those villages grew, they turned into cities and then nations or kingdoms. We also briefly learned about how agriculture defined the new and old stone age.

**8th Grade:** We have been learning about Jamestown and the influences from England and Spain. This new world settlement had been largely misunderstood and new evidence has shed light on the violence and political strife experienced by the early colonists.

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

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