



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - November 9, 2018

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

Congratulations to our Middle School Students of the Week!

\*CJ Ceral

\*Greta Weinsheimer

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

**Seventh Grade:** This week students have been concentrating on character development in fiction stories. They have been exploring characters' motivations and obstacles, their quirks and passions, their internal and external lives. Creating complex, realistic characters will help them convey the meaning in their Realistic Fiction Essays.

*Next Week: Vocabulary test on Thursday, November 15th.*

**Eighth Grade:** This week ended Bend I of our Literary Writing unit. Students finished their Thematic Essays, which focused on analyzing and refining their thinking about the theme of a text. Students used new, high-leverage strategies that will help them meet and exceed the expectations of their high school English classes.

*Next Week: We begin Bend II of this unit. Students will focus on the way an author uses a particular craft in a text, and exploring the intentions behind those choices. Vocabulary Test on Thursday November 15th.*

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 are finishing their second unit and have been working on graphing fluency. They are choosing consistent scales, evaluating graphs, and making predictions.

#### 8th Grade announcements:

8th graders just finished up a unit, and moved on to creating posters that show the growth of a pattern with diagrams, functions, tables, and graphs. This culminated in a presentation in which each group member explained and defended their work.

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 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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