



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - October 19, 2018

Announcements

- ★ Congratulations to our ACADEMIC ALL-STARS of the week! These students displayed leadership both academically and in our WCA community!
This week's All-Stars are Lazlo Clements and Angelina Arroyo Gutierrez.

- ★ So far, our new drop off route on Buchanan Drive has been going better than expected!
 - Please continue to follow the new drop off route to Buchanan Drive, or better yet encourage kids to walk or bike to school!
 - Please be mindful of making legal turns and avoid trying to turn down Buchanan Dr. from Nevada Street. Mr. Baker and other students will be there to help guide families to the proper route.
 - Lastly, the upper parking lot is closed for student drop off from 8:00 am to 8:15 am.

- ★ Regarding Halloween, Wednesday, December 31.:
 - Students may bring a costume that they can put on over their uniform and do so after lunch only. They may NOT use the restroom to change.
 - We will have an all Middle School celebration in the courtyard after lunch until 2pm dismissal.
 - No horrifying, bloody, terrifying costumes or props are allowed.
 - Any student who does not celebrate Halloween may spend the time in Room 20 with Ms. Rizzo doing some, as yet undetermined, low key, fun type activity.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade: Students started off the week analyzing characters as vehicles for themes. Students have been practicing moving step by step from motifs to themes. They have been exploring motifs further and reexamining relevant scenes in their books. They'll continue to use their notebooks as places to jot down their thinking, develop ideas, and reflect. They began to develop note-taking systems to track motifs as we enter the final bend of this unit.

Eighth Grade: This week students continued the work of tracing motifs and investigating themes, alongside the new work of investigating symbols as another way to explore theme. Students continue to use their notebooks as places to jot their thinking, develop ideas, and reflect.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade Announcements:

7th graders have been working with fractions, converting from fraction to decimals with long division, converting from decimals to fractions, and are entering into the second part of the unit where we focus upon operations with negative numbers. We finished up the week by building a unit test from student-produced questions.

8th Grade announcements:

We spent the week growing in our graphing fluency as we build toward connecting our algebra knowledge to graphs of linear systems.

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

SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald



7th Grade:

This week students finished their flashlights and started a new unit on water. Students learned about California's drought issues and wildfires. Students made a list of what they would grab from their house, in case of a fire, if they had 30 seconds or 10 minutes to grab their belongings.

8th Grade:

We have started a new unit on force and motion this week. We started by doing a tablecloth challenge where students had to pull the tablecloth out from under dishes. We discussed the forces acting on the objects on the tablecloth. We also worked on balancing forces through making a stack of blocks on top of

a very small area, see photo above. We are now building LEGO cars to explore the force of gravity acting upon a vehicle on a slope.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

7th Grade: We have begun our exploration of Pre-Islamic history of the Middle East and are recognizing the importance of the geographic location and how that led to a growth in wealth, power, and influence. We are also seeing how the Byzantine Empire and the Persian Empire (Islamic and Pre-Islamic) were the two major super powers in the area.

8th Grade: This week was an exploration of how Columbus represented his discoveries to the Queen of Spain and how his crew also represented themselves. Overall, the changes to the New World as the Spanish expanded their territory and exploited the local populations was the focus of our studies. We finished the week with an exploration of the Columbian Exchange.

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

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