



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - October 26, 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 Genevieve Cantin and Neveah Carr.

- ★ Regarding Halloween, Wednesday, October 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: They did it! This week ended our reading unit, and what a success it was! All students moved across an arc of closer reading, deeper thinking, more purposeful writing about reading, more literary conversation, and greater agency and independence. Students took charge of their reading lives by annotating the text and jotting notes in ways that deepened their thinking.

Next week: We will begin our Narrative Writing Unit.

Eighth Grade: This reading unit centered on a few big goals. My first goal was to help students take charge of their reading lives with zeal. My second goal was to lead them into paying closer attention to details in their novels, especially details about characters that suggest the ways characters are complex. My third goal was to teach students to develop nuanced thinking about the role that setting, especially the psychology of the setting, plays in shaping characters. My fourth goal was to help students think about the relationship between conflicts characters face and the themes that are developed in the novel. I am pleased to announce that not only did they meet all of these goals, they exceeded them!

Next week: Students will begin their Literary Analysis Writing Unit.

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](mailto:ss.t.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

This week students started out with an engineering challenge using Keva blocks to explore Newton's First Law, *that an object will remain at rest or in uniform motion in a straight line unless acted upon by an external force*. We spent the remainder of the week learning about water scarcity around the world and how to conserve water in ones home. Next week students will explore ways to purify water by making their own water filter.

8th Grade:

We are continuing our unit on force and motion by exploring the forces that occur during a car accident. To test the students understanding of forces in a car crash students are building the base of a car out of LEGOs and they are given two sheets of paper to protect an egg in a simulated car accident. Next week students will test their cars as they drive down a ramp into a concrete block. Students will calculate the speed and forces that are acting upon the car with the egg.

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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