



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Oct. 27th, 2017

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:
 - 6th Grade - Isabelle McLachlan
 - 6th Grade - Xuley Hernandez
- ★ 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! Should be an awesome time for the students! As a reminder, in order for their students to attend the rock climbing trip, 8th grade families must have all medical and liability forms completed and turned in no later than Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: The students have finished the first draft of their realistic fiction essay. This week we have been revising leads, strengthening dialogue, researching key facts, and looking closely at our endings. I am teaching students that writers take their time with endings, weighing and considering and revising until they find one that fits. Students know it is important to finish strong and satisfy their readers. Students are

taking their time to tie up loose ends, resolve the unresolved difficulties, and bring home the story's meaning.

8th Grade: This week students finished their thematic essays. I am really looking forward to reading them. Students also had their second vocabulary test of the year. Mid-week, students began exploring the genre of author's craft essays by looking for symbolism, repetition and descriptive language in their independent book choices.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - We focused on graphing this week, choosing scales that made our data easy to read and digest. This concluded our work in the chapter, and Thursday was spent reviewing graphing, probability, and working with mixed numbers. Friday brings a quiz, while a unit test will be given next week.

8th Grade - Our 8th graders are doing algebra this week, moving away from using the algebra tile manipulatives. We also focused on efficiency, and students are getting much better at solving two and three step algebraic expression efficiently.

Algebra 1- This week we finished an entire chapter! Students are able to solve absolute value equations, as well as solve and graph inequalities

As always, don't hesitate to email me at sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Science with Mr. Devol - This week was put on hold for science so the 7th grade could head out backpacking!

7th Grade: This Week - Welcome back 7th graders! We had a great time and created a lot of memories at Henry Coe State Park last week. Students jumped back in this week and continued with their presentations on the chronology of the history of Earth. Students began presenting yesterday and will finish up next week.

Next Week: The Carbon Cycle

Backpacking Adventures!



8th Grade: This Week - Our school leaders used the majority of this week to explain the beauty that is a simple machine. When using a pair of scissors or digging with a shovel, the amount of effort you put in will be rewarded! You put it 20 Newton's of force and the simple machine will add to it. What a time to be alive!

Next Week: Buoyancy, Archimedes and how things float.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: We changed directions this week and explored the development of the Catholic Church in medieval times. Our learning showed how the Church was a binding force that tried to bring order to the chaos that the fall of the Western Empire left behind. Next week we begin our explorations of the Byzantine Empire and how it influenced the development of the Middle East, and Eastern Orthodoxy.

8th Grade: We finished our exploration of Jamestown and early colonization attempts. We have begun learning about the Original 13 Colonies. Next week, we will dive deep into early American colonial life and the factors that led to the Intolerable Acts and how early American/English colonists reacted.