



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - September 28, 2018

### Announcements

- ★ Congratulations to our ACADEMIC ALL-STARS of the week! These students displayed leadership both academically and in our WCA community!  
Your all-stars this week are:
  - Berry Holub
  - Gabrielle Myers
  
- ★ The MPR turn-around will be closed from 8:00 to 8:30 daily starting Monday, October 1st. Please drop off at on Buchanan Drive, or better yet encourage kids to walk or bike to school!
  
- ★ Progress reports will be sent home Monday, October 1st.
  
- ★ Picture Day is Thursday, October 4th. Students need to wear uniforms on Picture Day, even though that is also a PE day.

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

**Seventh Grade:** This week marked the end of the first bend of our unit. Students focused on how to analyze complex character traits, including thinking about how some character traits that might not be apparent at first emerge across a narrative. Students collected evidence to support their thinking about character traits, and they revised their thinking to incorporate new evidence as they read. Students learned how to engage in literary conversation through daily partner discussion, annotating and jotting as they read, and used notebooks to capture and develop their best thinking. I have been elated to see how much their reading volume has grown over these last several weeks!

**Eighth Grade:** This week we began Bend II of our reading unit (A Deep Study of Character). Across this bend students will consider the setting and how it shapes characters. This bend of the unit will move students toward analyzing the complex interactions of characters and setting. We have been investigating the role that setting plays in shaping characters, both in the stories they are reading and in the lives they are living.

**Yearbook/Journalism:** The school year is well underway, events are happening, and our yearbook staff is getting ready to take lots (and I mean LOTS!) of photos. We are fortunate enough to have Gina Risso, of Risso Photography, teaching our student yearbook staff. This week Gina guided us through the three basics of photography: shutter speed, aperture, and ISO/film speed.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: [jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org)

## Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

**The first progress reports are in and you should see them early next week!**

### 7th Grade Announcements:

This week we worked on probability, introducing both theoretical and experimental probability. We finished the week by beginning to convert fractions to percents.

### 8th Grade announcements:

8th grade was reintroduced (and in some cases introduced) to algebra tiles. We are working toward a deep understanding of variables and like terms.

It is my sincere wish that we work together to encourage and get ahead of any issues that may arise, so don't hesitate to email me at [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:ssst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

### 8th Grade:

This week the eighth graders worked on making a circuit that would make a fan spin. They combined together a motor, fan blade, battery, and switch to make a working fan. Students also did experiments with the fortune telling fish to hone their skills in creating variables to test against a control.

### 7th Grade:

This week the seventh graders drew a joystick in their notebooks to control their PacMan games with a MaKey Makey. Students also did experiments with the fortune telling fish to hone their skills in creating variables to test against a control.

Today 7b went on a field trip. Details are below.

The 7th graders have a field trip scheduled to sail in the San Francisco Bay with Captain Heather Richard, Julius's mom. (Julius is a long-time Willow Creek student who is sailing around this world with his family this school year!) On the field trip, students spend 2 hours sailing and then the remainder of the day at the Spaulding Marine Center where the students will get a tour of their facility and some hands on map-making instruction. They will build a sailing map to track Julius's course while he sails around the world. On the boat, students will learn how to set a course in the bay much as Julius will be doing throughout his trip.

In this way, students will personalize the trip and connect with their classmate, as well as gain hands-on experience and make real-world connections among maritime and geography skills, math applications, and navigational know-how.

Over the course of the year, our class will follow Julius as he travels around the world with his family, and it is my hope that the students will have an opportunity to grow and develop through this unique opportunity with Julius and his family.

## **Social Studies with Mr. Baker**

### **WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK**

**7th Grade:** The 7th graders wrote their first in-class essay on discussing the reasons why Rome fell. This was our first essay of the year and we should have 2 or 3 a trimester. Next week we explore Medieval Europe and the development of Catholicism.

**8th Grade:** This week, our studies took us to some Enlightenment thinkers: Rousseau, Locke, Hume, and how the Social Contract has evolved over the years. This week, we jig sawed the text set and next Monday we will teach each other what we learned in our articles.

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

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