



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - December 7, 2018

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade: They did it! All Realistic Fiction Essays have been edited, submitted, and are ready for review. They are amazing! We will be celebrating their accomplishments with a publishing party next week, where students will be able to share their stories with their peers.

We started our new unit, Social Issues Book Clubs: Reading for Empathy and Advocacy. In Bend I, students will consider issues that arise between individual characters. These relationship issues provide a kind of on-ramp to talking about how power, perspective, and conflicts affect characters.

MAP Testing for ELA was administered Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Eighth Grade:

In middle school, many kinds of issues start to weigh more heavily on students. There are relationship issues, school issues, and a growing awareness of larger societal pressures. As we enter Bend I of our next unit (Social Issues Book Clubs: Reading for Empathy and Advocacy), students will continue to elevate their literary analysis by considering the complex dynamics between characters. Students will push themselves to be more precise; to consider cause and effect; and to weigh and evaluate how power, perspective, and conflicts affect characters.

MAP Testing for ELA was administered Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

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

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade Announcements:

7th graders spent week multiplying with decimals. We have gone into greater depth with this new skill, and also built upon previous skills of adding, multiplying, and subtracting negative numbers.

Several students have chosen to work on skills-buildings sheets for homework.

8th Grade announcements:

8th graders are continuing to build skills with linear equations. They'll have finished another unit by the end of the week, and we'll be building more fluency with going between different representations in the upcoming unit.

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 7th graders worked on their Environmental Science project. As part of this project students are creating a slideshow to present to the class and designing a t-shirt to wear during their presentation. The t-shirt design is introducing students to 2D CAD design.

8th Grade:

This week 8th graders started their Natural Disaster Science projects. Students have chosen a topic and begun their research. Next week students will begin designing their t-shirts for the project.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

7th Grade: Welcome back! Hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday week!

We decided to dive right back into our new trimester with a journey to West Africa. We are learning about how family groups joined to form tribes and villages. As those villages grew, they turned into cities and then nations or kingdoms. We also briefly learned about how agriculture defined the new and old stone age.

8th Grade: We have been learning about Jamestown and the influences from England and Spain. This new world settlement had been largely misunderstood and new evidence has shed light on the violence and political strife experienced by the early colonists.

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

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