



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Oct. 20th, 2017

Announcements

- ★ 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:
 - 7th Grade - CJ Ceral
 - 8th Grade - Lillie Roller
- ★ 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.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: As you know, the majority of our 7th graders are off on a three day camping trip. I look forward to hearing all their stories and adventures when they return. Those who stayed worked with partners to plot and draft narratives focusing on the strategies we've learned so far. Next week students will revise their short stories after examining leads, dialogue, endings and sentence structure in mentor texts.

8th Grade: This week students focused on completing their thematic essays. They strengthened connections between evidence and ideas and counterclaims. Final editing work will focus on mechanics. The essays are due next Wednesday the 25th. Also, there will be a vocabulary test on Tuesday, October 24th.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade - Most of 7th grade was out enjoying the challenge of Outward Bound, shout out to the foundation for making that happen! 7th graders who remained practices skills in long division, addition and subtraction of signed numbers, fraction and decimal conversion, and more.

8th Grade - This week we worked on efficiency with filling out tables and graphing. The idea is that we will build understanding and proficiency in working with linear equations, which is a major topic of the first semester of algebra next year.

Algebra 1- Our Algebra 1 kids had a pretty short week, but we did learn how to manipulate and solve absolute value equations. Students made and exchanged questions for each team to solve in a mini group quiz.

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

Science with Mr. Devol

7th Grade Driving Question of the Week (cont'd): How did we get to where we are as a planet / human species?

In 7th grade, students worked hard on their presentations and continued our look at the six major Eons. Students are working in groups of 4 and are each responsible for at least 3 slides as part of the presentation (when we return from backpacking). Presentations begin on 10/26.

Next Week: *Backpacking with Outward Bound*

8th Grade Driving Question (cont'd): How is energy transferred on earth? We continued on last week with this question and students looked at the various types of ways in which energy moves through systems.

Next Week: *Backpacking with Outward Bound*

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: Most 7th graders attended the Outward Bound Camping trip, but some students were so excited to be in Social Studies, that they stayed and we learned a bit about the Black Plague and how it was spread; and did a deep dive into the Early Middle Ages. This next week, we will finish out Hadrian's Wall unit by imagining that we were part of the British-Roman Historical Society and create informational posters about Hadrian's Wall!

8th Grade: The viewing of The New World has occupied most of our week, but we did spend some time summarizing what we've learned and creating posters to express what we have come to understand through viewing the movie. Next week, we will push further into the archaeology of Jamestown and how it can be used to understand the foundation of our country, and the relationship we create with indigeneous people and the resources available to the colonists.