

MAPLE CREEK SCHOOL

A Year of Exploring Education

Individualized Learning

Each student works toward his or her grade's standards at his or her pace and according to his or her interests - as much as possible.

Daily 5

A wonderful way to individualize the language arts program is the Daily 5 system. Twice each day, students choose one task and engage in that task for the entire session. They rotate through the tasks during the week. This gives students some control over and choice in their language development.

Hands-on Learning

To help children apply the skills they are learning to the broader world, Maple Creek students engage in a variety of hands-on learning activities. These activities include long-term projects, performances, guest teachers, and field trips.

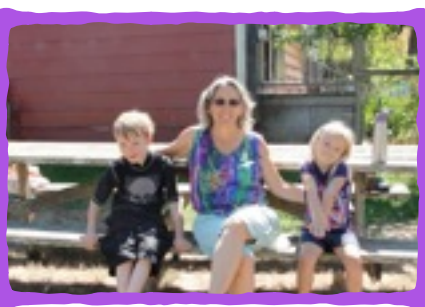


We love to learn!





Before school started, we had a tech day when we learned about tablets and how to use them.



We had water day when it was hot enough. Gwen and Wendy supplied water toys and let us run through the sprinkler.



Gwen had us do a math project that involved paper planes.

August



SCHOOL'S IN! We all had fun getting to know each other.



The teachers taught us all about Daily Five, the Language Arts activity we've done all year.



We all did some reader's theater plays with Leslie.

September



We found a butterfly outside and brought it in to look at it.



We also made cool creations with the pattern blocks.



In September we had water day since it was hot enough. We had soakers, and we sprayed each other with them. We had a water table with toys inside it.



Paul Klee is a famous artist. Our art teacher, Leslie, taught us about geometric shapes, and Paul Klee drew geometric shapes into his art work.



In September we learned how to do Read To Self. Read To Self is when you read to yourself.



October



Jen May kindly led a yoga session on the river beach. We also practiced focusing on one sense at a time. Here, Jaylenne told a story while we listened with our eyes closed.



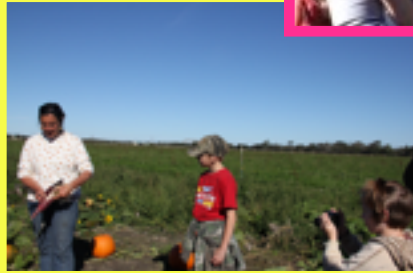
We investigated the creek habitat.



The Olders worked on their clubhouses.

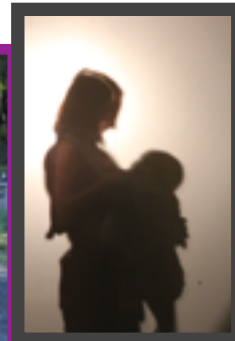


October



We were at the pumpkin patch looking for pumpkins for Halloween.

Nancy Coffelt is an author/artist, and she came to our school for author's Festival. She taught us to draw and showed us one of her new books.



On Halloween, we were all dressed up and ready to have fun. We decorated our sugar skulls. We had a raffle in the morning, and my friend, Skyler won. We had a performance and a party in the afternoon.

November November



We put drawing paper on the table so that the customers were not bored while they were waiting for their food.



We used skin paint after the cafe.



This is the lantern walk. "Glimmer lantern, glimmer; little lights a shimmer" was one of the lyrics from a song we sang.



The day before the cafe, we made lanterns for a lantern walk.

The 5th - 8th graders shared the club houses they built for a math project.



December



Malia showed us how to rock the winter outfit!



The Youngers performed a shadow play.



Santa gave us presents present when he came to visit!!!



Aria, Meadow and Savanna all began a band. The band was called Ezma . After a little bit Malia joined. Their nick names were Mead, Aira and Meza. Later, Shyanna joined. Her nick name was Zazzy.



Kacey scared the jingle bells out of Krista. :(



Shyanna was the best big sister by letting Krista have that whole cupcake. I wish I had her for a sister! ;)

We celebrated Savanna and Gianni's birthday after the Winter performance.



All the kids at school sang at the play!



The Olders played Santa's helpers for the Winter Show.

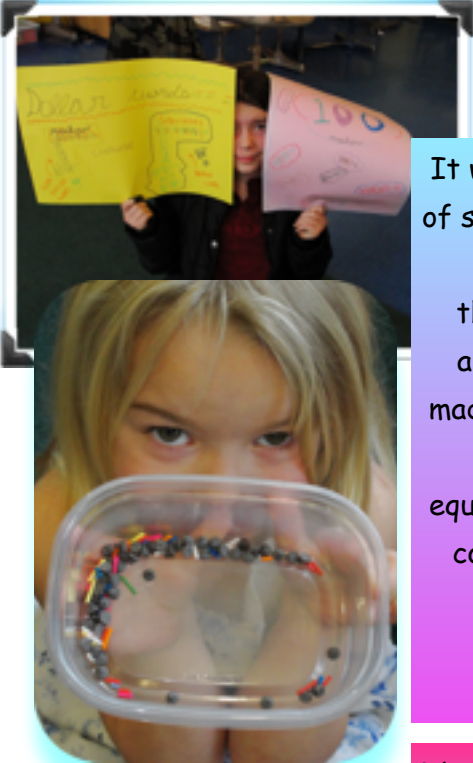
We shared our writing with each other during Author's Chair.

January



Rachel, Gwen's daughter, came to practice being a teacher. She made friends with Emily, and now whenever Emily sees Rachel, she wants to play with her.

February



It was the 100th Day of school. The younger kids shared 100 things from home, and the older kids made dollar words and equations that equaled 100. It was so cool because we all got to share something.



Valentine's Day was wonderful because we got to make bags to put the Valentine's card and candy in them. We had a dance party!



This is author's chair where we take turns every Friday, and read something that we wrote. People give suggestions to the author, so the story can be better.



MARCH AND APRIL!!!!!!!!!!

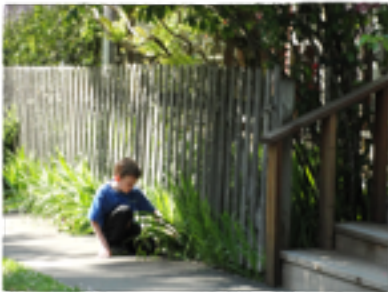


For st. Patricks day
we painted our
faces!

One day, only
four kids came
to school, so
Wendy and
Gwen got
permission to
take the
students to
town for an
unplanned field
trip!



Our friend who used to go to
Maple Creek, Trula came to visit!

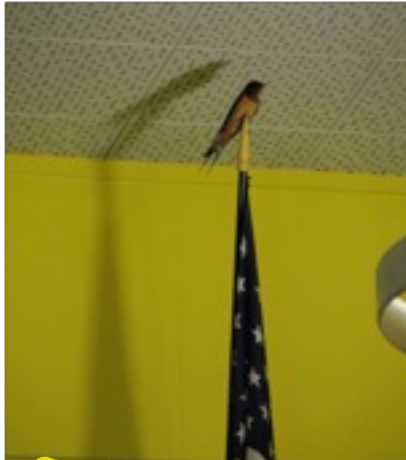


For our spring party we
had a egg hunt!



We made Paper Mâché dogs with Leslie,
and she put them in the Art Center in
Arcata!

May



When we were doing science, a barn swallow flew in through the classroom door and landed on top of the American flag. He stayed overnight, and Jessica made it get out. We named it Birdie.



Our new bus finally arrived, complete with a bus driver!



We rehearsed the play for the end of the year party.

Soccer with Gwen's son, Ethan, was fun!



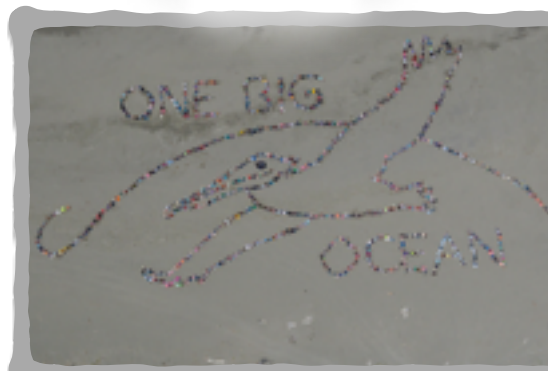
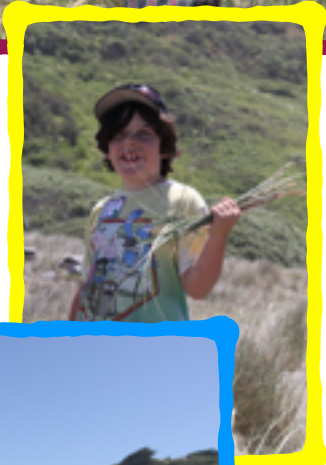
Water Day was awesome because we got to play in the water together.

June

Our first field trip in the bus was to swim at Health Sport and to explore the Sequoia Park Zoo. We also got to play at the park near the pool.

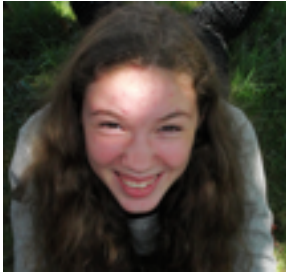


We loved Ocean Day. It was nice to get out of the classroom to help the environment.



Then

Now



Aria Windbigler



Anna Schroeder



Beau Karrer



Dalia Schroeder



Elisha Yeo



Emily McGaughey



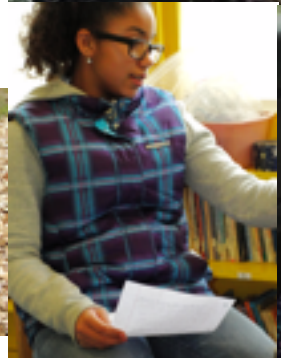
Gianni Orlandi



Jaylenne Harris



Malia Windbigler



Then

Now



Meadow Karrer



Rachel McGaughey



Savanna May



Skyler May



Shawn Giuntini



Shyanna Giuntini



Congratulations!



We wish you all the best in high school!

Aria's 8th Grade Graduation Speech

I remember the day I learned the meaning of Maple Creek. In fact, it was the very first day of school of my kindergarten year. I was so scared and so little! I remember that everyone and everything seemed huge and horrible. When my brother, Jacob, and I walked into this room, all the other kids were already sitting on the rug in a lopsided circle. We sat down at the edge, and I hid behind Jake. I peeked around his shoulder at a stranger. The stranger smiled warmly and slightly waved. At that moment, I knew this was a safe, friendly haven of love. I also knew I would love it forever, and I have, and I will. I love the smallness and friendliness and familiness. I love every minute of Maple Creek, from beginning until now.

I remember my first teacher read a story aloud to the class that everyone loved. During a part of the story, it described a facial expression, and I copied the illustration. They all loved it and from then on, whenever it happened in the story, I would do it too, even if I was shy. Moriah and Sarah taught me to speak up and share my ideas, to be a little more outgoing and friendly.

I got frustrated with math, but John with his gentle ways, helped me find things I enjoyed about it. He guided me in areas I had trouble and taught me to understand. He gave me a large head start, which will help in the long run.

The first person to teach me to dance here was Leslie. She affectionately turned me from an ungraceful toe-squasher into a light-footed leaper. Leslie taught me how to dance, create, and helped me read. She introduced me to several of my most favorite books and helped me understand them so much better.

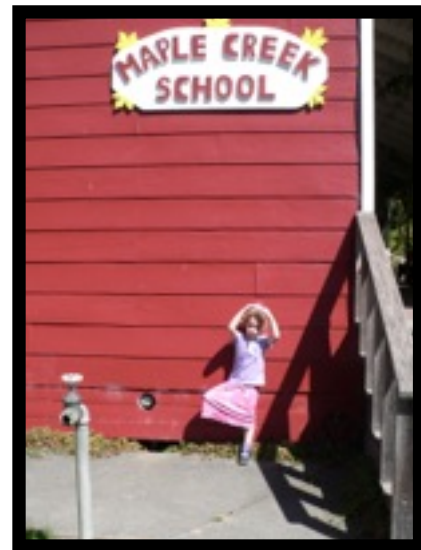
Right from the beginning, Carlene nurtured my author/actress side. She helped with History Day so much! I won't ever forget how late we would stay up, perfecting and finishing until I could barely keep my eyes open. When I was performing and I had a hard time being loud and enunciating, she had me be a Loud Mouth Frog. I didn't like getting up on stage, memorizing lines, or even writing stories, but that didn't stop her! She made acting, learning my lines, and coming up with stories enjoyable.

After I had found my voice, I began to be kind-of bossy, but Wendy helped me learn to be more patient and less overbearing. She gave us group projects, like building islands, volcanoes or marble runs, in which we all had to work together. We had to take turns leading, even if I didn't want to follow. Wendy was there whenever I needed her, or whenever I was lonely, like when all the boys were outside playing a game and teased me. I came to Wendy and she made everything better with a hug, a smile, and an 'I love you.' Well, I love you too, Wendy.

When Gwen arrived, I wasn't looking forward to any more change, but right away, I loved her kindness, thoughtfulness and motherly-ness. Over time, she cured some of my irresponsibleness, but if you ask, she'll probably tell you that I'm still learning.

Through the whole nine years here, Mom and Dad always helped, always loved me and were always there. They made my education possible. Mom, thanks for being supportive and encouraging and well... mom-ish. Dad, I still can't believe how hard you work to keep our family safe, fed and happy, most of the time... Malia, I love you bunches. It's been really fun having you at school with me, where I watch and help you learn. High school wouldn't be as formidable if you were coming with me. Jake, thanks for your advice; don't worry, I love you, too.

Like I said, I'll love you all forever. I'll remember the friendliness and familiness of the Maple Creek Community. Thanks for the contribution you've made to my life and thank you all for the opportunities you've given me; I'm going to miss you terribly, but not yet because I haven't even left.



Staff



Gwen Neu, Teacher



Wendy Orlandi,
Superintendent/
Teacher



Leslie Odelberg, Teacher



Bill Carlson, Maintenance



Dan, the Bus Driver Man,
Orlandi



Jessica Windbigler,
Secretary