



Maple Creek School News

Another School Year Begins

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Aug. 2013

Appreciations

The staff and students at Maple Creek School send out a hearty dose of gratitude to Pierson's and an anonymous community member for the lumber and supplies needed to repair the school's front steps. They also thank Bill C. for his fabulous handiwork.

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We hope you as happy as we are to be back at school! Gwen and Wendy have been busy this summer with workshops, new ideas, and plans for the future. We are excited to start a language arts program this year that will promote self-direction and

independence. It is called the Daily 5 and CAFÉ. The Daily 5 consists of Read to Yourself, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing, and Word Work (spelling and vocabulary). CAFÉ stands for comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanded vocabulary. Once the students (and their teachers) master the Daily 5 routine, they will have some choice during language arts time. During this time, the teachers will hold individual conferences and work with small groups to target CAFÉ strategies. Maple Creek School will be buzzing with language activities.

Technology at Maple Creek School

Our summer technology fair was just the kick off to an exciting year. We will incorporate technology more and more into in all areas of curriculum. All the students will get their hands on all the hardware at Maple Creek



School, but the Upper Grade students will use it extensively once the year gets underway. During the first two weeks of school, they will learn to be good citizens of the digital world. They will learn to use technology as a tool for learning not just as a new way to play. Technology will soon become part of the new routines.



From Wendy's Desk

FOR WENDY's CLASS: I will be sending plastic "homework" folders home with each child by the second week of school. These folders are to go home and come back to school everyday. The most important goal is that each child reads at home everyday, five days a week. For Kindergarten and First Grade, this is just 10 minutes a day, and 20 minutes a day for 2nd grade. Please record the reading on the reading log. Your child will also bring home a box of flashcards. Reading these cards counts towards the reading time as long as it does not replace the entire reading time. Please record reading and flashcard practice on the logs provided in the folder. Any child who brings last year's plastic folder or flashcard box to school during the second week will earn a trip to the prize box. Occasionally, I will send extra math or a specific homework assignment home. Please check your child's folder each night. I also use this folder to send home school communications and fieldtrip waivers, so be sure to check it daily.

My class will have share time the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

From Gwen's Desk

FOR GWEN's CLASS: By the second week of school, we should have our new routines in place. In addition to the new language arts program, I am implementing a new math program that is also designed to promote self-direction and independence. I will ease into these changes by having the upper grade students engage in a math project designing and building model clubhouses during the first month. The list of materials we need for this project is on page 3.

The students will use technology across all curriculum subjects. We will begin the year learning how to be responsible digital citizens. For better or worse, all students will need an email account to participate in many of our educational activities. Sometime in the first month, I will send home a special permission slip that deals with all the technology issues.

Daily homework tasks will vary because they will always relate to class lessons and projects. Most weeks, there will be a homework packet sent home on Monday and due that following Friday, which will help strengthen language arts and math skills. One **required homework** assignment is for the students to **read a MINIMUM of 30 minutes per day**. Please help your child record reading on the log. Each day's reading recorded on the form earns one Lucky Buck, which the students can spend in the student store.

We love our jobs and are always accessible for questions, concerns, and ideas. Call us anytime, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Wendy's cell is (707) 599-4590, and Gwen's cell is (707)

Changes in the Maple Creek Community

We are sad to announce that one family is moving out of Maple Creek. Friends and staff will miss Courtney, Dalia, and Anna greatly. Before leaving, Courtney provided a new parent, Jennifer May, with the training needed to be a yoga teacher for children. On behalf of Maple Creek School, we can say that we are all grateful to Courtney and Jennifer. Generously, Jennifer will volunteer 30-minutes per week to teach yoga to our students. This blends very well with the Second Step (a violence prevention program), and MindUp (a brain-focused set of strategies for learning and living) work in which the students engage on a weekly basis and the Brain Breaks (quick activities that help students calm their brains and bodies to refocus) they take periodically during each school day.

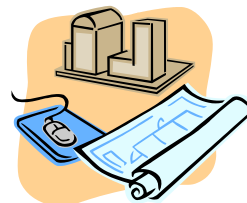
Items Needed for Maple Creek School Students

- Toilet paper
- Tissue for little noses
- Canned fruit
- Cans of refried beans
- College-ruled paper
- 8 1/2" X 11" copy paper

Materials Needed for the Upper Grade Model Clubhouse Project



- Home and garden magazines and catalogs for ideas and realistic costs involved in construction, decoration, and landscaping
 - Variety of cardboard boxes and cartons (such as shoe boxes, cereal boxes, small shipping boxes, Pringles containers, other interesting shaped boxes) to use for construction
- Scraps of wrapping paper for carpets, wallpaper, and curtains
- Variety of small, interesting objects that could be used for decorating the interior and exterior as well as for landscaping



Transportation Update



Wendy is still looking for a bus driver. She has found a temporary bus driver who is only available on most Fridays. DD Orlandi will provide service from Canyon Creek to Butler Valley on available Fridays until another driver can be found and trained.

House for Rent



The house at the school is available for rent. It is a three bedroom for \$725 per month. so spread the word to any families you know.



Water Days

Please send a towel and a change of clothes to stay at school for hot days. We may declare a "water recess" on any given day until the weather is cooler.



August 2013

Schedule of Events

Happening in August:

☺ 08/26/13: First Day of School

Looking Ahead:

☺ 09/18/13: School board meeting 2 PM

☺ 9/10/13 and 9/24/13: Younger class share day

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 First Day of School	27	28	29	30	31

Author Festival Preparations

The 2013 Author Festival will be coming to Humboldt County and Maple Creek School in October. The author coming to Maple Creek is Nancy Coffelt, and you can visit her website at www.nancycoffelt.com. We will be studying her books and using them for a variety of creative projects, such as using her writing style as a guide for our own stories, developing advertisements and bookmarks for her books, preparing a reader's theater performance of one the books, and creating art.

We need volunteers to help plan, prepare and pull off a lunch reception for her visit on Friday, Oct. 18.

Please attend the school board meeting on Sept. 18 to hear the latest school news. It begins at 2 PM in Wendy's classroom.

**Maple Creek
Elementary School
District**

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Providing exemplary education that fosters
communication, trust, and respect.

Maple Creek School is a necessary small school with an approximate enrollment of 12 students (K-8). The school is nestled in the Maple Creek and Mad River Valleys east of Arcata, surrounded by pastureland, forest, and mountains. The area is sparsely settled and accessible from Blue Lake, about a 35-minute drive and from Eureka, about a 50-minute drive. The Maple Creek School teachers are a committed and dedicated staff that provides a quality instructional program for the students. The secretary, custodian and bus driver all take an active interest in the students, which adds to the close, personal relationships among the kids, school and the community.

