



Maple Creek School News

Maple Creek School students in grades TK-2 invite children aged 0–5 to join them for literacy activities and centers. Our Grow and Learn program occurs twice a month between 11:30 and 1:00. Circle time and literacy-related activities happen between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and then everybody in the school enjoys recess and lunch from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please join us on:

Dec. 1, 2016
Jan. 12, 2017
Jan. 26, 2017
Feb. 9, 2017
March 16, 2017



You are all welcome to enjoy our Winter Performance and Holiday Party on Dec. 16. Festivities will begin at 1 p.m.



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<http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/>

The Importance of School Attendance

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school.

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

But when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused—it can have a negative impact. These absences can affect kids as early as Kindergarten.

For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. But when students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from learning to read to reading to learn, they are three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading.

As a parent, you can prepare your child for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority.

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From the Superintendent's Desk

To comply with the State of California ed. Code regarding instructional minutes for 4th—8th grade students, Maple Creek Elementary School will change the school schedule beginning on Jan. 3, 2017.

School begins:	8:45 am
Snack and Recess:	
TK—3rd	10:15 a.m.—10:45 a.m.
4th—8th	10:25 a.m.—10:45 a.m.
Recess and Lunch:	
TK-3rd	12:15 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
4th—8th	12:17 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
Dismissal:	3:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Gwen Neu for another Fully Funded DonorsChoose Project (#3)

Osmo - Bridging the Gap Between Concrete and Abstract Learning

Osmo's Educational Game System provides students with the opportunity to use tactile materials in conjunction with digital iPad apps. In my two room school house, the younger students observe what the Older students, and Middles "get" to do, which includes coding with tiny robots (Ozobots). Unfortunately for them, the materials we have for teaching programming are too abstract and just beyond the reach of these TK-2nd grade students.

Osmo provides tools that combine physical manipulatives with abstract activities found on iPad apps.

This bridge is exactly what we need to give our youngest students opportunities to engage in activities that promote logical thinking in a creative, play-like environment. The target audience for these games would be our youngest students, but most of the games will appeal to and provide benefits for the middle group as well.

To use Osmo's coding kit, we need to have the basic kit, which includes the stand and reflector. In addition to coding, there are many other games. The Wonder Kit includes five games at a substantial discount per game. Not only does it contain the Coding game and the base, it also includes Words and Numbers that help promote fluency in both of those academic areas and Tangrams, which strengthens visual and spatial awareness. The Creative Set includes three games, again at a substantial savings per game, all of which help students develop creative problem solving skills while developing the artist inside them. The Pizza Company game encourages social interaction and builds creative thinking as it develops math skills. These games require an iPad; the purchase of one will allow the younger students to have two tablets in their room while the older/middle students retain two in their room. All of our students (and both of their teachers) will greatly appreciate your support for this.



Osmo's
"Pizza Co."



Osmo's
"Words"



Osmo's "Tangrams"

History Day 2107 Preview

"Taking a Stand in History" **Maple Creek School History Day: Thursday, Jan. 27, 2017** **Judges Needed!**

(Please contact Gwen for more information or to volunteer.)

The Middle and Older students are busy researching their chosen History Day topics. After spending weeks doing preliminary research on the big picture, they created classroom "time line" entries to help synthesize that background information. Recently, they developed working thesis statements that now guide more focused research. Through December and early January, these historians will find evidence to support their thesis statements. That evidence will include words and images from primary and secondary sources. By mid-January, they will start putting all that evidence into a final project, which can be a 2-dimensional board (3rd—5th grades), 3-dimensional exhibit, documentary, web site, essay, or dramatic performance (6th—8th grades).

**Following are the working thesis statements—
they are subject to change as the research continues.**

In 1887, Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Jane Cochran) offered the editor of the New York World a story he couldn't refuse: She would feign insanity and infiltrate Blackwell's Island Insane Asylum. He accepted; she spent ten days behind asylum walls. Once free, she published a series of articles which compelled the State of New York to greatly increase funding for the treatment of the insane, and the care of asylum patients improved greatly. Without her bravery, the evolution of psychiatric care would have been set back for years to come, and the abuse she had witnessed would have continued.
**Anna S.*

In 1966, African-American people created the Black Panther Party in Berkeley, CA, Chicago, IL and New York. It lasted until 1982. The party grew over time because people wanted to help and see an improvement in the daily life of African-Americans. They organized many protests and speeches to show how they felt about what was happening at the time. They also organized community service projects within specific cities. They impacted today by standing up and giving their people hope for better treatment of African-Americans. **Jaylenne H. & Shawn G.*

A little after Helen Keller was 19 months old, she had a fever and then she became blind and deaf. Then later in her life, she graduated college. She joined the women's suffrage movement to help women have the right to vote. She also helped create the American Civil Liberties Union, which works to protect the rights of all Americans, including the blind and deaf. Because of Helen Keller, women can vote and blind and deaf people can learn to do just about anything other people can do.
**Rachel M.*

Martin Luther King Jr.'s work mostly took place in the 1950's to the 1960's in the Southern states. He stood up against people not being able to do or use the same things because of skin color. He gave speeches and organized marches. This work brought people together to end segregation. People of all ethnicities can go to school together, drink out of the same water fountain, and play together today. **Alejandra G.*

In 1869, a legacy was born on October 2nd in India. As Mahatma Gandhi grew older, he started to understand that the British Rule over India caused Indians to be treated unfairly. In 1893, Gandhi went to South Africa where he saw the worst thing he could see: Indians being treated wrong. When he saw this, Gandhi created a movement to achieve Indian rights. He took this movement back to India. Gandhi still matters today because he committed peaceful civil disobedience for 21 years so that today India is free. Without knowing it, Gandhi created an example for Martin Luther King, Jr. to follow in the American Civil Rights movement. **Gianni O.*

Humboldt County History Day will be February 11, 2017.

Recent Field Trips

November 4, 2016

The 8th graders spent time learning about being a college student at HSU. They learned about skills needed for success in high school and college. They toured the campus, listened to a panel of college students discuss their experiences getting into college and surviving the first year. The 8th graders then participated in a class on communicable diseases led by a college professor. The rolling, twisting desks were a hit.

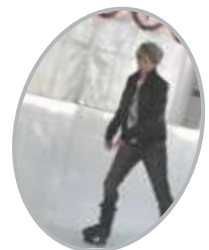


While the 8th graders explored college, the Middles/Youngers went to the Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport. While there, they toured a private jet and rode in a fire truck. The private was not as big as they thought it would be. They learned that it has a bathroom, which was as big as a small closet. When they rode in the fire truck, they got to shoot water out of the fire hose. They also went to the Gem and Mineral Show in Eureka.



November 17, 2016

The whole school went to the seasonal Humboldt Ice Rink in Fortuna to experience skating on ice. After ice skating for two hours, they went to Pacific Rehabilitation and Wellness Center to play games and draw with the elderly residents as a community service.



Recycling at Maple Creek School

In an attempt to raise money for educational needs and environmental awareness in one project, we have set up recycling bins for your beverage containers. We request that you bring **ONLY** plastic and glass beverage containers and aluminum cans that have the **CA CRV** symbol on them to the school for recycling. We can only handle these items as they are the only ones redeemable for cash.



Please bring your donations to the school on Tuesdays and Fridays. Bill Carlson will direct you to the recycling area where you will sort your items into the appropriate garbage cans:

- ♦ Aluminum
- ♦ Plastic #1 (water and soda bottles)
- ♦ Plastic #2-7 (these are less commonly accepted for redemption, but if you see the CA CRV symbol on the bottle, donate it!)
- ♦ Green glass
- ♦ Brown glass
- ♦ Clear glass

The MCS Fundraising Committee, students and staff thank you for your participation in this new program.



www.calrecycle.ca.gov

January 2017

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Happening in December:

- ☺ Dec. 1: Grow & Learn 11:30—1:00
- ☺ Dec. 2: Calypso Performance @ Center Arts
- ☺ Dec. 9: School Board Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- ☺ Dec. 16: Winter Performance 1 p.m.
- ☹ Dec. 19—Jan. 2: No School, Winter Break

Happening in January:

- ☺ Jan. 3: School resumes
- ☺ Jan. 12: Grow & Learn 11:30—1:00
- ☹ Jan. 16: No School, MLK Jr. Day
- ☺ Jan. 20: School Board 1:30
- ☺ Jan. 26: Grow & Learn 11:30—1:00
- ☺ Jan. 27: Maple Creek School History Day 1 p.m.

Looking Ahead:

- ☺ Feb. 9: Grow and Learn 11:30—1:00
- ☺ Feb. 10: School Board 1:30 p.m.
- ☹ Feb. 20-24: No School, February Break
- ☺ March 10: School Board 1:30
- ☺ March 16: Grow and Learn 11:30—1:00

Please attend the **school board meeting on Dec. 9 at 1:30 PM** to hear the latest school news and to give your voice to the LCAP process.

Future meetings begin at 1:30:

Jan. 20, 2017

Feb. 10, 2017

March 10, 2017



<p>FC: Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017 2:00 PM</p>	<p>SSC: Thursday, April 6, 2017 1:30 PM</p>
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Maple Creek Elementary School Needs You!

The School Site Council (SSC) and Fundraising Committees (FC) need active community participation to function properly. Members of the SSC meet three times per year to develop, review and evaluate school improvement programs and school budgets. Members of the FC meet at least three times a year to plan and implement fundraising activities that bring in extra funds for school program improvement.

For more information, contact Wendy or Gwen at 503.555.1234.

We invite everyone to give input on our LCAP as well as any other advice about the conditions of learning at Maple Creek School. Please contact Wendy or Gwen to offer suggestions regarding improvement of the education Maple Creek School delivers to its students.

Maple Creek Elementary School District

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

The mission of Maple Creek Elementary School District is to provide an exemplary educational program for the students of Maple Creek School. The high teacher-to-student ratio provides personalized instruction to foster the development of each student's talents, academic performance and social/emotional growth. We provide a solid foundation for our students to enter high school, college and chosen career paths.

Emphasis on promotion of literacy in language arts, mathematics and technology skills:

High expectation and an optimal learning environment produce proficient and advanced academic skills;

Students, teachers and parents cooperate in a nurturing and interactive educational setting that enhances the learning experience;

Global literacy and digital citizenship are promoted with the use of digital devices for the students and professional development for the staff to remain updated on innovative technologies.

Emphasis on communication skills:

Classroom environment promotes the development of personal responsibility, positive social skills, effective self-management strategies, tolerance and respect for both self and others;

Collaborative projects provide opportunities to think critically, be creative, solve problems and work as a community;

An outstanding visual and performance arts program provides a stage for students to demonstrate these skills.

