



# Maple Creek School News

## Maple Creek Students Share Winter Celebrations Around the World



Alé and Kanela shared information about how Hanukkah is celebrated in Israel.

Aviva, Azzurri, and Gianni talked about Diwali, India's Festival of Lights.



Dakota and Kai introduced Makahiki, a Hawaiian tradition.



After each group communicated the information through the Power Point presentations they created, the whole group played "Mele Kalikimaka" and "Jingle Bells" on their Ukuleles under Leiko Edmondson's guidance.

At the end of "Jingle Bells," a special visitor appeared.



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## Chronic Absenteeism Affects Students' Futures

"Chronic student absenteeism [missing 10% or more school days] continues to be one of the biggest barriers to equal achievement among all student groups. A Johns Hopkins University study found that chronically absent students are 15 percent behind their peers with respect to literacy and 12 percent with respect to math by the end of Grade 1. Later, chronically absent students are less likely to graduate, to attend college ... the consequences last a lifetime.

District administrators, community leaders, teachers, and parents across the country have long recognized student absenteeism's damaging implications for student achievement, but recently the issue has become widespread enough to gain priority at the state level...In California, the state declared a "school attendance crisis" after a Department of Justice report found that 210,000 K-5 grade students missed 10 percent of the school year."

<http://www.hanoverresearch.com/2016/10/31/5-tips-reduce-student-absenteeism/>

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**DATE:** January 3, 2018

**FROM:** Jenny Bowen  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Superintendents Support County-Wide Interdistrict Attendance Agreement**

Humboldt County school district superintendents have come to a collective agreement on interdistrict attendance, which includes the process for interdistrict transfer agreements. In a meeting at the end of last calendar year, superintendents came to consensus on the new agreement, now pending formal approval from each of their respective boards.

Key components of the agreement include:

- A designated open enrollment period with timelines for interdistrict request approval.
- Processes to support districts with student enrollment and staffing.
- Participation by families in “reasonable enrollment activities” to ensure that they are aware of the programs and services in their district of residence (DOR).

There are two important changes from the prior process. The first one is that there will be an application deadline of February 1, in order to allow families to plan for the following year, and to facilitate schools planning for staff and resource allocation. Applications received after February 1 shall be approved by the DOR for the 2018-19 school year. The second is that there will be opportunities for families to learn more about their DOR through “reasonable enrollment activities” which can include a discussion with the DOR administration or their designees, attending an orientation meeting, taking part in a site visit, or reviewing information literature provided by the DOR.

“This agreement and process honors parent choice while giving schools reasonable enrollment predictability,” states Dr. Chris Hartley, Superintendent of Humboldt County schools. “We have outstanding teachers and schools throughout Humboldt County and each and every one provides unique strengths and opportunities for students.”

A link to the form can be found [here](#). Districts will be sending out correspondence to their families and constituents regarding this new process. In addition, the Humboldt County Office of Education will be facilitating an education campaign throughout January to bring greater awareness to the broader community.

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“Committed to Excellence in Leadership and Service”

## New Research Supports Proper Sleep Habits

Excerpts from *The Seven Reasons Your Kid Needs Sleep* by Sarah Mahoney

(<https://www.parents.com/health/healthy-happy-kids/the-7-reasons-your-kid-needs-sleep>)

"Parents have always felt that sleep directly affects a child's mood, and most would agree it's got a big impact on learning and behavior. But pediatric researchers' latest findings suggest that sleep is also essential to good health. When kids get the sleep they need, they may have a lower risk of becoming overweight and developing diabetes as well as fewer learning problems and attention issues. Sleep is as important as nutrition and exercise. It's when the body repackages neurotransmitters, chemicals that enable brain cells to communicate. And experts have recently been able to demonstrate that sleep allows brain cells to "take out the trash" each night, flushing out disease-causing toxins.

Perhaps the most startling news from this research is how quickly kids fall into the danger zone. **The repercussions of sleep deprivation are visible after only four nights of one fewer hour of sleep per night**, found a study from Dalhousie University, in Nova Scotia. (This can happen during a school vacation, or when you have company for a holiday weekend, or even just by letting kids watch the World Series.) 'I expected that we'd see some differences when kids get less sleep than usual,' says senior author Penny Corkum, Ph.D. 'But finding that they're so drastically affected in so short an amount of time is amazing.'

"You may realize that your child could use more shut-eye. However, it can be very difficult to recognize all the ways that after-school and evening activities sabotage bedtime, and the damaging effects of allowing electronics into your kid's bedroom,' says *Parents* advisor Jodi Mindell, Ph.D., associate director of the Sleep Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Specialists like Dr. Mindell outline these crucial reasons all children need their daily dose of sound sleep."

### The Seven Reasons

1. **Sleep Promotes Growth:** growth hormones are mostly secreted during sleep.
2. **Sleep Helps the Heart:** sleep reduces blood glucose and cortisol, which makes for a healthier heart.
3. **Sleep Affects Weight:** children with better sleep patterns tend to be leaner.
4. **Sleep Beats Germs:** sleep produces disease-fighting agents within the body.
5. **Sleep Reduces Injury Risks:** children with more sleep are less clumsy and impulsive.
6. **Sleep Increases Attention Span:** 27 minutes of extra sleep per night makes it easier to manage mood and impulses.
7. **Sleep Boosts Learning:** well-rested students retain new knowledge better.

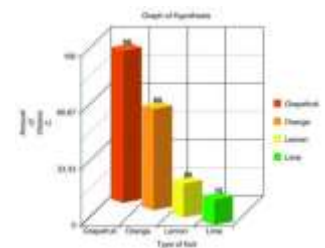
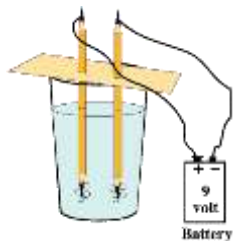
| Wake-Up Time |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Age          | 6:00 am           | 6:15 am | 6:30 am | 6:45 am | 7:00 am | 7:15 am | 7:30 am |
|              | Time to Go to Bed |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| 5            | 6:45 pm           | 7:00 pm | 7:15 pm | 7:30 pm | 7:30 pm | 8:00 pm | 8:15 pm |
| 6            | 7:00 pm           | 7:15 pm | 7:30 pm | 7:30 pm | 8:00 pm | 8:15 pm | 8:30 pm |
| 7            | 7:15 pm           | 7:15 pm | 7:30 pm | 8:00 pm | 8:15 pm | 8:30 pm | 8:45 pm |
| 8            | 7:30 pm           | 7:30 pm | 8:00 pm | 8:15 pm | 8:30 pm | 8:45 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 9            | 7:30 pm           | 8:00 pm | 8:15 pm | 8:30 pm | 8:45 pm | 9:00 pm | 9:15 pm |
| 10           | 8:00 pm           | 8:15 pm | 8:30 pm | 8:45 pm | 9:00 pm | 9:15 pm | 9:30 pm |
| 11           | 8:15 pm           | 8:30 pm | 8:45 pm | 9:00 pm | 9:15 pm | 9:30 pm | 9:45 pm |
| 12           | 8:15 pm           | 8:30 pm | 8:45 pm | 9:00 pm | 9:15 pm | 9:30 pm | 9:45 pm |

# You are Cordially Invited to Maple Creek School's Science Fair

Friday, Feb. 16, 2018  
11 am

Come learn about a variety of science topics as Maple Creek students share their scientific findings. The students are immersed in the scientific process to develop and test a hypothesis and formulate conclusions based on the data they gather through experimentation. They will share their findings through board displays and answering judges' questions.

**We are in need of three judges.** No science experience is necessary. Those who graciously volunteer for this task will receive a Humboldt County Science Fair score sheet and a list of suggested questions to ask. The main idea of this is to give the students an opportunity to explain what they learned through the completion of a hands-on science project. If you are interested in volunteering or just for more information, please contact Gwen as soon as possible—668-5596 or [glneu@maplecreekschool.org](mailto:glneu@maplecreekschool.org).



## Maple Creek Students Become Animated with iMotion

On Friday, Jan. 19, Ink People artist, Virginia Woods spent the day at Maple Creek School. She taught the students about animation and then engaged them with activities that led to their own creations of animated stories. They learned that making animated movies is a long process that requires patience, perseverance, and team work. It also requires an understanding of the storytelling process, so language arts skills are a must even if words aren't used in the final product.





## Nocturnal Animals

By Gianni O.

You are walking in the woods and you trip: it is night and you are afraid, but then a pair of eyes peaks out and then another. Then there are many eyes looking around; you feel scared, but you don't have to be. You don't know that, so that is why this was written. After you read this, you will know about these night creatures and why they are here; so sit down, and don't go outside yet.

The body of a nocturnal animal is normally made up of a keen nose, medium to large eyes, and one or two special adaptations of their own. For example, an Aardvark has a long tongue and long sharp claws to get to where the ants and bugs are. There's the Glowworm, which is like a caterpillar but is bioluminescent. What is that strange word, you probably ask? The answer is simply life light, so the glowworm makes its own light.

Some animals use echolocation, like the bat, a brown or black flying creature that screeches, but why does it screech you wonder. The bat is blind, and it depends on sound and hearing. When it screeches, the sound bounces off objects so that it comes back when the bat hears the sound's echo, it will move away from danger.

Most animals of the night have special eyes, but some have reflectors or extra-big eyes. Even though the eyes of the night animals and humans and all animals do not look alike, they all have photoreceptors - a part in the eye that is used to collect light or photons that go to the brain and form a picture that constantly changes. A cat has a part under its photoreceptors called a tapetum lucidum or a part in the eye that reflects light out of the eye giving it a second chance to see the image.

All night animals have different homes, but you might be surprised how similar they are. Take the swamp, you might think "eww" what is this place? However, it is just home to hundreds of animals, including frogs and alligators. If you don't know what a swamp is, then you can tell by recognizing your surroundings; the swamp is



### Nocturnal Animals (cont.)

permanently saturated, or filled, with water. Many swamps are even covered by water. Trees dominate swamps; swamps are often named for the type of trees that grow in them, such as cypress swamps or hardwood swamps. Freshwater swamps are commonly found inland, while saltwater swamps are usually found along coastal areas. Swamps are transition areas. They are neither totally land nor totally water.

A forest is a giant area with hundreds of trees. A rainforest is a forest located close to the equator and receives at least 160 inches of rain each year, so you would be somewhere damp and humid if you were in a rainforest. On the other hand, you could be in a temperate forest - a forest that experiences four seasons and has plenty of tall and broad trees. You could be in a coniferous forest - a forest that is full of pine and fir trees and has long winters and moist summers.

Maybe you are somewhere else, maybe near lots of water. You might be at an ocean, sea, or bay; they all have a massive body of water that is a circle or closed shape or it goes on for a while. These bodies of water all have light at the surface that gets darker towards the bottom.

You might be on a coral reef, a place that is underwater and has rainbow-colored rocklike plants that grow in the water. These plants live on limestone deposited by creatures called coral polyps.

As you can see animals of the night depend on their habitats to survive, some animals are forced to become nocturnal because of competition, food, water, and temperature. All animals need their habitat and have adapted to survive the night and day. However, sadly, they are losing their homes. Humans inhabit 10% of the 19.2% percent of land there is on earth. The other 70.8% is water, but that was in 2011; think about now. These animals need human help and their habitat to survive. That is why thousands of people are trying to save wildlife. This includes recycling and conserving land. Without help, the wolves can't hunt, the owls can't fly and the bats can't hear, so encourage yourself to save wildlife and earth as we know it.



### Fennec Fox

By Alejandra G.

Have you ever heard of a fennec fox? They are actually very interesting. Fennec foxes are quintessential animals of the desert; they have some special tools to help them live in a hot, sandy habitat. You can find a fennec fox in an underground den in North Africa at the Sanai or Arabian Peninsulas. North Africa is very hot. The sandy sahara can have extremely strong winds and little water.

Were you wondering how a little fox can live in such a harsh environment? Well, I am going to tell you about that. The reason I said this fox was little is because it only weighs 2.2 pounds. This fox may be little, but it has ears that are 6 inches long! These animals have such big ears to help them stay cool in the hot Sahara Desert. They have fur at the bottom of their paws to protect them from burning themselves while stepping on hot sand. Their paws are also helpful for digging their homes in North Africa. These foxes also have helpful fur. During hot days and cold nights their fur insulates. These foxes' fur is thick, soft, and fluffy.

This might have made you wonder how they behave, and maybe even wonder what they eat. Did you know that a fennec fox can jump up to 2 feet high and 4 feet across? They are also opportunistic eaters, willing to eat just about anything they can catch. Like all other canines, fennecs mark their territory; and during mating season, these little foxes can be aggressive. The desert doesn't have a ton of water, so fennec foxes can go a long time without water.

As you can see these little foxes are very fascinating creatures. Did you know that fennec foxes are endangered? People desire them for their fur. When I read about how they were endangered, I thought about how I could help them. Would you ever think about helping them?





## Leopards By Aviva O.

I like leopards do you? Leopards are big cats that live in many places. They are the most elusive large felids.

They are carnivorous. They eat animals like rodents, strong-scented carrion (also known as dead animals), gazelles and some more. They eat whatever is available; it helps the leopards stay alive. They have long sharp teeth and long sharp claws to help them eat.

They have short stocky legs that help them climb. They have a long slender body and a long tail and padded paws. They use those pieces of their body to climb trees. They are excellent climbers. They use the trees for naps and so other animals can't steal their meal.

Some of the places they live in are the savanna, Sub-Saharan Africa, and tropical rainforests. In these places, they have dry winters and wet summers. The savanna does not have a lot of trees, and the rainforest has a lot of trees; the desert has some trees but not a lot because it's hot and dry.

Leopards are very unique animals. They are built for trees. They eat a variety of animals that they can catch easily. Leopards are endangered. I think they are worth saving and I hope you do, too.



## Owls

By Azzurri O.

An owl can see in the dark because it is nocturnal. It eats rats and mice. It lives in trees.



## Moonflower

By Azzurri O.

It only opens at night.



## Fireflies

By Dakota E.

Fireflies are a type of beetle that glows. First they start as an egg. They lay their eggs in the ground. The baby firefly eats its yolk sac. The egg glows.

Then the egg hatches into a larva. The larva eats snails, worms, and other fireflies. The larva glows.

Next, the larva makes a pupa, and it eats nothing. The pupa glows.

The pupa hatches into a firefly and it eats pollen and drinks nectar. The adult firefly glows.

You learned about the life cycle of a firefly. Fireflies are important to the world.



## Flying Squirrels

By Kai E.

Flying squirrels are nocturnal animals that live in trees. The trees that they live in are found in North America. They are omnivores. They eat snails, slugs, mice, nuts, flowers, and seeds. Their big, bulging eyes help them see at night. They should be called gliding squirrels because they don't fly like a bird (they have a type of parachute made from skin attached to their wrists and their ankles called a patagium). They leap from tree to tree. Their claws help them grab the tree quickly. Their thick paws help their paws from getting hurt. Flying squirrels are so cool because they leap from tree to tree. I wonder if you wish to leap like a flying squirrel.



## Raccoons

By Kanela E.

The raccoon is a very smart and brave creature. If only people knew more about them; well, that is why I am writing this.

Raccoons live in hollow trees. Sometimes they live in dens under the ground. They are found in North and South America. They do not like to be far from their home. They are found usually only one mile from their home. They live in vegetated places with lots of rivers.

A raccoon's life span is eight to nine years. They have big canine teeth and small pointed ears. They walk flat-footed, and they have five fingers.

Raccoons are omnivores. They love eggs. They are water predators sometimes. They love to hang out at rivers. They do a really cool trick where they put their tail in the water and let a crab bite it, and then they pull their tail out of the water, so it is kind of like fishing.

Raccoons are very good at adapting to new environments.

# February 2018

## 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  |     |     |     |

### Happening in February:

- ☺ Feb. 7: Fieldtrip to HSU Science Project Help
- ☺ Feb. 8: 100th Day of School
- ☺ Feb. 14: Friendship Day
- ☺ Feb. 16: Science Fair 11 am
- ☺ Feb. 16: Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- ☺ Feb. 19-23: No School—February Break

### Looking Ahead:

- ☺ March 9: School Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- ☺ March 15: Fieldtrip HSU Center Arts Yamato Taiko Drums
- ☺ March 12-16: Humboldt County Science Fair
- ☺ March 28 & 29: Parent Conferences School Out at 1 PM
- ☺ April 10: School Site Council 1:15 PM  
Fundraising Committee 2:00 PM
- ☺ April 16-20: No School—Spring Break
- ☺ April 28: Battle of the Books at HCOE

Please attend the **school board meeting on Feb. 16 at 1:30 PM** to hear the latest school news, provide input on the new interdistrict policy, and to give your voice to the LCAP process.

**2018 Meetings @ 1:30 PM:**

**Feb. 16**  
**March 9**



| FC:                                    | SSC:                                   |
|--|--|
| Thursday,<br>April 10, 2018<br>2:00 PM | Thursday,<br>April 10, 2018<br>1:15 PM |

### 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.



*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.*

## 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 and 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](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov)

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## Maple Creek Elementary School District

15933 Maple Creek Route  
Korbel, CA 95550

Phone: 707-668-5596  
Fax: 707-668-4132

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.

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