



Maple Creek School News

Volume 2, Issue 6

Jan/Feb. 2014

Happy
New
Year!



Here's to a
fresh start.



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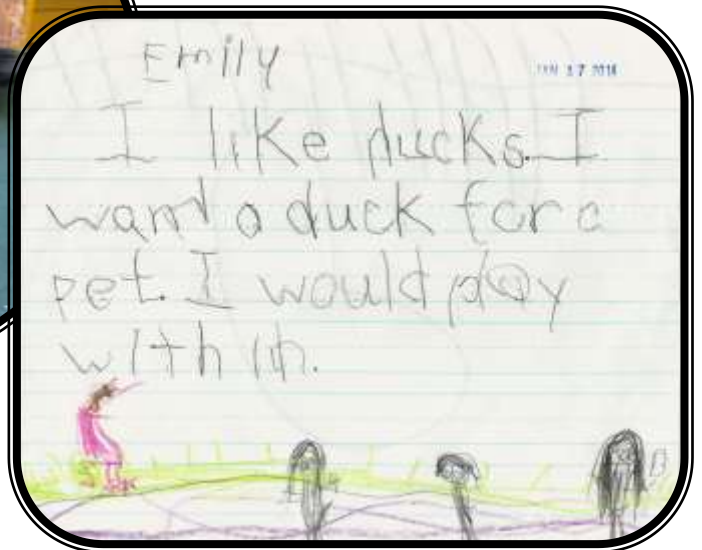
Writer's Workshop

The students at Maple Creek School have begun to participate in a weekly **Writer's Workshop**. Every Friday at the beginning of the language arts period, three to four students sit in the **Author's Chair** and read a piece of writing to the class. At the end of the reading, the author's peers provide constructive feedback to help the author revise the writing through the same process used by published authors the world over. Constructive feedback consists of statements such as:

- I liked the description of the main character. I could see her clearly.
- **I laughed when ... that was great!**
- I wonder why the character made that choice.
- I wonder if the dog made it home safely.
- I wish I knew when this story took place.
- I wish I could make a better mental image of where this story took place.

Here are some examples of our budding authors' work

(continued on the next four pages):



Chapter 1

Once long ago, on the 31st of December, a child was born. Her delighted parents gave her the name Eve. She was an extraordinary girl with brilliant red hair, brown eyes, red lips, a bright smile, and an excellent sense of humor. Her parents, a king and queen, loved Eve dearly. Throughout the kingdom, nobles and commoners alike treated her well and helped bring her up with good morals.

Growing up, Evie Rose, as she was called, sang and wrote her own songs. She sang about anything and at random times throughout each day.

At breakfast one day, Evie Rose, now 15, and her parents entertained Lord Serion of Seriodia.

"What delicious waffles you have here in Yearva! The sausage is super scrumptious, too!" the fat man declared while shoving bacon in his enormous mouth.

"La la la...ladida...suuuuuuper scruuuuuuuuuuuumptious sauuuuusage!" sang Evie Rose, lost in her own world.

"Whu-? What is that child DOING?" gasped Lord Serion.

"Um, well - I guess she is singing," stumbled King Neww.

Queen Resoluta fake smiled, **"Our daughter is quite - special, yes?"**

"You could say that," answered a flabbergasted Lord Serion, rushing out of the castle.

As you can see, Eve was a daydreamer. She spaced out often. Unfortunately, Lord Serion of Seriodia and all his subjects believed in well-behaved, non-daydreaming people. Evie Rose scared them a little bit with her strange ways. Yet, the next week, the lord and his spoiled son returned with a serious reason for a visit.

Walking into the Yearva throne room, Lord Serion made a startling announcement.

"My son, Grumpon, and I have a proposal. Actually, Grumpon has a proposal," the lord loudly declared.

"I am asking," Grumpon grumbled, **"for Eve Rose, the crown princess of Yearva's hand in marriage."**

"NO, NEVER! I will never, ever, never marry YOU!" Evie Rose exclaimed, stomping on the floor for emphasis.

Her mother frowned in frustration, **"Of course you will, Evie Rose. I expect better behavior from you Young Woman. Lord Serion, Lord Grumpon, I apologize for her rudeness and assume she will be of a changed demeanor by the wedding date."**

"Fine. Shall we meet tomorrow to discuss the arrangements?" the plump nobleman asked with firmness in his voice.

"Yes, and while we make the plans, the two young ones may get to know one another," replied the exasperated queen.

To be continued in the next newsletter



A Bug Story

By Meadow Karrer

I was just a happy, loving, free, young black beetle. One day I was at home when I thought, *I should go on a walk*, so then I told my mom, "I'm going on a walk!"

"Ok be back for dinner!" said my mom, taking flies out of the oven.

I walked outside and went on my way. Then I heard something, and I felt the ground rumbling. *Oh no!* I thought. I slowly looked behind me.... three big monsters chasing me!!! One had long, blond hair, one had medium-length, brown hair, and one had short, light brown hair.

"It's a bug!" screeched the girl with blond hair.

"Whoa!" yelled one of the girls with brown hair.

They all surrounded me! Terror! They were screaming, stomping and pointing at me. I tried to run as fast as I could!!!! But then I looked back. A foot was coming down on me, and as soon as I knew, it smushed me!

Now I'm a ghost, and I will get my revenge on those girls!!!



Spider Girl

By Gianni Orlandi

If I had a super power, it would be any power in the world. What power would you have? Fire, water, earth, air; what about a force field? If you had a force field shield and a cannon ball hit the shield, the shield would not break.

Here is a story of powers.

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Spider Girl. She wanted 500 powers, so she went to the wishing well and got all the powers in the world.

One day the monsters arrived in the capital city of China. They had spaceships. The monsters got their missiles ready to start shooting at the city.

The people in the city said, "It's Spider Girl!"

She came flying down in her Spider Girl airplane and jumped out to save the day. Spider Girl shot the monsters. The enemy ships shot each other. They hit each other. The ships broke. The ships fell and hit the ground, and the monsters were never seen again.



The Deep Voice

By Shawn Giuntini



One day there was a young boy about 14 or 15 years old, and his name was Jason. He had a friend named Johnson. They were friends as long as they could remember.

One day Jason found his friend pinned to a big rock with his arm caught on something. Jason went to help Johnson, but he heard a deep voice that called, "JOHNSON, YOU HAVE FAILED ME!"

"I'm sorry, I can't hurt my best friend; we've known each other for 15 years, so how am I supposed to take him to a volcano and push him down it? I will never hurt him as long

as I live," said Johnson.

"THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE. I WILL HAVE TO KILL HIM MYSELF AND YOU, TOO!" said the deep voice.

"No!" said Jason.

The guy with the deep voice looked with his blood red eyes at Jason, "SO THAT'S WHO JASON IS. I THOUGHT HE WAS STRONGER THAN THAT!" said the deep voice.

"Hey!" said Jason.

"HAY IS FOR HORSES!" said the deep voice.

"Cows like it, too," said Jason.

"AND DONKEYS LOVE YOU," said the deep voice.

"No, it's 'donkeys like it, too'," said Jason.

"WHATEVER. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?" asked the deep voice?

"No," said Jason awkwardly.

"I AM TYPHON, AND I WILL KILL YOU! HA HA HA HA!" said Typhon.

That's when I woke with a start.

The Helping Bird and Annabelle

By Shyanna Giuntini

One day a 17 year old girl was walking through the woods when SWOOSH! she was snatched by an ugly witch.

The witch asked in a mean voice, "What's your name?"

"Annabelle," the little girl answered in a whiny whisper.

"SPEAK UP!" croaked the witch.

"Annabelle!" the little girl yelled in a tiny voice.

The witch stopped in front of an old huge house. It was covered in moss and fungus, but the inside was nothing Annabelle had expected; it was filled with chandeliers, fancy tables and chairs with a beautiful floor pattern. Annabelle could not believe her eyes. She looked up at the witch who had her finger in her nose digging for gold, then asked, "Is this your house?" Annabelle was scared of what the answer might be.

"No it's ours." The witch said in a mean MUAHAHA voice. "I'm going to keep you prisoner here MUHAHAHA!!!!!!!!!!!"

Annabelle screamed and tried so hard to get loose but no matter how hard she tried she couldn't get loose from the witch's bony green hand. The witch brought her to a dungeon and was planning to take over her body. Annabelle noticed a bird in the bar window; She walked slowly to the bird. It started jumping up and down on a ledge. Annabelle looked under the ledge and found a key, the key matched the keyhole on the dungeon door. She opened the door when the witch was sleeping and escaped the dungeon.

She saw the bird that helped her hanging out of an alligator's mouth. Annabelle ran to the alligator picking up a metal bar on her way. She smacked the alligator five times. It dropped the bird and ran away. Annabelle ran as fast as she could to the bird. When she got to it, she noticed that it was bleeding from its wing pit. Annabelle wrapped the bird in her scarf and ran through the woods looking for the little cottage she saw on her way to the witch's house. When she found it, she timidly knocked on the door, "Knock, knock, knock."

A kind, young man answered the door and said, "Who are you?"

"I'm Annabelle, and I need your help. This bird is really hurt; please help me," said Annabelle. "What's your name?"

"Dennom," the young man hesitated.

He opened the door wider so Annabelle could come in.

Dennom was in the bathroom looking for supplies while Annabelle took care of the bird. When the bird was all healed, Annabelle kissed it goodbye and let it fly away from her hands. Then she thanked Denom and asked, "Will you help me find my way back home?"

Dennom nodded his head and said, "Of course."

He grabbed his coat, and then he and Annabelle walked out the door to get in his truck.

As they drove away to find Annabelle's home, she said, "I'm going to miss that yellow chested, blue winged, golden red-backed, and fiery orange-beaked bird. I'm gonna name it 'Rain Baby'."



Science Fair Projects

Maple Creek students are busy learning how scientists work. Each of the seven Older students has chosen a specific topic of interest to study from mummification to finding the best recipe for marshmallows. One student is learning about heat transfer while another is studying surface tension; one student is exploring the concept of volume while another is experimenting with how distance affects the rate at which a line of dominoes will fall. One student is learning to create electronic textiles, an engineering project rather than a science experiment. The Younger students are following the scientific process to learn how and why objects sink or float.

The *2014 Doris Niles Science Fair* is set for *March 17-21*. Maple Creek School will hold its science fair on Feb. 28 at 1:30 PM. We will need volunteers to serve as judges who will use a rubric to score individual projects with an emphasis on the science notebook.

Students who earn a chance to move on to the Humboldt County Science Fair need adults who are willing and able to help with the set up and take down of their projects at HSU and to transport **students to HSU for interviews, if called. Here's the timetable for the county science fair:**

- Monday, March 17, 9 am—Noon project set-up at HSU
- Wed., March 19, 9 am—Noon, 6th—12th grade students called to schedule interviews
- Thurs., March 20, 9 am—Noon, 6th 12th grade interviews
- Thurs., March 20, 4—7 PM and Fri., March 21, 9 am—3 PM public viewing
- Fri., March 21 3 PM—8 PM, removal of science project materials from HSU

Some requirements judges will score include (this is a sample list):

Log Book -

- * Notes from background reading show extensive research prior to experimentation.
- * Proper recording of all phases of the project with dates is present throughout log.
- * Log book contains evidence of data analysis.
- * Conclusions are based on data analysis.
- * A properly formatted bibliography cites references used.

Backboard -

- * Purpose or problem is clearly explained.
- * Hypothesis is clearly stated.
- * Dependent and independent variables are identified.
- * Data is clearly and accurately recorded.
- * Experiment was repeated to establish validity.
- * Conclusions relate directly to they hypothesis.
- * Factors that could have influenced results are discussed.
- * Relates project to real-world applications.

Please contact Gwen for more information and/or to volunteer.

Winter Fundraiser Cancelled

With many, many thanks to Jen May, the students at Maple Creek School worked hard to create craft items to sell at the fundraising event. Due to unfortunate circumstances, the fundraiser has been cancelled.

If you offered to help or to donate bake sale items, please know that we appreciate your support.

Thank you,
Maple Creek School Students

New Year's Eve

By Aria Windbigler

On New Year's Eve,
Thinking of all to achieve
We cannot sleep,
Our hearts leap
We're so excited,
Fireworks are lighted.
It's twelve o'clock;
The new year knocks



Happy New Year

By Aria Windbigler

Bittersweet goodbyes,
Hellos and smiling eyes
Let's begin again.
Raise your head, lift your chin,
Your slate is clean, the year is new
Happy New Year's Day to you!



New Year

By Jaylenne H.

It is a new year,
A new year to start
New resolutions.
Let's make them
smart.



Peer Mediation: What it is and how it benefits students

Those of you who were able to attend the Winter Performance witnessed Peer Mediation in action in **Santa's Workshop** and in the **Reindeer's Lounge**. You may not have realized that peer mediation can be seen in action right here in Maple Creek. The older students received training that allows them to skillfully mediate minor conflicts on the playground and in the classroom. The younger students have learned the process and are eager to become peer mediators, too.

What is peer mediation?

Through peer mediation, trained students act as neutral third parties to moderate a process for resolving minor disputes and conflicts. The goal of mediation is for the conflicting parties to work out the problem constructively, moving beyond the problem to a solution that is agreeable to both parties. Within the process, each party has an opportunity to tell his/her side of the story and express feelings about the situation. An important part of the process is simply the opportunity to be heard and understood.

Not every problem is suitable for mediation. The bigger problems such as bullying, assault, or other criminal activities are left for the adults to solve.

What are the benefits of peer mediation?

1. Students learn problem-solving strategies that can transfer to future conflicts.
2. They develop positive communication skills, including how to appropriately express feelings and needs and how to actively listen without taking sides.
3. Students learn to take responsibility for their actions.
4. They develop confidence in their ability to help themselves and others.
5. The school climate improves as tensions decrease, providing more time and energy for the teaching/learning process.
6. Students and teachers work together in a friendlier, more relaxed environment.

Recess Before Lunch? MCS has made the change.



Great Public Schools for Every Student

Some schools say changing the traditional lunchtime schedule can decrease food waste and improve student behavior.

By Lance Fuller

For generations of students, recess has always followed lunch, but around the country, a small but growing number of schools are questioning this long-standing tradition, noticing that scarfing down that PB&J before racing outside to play kickball can have negative effects on a student's behavior and health.

Proponents argue that eating first and then exercising can result in numerous nurse visits for headaches and stomachaches. Students excited about the opportunity to play outside rush through or entirely skip their lunch, leaving them hungry later in the day and creating more cafeteria waste.

Enter "Recess Before Lunch," also known as "Play Before Eat," a practice that aims to improve students' health and behavior by, as its name implies, having children play first and eat lunch afterward. A 2006 study reported that about 4.6 percent of U.S. elementary schools schedule recess before lunch.

What are the benefits?

Schools that schedule recess before lunch report that students eat more fruits and vegetables, drink more milk, waste less food, and are better behaved on the playground, in the lunchroom, and in the classroom, according to an article in the *Journal of Child Nutrition and Management*. Some schools also note a decrease in visits to the school nurse and more instruction time as benefits of the schedule switch.

"Kids are calmer after they've had recess first," Janet Sinkewicz, principal of Sharon Elementary School in Robbinsville, New Jersey, told [The New York Times](#) recently. "They feel like they have more time to eat and they don't have to rush."

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 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.



FEBRUARY 2014

Schedule of Events

Happening in Feb.

☺Feb. 5: MCFC 1:30, SSC 2:15

☺Feb. 6: 100th Day of School

☺Feb. 14: Friendship Day Party

☺Feb. 17-21: NO SCHOOL

Presidents' Week

☺Feb. 26: School Board Meeting 2 PM

Looking Ahead:

☺March 12: School Board Meeting 2 PM

☺**March 17: St. Patrick's Day**

☺**March 25-26: Minimum Day, Out at 1 PM**

Parent Conferences

| 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 | |

Please attend the school board meeting on Feb. 26 at 2 PM to hear the latest school news. It begins at 2:00 PM in **Wendy's classroom.**

Both the SSC and FRC have an OPEN VACANCY.

Maple Creek Fundraising Committee

Please join the Maple Creek Fundraising Committee as it discusses ways to earn money to support the **education of Maple Creek's students.** The next meeting is Feb. 6 at 1:30 PM.

School Site Council Meeting

Please join the School Site Council as it discusses issues important to the smooth operation of MCS. The next meeting is Feb. 6 at 2:15 PM.

Please contact Wendy re: open vacancy on both SSC and FRC.

All community members, staff, and students are invited and encouraged to participate and comment **on the development of Maple Creek School's Local Accountability Plan (LCAP).** The School Site Council and MCS Board are currently developing and discussing this very important plan at every meeting. If you cannot attend any of these meetings, please contact Wendy by phone, face-to-face, and/or in writing to let your voice be heard!

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.

