



Maple Creek School News

Science Fair Success

On Feb. 26, 2016, the students of Maple Creek School shared their completed science projects with three guest judges. Linda Azevedo, Bob Garcia, and Rama Zarcufsky generously donated their time to carefully read science logs, look over project backboards, and interview students to determine the quality of each project. Thank you Judges!

Participation in the science fair gave the students an opportunity to share their projects with an audience larger than the confines of the classroom. They had an authentic reason to complete their work to the best of their abilities.

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The Homework Controversy

Sep 13, 2011 by [Cory Armes, M.Ed.](#)

"...How important is this icon of education? Is homework helpful or harmful? Is it something that, as many students claim, just eats up their time and energy for no real purpose? Do we, as educators, need new practices that move away from homework or are we simply afraid to change, stuck on those famous eight words, 'But, we've never done it that way before...?'"

In support of the view of homework as helpful... specifically aligning homework to the learning task is part of the strategy for building understanding. The website [Focus on Effectiveness](#) cites several studies showing that in elementary school, homework helps build learning and study habits (Cooper, 1989; Cooper, Lindsay, Nye, & Greathouse, 1998; Gorges & Elliot, 1999)... Those teachers who take the time to add instructive comments to their feedback to homework get the greatest return on their efforts in after-school work. (Walberg, 1999).

But what about the harm done when students do it wrong and then have to 'unlearn' incorrect information? Author and speaker Alfie Kohn states that there is no real evidence showing homework to be beneficial to elementary students. In an [EdWeek article](#), he writes that he found no correlation between homework and improved standardized assessment scores..." Is that harm permanent?"

So what's the answer? Balance.

1. Main purpose: to build rote memorization and deepen understanding.
2. Parents facilitate not teach the homework.

Congratulations to our Humboldt County Science Fair winners:

Shyanna Giuntini for her project "You Nailed It!" which earned a 3rd place prize.

(Abstract on p. 2)



3rd Place Entry



4th Place Entry

Jaylenne Harris for her project "What's the Fastest Way to Melt Ice?" which earned a 4th place prize.

(Abstract on p. 2)

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You Nailed It! Hammering Force for Different Types of Wood

By Shyanna Giuntini

Are you planning to hammer nails into something wooden, but you work almost all of the time? Well, that's when the hammer test apparatus comes in handy. This device hammers nails into wood without using your own strength. You just lift the hammer and let it go a few times. Pretty soon you will be all done without even using your own strength!

Will hard wood take more hits to drive a nail through it than soft wood? I thought it would take more hits to drive a nail through hard wood like fir than soft wood like cedar.

I tried to control the independent variable by using the same types of wood for each trial and experiment. I tried to control the dependent variable by lifting the hammer to same spot every time. I tried to control the other variables by holding the nail with the potato and releasing the hammer the same way each time.

It took an average of 17.7 hits to drive the nail into the fir and 5.7 hits to drive the nail into the cedar. The data supported my hypothesis, which was that it would take more hits to drive a nail through hard wood than soft wood.



What's the Fastest Way to Melt Ice?

By Jaylenne Harris

Have you ever woken up super early for work and found that it had snowed outside? Also, you needed to get out of the drive way, and you didn't want to shovel? I did a project on what substance melts ice more. Since people put salt and sand on the roads, I used those substances for my experiment.

In my project, I had a couple of variables. My independent variables were the salt and sand. I measured the amount of salt and sand I put in the bowls of ice. Also, my uncontrollable variables were the temperature of everything. Over the course of the experiment, the temperature of the room and refrigerator changed. Sometimes it was kind of warm, but other times, it was cold. This could have affected how fast the ice melted.

When I did my project, salt melted the ice 50% in the allotted time. Over the course of my experiment, salt came to a higher percentage of meltage. In result, salt melted the ice more. When you put salt on the snow, it will be easier to shovel, and you will get to work on time.



Crime Scene Chemistry

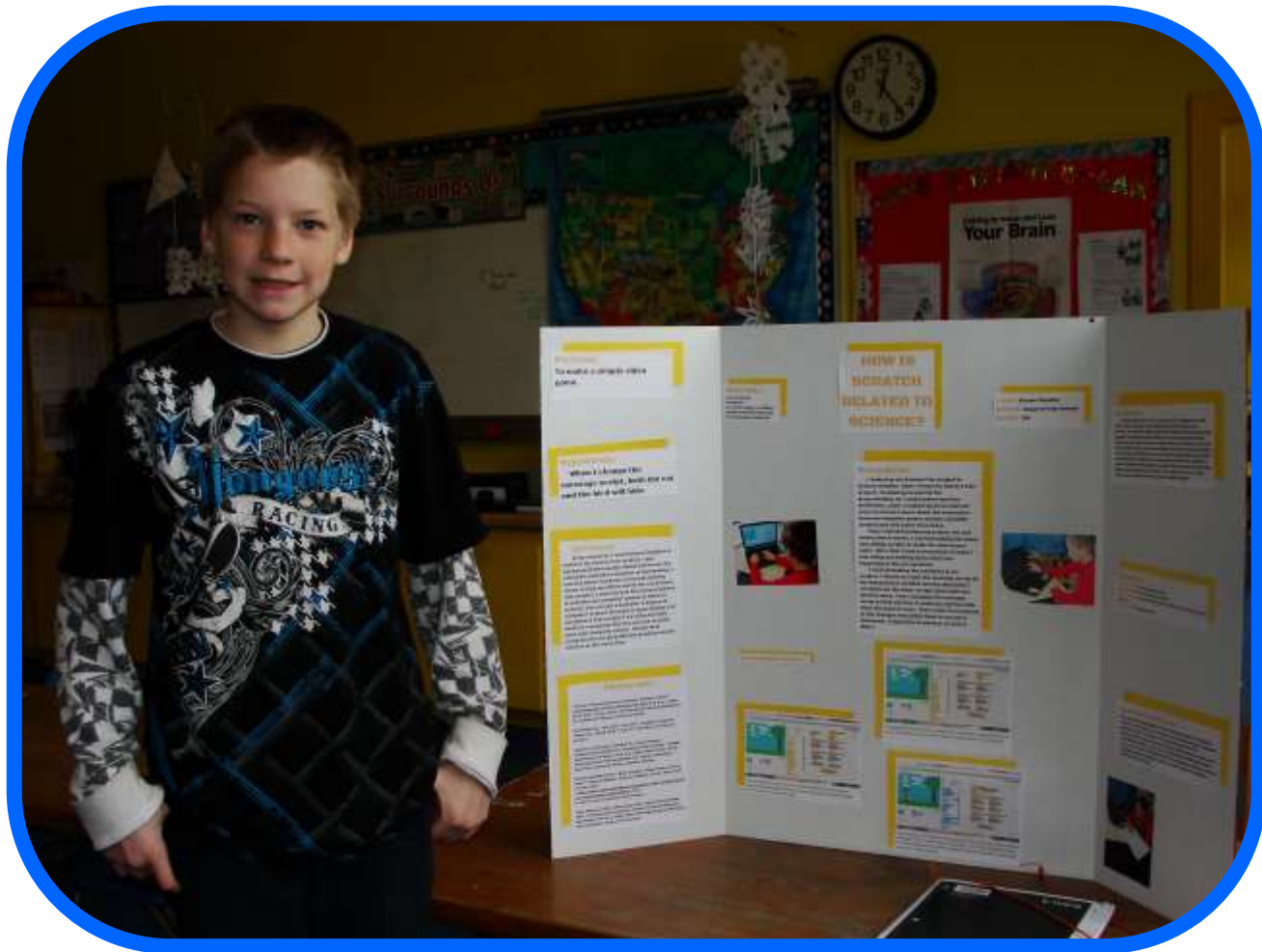
By Anna Schroeder

Crime scene detectives often find that they need a quick way to decipher blood from other substances at a crime scene. A quick way to do this is with the Kastle-Meyer test for blood. When I first researched it, I falsely concluded that the test relies on the iron the hemoglobin of a red blood cell. However, it is actually the oxygen from the blood.

The process is simple enough. You swab a substance or surface and then treat it (in this order) with Ethyl Alcohol, Phenolphthalein, and Hydrogen Peroxide.

I chose to test many substances and made sure they couldn't be altered by putting each of them on a paper plate so that they couldn't be influenced by their surroundings. Then I predicted what each result would be (positive or negative). When I conducted my experiment, I got six negative results, 3 positive results, and zero false results (meaning false positive or false negative).

I loved doing this test, and although it may not have contributed to the overall knowledge of the scientific community, I learned a lot. That is important, too.



How is Scratch Related to Science

By Shawn Giuntini

My project was about creating a simple video game. Many schools are using video game programs to work on science. People get college degrees in science by working on game-based programs. They also get degrees in computer science.

How does programming relate to science? They relate because there are variables. There is a script you can change and a script you can't change. When I change the message script, I can make both the cat and the bird hide. The independent variable is the message script. The dependent variables are the cat and bird scripts. The constant variable is the background.

I tried to control the message script, but it was harder than I thought. I had to get the right block, but the blocks I tried didn't work. I couldn't figure it out in the time I had to work on this project.

I learned that programming a video game is harder than it looks, but I want to continue to learn how to create computer programs.



Which Egg Substitute Works the Best in Baking?

By Gianni Orlandi, Rachel McGaughey and Dalia Schroeder

Why would people use egg substitutes? Do you want to know the most liked egg substitutes used in Snickerdoodles? In this experiment, we thought the flour and liquid substitute would be the most popular alternative for eggs. We tried to find out the favorite substitute for appearance, texture, smell, taste and the total average overall. We used baking soda and vinegar, flour and liquid, and flax seeds and water. We made the original Snickerdoodle recipe as a control for the experiment.

The original recipe ended up being the most popular, but baking soda and vinegar scored 2.8 out of 4, rising above the other substitutes. Our project helped people learn more about egg substitutes.



What would happen if we used more borax than the recipe called for?

Hypothesis: If we use more borax, then there will be more crystals.

Conclusion: The results did not support our hypothesis. The jar with the most borax made the least amount of crystals. The borax did not dissolve. It was too much borax.

What did you learn about crystals?

Dakota: I learned that borax turns into crystals. I wonder if sand will make crystals.

Aviva: I learned that you have to put boiling hot water in the jar before the borax. Also, I learned if you put too much borax, it will stay at the bottom in a big chunk.

Josie: I learned that you can't eat borax crystals because it's made out of soap.

Kai: It took some borax and water overnight to make crystals.

Emily: I learned that you need borax and water. You need to wait all night. The hearts get crystals on them because the water evaporates a little.

Author's Chair Returns to Maple Creek School

Author's Chair at Maple Creek School is an important part of the writing process. When students know that they will share their work with an audience, they put forth their best efforts. They develop oral reading skills as they read what they have written. They also learn to accept constructive feedback, which they use to revise their writing.

As audience members, students learn to be polite and to listen actively. They learn to give constructive feedback. We limit that feedback to a choice of statements:

- I liked...because...
- I wonder...
- I wish...

The author responds with "Thank you. I will think about that," which he/she does during the revision process. Not all feedback is used in the final version of the written piece, but always, the writing becomes stronger when the author receives authentic feedback, particularly from his/her peers.



Mark your calendars: April 29, 2016 beginning at Noon

May Day Celebration and Café

Please plan to join us on Friday, April 29, 2016 for our annual café fundraiser that will coincide with a May Day celebration. Come enjoy soup and salad as Maple Creek School students serve you.



Donations Requested

We need:

Food for school lunches and snacks:

- ◇ Cans of whole beans and refried beans
- ◇ Cans of corn
- ◇ Canned fruit
- ◇ Prepackaged vegan soup/chili
- ◇ Vegan/gluten-free snacks
- ◇ Baby Wipes
- ◇ Paper plates and bowls

Help with our end-of-year performance of "Mary Poppins"

- ◇ Costumes
 - ◇ Props
- *Please contact Wendy or Gwen for specifics

St. Patrick's Day Shenanigans

Leprechauns visited Maple Creek School in the wee hours of March 17. The classrooms were a mess, but there was a box of gold coins (of the chocolate variety) hidden in the wood pile. As adorable as the student-made leprechaun traps were, those clever Irish beings did not get caught.



On the hunt for clues.



Leprechauns are too tricky, but they are very generous.



Buried treasure!



The leprechaun left gold coins!

Tropical Jam Fundraiser

The Edmondson family is generously donating all profits from the sale of their delicious tropical jams to Maple Creek School. These jams are made in small batches with only the finest ingredients. For more information or to place an order, please contact:

Leiko Edmondson at 668-1630.

BUTTERS

- Apple
- Banana
- Liliko
- Lime
- Mango
- Green Mango
- Papaya
- Lemon
- Kona Coffee

OTHER PRODUCTS

- Mango Chutney
- Poha Mango Chutney
- Pineapple Mango Chutney
- Hot Pineapple Chutney
- Sweet Pepper Mango Chutney
- Hot Green Papaya Chutney
- Hot Salsa
- Jalapeno Mustard
- Hawaiian Liliko Mustard
- Hawaiian Sweet & Sour BBQ Sauce
- Spicy Peanut Sauce

Hawaiian BBQ Rub - 3.99
Kona Coffee BBQ Rub - 3.99
Hawaiian Ala'oa Salt Rub - 2.99

JAM PRICES

One (1) 8 oz. jar - \$8.00 each
2 - 11 jars - \$7.50 each
12 or more - \$7.00 each
-unless otherwise specified-
Sugar Free - \$8.50

- Prices Subject to Change Without Notice -

WE ALSO PROVIDE SHIPPING!

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
FLAT RATE BOXES
(with confirmation)

HAWAII'S NEIGHBOR ISLANDS
&
CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Small Box - up to 8 jars
\$13.00
Large Box - up to 13 jars
\$17.00

SHIPPING TO CANADA

Small Box - up to 8 jars
\$23.95
Large Box - up to 13 jars
\$27.00

(Rates subject to change without notice.)

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

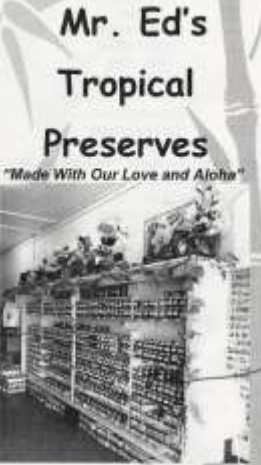


Dean & June Edmondson
Owners

P.O. Box 54
Honolulu, Hawaii 96728

808-963-5000
mredsbakeryhi@gmail.com

Credit card transactions over the phone only.



<p>LILIKOI (PASSION FRUIT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liliko Cranberry Liliko Ginger Liliko Hot Liliko Molten Lava POG (Passion-Orange-Guava) Vanilla Liliko Passion Apricot Passion Guava PGPP (Passion, Guava, Peach, Pineapple) Passion Mango Passion Ohelo Passion Papaya Passion Peach Passion Pineapple Passion Poha Passion Waialii Passion WI <p>LOW SUGAR LILIKOI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liliko Passion Guava Passion Mango <p>SUGAR FREE LILIKOI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liliko Passion Guava Passion Pineapple Passion Papaya <p>HOT JAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pepper Jelly (mild) Dragon Peppers Hot Liliko (mild) Hot Lime Ginger (medium) Hot Poha (mild) Mango Habanero Gold (hot) Molten Lava (hot) Ghostly Lemon (hot) Hot Ohelo - Pomegranate 	<p>JAMS - REGULAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abiu Apricot Pineapple Tropical Apricot Bilimbi Carrot Cake Coconut Dragon Jaboticaba Dragon Lime Dragon Lychee Dragon Mt. Apple Dragon Ohelo Dragon Passion Dragon Pineapple Dragon Poha Ginger Papaya Guava Guava Tangerine Jaboticaba Jackfruit Khwi Lemon Drop Mangostino Longan Li Hing Mt. Apple Li Hing Mt. Pineapple Money Sapote Mysore Raspberry Ohelo Sweet Ohelo Poha POP (Peach-Orange-Pineapple) Papaya Papaya Pineapple Pineapple Pineapple Coconut Pink Ice Apple Purple Sweet Potato Purple Sweet Potato Haupia Rambutan Red Waialii Scotty's Magical Citrus Strawberry Strawberry Guava 	<p>JAMS - REGULAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strawberry Liliko Surinam Cherry Watermelon Rind White Guava WI Yellow Bell Tomato <p>MARMALADES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calamondin Pink Grapefruit Hawaiian Orange Kumquat Lemon Ginger Lime Mediterranean Lime Passion Rangpur Lime Tahitian Lime Rampur Lime Jabong Starfruit Lemon Starfruit Lime Surinam Cherry Calamondin Tangerine Tangy Fruit <p>JAMS - LOW SUGAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaboticaba Poha Papaya Pineapple Mango <p>JAMS - SUGAR FREE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaboticaba Poha Papaya Pineapple Mango <p>JAMS - SUGARLESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guava Pineapple
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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

school on Tuesdays and the recycling area appropriate garbage

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



www.calrecycle.ca.gov

April 2016

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

Happening in March:

- ☺ March 11: Swim Lessons
- ☺ March 18: Swim and Music Lessons and Science Fair Field Trip
- ☺ March 22 and 23: 2nd Trimester Parent Conferences, School Out 1 PM
- ☺ March 25: Swim and Music Lessons Field Trip

Happening in April:

- ☺ April 1: Music Appreciation and Music Lessons Field Trip
- ☺ April 8: Swim and Music Lessons Field Trip
- ☺ April 11-15: Spring Break, No School
- ☺ April 18: SSC Meeting 1:15 PM and FC Meetings 2:15 PM
- ☺ April 22: TOOTH lesson
- ☺ April 29: Café Fundraiser 12:30 - 2 PM

Looking Ahead:

May:

- ☺ May 23: SSC/FC Meetings beginning at 2:15
- ☺ May 18, 19, 25, 26: CAASPP 4th & 7th Grade CAASPP Testing
- ☺ May 30: Memorial Day, No School

Please attend the **school board meeting on March 16 at 1:30 PM** to hear the latest school news and to give your voice to the LCAP process.

Future meetings:

April 20 at 1:30 PM

May 25 at 1:30 PM

June 1 and June 8, both at 1:30 PM



Thank you Danielle Trenn for joining the School Site Council and the Fundraising Committee, which has another new member for whom we are thankful—David Clair.

Next SSC Meeting: April 18, 2016 1:15

Next FC Meeting: April 18, 2016 2:15

All are welcome!

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

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.

