

## Maple Creek School News

Humboldt County Supervisor for District 5,

Ryan Sundberg,

Visits Maple Creek School



Through the efforts of Jan and Bob Garcia, Friday, May 1, 2015 was a special day in Maple Creek. Approximately 20 Maple Creek residents attended a meeting with Supervisor Ryan Sundberg. The residents and Sundberg discussed a wide variety of important issues impacting the community.

Before the meeting, they all enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the generosity of several local businesses and hosted by Maple Creek students who gladly accepted tips (donations) for the fine service they provided. Members of the Maple Creek Fundraising Committee will decide what to do with the money donated during this annual fundraiser, which included a sale of jam (see page 8).





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The students and staff of Maple Creek School send their deepest appreciations to the following businesses and individuals for helping to make the annual café luncheon a success:

- Folie Douce for the excellent Sweet Potato and Black Bean Soup
- Wildberries for a generous gift certificate spent on a variety of needed supplies and salad fixings
- Arcata Coop for a generous gift certificate spent on a variety of needed supplies and salad fixings
- Half Dollar Holler for an abundance of fabulous bread
- Rama and Danielle for their donation of lettuce and the ingredients for the brownies served as dessert
- Krissy Dodge for hours of behind-thescenes work
- ♦ The Fundraising Committee for its commitment to the school

We also wish to thank all who attended the event. Your support means the world to us!

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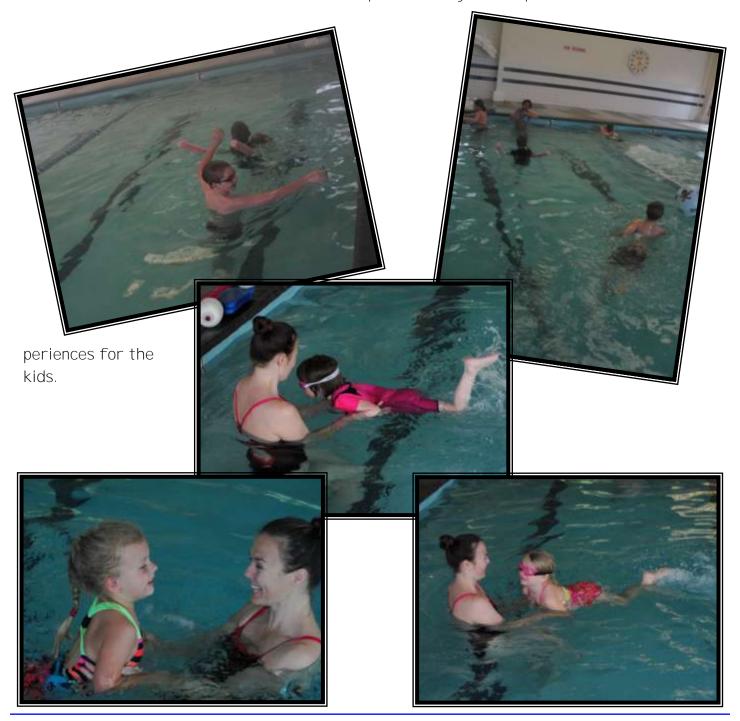
#### Maple Creek School Celebrates May Day in Style

All around the world, the first day of May brings celebrations of one kind or another. At Maple Creek School, the day was marked by dressing in festive clothing to greet and serve the café customers and then to engage in some dancing. The students performed two dances, one from Mexico and one from the old days of the United States. They then invited the audience to help them with the May Pole Dance. Thank you, Leslie Odelberg, for volunteering your time to lead the dances, and thank you, Krissy Dodge, for accompanying the May Pole dance on your violin. Dancing to live music was a terrific treat.



#### Swim Lessons Add Strength to PE Program

Due to its proximity to the Mad River and nearby ocean beaches, Maple Creek School stakeholders believe that the students should be water safe. Providing swim lessons as part of the physical education program is prioritized in the field trip budget. This year, the students will receive four swim lessons in Arcata's Health Sport swimming pool. In addition to formal swim lessons, these hour-long sessions provide a time for students to improve their cardio-respiratory and muscular strength through structured play in the pool. Beyond the health and educational benefits these lessons provide, they create positive, memorable ex-



### Maple Creek Students Learn to be Good Stewards of the Earth Through Various Field Trips and Classroom Activities

Recycling Center Tour

Maple Creek students visited the Eel River Disposal's Samoa Processing Center as part of their environmental studies. Here, they witnessed how the recyclable materials are sorted and processed for delivery to recyclers. They also learned what household items can be recycled and what needs to go to the landfill. Some examples of recyclable materials most hadn't thought about include: EMPTY aerosol cans and other containers, plastic forks, knives and spoons, some plastic bags, and toilet paper rolls. Thank you, Chuck, for the informative lessons.



#### Earth Day/Arbor Day

April 22 was the 45th Earth Day celebration and April 24 was the 143rd Arbor Day celebration. Maple Creek Students commemorated both environmental awareness days by spending April 22 studying trees and their environments. They listened to stories that taught about the life cycle and structure of trees. They played a game that helped them understand the process of photosynthesis, and they engaged in center activities related to trees.



















#### Cows and Cattails Field Trip

Our local Friends of the Dunes organization sponsors several fantastic field trips, most of which Maple Creek School students attend. One of these is held on a restored marsh that also serves as a working land through the North Coast Regional Land Trust, the Freshwater Farms Reserve near Three Corners Market. During this field trip, Maple Creek and 1st graders from Fuente Nueva school joined together. The students learned about the plants and animals that have adapted to meadows, marshes, and estuaries in the Humboldt Bay region with a focus on salmon, which reinforced our classroom studies of this local fish species. They also learned about the impact humans have had on wetlands. Most of all, they had a great time playing environmental education games and "fishing" for aquatic creatures in a pond. Tom and Justin were fantastic field guides. Thank you, Friends of the Dunes, for another enriching and engaging learning experience.



The complete Op-Ed can be found at http://hechingerreport.org/memorizers-are-the-lowest-achievers-and-other-common-core-math-surprises/.

Memorizers are the Lowest Achievers and Other Common Core Math Surprises

by **JO BOALER** (edited for MCS newsletter)

May 7, 2015

It's time to debunk the myths about who is good in math, and <u>Common Core state standards</u> move us toward this worthy goal. Mathematics and technology leaders support the standards because they are rooted in the new brain and learning sciences.

Data from the 13 million students who took PISA tests showed that the highest achieving students were those who thought of math as a set of connected, big ideas.

Brain science tells us that the students who are better memorizers do not have more math "ability" or potential, but we continue to value the faster memorizers over those who think slowly, deeply and creatively - the students we need for our scientific and technological future. The past decade has produced a generation of students who are procedurally competent but cannot think their way out of a box. This is a problem.

We don't need students to calculate quickly in math. We need students who can ask good questions, map out pathways, reason about complex solutions, set up models and communicate in different forms. All of these ways of working are encouraged by the Common Core.

Mathematics is a broad and multidimensional subject. Real mathematics is about inquiry, communication, connections, and visual ideas. We need students who can ask good questions, map out pathways, reason about complex solutions, set up models and communicate in different forms. All of these ways of working are encouraged by the Common Core.

Technology leaders are publically arguing that calculation is not math, and that math is a much broader subject. **Conrad Wolfram, one of the leaders of one of the world's most important mathematics companies, Wolfram-Alpha**, urges schools to stop emphasizing calculating and focus instead on problem solving, modeling, thinking, and reasoning as these are the mathematical abilities that students need in the workplace and their high tech lives. This broad, multidimensional mathematics is the math that engages many more learners and puts them on a pathway to lifelong success.

Mathematics is not a subject that requires fast thinking. Award winning mathematicians talk about their slow, deep thinking in math. Fields Medal winning mathematician <a href="Laurent Schwartz">Laurent Schwartz</a> wrote in his autobiography that he felt stupid in school because he was one of the slowest thinkers in math. Eventually he realized that speed was not important - "What is important is to deeply understand things and their relations to each other. This is where intelligence lies. The fact of being quick or slow isn't really relevant."

New brain science tells us that no one is born with a math gift or a math brain and that all students can achieve in math with the right teaching and messages. The classrooms that produce high achieving students are those in which students work on deep, rich mathematics through tasks that they can take to any level they want. No one is told what level they can reach and no one is held back by narrow questions that limit students' mathematical development and creativity.

We need to change the conversations about mathematics, communicating to all children that they can learn. We also need to change the way math is taught, valuing the different ways of thinking that are so important to the subject. Mathematics, itself, needs this and although change is hard, it should be embraced.

We need to broaden mathematics and open the doors of mathematics to all students. When we do this, we will see many more creative, energized young people equipped to think quantitatively about our ever-changing world. We all need this.

Jo Boaler is a professor of mathematics education at Stanford University, co-founder of <u>www.youcubed.org</u>, and author of <u>What's Math Got To Do With It: How Teachers and Parents can Transform Mathematics Learning and Inspire Success</u>. (Penguin, 2015)

#### Tropical Jam Fundraiser

The Edmoundson 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 Edmoundson at 668-1630.



#### 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 num cans that have the CA CRV symbol for recycling. We can only handle these only ones redeemable for cash.



containers and alumion them to the school items as they are the

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.



# May 2015

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						

Schedule of Events

#### Happening in May:

- May 5, 6, 7, 13, 14: CAASPP Testing for 3rd & 6th grades
- May 12: PORTS Video Conference to conclude salmon studies

- ☺ May 18: SSC Meeting 1:30 PM

- ⊕ May 29: Swim Lessons and Kokatat

#### Looking Ahead:

- © June 3: Ocean Day
- ⊕ June 10: Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- © June 10: Public Preliminary Hearing on LCAP and Budget 3:10 PM
- © June 12: Last Day of School Performance and BBQ 11 am
- © June 17: Board Meeting 1:30 PM

Please attend the school board meeting on May 19 at 1:30 PM to hear the latest school news and to give your voice to the LCAP process. Future meetings at 1:30:

June 10, and June 17
Preliminary LCAP Public
Hearing: June 10 3:10



School Site Council and Fundraising Committees
NEED YOU!

Both committees need at least one more member. Please contact Gwen for more information.

We invite everyone to give input on our LCAP, SSPSA, Tech Plan, as well as any other advice about the conditions of learning at Maple Creek School. Please contact Wendy or Gwen to request copies of any of the plans under development or 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.

