



# Maple Creek School News

Volume 3, Issue 3

Nov. 2014

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
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3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
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1,800,000 words



90<sup>th</sup> percentile

282,000 words



50<sup>th</sup> percentile

8,000 words



10<sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?  
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

## Field Trips Add Value to MCS

We are grateful for our field trips! The field trip to Sequoia Park Zoo avoided a school closure due to a scheduled power outage for PG&E work. The Bay to Dunes science and ecology field trip was funded by Friends of the Dunes. The trip to Warren Creek Farm and the Humboldt County Library was funded by the CO-OP and Dr. Garry Eagles from HCOE. The farm provided pumpkins for math and science exploration and a presentation reinforced science concepts about the water cycle. Every student now has a library card and can access e-books from the school's computers. We can never have enough books! Thank you to the School Site Council, our Board of Trustees, and community organizations and members for funding educational field trips.

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## Here are the steps to determine if a book is a "good fit":

1. Select a book that you think you want to read.
2. Open the book in the middle of the book and find a page that isn't the first page of the book or the first page of a chapter.
3. Read the page.
4. For every word that you can't read or have to really sound out (and you're not sure what the word is), put a finger up.
  - 0 fingers - the book is too easy
  - 1-3 fingers - the book is "just right"
  - 4-5 fingers - the books is a bit hard, so be sure to read it slowly.
  - 5+ fingers - the book is too hard for now - come back soon and try it again.


# Attendance Matters

One goal in Maple Creek School's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is to have each student maintain a minimum of 93% success rate of attendance. As of November 14th, 60% of our students have at rate of 93% or higher. Although we celebrate those students, we had a rough start to the year with 40% of our students falling behind in attendance. These absences are largely due to illness and childcare challenges. We encourage parents and guardians to communicate with the school any barriers they need to overcome. We invite ALL community members to share ideas that could help improve our attendance. Maple Creek School is committed to doing everything within its power to get all of our students to school. We cannot teach students who are not present.

## ATTENDANCE

### in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?




**Attendance Works**  
Helping Students Learn by Making Class Count  
[www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)


### Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.


**1 in 10 kids** in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4!<sup>1</sup>




**2 in 10<sup>2</sup>**  
low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.<sup>3</sup>



**2.5 in 10<sup>4</sup>**  
homeless kids are chronically absent.<sup>1</sup>



**4 in 10<sup>5</sup>**  
transient kids miss too much school when families move.<sup>2</sup>



### Why It Matters


If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

#### Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>6</sup>


84%	of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)
43%	of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)
41%	of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)
17%	of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

### What We Can Do




#### Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.




#### Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



#### Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



#### Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

<sup>1</sup>Chang, Holly; Barner, Marjorie; Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Counts, National Center for Children in Poverty, NYU, NY, September 2008.

<sup>2</sup>Chronic Absence in 3rd, Utah State Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

<sup>3</sup>Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2012.

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# Maple Creek School Students Take the Stage for the Fall Performance

By Shyanna Giuntini

On October 31, 2014 Maple Creek School had a Fall Performance. During this performance, they told jokes, read poems and staged a play. The jokes were told in-between different poems and the play. **An example of a joke was "What monster loves to dance? THE BOO-GIE MAN!!!!"** In the middle of the performance, they did a play about an ugly pumpkin that is really a butternut squash. The audience was really enthusiastic, and they were taking lots of pictures! There was also lots of laughter.

After the performance there was a carnival. The carnival had games and prizes! The games were Egyptian bowling, Bingo, Spear the Hippo, Ring Toss, a bean bag toss and there **was even an estimation jar. Everybody's family loved the performance and the carnival.**

There was trick-or-treating after the carnival. There were adults at every door at school including the next door neighbor, handing out goodies.

Maple Creek School sure is a great place to spend Halloween!



# Maple Creek School Explores Ancient Egypt

By Gianni Orlandi

Ancient Egypt is a cool place. My class studied Ancient Egypt; my favorite topics are tombs, the Sphinx, and King Tut.

Most people think that slaves built the tombs. False! Farmers mostly built the tombs because they thought they would be treated better when they died. Tombs were made out of stone that weighed over 4,000 pounds. The tombs were for the pharaoh when he died. They took so long to build the workers started on them before the pharaoh died.

Hey, speaking about tombs (pyramids) guess who watches over all of them—the sphinx. The sphinx has a head of a man and body of a lion. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the **World. The Great Sphinx of Giza looks over the Valley of Kings where many pharaohs' tombs** are located.

The most well-known tomb in Egypt belonged to King Tut. King Tut was a very young man when he became king at age nine. He died at age 13. He was not a good-looking man. His spine was arched, and he had bucked teeth. Scientists know this from CAT scanning his mummy.

I loved studying Ancient Egypt with my class. We read books about Egypt and made artifacts for a museum. Troublemakers came to our school and hid our artifacts all around the classroom, but we found them all. It was pretty fun. We got to act like real detectives for a math project.

I am looking forward to our next history project, which is for History Day.



# Monday Afternoon Art Lessons with Leslie

By Shawn Giuntini

The students of Maple Creek School have art every Monday afternoon. This Fall we are making bracelets, necklaces, coat or hat hangers, and clay mummies. We have a play dough center with cool play dough toys, too.

The bracelets were made out of string, beads, and buttons. We, the sixth graders, were the only ones to make them. We would make them long enough for them to wrap them around our hand once, twice, or even three times.

The necklaces were made out of stretchy string and beads. The third or sixth graders could make necklaces, too.

The coat or hat hangers were mostly made out of wood. We sixth graders had an option to use mosaic, paint, or put blocks and keys on them. The third graders only got to paint or put blocks and keys on them.

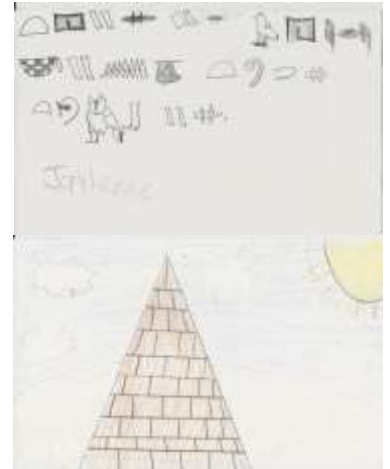
The clay mummies were made out of clay, and when they are done in the kiln we get to paint them.

The play dough center is fun because it has play dough toys like dentist tools. There is also a fake plastic head and thing to make play dough teeth. There is also a roller to make designs in the play dough.

**We have done fun things in art and I'm looking forward to gaining more artistic skills.**



# Greetings From Ancient Egypt



A	B	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z



Can you read these postcards?



## Maple Creek School Takes a Close Look at Flowers

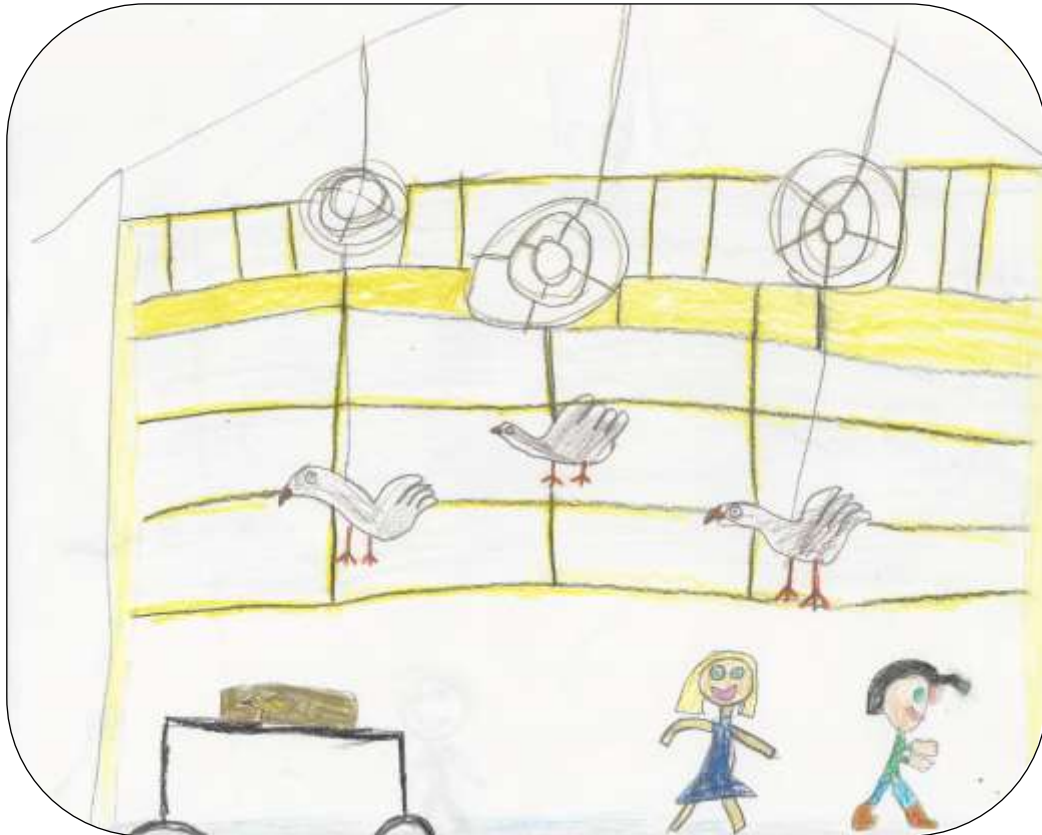
We studied plants by taking a close look at flowers, as close as our hand lenses would allow us to get. After looking at all the parts of dandelion and clover flowers, the scientists created water color paintings, which show how observant and creative Maple Creek students are.



# Looking Forward to Thanksgiving

By Rachel McGaughey

The week before Thanksgiving I would like to make decorations at the school. I would like to make paper turkeys and placemats. I would like to use them to have a party.





## We Are Thankful

Aviva is thankful for her family and her friends and her cousins.

Emily is thankful for reading to each other and being with her mom and dad and Aviva.

Gianni is thankful for the new car his dad bought for the family and for losing all his baby teeth and growing new adult teeth.

Rachel is thankful for playing games with her friends and learning math.

Jaylenne is thankful for her best friends, her mother and sister, and her dog.

Shyanna is thankful for school, her mother, her aunt Stacy, good friends, and life.

**Shawn is thankful for his mom, his family, and school because he wouldn't be able to learn without it.**

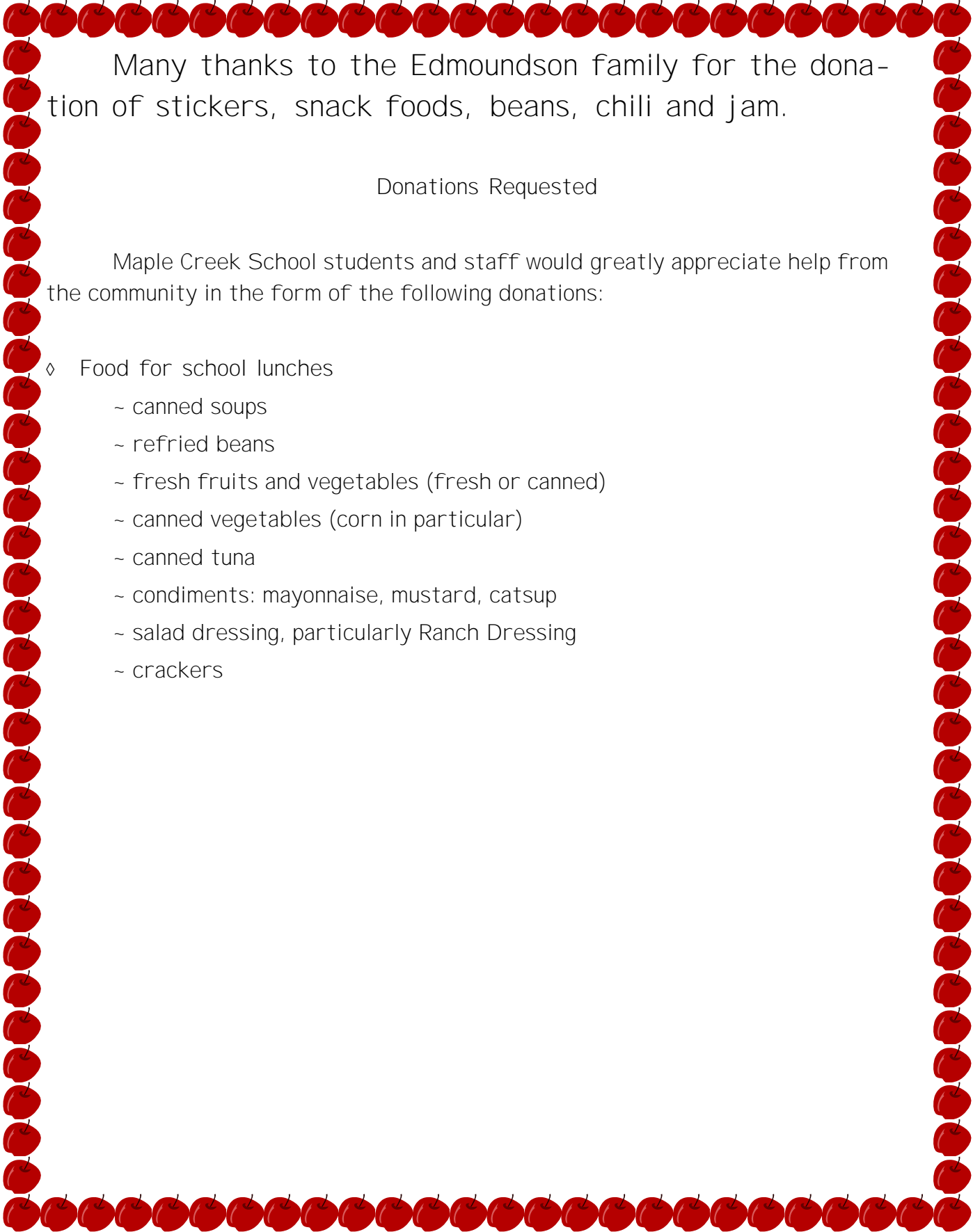
Gwen is thankful for the Maple Creek School community and for her family.

Hilary is thankful for her friends, her family, and for Maple Creek School.

Wendy is thankful for her family and her job.

## We Are Thankful





Many thanks to the Edmoundson family for the donation of stickers, snack foods, beans, chili and jam.

#### Donations Requested

Maple Creek School students and staff would greatly appreciate help from the community in the form of the following donations:

◇ Food for school lunches

- ~ canned soups
- ~ refried beans
- ~ fresh fruits and vegetables (fresh or canned)
- ~ canned vegetables (corn in particular)
- ~ canned tuna
- ~ condiments: mayonnaise, mustard, catsup
- ~ salad dressing, particularly Ranch Dressing
- ~ crackers

## 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 ones redeemable for cash.



containers and aluminum cans that have the CA CRV symbol on them to the school recycling bins 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](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov)

# November 2014

## 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 Nov.

☺ Nov. 10 & 11: No School for **Staff Development/Veteran's Day**

☺ Nov. 17: SSC, SAC, DAC, MCFC Meetings begin at 2:30 PM

☺ Nov. 19: Stone Soup Community Feast 1 PM

☺ Nov. 19: School Board Meeting at 2 PM

☺ Nov. 21: Field trip to North Coast Dance

☺ Nov. 24—28: No School for **Thanksgiving Week**

Looking Ahead:

☺ Dec. 3: Schools to Dance Field Trip: The Nutcracker at Arkley Center

☺ Dec. 9 & 10: Parent Conferences

☺ Dec. 10: School Board Meeting 2 PM

☺ Dec. 19: Winter Performance 1 PM

☺ Dec. 22—Jan. 2: No School for **Winter Break**

Please attend the school board meeting on Nov. 19 at 2 PM to hear the latest school news and provide your valuable input!



Please attend the School Site Council (SSC) Meeting on Monday, Nov. 17 at 2:30 PM. The purpose of the SSC is to assist with on-going school improvement goals and strategies, specifically to help monitor the effectiveness of plans to improve student achievement.

### School Site Council and Fundraising Committees

Thank you Leiko for joining The School Site Council/Fundraising Committee. SSC members now include Tony Cogliati, Heather Jackson, Leiko Edmondson, Dan Orlandi, Gwen Neu, and Wendy Orlandi. We encourage everyone to attend the meetings regardless of being a member.

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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 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.

