



Maple Creek School News

Author Bethanie Murguia Shares Her Publishing Secrets

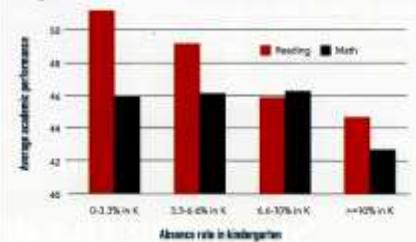
On Oct. 19, Bethanie Murguia graced Maple Creek School with her writing and art expertise. After a slide show that provided us answers to many of our questions about her personally, she spent time teaching us the techniques she used to illustrate the books we have come to love. One fact we learned is she sometimes has to recreate the same illustration from scratch at least 10 times before her editor believes it is ready for publication. We also learned that she uses the phrase "What if..." to help with the revision process—both for writing and illustrating. We are now using that phrase when we talk about our work to help us overcome the revision blues.

Volume 6, Issue 2

Nov./Dec. 2017

The Long-Term Impact of Chronic Kindergarten Absence is Most Troubling for Poor Children

5th grade math and reading performance by K attendance for children living in poverty. Academic performance was lower even if attendance had improved in 3rd grade.



Source: ECLS-K data analyzed by National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCIP)
 Note: Average academic performance reflects results of direct cognitive assessments conducted for ECLS-K.

"One important finding is that chronic absenteeism is a silent issue. It's not anybody's pet program, it's not 'glamorous,' and that presents a real challenge. But it's an important foundational issue for schools; at the end of the day, none of the reforms or curricula are going to have an impact if kids aren't in school."

—Nancy Doherty, assistant research faculty member, University of California, Davis



Dakota received his 3rd grade dictionary from Arcata Sunrise Rotary.

Inside this issue:

Letters to Families	2
Science Fair	2
Winter Presentations	3
Community Member Needs	4
Recycling	5
Calendar	6



Dear Families,

You may have heard me talking about the magic attendance number of 6.0 that we need to reach in order to stay open.

We now have enough students to reach our goal. We have hope. If we have **zero absences between November 27th and February 16th**, we can bring our total number up to 6.15. We will not be out of the water; we have to maintain the 6.0 number to the end of the year.

We can survive if we all strive for perfect attendance. I know, seems impossible, but we can do this. Our future relies on it. **As soon as your child is sick, start an independent study plan.** Need a doctor appointment? Make it as late in the day as possible and leave school early. Have several appointments? Make them all in a five-day period and go on independent study.

We will continue our advertising campaign to boost enrollment for home school students and for classroom students. If that doesn't bring in new students, at least we know that we can do this on our own. We are Maple Creek; we are survivors. We will keep this school open.

Thank you,

Wendy Orlandi, Superintendent

Dear Families:

When we return from Winter Break, the students will immerse themselves in the world of scientific experimentation. This is year is Science Fair year, so they will follow the scientific method in an attempt to answer a question they develop based on their observations of the world around them.

I introduced this process by wondering aloud about my curiosity regarding the effectiveness of using baby wipes to clean our hands. I asked the question, "What works best to keep germs off our food?" I then turned that question into a hypothesis: I think washing hands in warm, soapy water will grow the least amount of mold. We all then followed a procedure I created and have watched our pieces of bread for about a month. So far, the results disprove my hypothesis—there is no consistent growth of mold. It's hard to make a conclusion at this point. We will continue to watch the mold grow on the bread, and I will publish our findings in a future issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, the students are learning that sometimes science shows results we didn't expect, and that's ok.

I have a favor to ask of you. Please talk to your child(ren) about their wonders. What do they wonder about how the world works? What catches their interest? What problems could they possibly solve? (In fact, using the scientific method to solve a problem tends to create science fair winners.) What questions can they ask about those interests? I simply want them to start thinking about potential science projects. They do not need to have a choice made, just ideas.

Sample science fair questions include (there are an infinite number of questions to ask):

- * Does the five-second rule work?
- * Do microwaves affect plant growth?
- * Do cell phones affect plant growth?
- * What food wrappings will preserve leftovers best?
- * What is the best way to clean oil spills?

For elementary students, it's best to stay away from questions that require experimentation involving animal life of any kind. These science projects require special support from experts in the field.

Please put **Feb. 16, 2018** on your new calendars. That's the day of the **Maple Creek Science Fair**. I am currently looking for judges. The Humboldt County Science Fair, which is open to students in 4th grade and up, will be held March 12-16, 2018 at Humboldt State University.

Sincerely,

Gwen Neu, Education Coordinator

You are Cordially Invited to
Maple Creek School's Presentation of



Friday, Dec. 15, 2017
1:15 PM



Following the student presentations,
we will enjoy some food and games highlighted in the reports.
We welcome all Maple Creek School supporters!



Maple Creek Elementary School is Reaching Out to Humboldt County



Katie Gonzalez, a parent in the Maple Creek community, struggles with neuroendocrine tumors and Crohn's disease, which makes treatment for and healing from the cancer treatments.

Please help her win this fight and make a bright future for her girls.

“While struggling with healing from NET cancer, which involves traveling between here and San Francisco several times a month, finances have become strained.” ~K. G.

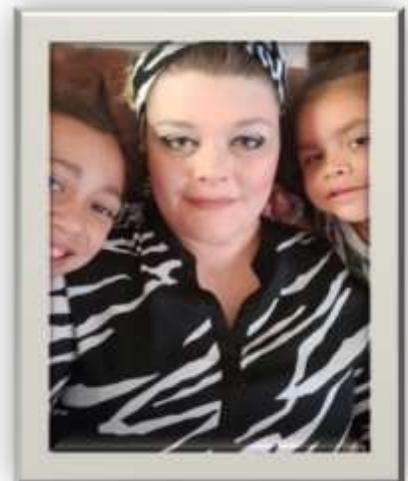
We are collecting donations at the school. Please make checks out to Katherine Gonzalez, and we will pass them along to her.

If you would prefer, you can contribute through a **GoFundMe** page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/u-c-s-f-travel-expenses>.

Mail checks to:

Maple Creek Elementary School
15933 Maple Creek Rd.
Korbel, CA 95550



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 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

DECEMBER 2017

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 November:

- ☺ Nov. 1: Minimum Day
- ☺ Nov. 9: School Site Council 1:15 pm and Fund Raising at 2 pm
- ☺ Nov. 10: No School—Veteran's Day
- ☺ Nov. 20-24: No School Thanksgiving Break

Happening in December:

- ☺ Dec. 6 & 7: Minimum Day—Parent Conferences, School Out at 1 PM
- ☺ Dec. 8: School Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- ☺ Dec. 15: Winter Celebrations 1:15
- ☺ Dec. 18—Jan. 1: No School— Winter Break

Happening in January 2018:

- ☺ Jan. 2: School Resumes
- ☺ Jan. 5: School Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- ☺ Jan. 15: No School—MLK, Jr. Day
- ☺ Jan. 19: Guest Artist Virginia Wood to present art lessons

Happening in February:

- ☺ Feb. 14: Friendship Day
- ☺ Feb. 16: Science Fair 11 am
- ☺ Feb. 16: Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- ☺ Feb. 19-23: No School—February Break

Happening in March:

- ☺ March 9: School Board Meeting 1:30 PM
- ☺ March 12-16: Humboldt County Science Fair

Please attend the **school board meeting on Dec. 8 at 1:30 PM** to hear the latest school news, appoint a provisional board member, and to give your voice to the LCAP process.

2018 Meetings @ 1:30 PM:
 Jan. 5
 Feb. 16
 March 9



FC:	SSC:
Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017 2:00 PM	Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017 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.

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.

