



# Maple Creek School News

## Author Nancy Coffelt Visits Maple Creek School

Written by Maple Creek's TK–8th grade Students

Nancy Coffelt is an inspiration to the kids at Maple Creek School. She is a survivor; she thinks writing and drawing is fun; she makes kids proud of their artwork.

Over a few months at one point in her life, Coffelt lost her art gallery, her husband, and her book editor. That didn't stop her because she's a rough, tough stuff, survivor who is "determined to be the last one standing." In her blog, Coffelt wrote that she would always get back on the horse no matter what happened. She never let the sharp teeth of the cave of doom win, which is a metaphor that Coffelt used. She said, during an interview, "Just keep trying."

If Coffelt didn't think writing and drawing were fun, she wouldn't write or draw in the first place. In an interview with her when *Fred Stays with Me* and *Big, Bigger, Biggest* came out, Coffelt said, "I wouldn't do this if it wasn't fun." She wrote in her fine art website that she has been drawing since she was a little girl. It's fun to look at Coffelt's books and art work because they make your eyes shine brightly.

Part of Coffelt's job as an art teacher is to encourage kids about their artwork. She tells kids that there is no bad art. In the interview, she said it's good that kids haven't learned to be embarrassed by their art the way adults are. When she was in second grade, she won first place in a coloring contest and that encouraged her to keep on drawing. Her experience inspires kids to use the tools they have, such as colored pencils, crayons, and felt pens, to make a start as artists.

Coffelt is an artist, writer, and teacher who inspires people. She inspired the kids at Maple Creek School to try to draw art like hers. Reading her blogs and viewing an interview with her showed them that they can be creative with their own minds and talents.



### Compare and Contrast Essay

While some differences between *Uh-Oh Baby!* and *Catch That Baby!* are noticeable, the similarities are obvious. One of the main similarities between the books is they have the same author, Nancy Coffelt, and the same illustrator, Scott Nash. Another similarity is that both books have the same characters; however, there is a ladybug on every page in *Uh-Oh Baby!*, but *Catch That Baby!* does not have a ladybug in it. Rudy the baby, the star, took a bath in both books. When Rudy is younger, in *Catch That Baby!*, Mom cannot dress him, but later, in *Uh-Oh Baby!*, he lets Grandma dress him. In both books, Buddy the dog is the baby's friend. In this comparison/contrast report, you learned a lot about both books, but you can read them yourself to take a closer look.

### Inside this issue:

Text Types	2-6
Help Needed	7
Calendar	10

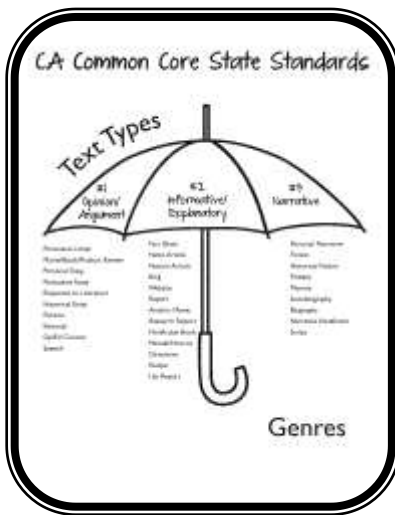


## The Text Type Umbrella

Maple Creek School's TK—8th grade students learned about the

three basic text types: Opinion/Argument, Informative/Explanatory, and Narrative. They listened to three pieces of writing about Halloween and had to decide under which part of the umbrella each fell. They then chose one text type and wrote a personal piece about Halloween. A few brave students read their pieces aloud and the listeners determined which text type the writers had chosen.

On the following pages are three pieces of writing about the Pumpkin Patch field trip. Each piece falls under one section of the umbrella. Can you determine which is which?



### First Field Trip of the Year—

#### The Pumpkin Patch

By Malia Windbigler

On Oct. 4, 2013, Maple Creek School went to the very orange pumpkin patch. At the pumpkin patch, there was an Arcata coop teacher, and while she was teaching, she told us how **to pick up pumpkins. She said, "You should not pick a rotten pumpkin or a smashed pumpkin."** I saw three or four rotten and smashed pumpkins.

We got to pick out one pumpkin. Some people picked out green or red pumpkins, but I saw a lot of people pick out Cinderella and sugar pie pumpkins.

In the pumpkin patch there is a corn maze. We went in the corn maze two times. I saw a lot of dark green, dark purple, and sometimes yellow corn.

Finally, we ate lunch and went in the corn maze a second time. During the second trip through the maze, we were able to look closely at the corn and take pictures. Maple Creek School students and staff thank the North Coast COOP and Warren Creek Farms for this field trip.





## Lost in the Corn Maze! (cont.)

"Class, come this way...." said a faraway voice, one that sounded like their teacher's voice!

"She is close!" said Shaylenne, pulling Jayanna up and putting her ear to the corn. "She's this way."

Shaylenne pushed the corn aside and ran with Jayanna close behind her. Shaylenne was running so fast she didn't realize that she was running right into a fence! Bang! She ran into the fence and fell on the ground, but she slowly got back up.

"Are you ok?" said Jayanna.

"Yeah, I'm ok," said Shaylenne, dusting the dirt of her pants. Jayanna pushed her aside, looked through a hole in the fence, and saw their teacher's red scarf.

"There on the other side of the fence!" said Jayanna, backing up. "We just have to find the opening of the corn maze and get out!" said Jayanna.

"I think it's this way!" said Shaylenne, pointing across the maze.

"Well, I think it's this way!" said Jayanna, pointing to the opposite direction.

"It's this way, I'm sure!" said Shaylenne.

"Well, which way is it!" said Jayanna.

The girls did not know what to do.....

"Let's just go that way," said Shaylenne, stepping forward.

"Sounds good!" said Jayanna. They ran across the path and found themselves at an opening in the maze.

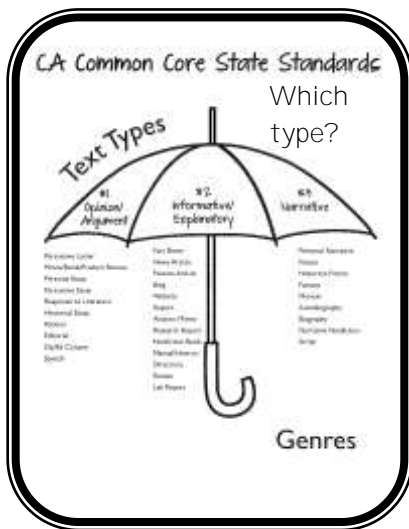
"Yes!!!!!!!" the girls yelled as they peeked out and saw the pumpkins and the class in a straight line walking out to the orange patch!

"We have to catch up to them!" said Shaylenne. She grabbed Jayanna's hand and ran to the group.

"I wonder if they realized we were gone," said Jayanna running.

Jayanna and Shaylenne got to pick out their pumpkins, and they never went off the path in a corn maze, EVER AGAIN!





## Perfect Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

By  
Shawn Giuntini

On October 11, 2013 the students at Maple Creek School went on a field trip to the Warren Creek Farms Pumpkin Patch. Everybody loved it, including myself.

The students loved that there were so many types of pumpkins. **Bobo Karrer, a student at Maple Creek School, said, "I liked the pumpkins because there were bumpy, squashed, and fat pumpkins."**

First, we went in the corn maze. There were corn stalks everywhere we went. Our guide took us to a place where she told us about how you can tell the difference from a male pumpkin flower and a female pumpkin flower. The students listened well to our guide. They raised their hands and asked good questions, and they politely answered the **guide's questions.**

Then it was time to pick the pumpkins! There were so many types of pumpkins to pick. I wanted a red pumpkin. Everybody else got an orange or a white pumpkin.

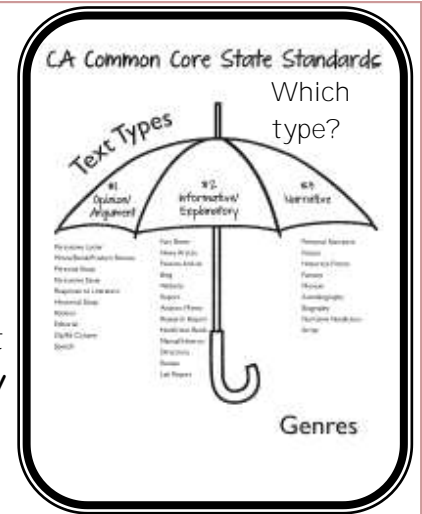
After we got our pumpkins, we went to have lunch together in the sunshine. There was no rain and there were no clouds, just a bright, blue sky. After everybody was done eating we got to go in the corn maze again. Then it was time **to go to Morris Grave's Museum.**

The kids had a good time all day long. We all want to go on a field trip again.



# A Maple Creek Student is a Happy Student

By Shyanna Giuntini



Maple Creek School is a very small school up in the Arcata hills. It has 12 students, one maintenance man, three teachers, and an awesome principal. This school has been around for more than 50 years. The kids at **Maple Creek School love it. There's even one family that comes all the way from Eureka.** Some of the reasons the students love Maple Creek School include: there are fun and exciting activities; the kids are nice; and the teachers are strict but not mean.

One fun and exciting activity a student talked about is Daily 5. Daily 5 is language arts program. **This student said that "Read to Self" is the most exciting activity during Daily 5. There's also another exciting activity during math time.** The Older students are building model club houses. All of the kids in the upper grade class have built their club houses and designed and decorated the interiors. They will soon work on landscaping their "property."

The majority of kids say that of all the other schools they've been to, this one has the nicest students. One kids said, "I want to stay because I know everybody here, and whenever new kids come in, there's only a couple, and I get to know them better."

They say there are nicer teachers, too. One kid said the teacher at her old school was meaner and stricter. She said her old teacher would yell at her all the time. She said her teacher would also give her a green slip for no reason. A green slip is a green piece of paper, and if you get two in one day, you get sent home. At MCS, the students get three strikes before they have to write a letter explaining what choice they made, what was the consequence of that choice, and what better choice they could **make the next time. I don't think anyone has ever been sent home from Maple Creek School.**

I hope this article told you how much fun this school is. These students love this school. The students at MCS are awesome and so is the school.



## Mad River Beach Cleanup

On Oct. 23, 2013, the students, staff and volunteers spent two hours cleaning trash off the bank of Mad River at the bridge, doing some yoga, and using their senses to observe closely to practice mindfulness.



## Scaring up Some Halloween Help for Maple Creek School

As many volunteers as possible are needed to help make Halloween the special holiday Maple Creek students expect it to be. We need volunteers to help create a haunted house and to help run the carnival. We also need donations of cupcakes, frosting and sprinkles for the cupcakes, cookies to decorate, carnival prizes, and some candy. Please contact Wendy for more information or to sign up to help in any way you can.

The Halloween festivities begin at 1 PM (on Oct. 31, of course) with a spooky performance followed by games, activities, trick-or-treating, and trips through a haunted house.



## Decade of Difference Reading Tutors Wanted

Reading is the most important component of any education.

Through the Decade of Difference program, volunteer reading tutors can receive three hours of free training in return for committing to working one-to-one with students two—four hours per week. Please contact Wendy for more information on this exciting opportunity.



## Maple Creek School Recycling Fundraiser is Open

We now accept recycling that is redeemable for cash only to raise **money for our students' academic and enrichment needs.** You may drop off recycling at the old volunteer fire department building on Tuesdays and Fridays when school is open. For more information, contact Wendy.





# October 2013

**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 Oct.

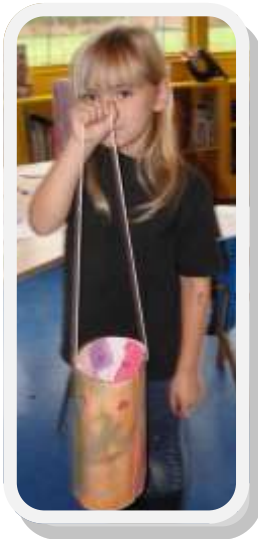
- ☺ 10/04/13: Pumpkin Patch/Morris Graves Field Trip
- ☺ 10/16/13: School Board Meeting
- ☺ **10/18/13: Author's Festival**
- ☺ 10/23/13: Mad River Beach Cleanup, 1 PM—3 PM
- ☺ 10/30/13: Boulder Creek field trip, 1 PM—3 PM
- ☺ 10/31/13: Halloween Extravaganza, 1 PM—3 PM

Looking Ahead:

- ☺ Nov. 1: No School
- ☺ Nov. 11: No School—**Veteran's Day**
- ☺ Nov. 13: School Site Council 2 PM
- ☺ Nov. 20: Board Meeting 2 PM
- ☺ Nov. 22: Lantern Walk/Café Fundraiser (Time TBA)
- ☺ Nov. 25—29: No School—Thanksgiving Week

Please attend the school board meeting on Nov. 20 to hear the latest school news. It begins at 2 PM **in Wendy's** classroom.

**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 Nov. 13 at 2 PM **in Wendy's room.**



## Maple Creek School Fundraiser

Please put November 22 on your calendar. MCS will hold a fundraiser that includes a Café run by the students and the second annual Lantern Walk (through the darkened classrooms). We will announce the time for this exciting event in the November issue of this newsletter.

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.

*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.

