

NEXT GENERATION

“Next Generation” features the talents of our local students and school news and updates. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

RUCH SCHOOL

Make a change, A difference

by Autumn Brandenburg, Eighth Grade

I want to make a change, a difference. I think a lot about life and I believe we are put on this earth to do something, not just live and die, whether it is small or big it's still a difference. I want to help those who are being bullied or have been bullied, or even are bullies because if they are doing it then I want to help them so that they can stop. I want to show all of them that life is as amazing as they are. That they are so much more than they give themselves credit for. I want to make a group, for all of those to come to, talk to people, make friends, I want them to have someone they can go to for help, or even a shoulder to cry on.

I really want to make a change but I can't do it without your help, I'm only a student, but with time, patience, and your help we can do this, not only for them but for us as well. We all need a little help, we all need someone there, and I want to be there for them. I know how it feels and that's why I want to do this. I know I had a hard time so I know others are too.

There are people that commit suicide because of this and I want to prevent that. I want to be there for them, for you any hour of any day or night. I want to show them that they can make it through it, that they are tough enough. I want to show them that they don't have to live up to anyone's standards but theirs. I want to show them how wonderful life is if they just try, and look harder under the surface of it because after all isn't it what's on the inside that counts, not what's on the outside? So I'm asking you now, please, help me make a change?

Stop bullying and speak up.

Bugs in the salad

by Joby Evanow, Sixth Grade

I would see bugs in my salad, “hmmm what to do, what to do...”

I would make all of it into a little village. Leave all the bugs in there and then

I would start making shelters and houses as well. And then I would take it home and make it into a town. Which would have houses and stores. Then after that I would get a bigger container and make it into a city which would have bigger and smaller houses. Then they would probably be short on salad so I would make more salad and put it in there. Now I would make it into a state, which would be more salad then I would make it into a country then I would add more bugs and pick one to be president. And then I would make a world which would be a whole lot of bugs and salad houses and civilization. And there would be more then I would add another seven pounds of salad to make the whole world sooner I would make the galaxy which would be a whole dinner table then I would make the universe my whole room.

Pictures

by Tristin Kohler, Seventh Grade

Pictures are time travel.

Bringing past to present.

Remembering past memories with just a look at a picture.

Pictures are imagination.

Imagining something and painting it.

Thinking of something that hasn't been thought of before.

I wish I had a million chances

by Ivy Guss-Gonzales, Seventh Grade

I wish I had a million chances because if I messed something up I could go back and make things better. Of course I would still remember what happened so I would still learn from my mistakes. I've had a lot of experiences where I wish I could go back in time to change a death or a failure, but if I went back in time to change things what would I learn? These are some of the things we wonder about, what if I had done that different? How would we change our life if we had done one little thing different? Maybe a million chances wouldn't be the best at times.

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APPLEGATE SCHOOL

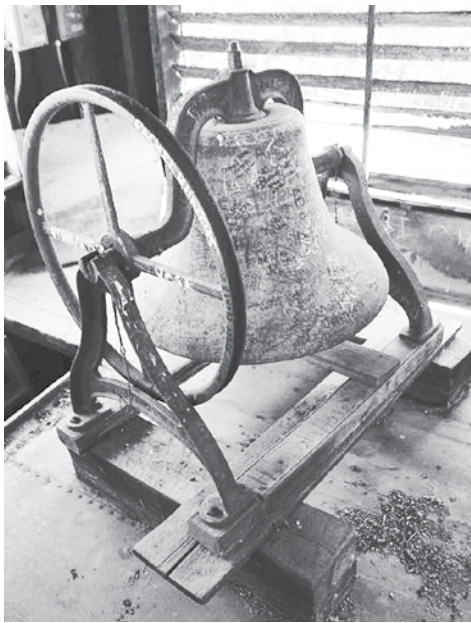
Applegate School rings the bell

For nearly 12 years a lonely piece of history sat waiting to speak again.

In the year 2000, the historic Applegate School brick building was closed due to seismic safety concerns. The building remained off-limits to students until a seismic retrofit was completed in 2011-2012. In the fall of 2012, the building once again came to life with children marching up and down the steps to classrooms. On top of the brick schoolhouse sits a bell tower; inside is the bell that fell silent after doors to the schoolhouse were closed, but it is silent no more.

In the years prior to the closure, children were allowed to ring the bell after recesses. Mrs. Crowe, a former first-grade teacher at Applegate School, recalls having children ring the bell for 22 years. All the children were happy and excited to do so. Children new to the school always got to ring the bell. Some children would stand next to Mrs. Crowe all during recess visiting with her in hopes of being the one chosen to ring the bell. On the “100th day of school celebration,” students would ring the bell 100 times. If there were 20 children, they would each ring five times or adjust when there were odd numbers. Some of us recall hearing the bell ring all the way up through the small Humbug Creek valley through the trees and hills, filling the air with its happy sound.

During those years a long rope with a huge knot on the end hung from the bell tower. All those years the rope was never pulled by any student unless it was time to ring the bell. The children had respect for



The once-lonely cast-iron bell, ready to be moved during retrofit, is being rung again by happy Applegate School children.
Photo: Knicki Lucrezi.

the bell and waited their turn.

After the building was closed in 2000, the rope was shortened and locked away in a steel box. Now in 2013 we have opened the box, and the children have started taking turns ringing the bell once again.

Here are some comments from today's students about ringing the bell:

Owen: “I liked ringing the bell and it was a special thing to do because it was my birthday!”

Aerawyn: “When ringing the bell, I felt really happy!”

Alyssa and Azalea say it was fun and they would “want to ring it again.”

Bruce and Aiden also say it was “really, really fun.”

Linda Kappen • 541-846-6280

Schoolwide Education Assistant
Applegate School

Undefeated Applegate School girls volleyball team

Applegate School is a part of SOMSAC, a sports conference for small schools. Our volleyball team is comprised of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade girls, who worked so hard. Believe it or not, 11 out of the 12 girls had never even played volleyball before. There were many who said we would fail, but these girls never stopped believing in themselves. Their transformation was truly inspiring. We not only watched skills improve, but relationships were mended and a sisterhood was formed; their motto became “Those who say it can't be done are standing in the way of those doing it!”

We built team skills, taught mutual respect, positive attitude and gratitude. Against all odds and all naysayers, we watched these girls show the world their greatness. It was a magical season and something none of us will forget.

This was a first-time coaching

experience for Heather DeVos; it was my second time as an assistant coach, but my first time at Applegate School. Heather did a great job leading these amazing girls to an undefeated 2013 season, which hasn't happened at Applegate School for 29-plus years. You can't even imagine the elation when the girls won their final game in their own gym. Parents, coaches and players all celebrated with hugs and tears of joy.

We had great support from Applegate School's principal, Renee Hults, and her staff, Melissa Smock, Punky Travalini and Justin Montano. Our principal has ordered a plaque for the gymnasium wall for all the world to see. The girls are beside themselves with anticipation of that great day. They will walk into that gym and forever be a part of something great at Applegate School.

Sandi Garoutte • 541-660-5173

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The undefeated girls' volleyball team. From left to right—back row: Assistant coach Sandi Garoutte, Ashley Dodson, Sayge Pereira, Lorelei McNally, Alice Holcolm, Kali Norris, Madison Lothrop, Caitlyn Rabjohn, Elizabeth DeVos, coach Heather DeVos. Front row: Charlee Johnson, Adara Peppercorn, Alia Seal and Jessi Hendrickson.