

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

As we welcome the cooler weather, beautiful fall colors, and the anticipation of winter and all it has to offer, Ruch School Community K-8 would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone, past and present, who has supported Ruch School students and staff and our mission to offer the very best education we can. We are so very thankful!

Every summer, members of the Ruch School Auction Committee orchestrate an amazing event that brings together community members, local artists, business owners, and students and their families. It is during this celebratory event that funds are raised to support Ruch School programs such as music, field experiences, academic resources, extensive art instruction from local artists, and so, so much more.

Ruch School is so successful in preparing our students and being active participants in the health and wellness of our community because of *you*, our generous donors and volunteers! We are extremely proud to call ourselves a "community school." *You are our heroes!*

Students were asked to develop their "elevator speech" about what identifies us as the "school of choice." Here are some statements from Ruch School students and a parent:

"I love this school because we get to have experiences at Crater Lake, OMSI and McGregor Park!" Fifth grader

"Ruch School is awesome! We get to do art and create projects that are actually sold at auction." Sixth grader

"Science is my favorite class. We get to study salmon in their natural habitat." Eighth grader

"I used to be afraid to give speeches. Now, because of our digital storytelling class, I actually like to speak in front of people." Seventh grader

"Have you seen our mural? I was able to help with the painting! It was cool." First grader

"I absolutely love how this school offers opportunities that incorporate art, science and the practice of taking it outside of the classroom and into the community." Ruch parent

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APPLEGATE SCHOOL

New robotics team in competition

The Applegate School Robotics Team kicked off its inaugural season on October 7, 2014. Ten enthusiastic students attended the first practice and have been meeting twice a week to build and program an autonomous robot using "LEGO Mindstorms" software and hardware.

My husband Bill and I have been privileged to be a part of this new program both as coaches and parents of two team members. We are learning right along with our team and are very proud of their performance and attitudes.

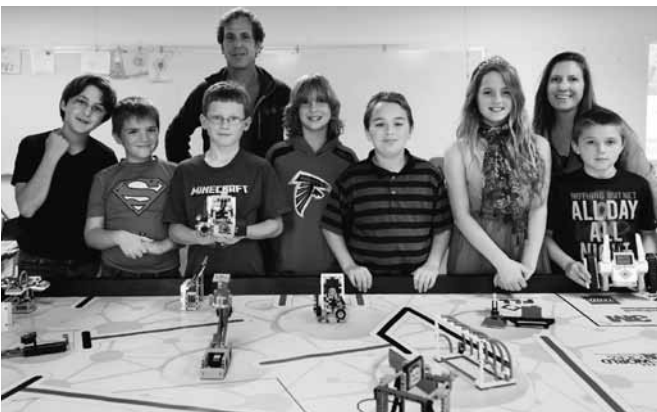
The students, who range in age from 9 to 13, also constructed a replica of the official playing field that they will use to prepare for a competition with other local teams in December. The field consists of themed physical obstacles made of LEGO parts such as a door, a lock, and a soccer goal that the robot must independently interact with and conquer.

Our team is a member of FIRST LEGO League (FLL), which organizes robotics competitions for kids ages 9 to 14 in 80 countries. FLL combines the engineering challenge of a robotics competition with real-world problem solving and invention. For more information, visit www.usfirst.org.

Each year FLL announces a new theme for a real-world challenge. This year the theme involves innovations in learning. As part of the challenge each team must complete a research project. The students are required to choose a topic they want to learn about. They must research how that topic is currently taught and then create an innovative solution that improves the learning process. The team must then share their solutions with those who would benefit from the information. The team is also required to present their project to judges during the robotics competition.

Each of the robot playing field obstacles or missions represents different ways people access and learn new information. Some of the missions include community learning, accessing the cloud, sports, and reverse engineering.

The most integral portion of the challenge involves learning the FLL "Core Values" and demonstrating these values during competition. The Core



Applegate School Robotics Team members are enthusiastic about building and programming a robot for competition. Photos: Mikell Nielsen.

Values include ideas such as working as a team, friendly competition, sharing experiences, and having fun. The students are required to do all of the work themselves and to find solutions as a team. Coaches are available to provide support and guidance.

Our Applegate School team members have demonstrated an amazing amount of dedication and persistence as they continue to learn the difficult skill of programming. They have shown ingenuity as they modify the robot to perform a variety of tasks. They have worked hard to agree upon a research project topic and to create solutions. The team's season will culminate in a competition with other local teams at North Middle School in Grants Pass on December 6.

Purchase of the team robot, programming software, and an obstacle kit was made possible by a generous donation from Friends of Applegate School. We would like to thank local community members who helped make this program possible and who continue to support our students and our school's enrichment programs.

For more information on the Applegate School Robotics Team, contact Seana Hodge at shodge@siskiyou.com.

Seana Hodge

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