

NEXT GENERATION

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

Ruch School ~
Evergreen tree

As a child, my family moved around a great deal—to California, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Arizona. I can still feel the excitement and joy when I would gaze up at the sky from the bed of our old Ford truck (that’s how we kids traveled back then) and begin to see the evergreen treetops appear in my view no matter which time of the year. The sight of these evergreen toppers let me know that we were returning to Oregon as we always did, and I was happy!

Oregon is known for many things, but none more majestic than its beautiful evergreen trees. They provide shade for a weary traveler or family gathering for a picnic. They are refuge to forest critters, an impenetrable perch for the powerful bald eagle, and, for this holiday season, a symbol of peace and good cheer.

At Ruch Outdoor Community School, we are taking what we love most about Oregon, its trees, and turning them into a service-learning project that will serve as peace and good cheer for families in our community. Ruch students will be decorating Christmas trees and offering them for silent bid in hopes of spreading peace and wellness.

Trees will be placed in businesses around the valley for community members to make a silent bid. The winning bidder can choose to take the tree home or offer it to identified families who otherwise would not have a tree for this holiday season.

On December 14, these trees will return to Ruch Outdoor Community School to be enjoyed during the first Applegate Festival of Trees from 4 - 6 pm. The community is invited to attend the ROCS Winter Program at 6 pm, when winning bids will be announced and the trees delivered to the new owners. The proceeds will go toward

purchasing dinner baskets for families in the community.

It gives us great joy to be able to offer these trees of Oregon to our families. Our students say it best:

- *Can we give all the trees to my grandma? She loves to hang mistletoe and kiss me on my face.* —Kindergartener
- *Can I make my favorite ornament and put enough on the tree for the whole family?* —Third grader
- *Thank you for letting me be part of this. I am not so sad when I help others.* —Seventh grader

Service learning is a part of Ruch Outdoor Community School, and I have to say that we are all excited about this endeavor. This holiday season will be spent making people happy and sharing what we love most about Oregon—its trees!

Oregon will always be home, and I feel very fortunate to be able to experience all the beauty and wonder that our landscape provides at this time of year.

All of us at Ruch Outdoor Community School wish all of you a very happy winter. May wonder, peace, and good cheer be the reason for the season.

Julie Barry
Principal

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Applegate School



Members of Applegate School’s volleyball team, from left to right, are:
Back row—Jasmine Stevens, Zeyna DiBiasi, Kali Lynn, Sierra Fimbres, Rachel Peterson, Izabella Haning, Coach Diana West. Middle row—Autumn Koch, Freyja Moeves, Kat Bernardi, Lily Wieberg, Natalia Sahr. Front row—Christina Gery, Hailey West, Hope Wilson.

The new school year is well under way with an enrollment of 99 students.

A new science program with emphasis on hands-on learning has roused student and teacher enthusiasm. The Three Rivers School District has provided all the equipment to incorporate more technology in the curriculum and more engineering and science inquiry lessons.

All students are participating in a new art program under the leadership of local artist Corbin Brashear of Wild and Woolly Feltworks. Corbin has received a grant that allows her to teach her specialty of felting at both Applegate and Williams Schools.

Applegate School’s music program has received new life with an after-school strings program, which includes beginning and intermediate guitar and beginning fiddle.

To foster the enrichment programs at Applegate School, the Enchanted Forest Vine Run on September 22 brought in \$2,000. Eighty-two runners participated in the event. First-place male and female winners were Thomas Mullen and Tonya Clark for the 24K, Michael Stadnisky and Jamie Arvizo for the 12K, Josh Halsted and Rebecca Hall-Cross for the 5K, and David Cross and Lily Allen for the kids’ run.

The school gives special thanks to race organizer Robert Hodge with 7 Dogs

Running; to Wooldridge Creek Winery for the beautiful venue, hospitality, and wine donations; and to Josephine County Search & Rescue for providing communication in remote areas of the run. Race event sponsors donated \$500 to Josephine County Search & Rescue for their much-needed services. Donors for the silent auction and raffle included Jake Lowry’s Swift Water Guide Service, Sol Blends, Rosella’s Vineyard and Winery, and Rogue Valley Runners.

Applegate School’s annual jog-a-thon on October 10 also supplemented the school budget to allow for field trips and other enrichment activities.

The Harvest Festival, sponsored by PTSG (Parent Teacher Student Group) on October 30, provided an evening of fun and games for the Applegate School community. This parent-teacher group serves as a strong support for Applegate School and gives funds to the school for special needs and projects.

Applegate School’s volleyball season finished with a record of seven wins and six losses for the JV team, and six wins and seven losses for the varsity team. The team coach is Diana West. The boys’ basketball season has begun with two teams from fifth through eighth grades under the coaching leadership of Austin Bristow.

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Williams School

Williams School began the new academic year with 76 students, an increase from last year’s enrollment.

This year’s after-school program got off to a great start with four offerings. Students can participate in classes featuring plants and seeds, art, music, and yoga.

In the news

Williams students made front-page news in the October 14 issue of the Grants Pass *Daily Courier*. Putting a new twist on the annual jog-a-thon, the school hosted a heroes-themed event, with local first responders, veterans, and military personnel participating in the day’s activities.

A helicopter from Mercy Flights opened the jog-a-thon by landing on the school’s field. Other agencies participating in the event included Williams Rural Fire Department, Josephine County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the United States Army.

Rich Vetter, a Williams firefighter, helped organize the event, hoping to give students the message that these heroes are part of the local scene and are available when people need help. Shane Simon, a deputy sheriff, pointed out the value of the event as another way of connecting with the students.

Fifth-grader Savanna Rogers opened the jog-a-thon by singing the national anthem. Then, after hearing from the local heroes, students ran around the track for an hour in order to accumulate a large number of laps that would fund field trips and technology purchases for the student body.

Williams student Caitlyn Miller won third place in the annual Readapalooza Community Read-Aloud on Sunday, October 21, at the Grants Pass public library. Caitlyn read *Hamstersaurus Rex* by Tom O’Donnell. The Readapalooza event was sponsored by the Grants Pass Friends of the Library.

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Hidden Valley High School
SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Girls soccer team is state champion!

And there’s more:

- Girls volleyball placed fourth in state.
- Junior Varsity football went undefeated.

HVHS Reporter: Carlen Nielsen.