

### Green light for Woodland Charter School

*Now Enrolling for the 2012 School Year*

*“Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings, who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives.”*

—Rudolf Steiner

It is with much gratitude and enthusiasm that we can update the greater Applegate Valley and its diverse community about Woodland Charter School (WCS), the most recent educational option for young people in the area. After much time, effort, fundraising, outreach, and negotiations, this Waldorf-methods charter school has been approved by the Three Rivers School District. It will be the fifth Waldorf-methods charter school in the State of Oregon, and one of only a few rural Waldorf-methods charter schools in the country. While much has been accomplished, this is just the beginning, and there is much work still to be done.

WCS began its journey in 2009 with a small group of parents from rural towns in the Applegate Valley seeking educational options for their children. Almost immediately, the group of parents was drawn to the homelike, nurturing environment offered by a Waldorf-methods education. They were inspired by the Waldorf approach, which seeks to kindle a lifelong love of learning by providing a developmentally appropriate arts-integrated curriculum. Rich academics interwoven with human and nature studies, along with ongoing family involvement, all foster a sense of belonging within the human community and a reverence for the beauty of the natural world. This approach helps to awaken each child’s thinking, creativity, and emotional sensibility. Waldorf education is grounded in a deep understanding of child development and values each child as an individual with unique talents and needs.

A Waldorf-methods education places great emphasis on humans’ connection to the natural world, so the site for the new school is of high priority. In order to provide a beautiful rural environment, along with a centralized location, the Three Rivers School District is leasing WCS a portion of the Hidden Valley High School campus in Murphy. The site, however, needs to be developed from the ground up, which is a task that is being met head-on with dedication and thoughtfulness. Students at Woodland will have ample opportunity to explore field and forest with the campus being beautifully situated on many acres of agricultural land, and within close proximity to hiking trails on Bureau of Land Management public land.

The intention is to begin with a small footprint. For the first few years, the school will be in modular buildings, with the vision of building an eco-friendly, Steiner-inspired school building in the long term. The campus will include a playground, a vegetable garden, an orchard, and ultimately a small biodynamic farm that will supply food to our school’s families and local community food banks. The campus at Hidden Valley provides a perfect landscape for fulfilling the long-term vision of WCS. It has great solar exposure, high-value farmland, and great potential for partnering with Hidden Valley High School on educational programs and projects that serve the broader community of the Applegate Valley.

WCS is now enrolling for September 2012, starting with combination grades of 1 - 2, 3 - 4, and 5 - 6. A maximum of 25 students can be enrolled in each combination class. Each year, a class will be added until the school expands to a K1 - 8 school. The effort to create Woodland Charter School is community-based and ongoing. If you are interested in helping with the effort, please consider volunteering to support the fundraising, outreach, administration, and/or site committees.

For more information, go to [www.woodlandcharterschool.org](http://www.woodlandcharterschool.org) or call Wensdae Davis at 541-846-4246.

