

NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" is a new section featuring the talents of our local students. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org. For more information, contact J.D. Rogers at 541-846-7736.

RUCH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Submitted by Julie Hill, Principal, Ruch School
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In September, students from Ruch Community K-8 School, grades four through six, traveled to the Oregon coast for a three-day, two-night Outdoor Education Experience. In line with the school's new focus on place-based learning, this was an extraordinary opportunity to connect the Common Core Standards being taught in the classroom to the rich environment in which the students live. Here are a few student testimonials about their experiences.

Lily Martin, Grade 5. When I first heard the news that we were going to the Oregon coast, I was ecstatic! My favorite parts were the sand castle building competition, the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration), the Coast Guard Station and the campfire activity where we were able to bond as a group.



Asher Ilten, Grade 6. The beach was my favorite part of the trip because we all were able to run, sing songs, do skits and have s'mores at the campfire while the sun was setting!



Christine Agnifili, Grade 6. The first night we slept at the Newport Aquarium. The girls were in the shark tunnel and the boys in the fish tunnels. We also went to the SOU Hatfield Marine Science Center...I liked the ducks!



The Scarecrow Meets a Friend

John the Scarecrow is sitting in a cornfield on the farm during the day. He is lonely and doesn't want to sit on the farm. A butterfly comes flying by. The butterfly landed on a leaf. "Are you lonely?" said the butterfly to John. John said, "Yes, where are you going?" "To the garden," the butterfly answered. "I want to go with you. Can I come?" asked John. The butterfly said, "Yes." John asks the butterfly to get the stick on the ground to help him walk. The butterfly picks it up and gives it to John. The butterfly flutters out of the cornfield. John runs after the butterfly. They run past the post office, through the library, down the slide at the park, and end up in the garden. John spots another scarecrow. John was excited because he had been lonely for a long time. John introduces himself to the garden scarecrow. "My name is John the Scarecrow, what is your name?" The garden scarecrow says, "My name is Jacob the Garden Scarecrow." "Nice to meet you. Do you want to be my friend?" asks John. "Yes!" replied Jacob. So John planted himself next to Jacob and they became friends. Neither had to be lonely anymore.

Written by Ms. Neiswanger's first-grade students at Ruch School.



Photos from a three-day Outdoor Education Experience at the Oregon coast enjoyed by Ruch School students in grades four through six.

"Children learn best through their everyday experiences with the people they love and trust, and when the learning is fun. And the best place for these experiences is outdoors, in the natural world." —Unknown

Christmas tree permits available



It's that time of year to start thinking about the annual family trip to the woods for a holiday tree.

Tree permits are available at forest service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices, as well as at numerous vendor locations in southwest Oregon. The permits allow for the cutting of personal-use trees for Christmas and other holiday events. A permit is required for the harvest of each individual tree. Please contact your local forest service or BLM office, as permits may be available sooner than the official start date.

The permits sell for \$5 per tree and are nonrefundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per person. The permits cover a large area that includes the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Coos Bay and Medford Districts of the BLM, where lands are open to personal-use tree harvesting. Maps with directions to cutting areas will be provided at time of purchase.

The Christmas-tree permit tag is validated after harvesting your tree by

cutting out the date, month and year on the tree tag and securely attaching it to the cut tree in a visible location before transporting it.

Important note

Christmas-tree harvest is not allowed in wilderness areas, campgrounds, developed recreation areas, national monuments, research natural areas, areas of critical environmental concern, or within fences or posted tree plantations, within 200 feet of state highways or on private lands. Christmas-tree cutting is also not permitted within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Corridor and Recreation Areas. This stresses the importance of having your tree permit map with you, along with a local forest or BLM map, and a good understanding of your location prior to cutting.

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Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
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Storytelling Guild: "Pass the Book" book drive



The Storytelling Guild of Jackson County is once again collecting gently used and new children's books for its "Pass the Book" program. Each year the Storytelling Guild distributes children's books to agencies in Jackson County to share with the families they serve. From Head Start to the Children's Advocacy Center, from the Dunn House to foster children, from the Community Health Centers to Healthy Start, in 2012 over 6,000 children's books made their way into the hands of children—in their homes, in waiting rooms, at Kids Unlimited, at the Boys and Girls Club in Talent, in Juvenile Hall, at On Track, the Magdalene House, Rogue Valley Medical Center Pediatrics, Medford Railroad Park, the Family Nurturing Center, through Jackson County Health and Human Services Vital Links program, through Mid-Rogue Oregon Health Plan, through Child Development Services, at Access, at the Maslow Project, to Lithia Springs residential treatment, through the Happy Smiles program, Healthy Start, and at La Clinica de Valle clinics, and to the Butte Falls Community/School Partnership.

Books may be donated to "Pass the Book" during the month of January at all 15 branches of the Jackson County Library. Books are needed

for all age groups from babies to teens. Board books for babies are especially needed. Share your love of books and reading: donate children's books to the Storytelling Guild's "Pass the Book" program.

The Storytelling Guild is a group of volunteers dedicated to serving the community by providing opportunities for children to be exposed to the magic of books and the joy of reading. "Pass the Book" is just one of their programs. They also present an annual "Book Walk" fashion show of books to third graders, present a weekly preschool story time at the Medford Library Wednesdays at 11:30 am, sponsor a free show at the Craterian each January, provide 24-hour access to Dial-a-Story at 541-774-6439 in English and Spanish, and provide a scholarship to an RCC student passionate about early literacy and/or early childhood education. The Storytelling Guild is best known for the annual Children's Festival. Planning has begun for the 47th Children's Festival at the Britt Grounds in Jacksonville in July 2013. Exact dates of the three-day festival will be announced in January. More information about the Storytelling Guild is available at www.storytellingguild.org.

Questions? Email Anne Billeter: billeter@entwood.com.

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