

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

A great start to the school year

BY STEVEN FULLER

The school year is off to a great start with many wonderful things happening already! The students started the school year off eagerly with smiles and excitement. Many of the classrooms saw an increase in the number of students, and teachers were excited to have students back in school and ready to learn.

The amazing Linda Kappen gave kindergartners and first-, second-, and third-grade students baby caterpillars to observe as they learned about the life cycle of butterflies. They eagerly watched the caterpillars eat, grow, and turn into chrysalises. At the end of the process students watched them emerge into beautiful monarch butterflies. Ultimately, students released over a dozen butterflies!

Several classrooms have benefited from having farmers from White Oak Farms come regularly to work in the school garden and show students how to plant and weed. The farmers also share produce and teach students about healthy eating and nutrition. On special occasions the White Oak farmers show the kids how to cook delicious foods and treats.

Second- through fifth-grade students practiced being scientists during the first quarter with trips to ScienceWorks Museum in Ashland and to the North Medford High School planetarium. The students had a blast going through all the different rooms at ScienceWorks and

got to do some hands-on learning. At the planetarium they were able to observe a realistic view of the night sky and learn about our universe. For those interested, the new and improved planetarium at the high school is open to the public for the first time! To see the planetarium calendar, visit medford.k12.or.us/domain/1296.

In October the whole school participated in the annual jog-a-thon. Students ran and walked laps around the track. Each classroom was able to raise a good amount of money and students were rewarded with special treats, including a lunch trip with Mr. Fuller.

Coach Diana West and the volleyball team wrapped up a successful season with their game on October 18. Thirteen girls played on the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. For several of the girls this was their first time playing, and they all grew so much. Boys basketball season started on November 13 with games on Mondays and Wednesdays.

All in all, the school year is off to a flying start. Students come to school with smiles every day. So many exciting events have happened during the first quarter of the school year, and staff continue to plan fun and exciting events and activities to help the students learn.

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Applegate School's girls volleyball team finished a successful season, coached by Diana West.

Three Rivers School District celebrates spelling bee champions!

Three Rivers School District announced the winners of the District Spelling Bee held on November 14. Over 50 parents and students attended.

Students tackled a challenging list of 35 age-appropriate words. Middle school contenders faced off with words like "meritorious," "frenzied," "cornucopia," and "inconsequential," while high school wordsmiths grappled with the likes of "pharmaceutical," "kohlrabi," "segue," and "lackadaisical."

Spelling Bee Results

Primary Division (Grades 1-3)

Zoe Myles, Manzanita Elementary School—First Place
Orion Smith, Fort Vannoy Elementary School—Second Place
Adaline Cowger, Fruitdale Elementary School—Third Place

Division One (Grades 2-5)

Noah Gourley, Applegate School—First Place
Timothy Cornia, Williams Elementary School—Second Place
Jasmine Pinien, Fort Vannoy Elementary School—Third Place

Division Two (Grades 6-8)

Levi Gegner, Fleming Middle School—First Place
Tobias Udink, Fleming Middle School—Second Place
Katherine Ackley-Medina, Lincoln Savage Middle School—Third Place

Division Three (Grades 9-12)

Whitman Franklin, Kalmiopsis Community Arts High School—First Place
Grant Johnson, Hidden Valley High School—Second Place
Jonathan Tuohy, Hidden Valley High School—Third Place
Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication!



Linda Kappen started the butterfly garden at Applegate School, where students raised and released monarch butterflies.

Linda Kappen retires from Applegate School

BY STEVEN FULLER

On October 23, 2023, Applegate School bid farewell to Linda Kappen, a dedicated employee who served the institution for an impressive 23 years and displayed unwavering commitment throughout her tenure. Today, we celebrate Linda's retirement and reflect on her impactful contributions to the school community.

A tale of dedication and growth

Linda Kappen's career at Applegate School is a testament to hard work and perseverance. Starting as a custodian, Linda swiftly became an integral part of the school's operations. Her attention to detail and relentless work ethic were evident in the immaculate condition of the school premises under her care.

Linda's ambition led her to explore other areas within the school. Taking on additional responsibilities, she embraced the challenge of working in the kitchen. Her dedication to ensuring students enjoyed nutritious meals made her an invaluable asset.

The impact of Linda's work

Linda Kappen left an indelible mark on both staff and students alike. Her infectious enthusiasm and warm personality created a positive and welcoming environment. Linda's commitment to her work made everyone's experience at the school more enjoyable.

Linda's attention to detail and strong work ethic extended beyond her immediate responsibilities. She was always available to lend a helping hand, going the extra mile to ensure the school's success.

Linda started and maintained the butterfly garden at Applegate School, where she raised milkweed and butterflies. She worked with lepidopterists from Oregon State University to tag and release butterflies. Applegate students participated in raising and releasing the butterflies, which were found as far away as southern California!

Linda is also an accomplished artist. She passed her artistic knowledge and skill on to generations of Applegate students through her art lessons as an education assistant.

A legacy of excellence

As Linda Kappen bids farewell to Applegate School, her legacy of excellence will continue to resonate within the institution. Her dedication and



Linda Kappen disguised as "Big Boy the caterpillar" when members of the Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates gave a presentation for kindergartners and first- and second-graders at Applegate School.

commitment have set a high standard for future generations to follow. The impact she made on the school community will not be forgotten.

Through her tireless efforts, Linda has exemplified the values that Applegate School holds dear. Her work ethic, attention to detail, and willingness to go above and beyond in serving others have left an enduring imprint on the school's culture.

Celebrating a remarkable career

As Linda embarks on this new chapter of her life, Applegate School takes the opportunity to celebrate her remarkable career. Colleagues, students, and parents alike will remember her as a dedicated professional who made a difference every day.

The retirement of Linda Kappen marks the end of an era at Applegate School. Her contributions have been invaluable, and her absence will be deeply felt. However, her legacy will continue to inspire future generations to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in their own lives and communities.

Linda Kappen's retirement from Applegate School marks the end of a chapter in her life and the school's history. Her journey is a shining example of dedication and growth. Through her exceptional work ethic and commitment, Linda has left an indelible mark on the Applegate School community. Her legacy of excellence and caring nature will be remembered for years to come. As Linda embarks on her well-deserved retirement, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her invaluable contributions and wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.

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