

## NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" features 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](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

### RUCH SCHOOL

#### *I Am Poems*

I am a Ruch Cougar.  
I wonder what will be waiting for me in the future.  
I hear kids laughing on the playground.  
I see myself being successful in the future.  
I want little kids to look up to me in the future.  
I am a Ruch Cougar.  
I imagine that I will inspire others in the future.  
I feel the mountain air blowing through my hair.  
I touch the flowers on the hillside.  
I worry about leaving.  
I cry while thinking about the day it will be time to leave.  
I am a Ruch Cougar.  
I understand the day will come  
I say great things will happen soon  
I dream that I won't have to leave  
I try to tell my friends it will be okay.  
I hope great things will happen in the future.  
I am a Ruch Cougar.

**Saige Bostwick**, Grade 7



I am a Proud Ruch Cougar!  
I wonder why someone wouldn't come out to Ruch?  
I hear the School bell ring. I'm excited to learn!  
I see great teachers and a awesome campus!  
I want more students to come join us.  
I am a proud Ruch cougar!  
I imagine Ruch's future.  
I feel myself learning every day.  
I touch my future through my friends.  
I connect with my peers.  
I cry when my classmates graduate.  
I am a proud Ruch Cougar.  
I understand I will have to move on.  
I say my time here was fantastic  
I dream of inspiring younger kids.  
I try to do my best.  
I hope to succeed  
I am a Proud Ruch Cougar!

**Ryan Beck**, Grade 7



I am a Ruch Cougar!  
I wonder about ways to skate by my competitors,  
I hear the gravel crunch underfoot.  
I see nothing but the finish line.  
I want to be the best that I can be.  
I am a Ruch Cougar!  
I pretend that nothing is more important.  
I feel my energy coursing through my veins.  
I touch my fate.  
I worry of things getting in my way.  
I cry for nothing but this.  
I am a Ruch Cougar!  
I understand you can never be perfect.  
I say never give up and have fun at whatever you do.  
I dream of a confident future.  
I try for success.  
I hope I can inspire all people.  
I am a Ruch Cougar!

**Drew Raby**, Grade 7

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### APPLEGATE SCHOOL

The following statements are from Applegate School 2/3 students about their music program taught by Warren Whistler and Alison Huber.

**James:** The best part of strings is that you can learn very nice songs that I didn't know that you could play. And that when you sing a song with Warren and Alison I'm always so alive.

**Conner:** I love singing with Warren because it is fun. They both do wonderful jobs. Warren and Alison are the best teachers in the world.

**Abi:** I love singing with Warren because they sing really good and then they encourage kids and they have great music and they are good.

**Carlen:** I love singing with Warren because I love singing but never do sing. I love the songs so much. They are the best and really fun to sing. It helps you wake up. The best part of strings is that you get to learn to play the coolest songs by yourself and maybe even be like my big brothers. Warren is so lucky to have a friend like Alison.

**Coral:** The best part of strings is being able to play the guitar and learn how to play it. It makes me feel happy inside. And I love music so learning how to play the guitar is good.

**Natalia:** I love singing with Warren because Warren and Alison always encourage us to be ourselves. I barely ever get to sing with people. It makes me feel really happy to sing with other people. My two favorites are "Ghost Riders in the Sky" and "Rocky Top."

**Noah:** I like strings because...I learned the violin and happy birthday and a song I made up and "Stand by Me." I'm going to play the guitar. My whole life I bet I am going to be on the radio. I bet it is going to be fun.

**Soren:** I love singing because Warren lets us learn how to play the guitar. Warren and Alison are awesome at their jobs. I can listen to them all day all night even a year. That's how good they are.

**Taj:** I love singing with Warren because it's nice and beautiful to my heart.

**Sofi Hart** (now in 9th grade): From the excitement of learning my first song in third grade and the sadness when I learned my last song in eighth grade, each week it was something I looked forward to and something I still miss.

**Arek Rein Jungwirth** (now in 11th grade): Warren Whistler's strings program has touched the lives of countless students, including my own. I still play guitar on a daily basis—a passion that will last for a lifetime. Most importantly, however, learning music at an early age has greatly improved my success in other academic areas, and inspired me to consider various music-related careers.

## Special arts programs at Applegate School

While many changes have taken place over the years at Applegate School, an area we continue to focus on is the arts. Within the walls of the classroom, students grow in confidence and the outside world through personal expression. It is a world they can make their own, learning tolerance and understanding of others while communicating in group settings.

Middle-school students enjoy a **visual-arts elective** class that teaches them basic art skills that enhance personal creativity. Recycled art is the current focus. The first project is acrylic painting on reclaimed vinyl records. Students learn art concepts and processes, then create their own styles or designs.

The **drama elective** is another area for growing and learning together. It focuses on the individual and develops for learning stage-setting skills, group organization and speaking confidence. The list goes on. The production of a play is something students can look at with pride, knowing everyone's hard work has come together working as a team. A drama production and a visual arts display are scheduled every spring.

The **tech elective** exposes students to the world of computer-based art skills. Creating designs, taking apart computers, learning about the functions of the parts, and applying other technological skills to the visual arts can prepare students for the ever-changing world of technology.

Our **intramural sports elective** offers physical activity in a team-building atmosphere. As students learn a variety of outdoor and indoor games, they expand their sense of their physical limits. We

### Applegate School music program

Beyond the red brick building you see on the hill as you drive on Highway 238 in Applegate is a world filled with the sound of music. The music program at Applegate School was started and is still supported by folks in our surrounding communities, and over the years, it has evolved from brass to a stringed instrument program.

Students in third through eighth grades can elect to participate in learning guitar and violin from local music teachers Warren Whistler and Alison Huber. The students learn a long list of songs and perform them at school functions. The stringed instrument group puts together a special evening show that usually takes place in the spring. There are beginning, intermediate and advanced level groups of musicians who perform separately and sometimes together. Some students have opportunities to entertain with their singing skills or perform as a small group. More advanced students have been known to plug in their electric guitars and play rock solos for the audience. Sometimes percussion is added to the performance. With a mix of bluegrass and Americana, it is a not-to-miss show to witness these young performers fill the house with music.

Learning to play musical instruments can develop positive attitudes, behavior and habits. Children in third through fifth grades begin lessons that take them to advanced levels by the time they reach middle school.

This year we began a program that takes place on "Strings Day" where Warren and Alison visit the K/1 and 2/3 classes and teach them to sing bluegrass and folk songs. The K/1 class dances happily around their classroom while listening to music played by the duo. In the 2/3 class, students



Students use acrylic paint to turn old records into works of art. Student paintings by Gabe (top photo); and Nora (bottom photo). Photos by Mikell Nielsen.

think of this as the art of balancing body and mind.

An **art and nature after-school program** for fourth and fifth grades offers an introduction to drawing and other mediums. (Fourth- and fifth-grade homeschool students are welcome to participate.) This program also focuses on the art of simple gardening skills in our butterfly gardens and greenhouse as well as outdoor art with nature and wildflower walks.

Art demonstrations and teaching for the art electives are encouraged and welcomed. Whole-school programs can also be arranged. If you are interested in participating, please contact Applegate School at 541-846-6280.



Local music teacher Warren Whistler leads the strings class at Applegate School. Photo by Mikell Nielsen.

learn lyrics to famous bluegrass songs. The children's sweet young voices fill the room as they learn how to sing these songs to the guitar and fiddle. Their enthusiasm puts a smile on your face. It is truly a welcoming and positive start to a new day of learning.

In addition to musical opportunities, the 4/5-grade class welcomes a volunteer who teaches them to sing traditional American songs. They perform with other elementary-grade students from surrounding schools at the Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center in a singing program called Get America Singing. This program takes place in spring, and the students travel by bus to sing for the day.

There is much excitement on strings day with many guitars and violins being carried to school, then back home with the students for weekly practice. It is very comforting knowing these children are excited and involved in a skill that will be a positive point in their lives as years go by.

We are very grateful for our music program that enriches the learning experience for our students at Applegate School.

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