

NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" features the talents of our local students and school news and updates. 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

Reflections on Community 101 at Ruch School



This past year, thanks to the generous contributions of Friends of Ruch School, Ruch students were able to grant over \$6,500 of funds to local nonprofit organizations. The students learned the importance of philanthropy and community service, which they put into practice as part of the Oregon Community Foundation's Community 101 program.

During the First Annual Diaper Dash 5K, students collected \$550 in cash and approximately \$1,000 worth of diapers, which they donated to the Family Nurturing Center and Community Works.

Perhaps the most inspirational learning during the Community 101 project was each student's personal takeaway. Joey, a sixth grader, learned about the various types of abuse and their effect on his community, while Ivy, an eighth grader, learned the trials and tribulations that leaders sometimes face. These "aha" moments are the treasures I take away and are what inspire me to continue giving Ruch students the opportunity to empower themselves by contributing to their community.

I am writing this to ask you to help fund the Community 101 project at Ruch School. The program requires \$5,000 to operate this school year. The Ruch students of Community 101 will grant *all* of the funds to local nonprofit

organizations that match the focus of their mission statement.

Many of this year's students were part of the group last year and can guide the new student participants in their learning. Our community is always changing, and a new issue will likely present itself.

To me, Community 101 is so exciting and rewarding because each year presents a new problem and many paths to a new solution.

I hope I can count on you to participate in this learning experience that offers Ruch students an opportunity to empower themselves and to address a need in our community. We are looking for contributions of \$250 to \$1,000 to make this program a success for the students at Ruch Community School.

Please mail your tax-deductible check, made payable to Oregon Community Foundation Community 101, by December 18 to:

Community 101 c/o Ruch
Community School
156 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
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APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate School students up to their knees in study

Don't be alarmed if you see about 40 middle school students up to their knees in the Applegate River over the next few months—they are probably not skipping school. More likely, they will be Applegate School students busy collecting data for the Applegate River Field Study.

Students are jumping in feet first to participate in this unique learning opportunity through which they will enjoy what their teachers might call "high cognitive demand." This interdisciplinary study was designed and is being implemented by new teachers, Jill Howdyshell and Michelle Stone, who have incorporated learning standards from science, social studies, and English language arts.

"These field studies will enrich our students' understanding and perspective about the place in which they live and learn and be an experience that they will never forget," said teacher Jill Howdyshell, the study's lead author.

"Outdoor school projects facilitate student engagement," Howdyshell explained. "This authentic learning experience will connect students to their natural environment, engage students, and increase learning in multiple subjects."

This initiative is connecting Applegate students with leading members of our local communities involved in science, Native American and local history, and watershed conservation. Partners currently include the Greater



Tom Carstens informs middle school students about the history, development, and future plans for Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Kathy Kliewer.



Middle school students test the water quality of the Applegate River at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Kathy Kliewer.

Applegate Community Development Corporation, Herb Pharm, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Applegate Watershed Partnership and Council.

It's a creative and challenging initiative and, once again, an example of the kind of community we live in. People pitch in around these parts; they are willing to help—especially when it comes to our children.

Especially pleasing is the extra effort these teachers have taken to make all of this possible.

Darrell Erb
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Photo: Jim Ingraham Photography

Undefeated!

Applegate School's varsity volleyball team went undefeated in the 2015 season, and the junior varsity team lost only two matches. What a feat for the stellar players on both teams. This is the second year out of three that the varsity team has won all of their matches.

"These girls worked hard to achieve this year—a great effort on their parts and on the parts of our coaches, Heather DeVos and Sandi Garoutte!" says Applegate School principal Darrell Erb.

The photo above includes both varsity and junior varsity players. From left to right—Back row: Coach Sandi Garoutte, Brooke Horban, Elizabeth DeVos, Kaiah Fisher, Kennedy Smock, Coty Wiginton, and Coach Heather DeVos.

Middle row: Johanna DeVos, Alia Seal, Marisa Elmore, Marly Marcoulter, Carlen Nielsen, and Teryn Powers.

Front row: Macy Kliewer, Bree Saunders, Alyssa Seal, and Sydney Locke.

Applegate School more beautiful still

Can something already beautiful become even more beautiful?

The answer is yes if you ask Maggie Lowry and Carrie DiBiasi, Applegate community members and parents of students at Applegate School.

Maggie and Carrie have been directly supporting the Applegate Garden Club and the Applegate Beautification Project since its beginning last fall.

One year later, the finishing touches are being put on this project, and these two parents, along with their children—Coral Lowry, 11, Kailas Lowry, 9, Zayna DiBiasi, 9, and Hanza DiBiasi, 7—showed up on Sunday, October 25, to complete the latest phase of the project—the side garden.

Plants came from Forestfarm Nursery at Pacifica as did the garden's design by Greg Mason. New soil was needed, so Mac and Matt Embury stepped up—again—with two loads.

Forestfarm made us a deal we couldn't refuse. And the Emburys have been helping all along!

Here are all the folks responsible for beautifying the side garden: Maggie Lowry, Carrie DiBiasi, Coral Lowry, Kailas Lowry, Zayna DiBiasi, Hanza DiBiasi, Forestfarm at Pacifica, Greg



Maggie Lowry and Carrie DiBiasi

Mason, Matt and Mac Embury, and Jake Lowry.

The last phase is to plant grass near the entry gate in front of the historic Applegate building.

Last spring, volunteers constructed an automatic irrigation system that provides water to the project's large lawn, the vegetable garden, and three side gardens. All told, we estimate the overall cost of the project at \$8,000, with the total cost to the Garden Club at \$350.

Amazing what people will do for our school. I can't imagine a more supportive community.

Darrell Erb
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