

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Hands-on learning at Applegate School

BY RENEE GOURLEY

Students at Applegate School were eager to return after being away all summer. Teachers and staff welcomed them back with smiles, high-fives, and a brand-new cougar mascot costume! The middle school student leadership group purchased the costume to instill pride at school events and get students excited. The school year has been busy through the first quarter and filled with many fun opportunities for learning. Active, hands-on learning is a theme across all grades for the first quarter.



New cougar mascot costume at Applegate School.

Kindergarten through third graders learned about the life cycle of pumpkins and finished the unit with a fun-filled trip to the Fort Vannoy Farm Pumpkin Patch. At the farm, the students enjoyed the Cow Train and Corn Maze and picked their own pumpkins to take home. They also completed a unit about the life cycle of butterflies and watched the process happen with live caterpillars supplied by retired staff member Linda Kappen. Students watched as the caterpillars formed cocoons and emerged as beautiful butterflies. They were able to release several of the butterflies.

First-graders in Mrs. Hirschmugl's class have taken a hands-on approach to learning about measurement. Students listened to a lesson on what measurement is and how to measure, followed by a fun activity measuring items around the classroom with nonstandard measuring tools. Kinders in Mrs. Hirschmugl's class are working hard on mastering letter sounds, as well as number recognition and counting.

Garden Club, run by White Oak Farm, is back this school year and off to a great start! All elementary students have enjoyed learning about growing things and then using them. Students have enjoyed making "bee hotels" and making cider from a variety of fruits, vegetables, and roots.

The fourth- and fifth-grade students in Mr. Scull's class began a field study in

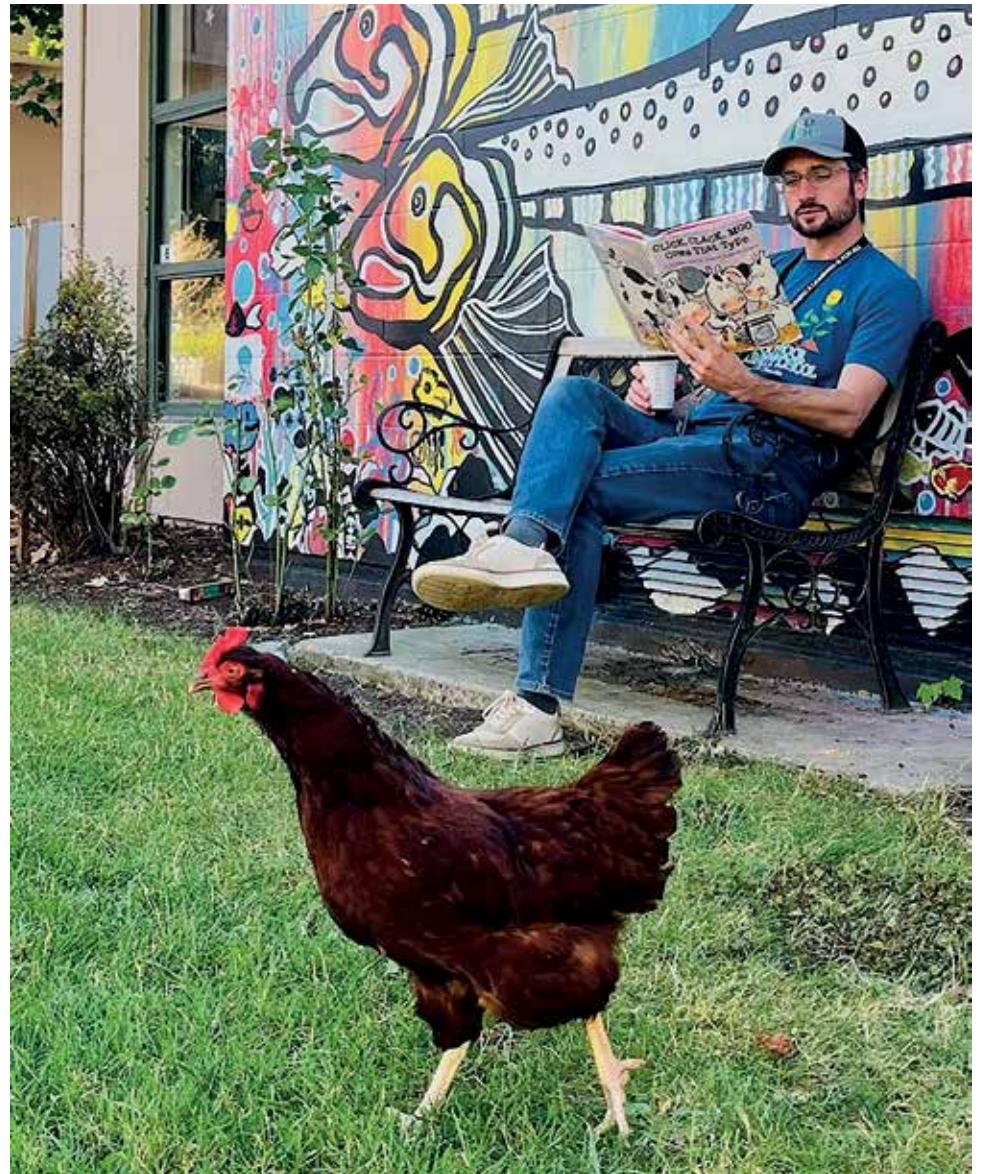
entomology and phenology. They took a field trip to Harry & David and are working with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council on a local project. Students expressed how much fun it was to work with their hands on the project.

The middle schoolers recently stepped outside the classroom to learn about animals at Wildlife Images in Grants Pass. They heard about the rescue, rehabilitation, and possible release of some animals. They were entertained by the calls of bald eagles, the howls of wolves, and a hole-digging bear. After the trip, students worked in groups to create informational posters about the animals they saw.

Some of the girls in fifth through eighth grade joined the school's volleyball team. Coach Diana had fun teaching the girls new skills throughout their season. The team ended the season with seven wins and five losses. The improvement made by each player was outstanding!

The school year is off to a great start, and teachers have many fun and engaging activities planned for the year.

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Ryan King, principal of Ruch Outdoor Community School, reads a few "books! books! books!" to Little Red, a newcomer to the school grounds. Photo: Brandee Tolner.

Meet Little Red: Ruch Outdoor Community School's new feathered friend

BY ISABEL JALAMOV

There is a new face—or beak—around campus at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). An adventurous chicken wandered onto school grounds one day and decided to stay, quickly winning the hearts of students and staff alike. Whether she is pecking around the courtyard, keeping a close eye on recess, or strutting confidently across campus, Little Red has become a welcomed addition to our school.

"The whole school loves her, and we even have stickers for her," says Ezra Alexander, a fourth-grade student at ROCS. A similar feeling is shared by Ezra's classmate, Arya Flaugh. She says,

"Little Red seems to always say 'hello' to everybody in the school. Everybody respects Little Red, and we will always respect her like she is a student at Ruch Outdoor Community School. I really want to finish that chicken coop because Little Red needs to have a real house to live in."

Her surprise arrival reminds us to embrace life's unexpected joys. Little Red will continue to work around the *cluck* to improve her hen-writing, *im-peck-able* egg-counting skills, and drumstick moves in music class. And that's no yolk!

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Ridiculous Rose by Salila Oldham



Salila Oldham, age 14, attends Hidden Valley High School, where she participates in soccer and track. Her favorite outdoor activities are skiing and rock-climbing. She lives with her family on their farm in the Applegate Valley.