



Applegate School Board Report -- October 2014

“Back to School Night” a Success

Parents and students enjoyed Back to School Night held Thursday, Sept. 25. The evening included an old-fashioned BBQ courtesy of the Applegate LIONS Club who cooked up a luscious tri-tip steak dinner. It was a chance for staff and community to “break bread” together, a pleasant way for staff members and parents and students to get together to talk about our school.



Applegate readers make special friends.

Parents were able to tour their students’ classrooms, the library, the computer lab, and sign up for various community activities for enrichment outside of the school day. Not surprisingly, students seemed very

interested in playing on the playground, where they spent considerable energy convincing their parents to play alongside them.

District Consultation with Oregon RTI Beneficial for Applegate Staff and Students

Based upon feedback from Applegate teachers, a recent training with Oregon “Response to Intervention” (OrRTI) entitled “100% Meetings” resulted in an increase in teachers’ ability to analyze data from recent “Dibels” assessments, and use those data to make decisions about student reading and their needs for strategic instruction.



“Dibels” is an acronym for dynamic indicators of basic early literacy skills”. Each student is “dibeled” at the beginning of each school year. Dibels data is highly predictive of student reading success and is therefore a great way to assess and monitor student progress.

The new English Language Arts adoption called *Journeys* is structured to work hand in hand with the RTI system. *Journeys* provides “leveled readers” to enable students at various skill levels to learn and grow, and our staff continues to discuss and learn about the implementation

of this multi-faceted teaching and learning tool so we improve its delivery to our students and ensure staff members are able to handle the increased planning required by this rigorous program.

Staff members started the year with a mandate for increased time for teaching English Language Arts with a strong focus on developing our young readers. Teachers responded positively to this challenge by effectively collaborating in the development of the academic schedule for the building to accommodate students' needs for focus reading intervention.

Weekly professional development time gained by Friday late starts has been committed to training staff members in the use of the Journeys materials to benefit our young readers.

OCTOBER IS 'START UP' MONTH FOR KEY EXISTING PROGRAMS AT APPLGATE SCHOOL

- **SMART STARTS**

This year the Oregon-based SMART program (Start Making a Reader Today) returns to our school. SMART received the 2014 Library of Congress Literacy Award, and we're pleased to associate with this great reading program. Our



students will benefit from volunteers who come to the classroom to work with students one-on-one.

- **STRINGS PROGRAM RESONATES**

The strings and music program starts the first week of October. Each of our students K-2 will



have opportunity to participate in choral music, while grades 3-5 will electively participate in guitar or violin. This fine program is supported by Friends of Applegate, the Josephine County Education Foundation and Communiversity.

- **"GOOD NEWS" HAPPENS AT APPLGATE**

Parents of many Applegate students have given permission for their students to be released from school for religious study. "Good News" is the name of the Bible study program in which many of our students participate. Local volunteers take students off campus then return each Wednesday afternoon.

APPLEGATE JOG-A-THON SCHEDULED

The annual Applegate Jog-a-thon will take place Friday, Oct. 17. Elementary students will run from 9:30-10:30, and middle school students will run from 11 am to 12 pm. Over \$12,000 was raised by students last year! Funds raised by each grade level are placed in grade-level student body accounts and used for enrichment at our school.



VOLLEYBALL TEAM CONTINUES SUCCESS

The Cougar volleyball team has posted a strong record so far, losing just one contest to New Hope Christian through Monday, Oct. 6.



The Cougars have defeated the likes of Grace Christian, Sacred Heart, Shady Cove, St. Mary's and Ruch.

Coaches Heather DeVos and Sandi Garoutte volunteer their time five nights per week and are building a strong middle school program to prepare Applegate athletes for high school.

Coaches have been able to strive to win while still finding playing time for developing players.

ROBOTICS TO START IN OCTOBER

Soon Applegate students will build, program and operate robots!



Students will conduct research, design and build a robot that performs pre-programmed "chores". They will then take their robots to competitions in the First Lego League to match skills with other students grades 4-8.

Students will stay after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to prepare for competition.

Applegate parents Bill and Seana Hodge are volunteering their time to "coach" the Robotics team. This program is made possible thanks to a donation from the Friends of Applegate.

Royalty Raised and Released: Monarch Butterflies Part of Everyday Life at Applegate School



Linda Kappen raises Monarch butterflies in the art room and releases them at Applegate School. Kappen and students place a sticker on each butterfly so if it is discovered, its location and other important data can be reported to scientists at Washington State University.

Questions? Contact Darrell Erb Jr., Principal, Applegate School

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