

Principal & Director Reports

October 2010

AC. Houghton Elementary

1. This fall we have incorporated Bal-A-Vis-X full-time into our daily master schedule so that each student has the opportunity to benefit from this training. Bal-A-Vis-X is a process of using the rhythmic bouncing of balls with both hands that forces the mind to work cross body and use both sides of the brain at the same time. This has a very positive impact on reading and math skills as shown by our research for students who have been extensively involved in previous training. Students have a minimum of 30 minutes per week during the regular class day and those students who are part of our second and third grade afterschool program have an additional two training sessions each week. We will be doing additional extensive research into the all-school effect during the course of the school year.
2. Also part of our master scheduling this year is additional intervention time where teachers have the opportunity to double dip students as needed for reading and math for writing. Part of this time has been created as a small group because the other part of the class is involved during there once a week Bal-A-Vis-X section.
3. Our Family Movie Nights got off to a huge start in September. Our first movie night was attended by more than 160 students and adult family members. Students were able to see a recent DVD release for free and purchase movie type treats for a reasonable price. The event also served as a fundraiser for one of our grade level for classroom activities and supplies.
4. After hundreds of hours of effort by our custodial staff, we are finally completed with our huge rubber tile playground replacement project. The material for this was funded through the extra revenue capacity because we received great bids for the HVAC project at Riverside high school. Through the effort of our custodians we saved thousands of dollars in professional installation cost. Please stop in and look at the completed project if you have time. Kudos to Larry Berry, Ray Couchman, Jennifer Matlack and Billy Salisbury and the support of the district office maintenance team.

Heppner Elementary School

It is hard to believe that October is already here, but the colder mornings as of late are a sure sign that fall has arrived. Our enrollment is currently 183 students enrolled at HES and our attendance percentage for the month of September was 97.2%. As usual we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff and I enjoyed our Open House on the evening of Wednesday, September 29th 2010. Based on the smiles of our students and parents during the evening, I would say it was a huge success. The HES Student Council elections were also recently held and I am happy to report that all of the students who were running for positions ran clean campaigns and gave outstanding speeches. The HES student council members for the 2010/2011 school

year are; President – Sydney Qualls, Vice President – Sophie Grant, Secretary – Reiah Waite, Treasurer – Kevin Murray, Publicity Director – Kolby Currin, Fourth Grade Representatives – Jacee Currin & Claire Grieb.

I am also pleased to report that with the continued help and support of Adopt-a-Teacher we are able to continue the HEROES Reading program at HES again this year. We are also currently in the process of a canned food drive to help the Heppner Neighborhood Center so stay tuned for an update on how many pounds of food are collected at HES.

I would like to end this report by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

Have a great month!

Heppner High School

- Our first district wide PLC meeting as three secondary schools was amazing! Our staff used the time to look at standards and the packaging of those standards so they can work towards some common formative assessments.
- Our open tutorial on Monday and Wednesday has been a huge success. We have 1/3 of the incompletes we had at this time last year. We are still on the learning curve with getting some students to use their time wisely with the schedule- but most are getting it. For the students that do not make marked improvements over the next four weeks, our staff will be reviewing those lists weekly and moving students to another level of intervention that will demand success.
- Currently, our fall sports seasons are doing well with our football and volleyball teams in the driver's seat to both be conference champions. We have some tough opponents coming up and we are excited to watch how it unfolds.
- We are taking 38 Juniors and Seniors to the Oregon University System workshop and college fair at EOU this Thursday. This will be an action packed day where students will get introduced to a financial aid workshop, admissions workshop, and individual university counseling.
- Open House was attended well by our community and parents enjoyed getting into classrooms to talk with teachers and the upcoming school year.
- Our FFA leadership camp just got back from a two day outing where we won the district Advanced Rituals contest as did they win the general knowledge contest. Last week they took 2nd in Advanced Soils and 3rd place in the Beginning Soils contest as well. Our FFA program continues to flourish and students are shining around the region with the level of success they are having.
- Here are our numbers with AP students after the two week drop- AP Composition- 24, AP Government- 14, and AP Calculus- 10.
- BMCC and Amy Blauer will be offering a conversational Spanish class that will be held here at HHS for the six weeks on Tuesday nights. For more information concerning registration- please contact Anne Morter in Ione.
- We are looking ahead to a great school year. Please drop by for a cup of coffee and say hello☺.

Irrigon Elementary School

1. **Individual Behavior Plans-** This year at IES to be proactive and establish with students returning to our school, we have created Behavior Plans to help support positive behavior. These plans with parent support, support from the counselor, and the teacher were made in conjunction together. These plans address specific behaviors, positive rewards, and instruction on desired behavior that we want of the student. It has been working well. We have had less referrals from these students.
2. **Open House** - Open House was a smashing success. IES had the largest amount of parents ever to come to this evening event. There were other community groups represented as well. We also sold IES tee-shirts and had a fund raising dinner. We have never had so many people come to an IES Open House. It was great!
3. **After School Program** - Our After School program started on September 13th. We invited about 45 students to attend. These students need more help. These were the students who did not pass the Math OAKS test the previous year. On Tuesdays they do home work help and the rest of the week they are working on Math for this year's OAKS test.
4. **4-H at IES-** Mrs. Wendy McPherson the director for the Irrigon 4-H contacted me, and we had an information meeting for children during lunch to learn more about 4-H. Later the same week parents came to an information meeting with more 4-H staff to see and hear for themselves about 4-H, and the program they have in Irrigon. Hopefully we'll have a 4-H club meeting at IES in the future, and more of our IES students will be involved with 4-H.
5. **Over All School Climate:** IES is focused on several things. The school is clean and ready every day. The pace is fast moving, and time is managed in increments of minutes all day long. Time goes fast. Our PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) are moving very well and we are in the stretch of working together focusing on common assessments (tests) and instruction. PLC's are in place and, making a difference. The instruction of: writing, math, technology, and career education intact and focused. All staff is focused and working hard.

Irrigon High School

Our open house was held on Monday September 20th. We had a great turn out with over a hundred folks in attendance. Following a quick introduction of new staff, we shared the direction our school is heading including increasing rigor and additional student support through programs such as our 5th Avenue program, our new after school tutorial program, and extended library hours. We provided 'Ask me How' shirts to several parents of former graduates and asked them to make themselves available to current parents on how they were able to help their student get to college. Thanks to the Key Club for serving dinner and the Knights Pride Booster Club for providing desserts for everyone.

On October 18th this month, we will hold our annual college visitation courtesy of our Gear-Up grant. Our freshmen will be travelling to Walla Walla, while our sophomores are headed to the Portland area. The juniors will go on a big trip overnight to OSU, U of O, and WOU. Instead of a college visit, our senior will be staying behind working on scholarships, college applications, their ICE requirements, etc. The middle school teachers will once again be hosting a career fair for their students. We have a speaker from the railroad, the fire department, the courts, peace corp, and the construction industry. In the afternoon, students will enjoy a presentation by Blue

Mountain Wildlife and a visit from the KEPR weatherman. A special thanks to Ms. Constantine of our Gear-Up team who spearheaded the project for us. Other projects include a college fair in Hermiston this month and school wide college visitations in November.

This year we began offering an SAT prep course for students who would like to work to improve their PSAT, SAT, or ACT scores. Students enrolled in the course work through the book *The Official SAT Study Guide*, published by The College Board. Students are monitored weekly as they work independently through the book. The book provides exercises in writing, critical reading, mathematics, and study skills. At least once each quarter, they will complete a full, timed SAT practice test. In addition, full, timed practice tests are available for students to take during our Fifth avenue Fridays. We used GEAR-UP funds to purchase 8 texts. Initially, only 3 students signed up, but 3 more have decided to participate instead of working as teacher's assistants. Each of the 6 students now participating is working diligently through the course, taking copious notes and taking the time to really learn the SAT. We are confident that the hard work these students are putting in will pay dividends when they take the SAT later this spring.

We are currently in the middle of our Homecoming week with students deciding on a circus theme for this year's festivities. Some of the activities this year include a car push, macho volleyball, car bash, lip sync (which the staff should have won), noise parade, powder puff football, and bonfire. Dress up days consisted of triplet day, wacky dress, color wars, and school spirit. The king and queen will be crowned at halftime of the football game on Friday against Enterprise. The dance will be held on Saturday.

Morrow Education Center

This year we have seen an amazing start to the new school year. We are hovering around the 70 student mark and seeing a steady trickle of students every week. We are currently incorporating two additional classes into the schedule: Vocabulary studies (by Katrina Bretsch-Master's Research) and Reading Interventions by Lisa Connell. The Reading Interventions class is aimed at the students who have not yet passed the OAKS Reading test and need to pass it for Graduation. The Vocabulary studies class is aimed at all Middle School students for an additional reinforcement strategy to help them comprehend vocabulary words.

This year we are witnessing a higher rate of seniors enrolling who are closer to graduating than previous years. Therefore, we are tentatively expecting a larger graduating class than last year. Additionally, we are witnessing more credits being achieved by a class who tend to have a greater focus on their studies this year.

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to visit the Kiwanis Club and the Boardman Chamber of Commerce to talk about the program and inform the public about the school and who our students represent. Due to these visits, MEC was contacted by the Kiwanis club after the Chamber Luncheon and informed they were going to begin a \$1000 scholarship for an MEC graduate. We are very excited about the rest of the year and what the future holds for this great program.

Riverside High School

CAREER/COLLEGE FAIR

RHS will be taking over 70 juniors and senior to a Career Fair, Wednesday October 6, 2010, at the Hermiston Community Center where there will be professionals representing over 50 careers. In addition, there will be a College Fair the same night from 6pm to 8pm. Most of the Oregon and Washington colleges and universities will be represented. Our students will have the opportunity to ask questions of prospective careers and learn more about prospective institutions for post-secondary education.

EXPANDED OPTIONS PROGRAM

Riverside is pleased to announce that we have 6 students enrolled in the Expanded Options program through BMCC. These students are all taking one class each and are excited to have begun their college career. We have another student who is taking a Physics course from Eastern Oregon University.

PSAT

The sophomores at RHS are ready to take the PSAT exams. The exam is scheduled for October 13, 2010. Our entire class of 2013 and some of our juniors will be taking this test.

OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (OUS) AT RHS

EOU, U of O, OSU, PSU, OIT, WOU, SOU representatives coming soon to RHS!!! Thursday, October 7, 2010 our 10th through 12th graders will have the opportunity to speak to and listen to representatives from the 7 public universities of Oregon. Riverside High School has been officially added to the list of OUS school destinations. They will now come to us instead of having to travel with our students to La Grande or Pendleton.

SCHOLARSHIP/SENIOR INFORMATION

Riverside High School students and parents have immediate access to most upcoming scholarships. The website is updated by our counselor weekly. In addition any relevant senior information including colleges and SAT/ACT test information is posted on our home page at <http://rhs.morrow.k12.or.us/> under Senior Information. The feedback from parents has been that they appreciate the immediate access to all the information for their students.

TESTING

Testing will begin the week of October 18th.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

This month, NHS is:

1. Raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. By donating \$1, your name is placed on a paper pumpkin which is put on the bulletin board by the front doors.
2. Participating in Breast Cancer Awareness Month, by selling pink beads (to donate to the Susan B. Komen Search for the Cure Foundation) and sponsoring the "are you tough enough to wear pink" day. Members will be selling the beads for \$1 at school and at the volleyball game on Oct. 12th.

Sam Boardman Elementary School

Students of the Month for September:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
K Team	Emalei Hendren Shaylee Hocker Leslie Lopez Alexis Ramirez	Angelica Resendiz Kucas Szasz Jonathan Ramirez Marisol Navarro	Perla Rodriguez Charlie Smith Elisabet Calvillo Adonay Murrillo-Pena	Eloy Ramos Daniel Crist Arianna Velasco Alondra Sanchez	Mr. McClenahen 96%
Team 1	Valery Gutierrez Erick Zavala Alyna Garcia Kayley Sampson	Pablo Claustro Trinidad Mendoza Octavio Estrella Daisy Torres	Wyatt Wilson Karlie Tiboni Levi Pringle Tehya Rivera	Nathan Ellis Alexis Partlow Paden Livingston	Mrs. Christy 97%
Team 2	Adair Rodriguez Lupita Silva Ezra Padilla America Pacheco	Gabriel Morales Yahir Colin James Tiboni Marco Barrera	Lisbet Martinez Roberto Calixto Delia Hernandez Jose Puerta	Salvador Garcia Nate Harrison Fernando Chavez Marco Landeros	Mrs. Kennedy 96%
Team 3	Trey Keisel Johan Pena Jason Daltoso	Zenia Pena Jordy Mendoza Kelly Ashe	Jesus Carmona Megan Gilbertson Anthony Flores	Stephanie Chavez Nyssa Muniz Brandon Madrigal	Mr. Jeppeson 97%

Enrollment: 304

Attendance: Average attendance for March was 95.02%



Students, staff and parents enjoyed our first **Student of the Month Assembly!** We kicked off the new year with singing, AR competitions and celebrating **Students Being Excellent!** Certificates were presented in four categories: respect, responsibility, safety and academics. Attendance trophies went to these classrooms: McClenahen, Christy, Kennedy and Jeppeson. *The Golden Garbage Can* for the cleanest classroom for the month of September went to Mrs. Raible for the primary hall and to Mrs. Kennedy for the intermediate hall.

This year's **Site Council** members are Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Rose Sebastian, Leah Thompson, Sarah Christy, Kim Finley, Anne Orcutt, Carmen Diaz and Dawn Dyer. Our parent representatives are Julia Rodgers and Amanda Wilson. New parent representatives will be elected during parent conferences. We reviewed our school wide plan in light of the Board goals and celebrated student progress in 2009-2010. School Board members are always welcome to our open Site Council meetings. Our next meeting will be held October 11th at 4:00 in the library.

We had another great turn out for **Open House!** Parents joined us for introductions in the gym, toured classrooms and concluded with an ice cream social in the cafeteria. All students received a blue vinyl **Sam Boardman Communication Folder** at the beginning of the year. These folders are used for homework, communication between the parent and the teacher as well as communications from the school. Our Communication Folder will have many interesting monthly resources for families: *What's in Your Cupboard* gives nutrition tips and ways to engage students in healthy eating, *The Reading Connection* helps parents become active reading partners, *The Math+ Science Connection* improves math and science success with easy activities and tips.

School Mall.com is an online shopping mall where over 200 nationally known merchants have agreed to give a percentage of every sale to K-12 schools. Companies like WalMart, Sears, Target, Toys "R" Us, Family Book Store, and Oriental Trading Company participate. Students took booklets home and registered their family and friends as shoppers. As they shop online, using their school code, they earn discounts and SBE earns a percentage for student activities. This is the first time SBE has participated in a fundraiser of this type and we are eager to learn about the possibilities for families and students.

The **Tooth Taxi** is here this week providing screenings and dental work for our students! SBE was ready in case another school cancelled and KUDOs to our staff and Columbia River Community Health Services for getting information to parents and making this happen on such short notice!

I am excited to announce that **Umatilla Morrow County Head Start** was awarded a \$5,000 grant from Head Start Body Start for outdoor space renovations at Sam Boardman Elementary!

Windy River Elementary

Student Council Elections

Elections were held September 30th.

The class officers are: **President**, Ricardo Rosales, **Vice President**, Daniel Rodriguez and **Secretary/Treasure**, Eon Castillo

Team Meetings

WRE PLC's are up and running and they meet every Wednesday morning.

Spirit Award

Mrs. LaFramboise class won the WRE Spirit Award.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

WRE had its first parent/teacher conference will be on October 7th. WRE decided to have conferences at the mid-term rather than at the quarter. We did this for two reasons: The first reason is to keep parents informed before students start falling behind. A lot of parents liked the mid-term conferences rather than the quarter conferences.

The second reason is to have our parents in our building more often.

Student of the Month Assembly

SEPTEMBER	Academics	Academics	Theme - Responsibility
Beagle	Marvin Calvillo	Sadie Weatherford	Rosy Olvera

Boor	Kevin Madrigal	Ana Barajas	Fabian Meza
Browne	Malyssa Smith	Yonatan Flores	Martin Chavez
Cornelius	Sergio Farias	Jennifer Rodriguez	Tania Mendoza
Gaede	Brendy Avalos	Jared Miller	Leslie Ramirez
Keefer	Katia Garay	Zuleyma Medel	Misael Madrigal
LaFramboise	Jenna McCullough	Josh Matthews	Lizbet Madrigal
Prindle	Vanessa Schmidt	David Ghising	Karrizima Luna
Strebin	Donovan Carmack	Ruben Lopez	Max Neel

Elementary All State Honor Choir. By Wendy Appleton

All State Elementary Honor Choir

Each Year Oregon Music Educators Association sponsors an Elementary All State Honor Choir made of 5th and 6th grade students from across the state. The students perform at the Hult Center during the Oregon Music Educators Annual conference held Jan. 13 – 16, 2011 in Eugene. Music teachers nominate their best students from which a committee selects up to 100 students. This year I have nominated 8 students from Windy River. The students who are selected will be notified by Nov 8th of their acceptance to the choir. Currently the students who were nominated are raising funds to defray the expenses of the trip. A spaghetti feed will be held during conferences on Oct 7. Pop cans are being collected during the months of Oct and Nov. and a ham and turkey raffle is being planned for Nov. close to Thanksgiving.

The cost for students to attend is \$160.00 plus an extra night's lodging due to the distance we travel. We also are planning to visit OMSI on the way to Eugene this year. This is a great experience for our students; one they will remember for a life time.