

## Principal & Director Reports October 2005

### Irrigon High School

Mid terms have been mailed and the computer grade check system is finally up and running so that parents can monitor student grades from home.

Staff is preparing/planning contest between to improve RIT scores at each grade level.

The week of Oct. 10 will be spirit week. We do not have Homecoming yet.

FFA has elected officers from the Irrigon and Boardman schools. We now have an official FFA chapter recognized by the state. Morrow Co.

Activities at IHS:

- FFA Leadership camp, Oct. 2-3.
- Booster club mtg. Oct. 6.
- Many sports and FFA contest during this month.
- Possible trip to Waldo MS to look at Uniform code.

### Irrigon Elementary School

**Open House** was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We had about 100 students and parents attend.

Because there was a football game the same evening, most came after the game.

Unfortunately, the evening was cut short due to a fire alarm, which resulted in evacuating the building for the rest of the evening so we could determine what had caused the alarm.

I learned the following day that a toddler had pulled the alarm. It was an 'alarming' evening!

**Proud Crowd** certificates are being earned at an amazing rate. About 25 students per day stop to share with me something they are proud of before going out to recess. 1 certificate = 1 chocolate.

**AR Reading** is off to a wonderful start. Goals have been established for most students and many have read themselves to 75 % of their goal. Their reading efforts will be rewarded with quarterly special events.

**Student Body elections** will took place. We now have a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer for each grade. These students will be responsible for daily announcements, Student Body assemblies, Freaky Fridays, and other activities planned for the year.

**Fund Raiser** time! Our annual fund raiser to raise money to send the sixth graders to Outdoor School has started. Students are selling products from the Great American Opportunities catalog.

### **Irrigon Elementary School (continued)**

**Student Body Assembly:** Our first monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:15. At the assembly students from each class were recognized for excellence, hard work, and caring. Sixth grade students who passed the fifth grade benchmark were also be recognized at the assembly.

**After School Program** started the last week of September. Twenty-five students are spending an additional hour after school on Tuesday and Wednesday working on their reading, math and writing skills using the PLATO program. Individual tutoring is also provided for students who need to complete homework.

### **Morrow Education Center**

As we begin the month of October, we want to first say “Thank-you”! Morrow Education Center with your support has been able to enhance the services it provides to Morrow County students. Our enrollment has seen an increase since last month, and students are enjoying the benefits that our PLATO lab brings to them. Having 20 computers online and imaged for both the PLATO and Rosetta Stone programs has allowed us to tackle our diverse population with an engaging, quality and appropriate learning environment.

Over the past month we have worked diligently towards the development of a schedule that allows all of our students a variety of learning opportunities. The MEC schedule includes a period of health & wellness (direct S.I.O.P focused instruction), PLATO (math, reading, and writing), weight training, independent study, and ELL supported instruction. We can only hope that our students begin to realize that the staff at MEC is extremely dedicated and motivated towards student-centered achievement. We’ve worked hard to build a program which considers the best interest of our students, both as academic learners and as people. In his book Judicious Discipline, Forrest Gathercoal exclaims, “The lifeblood of an ethical relationship lies in students believing that their best interests are foremost in the minds of their educators.”

The MEC staff has enjoyed the past month in the classroom here at Morrow Education Center and we look forward to continuing our path, as it applies to program enhancement, and bridging the delicate relationships we as educators are motivated to build. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

### **Heppner Elementary School**

- Best Practices trainings have gone very well so far. Staff members are encouraged by how much they are already doing.
- The water has been turned back on to the lower field. After 3yrs. My long term goal is to have this field usable as a t-ball field and a soccer field with goals.
- Site Council elections took place and Elaine Miller is our classified representative and Elizabeth Ashbeck is our new parent representative.
- HES Parents Club is planning a carnival again this year. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled date.
- Open house is scheduled for Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. This will coincide with the Parent Club book fair.
- The Lexington Grange gave dictionaries to all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. The students were excited to have them.
- Student Council elections have been completed and the students are anxious to get started.
- The HES canned food drive for the Heppner Community Center took place the week of Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- OMSI is scheduled to bring the Planetarium to HES on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. I would encourage any board members that have not seen this to stop by any time on that day.
- The Adopt a Teacher Foundation has agreed to fund 2hrs per day for Lance Eads to teach art at HES. The teachers are excited and we are working on finalizing the different projects that our students will be working on this year. Thank you, Adopt a Teacher.
- I want to thank the Morrow County School District Board for the opportunity to work with such dedicated and caring teachers and support staff. Heppner is truly a wonderful place.

### **Heppner High School**

- HHS is going well, working on our testing schedules.
- Homecoming and all of our activities went very well.
- ASB officers are working on getting quotes from teachers to start on lower hallway with painting project.
- Facilities are looking good and our Facilities Coordinator and Custodians are working hard on the grounds.
- Staff In-Service went well and we are working on implementing Best Practices Staff Development.
- Mid way through the quarter and we are sending out progress reports.
- Are new staffing changes are doing well and are adjusting.
- We are preparing for the Booster Club Auction on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- We are working on changing our Library network to better suit our district and students needs.
- Track facility has run into weather problems and will be done in March due to cold weather.
- Fundraising has gone well and we have generated enough money to finish the project with exception to some equipment issues.
- Students have sold out to singing the school song at the end of all home varsity games.
- School Spirit is very high right now.
- There are several maintenance projects that we are looking at scheduling this spring.
- Overall, our school has started very well and working on meeting the needs of our kids. Our teachers and support staff are working hard, and our students are responding positively.

## **A.C. Houghton Elementary**

50th Anniversary Celebration: It is approximately 50 years since the ACH school building was first occupied. During this year we are going to have several celebration activities. The first one will be the raising of our new flag pole and flags on Thursday, October 13 starting at 8:15 a.m.. The celebration will begin with a commemorative balloon launch and conclude with the raising of new United States and Oregon State flags on our new pole. This pole was donated by Sylvia and Bill Hancock of Sequim, Washington.

Writing: The ACH staff primary goal this year is to continue writing improvement. Over the past couple of years we have been able to establish consistent curriculum expectations at each grade level and we also began to implement the Four Square graphic approach to the organization of student writing to help all of our language challenged students. We are now beginning to organize the second language learner best practices curriculum, SIOP, one module at a time into our writing curriculum. This will allow each student to experience a maximum amount of language learning opportunities rich in strategies that build student language background from which they create their writing. In the near future we are also going to visit a school similar to ours in poverty level and number of ESL students, which is having with the success meeting state writing benchmarks.

Student Government: On October 7 the student body officers from ACH will attend a regional leadership training workshop in Pendleton. Our officers, who are fourth-graders, have participated very well in this workshop which is actually titled for middle school level students. Their maturity and presence and participation is a credit to their parents and their school experience here in Morrow County.

Lewis and Clark Days: ACH students will be participating in the Lewis and Clark expedition days in the Irrigon Marina Park on Sunday, October 16 between 1-6 p.m.. There will be great activities for all the family including fresh pie, historical displays and dancing by some of our students. You are all invited to come.

Family Reading Night: This year's first family reading night will be held on Tuesday, October 18 in our library. This activity goes from 7 p.m. until approximately 8 p.m. Students read to their parents, special staff readers read their favorite selections, and each student who comes receives a free book from our program. I would like to express a special thanks to our staff for their volunteer participation and to our parents for bringing all of their children.

### **Windy River Elementary**

September was a busy month for us at Windy River. The following is a review what has been happening at our school:

- We launched into our best practices staff development project on the 16<sup>th</sup>, covering the first two components of the teaching model that we are using. The components that we worked with were Preparation and Background building. Theresa Proctor-Reece, Jack Johns, and I lead the session. We are off to good start and are looking forward to our next session.
- We have applied for two grants through the Cycle Oregon group, one to help fund our Outdoor School, and another to obtain a reader board for WRE. Anna Browne is our lead person on this project.
- Our DART coordinator Jennifer Cox and I attended the coordinators meeting and are working together to design the best possible testing atmosphere that we can for our students.
- Student conduct was excellent at WRE during September; the Staff is developing a very positive working climate at WRE.
- We elected student body officers, this included campaign signs, speeches, and voting. The council is off and running. With the planning red ribbon week being their first project.
- We celebrated our first Student of the Month Assembly with 3 students earning awards from each homeroom. Two of the awards are for academics and one is for the character trait of the month. We invited the parents of all the students that were to receive awards. I was pleased with support of the parents.

### **ELL Director Report**

This month has continued with the busy race of getting things done in a timely and appropriate manner. After a third review with the Oregon Department ESL personnel, we have resubmitted our District ELL Plan for final approval. Along with that document, we submitted a new ELL Plan Addendum which all districts have to submit to the state as well. We have not heard back from the State yet, but I am anticipating that it would be approved, and I can apply my mind to other ELL things in the district. When the plan is approved, we can review the federal, state directives and requirements that are uniformly called upon in every school district. Other things specific in our district we can review and adjust to the district's preference.

In accordance with a new challenging goal by the superintendent to get Hispanic students more involved with extra-curricular activities, I have been directly involved getting young Hispanic youths involved in the grid football in the pre-secondary stage. Also with that, I have encouraged coaches and students to join other sports in RHS so we can begin to see more Hispanics represented in our common sports programs. A report requested by Superintendent Burrows shows the numbers of students involved in Fall sports activities and the number of Hispanics also involved for the last three years.

The first SIOP staff training has begun in accordance to NCLB rules that the district be providing professional staff development for district teachers who teach English

Language Learners. Principals and key teachers in each build went thru trainings from the ESD and then delivered that key training to all teachers in their buildings. The ELL director assisted the RHS SIOP team in their first school wide staff training. He will be assisting other school sites as the principals request his support with their SIOP team. He will also be visiting sheltered classes, ESL classes and other classes with significant numbers of ELL students to encourage teachers using some of the SIOP methods taught in the staff development.

The initial federal required 10 Day letter to parents of new ELL students has been sent in the month of September. We are working hard to teach and maintain all our proper documentation. The ELL director has attended seminars of ELL directors in the general area; Transact Compliance, dealing with translated documents; and English Language Development, a training for two years with the state of Oregon.

### **Riverside High School**

#### **RHS OPEN HOUSE/PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Riverside combined the first quarter progress report conferences with open house this year. Monday, October 3 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. parents were invited to visit with teachers in their classrooms concerning their student's progress and to learn about classroom activities.

Parents were also invited to attend two 15 minute sessions on:

- Junior High Accountability
- Honors Diploma
- Student Management Policy
- Instruction on Accessing Online Progress

CSEPP also set up an information booth on progress, questions and concerns.

#### **JR HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY: Reviewed in detail with parents in Spanish and English at Open House**

Riverside is the pilot school for a new district policy concerning academic accountability for junior high students. The main objective of this policy is for junior high student to excel and become fully prepared to enter their next grade progression. The focus is on passing all classes, but especially the "**Core Classes**". Core Classes are "*Math*", "*Science*", "*Language Arts*" and "*Social Studies*". Junior high students who pass all classes are treated to an "End of Year Activity" and promoted to the next grade. Students who pass all of their "core" classes but not *all* classes are promoted to the next grade, but do not receive an "End of Year Activity". Students who do not pass one half to three of the core classes will take Second Semester Remediation or Summer School. If they still do not pass these classes, they will repeat the grade. If a student fails to pass all four core classes, they will repeat the grade. Our goal is to help students achieve success and reach their full potential.

### **HONORS DIPLOMA: Reviewed in detail with parents in Spanish and English at Open House**

The **Honors Diploma** is a new offering in Morrow County School District. Several students graduating with the class of 2006 are on track to receive this diploma from Riverside Jr/Sr High School. Students who receive the Honors Diploma must first meet the requirements for a regular diploma and also achieve 26 credits over their four years in high school. Of those credits earned towards the Honors Diploma, 2 must be in Foreign Language, 1 in Career Education, 1 in Technology or Business and the others are a combination of advanced/honors/college level Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Science Classes. In addition to the above requirements, students must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA and have no D or F on their transcripts. The final requirement is that the student must have completed the CIM with the state. Parents and students can see all the requirements for the Honors Diploma on page 34 of the student agenda handbook.

### **CYCLE OREGON**

Riverside's participation in the Cycle Oregon event proved to be a huge success. The Boardman Chamber of Commerce reported that they had many compliments on the organization and hard work by our students and staff. Participants commented that Boardman was one of the best locations they had visited for student involvement with the event. Students and staff from Riverside represented themselves very well and should be commended.

### **MOUS CERTIFICATION: New opportunities for students at Riverside**

Business teacher, Cynthia Kuchenbecker, is offering Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) Certification in her Business Office Systems classes. Microsoft Office Specialist certification is the universally accepted standard assessment of desktop proficiency for the Microsoft office suite of applications. Riverside has become a testing site for Microsoft Specialist Microsoft Office Systems (MOS) certification. Normally, it would cost each student \$90 to take the certification test, but to ten Riverside students will be able to take the test free of charge thanks to Carl Perkins funding.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

The focus at SBE this month has been character. We started with revamping our student recognition assemblies. Historically, the students would be picked as 'student of the week', their names would go into a hat and each month we would draw names to see who wins the prizes. We wanted the awards to be more focused and more meaningful. That is when we came up with awarding students by character traits rather than the luck of the draw. The character traits we are rewarding students are; Respect, Responsibility and Safety. Also, we wanted to reward one academic student a month as well so each classroom had 4 winners this month. The award winners were:

<b><u>Respect</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility</u></b>	<b><u>Safety</u></b>	<b><u>Academics</u></b>
Juana Lizett Martinez	Angelica Martinez	Mario Sepulveda	Mayra Hernandez
Ryan Ibarra	Arik Corpus	Evette Calvillo	Stephanie Madrigal
Donavan Carmack	Aramis Corpus	Juan Olguin	Bria Pacheco
Wayne Killion	Cassidy McCullough	Cristina Calvillo	Dixie Gonzales
Abigail Bozarth	Kirsten Taylor	Miguel Ascencio	Angelo Rivera
Lisa Longoria	Belinda Lomas	Paulina Pena	Maydi Barrera
Matthew Weise	Consuelo Llamas	Julissa Sanchez	Luis Olvera
Jessenia Hernandez	Juan Cardenas	Joah Mossman	Keara Chikalla
Sam Hibbitts	Francisco Velasquez	Jennifer Rodriguez-Pena	Daniel Pacheco
Alicia Calvillo	Zachary Ferguson	Jorge Montoya	Hannah Mossman
Kyla Dyer	Briana Melendez	Morgan Wilson	Yaneri Calvillo
Irdiana Alvarez	Laura Avila	Osiel Madrigal	Noe Madrigal
Boyd Macomber	Megan Hearn	Oscar Lopez	Janet Lomas
Jenny Mendoza	Nathan Swart	Ivonne Navarro	Diego Torres
Yonatan Florez	Shyanne Smith	Emily Taylor	Shaylee Dipo
Abram Hernandez	Lilian Melendez	Daniel Eubanks	Hans Rockwell
Mariano Pena	Luis Aguilar	Jose Agripino	Jaqueline Lezama
Jesse Hibbitts	Elizet Sanchez	Yolanda Lopez	Michelle Gonzalez
Gustavo Alejandro	Jonathan Lopez	Henry Torres	Kelsey Caudron
Jesus Ortega	Jasmine Puerta	Natividad Garcia	Karla Jimenez
Gavin Harper	Lizeth Zuniga	Zuleyma Medel	Xenia Velasco
Phillip McDonough	David Rodriguez	William Simmons	Gabrielle Miller

The other character trait we displayed at SBE was generosity. Mrs. Gigi Lemmon and Mrs. Mary Gressely-Grow organized a penny drive for the victims of hurricane Katrina. We collected change and checks for the last 3 weeks of September. When it was all collected it filled 8 five gallon buckets. Marcy Rodelo and her staff at Banner Bank dedicated their time to count the money for us. The grand total that we gave to the Red Cross foundation was \$2267.47!!! That blew everyone's expectations away. I would like to also thank the community of Boardman for their generosity as well, because people came in and donated even though they had no affiliation to the school.

I hope you all have a great month and a safe Halloween!



