

Principal & Director Reports

October 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

-Our enrollment has picked up a few from September. Our numbers are about the same as last year for this month.

-Family Nights Started with Great Gusto

Our family nights, reading, roller skating, and family movie night have started with really good participation. The First Family Movie Night had over 70 people participating for a movie complete with popcorn candy and drinks. We have a new projector and quality surround-sound. Different grade levels have signed up for sponsorship, which turns out to be a little mini- fundraiser for their level supplies and materials.

Family Skate Night for October was this past Monday. 110 people from Irrigon participated in the Hermiston Skate Center. The program has evolved to an all-grade, all-comers program with a school bus that pays for itself with two dollar transportation charges. We have a fair following even from the alternative school.

The First Family Reading Night is a week from next Tuesday. Staff have signed up, volunteering their time to be readers within the program. Every child who comes gets a free book.

Ballpark Project

As many of you know, we have been participating over the last four-five years building the Irrigon Youth Sports Complex with our Marina Park District. Phase 2 is nearing completion with the building of our gazebo, snack bar/storage/restroom building. We will be partnering with the city to try to secure grant funds to improve Washington and 12th streets, which are the streets to the north and east of the school in this year's Tippage Fee grant cycle. This will be part of the infrastructure for a project next year to build an RV park north of the soccer field that will create a new funding source for the Park District to expand programs for youth.

Heppner Elementary School

It is hard to believe that October is already here, but the cold mornings and change in temperature are a good sign that fall has arrived. Our enrollment as of today is 184 students and our attendance percentage for the month of September was 97.5%. Rest assured that 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 the night of Tuesday, September 23rd. If the smiles on our students and parents faces were any indicator, I would say it was a huge success. The HES Student body elections were held on Thursday September 18th and I am happy to report that all of the HES students who were running for office ran clean campaigns and gave outstanding speeches. This years HES student council members are; President – *Maddie Lindsay*, Vice President – *Paige Grieb*, Secretary – *Macy Gibbs*, Treasurer – *Kelly Wilson*, Publicity Director – *Makenzi Hughes*, 4th Grade Representative – *Logan Grieb*. I am also pleased to report that with the help and support of adopt a teacher

We are currently in the process of a canned food drive to help the Heppner Neighborhood Center, stay tuned for an update on how many pounds of food are collected and which class collected the most. I would like to end by 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

- We are settling into the school year with lots of excitement as our school play draws near and our fall sports teams are doing well also. Our school play dates will be on November 11th, 13th, 15th, and 16th. Next month I will report on the cast numbers and times.
- Our staff is reading a book in our PLC meetings entitled Fish on group morale and how it affects our school. We have just started it, and there are some valuable lessons on how to improve results through morale.
- We held a very successful Homecoming during the week of the 29th of September. I have to say that this week was amazing with the school spirit and energy in which our students displayed. It was very well organized and our ASB deserves a huge pat on the back along with their advisor, Mrs. Payne for their efforts in organizing and putting everything together.
- One of the things we are doing as a staff this year is to accomplish class walk-throughs with teachers. I am making opportunities for teachers to do 3 minute class observations with me every month. We held our first ones as we looked for excellent teaching and student engagement. It prompted some great conversation amongst teachers on ideas that they may or may not have considered in their own teaching. Fun stuff and my staff really enjoyed their first chance to take part. Will keep you posted.
- Our coffee and cookie open house will be on Oct 7th at 6pm until 7pm. We will hold a senior meeting on the grad requirements with GOAL and the drug and alcohol free party plans at 7pm as well. Board members are invited to attend- there will be special music in the foyer from our choir and musicians, as well as tours by our ASB.
- Our FFA kids just came back from leadership camp with a weekend of fun and excitement from Camp Elkanah over by LaGrande.
- We held our JH ASB elections during the week of the 15th of September. Our students did a great job with their speeches this year and they took the opportunity serious. Our new President is Garrett Robinson, Vice-President is Joselyn Troxell, Business Manager is Alex Smith, Secretary is Jared Lemmon, and Class Representative is Tate Gentry.
- Career Camp held at Tupper will be held from October 18th through the 22nd this year. We have 17 students from Morrow County attending this year. This is a tremendous program that exposes students to some of the opportunities in natural resources and the federal government.
- We will have Sandip Burman, a world renowned musician in our school on the 7th of October to do a clinic for our student musicians. It should be a treat for our kids and thanks to Mr. Lindsay for setting it up.

Irrigon Elementary School

School Started: School started with a smooth start, and we celebrated at the end of our first day of school with sparkling cider and champagne glasses. It is a tradition I have started to do on our first and

last day of school. Teachers worked very hard to get prepared for the first week of school. I applaud them for their long hours, and their detailed preparations to have a wonderful start.

IES Fund Raising: Our second week of school started our first fund raiser with Great American Opportunities. The national director of GAO came with Paul Anderson the area director and they did a superb job of motivating our students to raise funds for school. In one week we raised just over \$7000 dollars. IES will get about half of this in funds. Our kids have done a great job!

ASB: Irrigon Elementary now has a new elected ASB. 17 new students gave speeches, met before a board of staff, and presented why they wanted to be on ASB. The newly elected officers and representatives met last Monday for their first time, and they have planned many academic and fun events for the school year. Mrs. Ellen Hendergard our school librarian is helping me out by taking on the ASB as the new staff advisor.

IES Open House: We had a decent turn out on IES Open House. The Parent Teacher Organization of IES gave an inexpensive hot dog dinner, and families came and had dinner for only \$1.50. We did a lot of parent surveys, and got to meet a lot of nice folks and the rest of their family.

Other School Groups: Also during the month, we had other groups meet for the first time that were germane to our school operation. Site Council, PTO, Safety Committee, staff meetings, and the new Professional Learning Community started this month to do the things that each group is supposed to do. Irrigon Elementary is a busy little school.

Relationship, Relationship, Relationship: This was part of administrative staff training this August. The importance of staff supporting, helping, speaking positive of one another is paramount to staff contentment and morale. I have put an emphasis to staff to respect, communicate, and support one another. People who like where they work, like who they work with, and like what they do will do their jobs better and stay longer. In the office we have a relationship board. There I put messages to staff that promote positive messages about ourselves and our building. IES is working to maintain itself to be a happy place for adults and our children.

Irrigon High School

Our open house was held on September 15th. The Knights Pride Booster Club once again provided an excellent taco feed for us all. We started the evening with a short presentation outlining our expectations of students and parents which included the need to take challenging classes, regular attendance, our 5th Avenue program, and to help spread the word among community members about all of the good things going on here - specifically that we made AYP. Knights memorabilia was given out for door prizes to help build school spirit. Afterwards, we had a series of parent meetings consisting of Senior Parents, ELL parents, a Knights Pride Booster Club presentation, Athletic Department and club presentation, junior high parent, and Extended Options meeting. There was also time available for parents to meet staff and ask specific questions regarding curriculum, class placement, and expectations. Overall, we had about 80 students and parents which is up from last year.

The Gear-Up Grant team has met several times during the last month to finalize the budget and get its approval. As of last Friday, our proposed budget of \$38,500 was approved for this year. The purpose of this grant is to build and promote an atmosphere of continuing education beyond high school whether it is a college, trade school, apprenticeship, military, etc. We will be presenting a brief presentation of our grant and plans for this school year at next month's board meeting.

On Thursday September 18th we had an ice cream sundae party for students and staff during the lunch hour in celebration of everyone's hard work towards meeting AYP last year. It was a good chance to have dialogue with students about state testing and its importance, especially in light of the new graduation requirements that go in affect in for the class of 2012.

Our 5th Avenue program, which is available on Fridays throughout the year, is off to a good start. We just completed our third session and our attendance rates continue to improve. We continue to spread the word about this opportunity for additional help among students and parents. There has also been a link added to our web page explaining the program as well as a list of teachers who will be present at each session.

Homecoming is the week of October 27th – October 31st. Some of the activities this year include a Red Cross blood drive, a car push, macho volleyball, car bash, noise parade, powder puff football, and bonfire. The king and queen will be crowned at halftime of the football game on Friday. The dance will be held on Saturday.

Riverside High School **HOME COMING 2008**

Homecoming 2008 at Riverside falls early this year. Homecoming week will be October 6th – 9th. Wall decorating will take place on Sunday, October 5th. Each school day starting on Monday, October 6th, there will be a short assembly planned by students to raise spirit. On Wednesday evening the traditional Bonfire Rally will take place. This traditionally includes the Powder-puff Football finals as well as class competitions including the tug-o'-war. The court will be introduced at halftime of the Varsity Football game Friday night, at which time the queen and king will be crowned. This year, the Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, October 11th.

COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Daisy Murguia & Alondra Ramirez for receiving prizes this month for their posters they designed for the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District. The theme for the posters this year was "Water is Life". Daisy received 1st place in the 10th – 12th grade division for her poster, and Alondra placed 3rd in the 7th – 9th grade division. Both girls will receive T-shirts as prizes, and Daisy's poster will be taken to the state contest during the convention in November.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AT RIVERSIDE

Riverside Jr/Sr High School is committed to providing challenging academic experiences for its students. That's why Morrow County School District and Riverside Jr/Sr High School has taken steps

to ensure that Riverside offers a number of **Advanced Placement courses** this school year. Junior and Senior Riverside students who have met Oregon State benchmarks and plan to pursue further higher education will be encouraged to take AP courses in areas where they demonstrate proficiency. The Advanced Placement Program (AP) gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in AP courses. Through this program, students may earn credit, advanced placement, or both, for college. The AP Program promotes critical thinking, independent evaluation, accelerated learning and achievement.

What Are The Benefits?

- Good grades in AP courses raise your GPA.
- AP courses develop crucial skills necessary for success
- Transcripts with AP courses impress scholarship committees, and college and universities.
- Taking AP courses prepares students for college courses.
- Earning an approved score on an AP Exam can earn students credit for college courses.
- Earning college credit in high school can save students thousands of dollars in tuition.
- Completing college courses in high school can save time completing a degree, allowing students to begin graduate level courses early.
- Successfully completing an AP course and the exam may result in other AP scholarships and awards.

Windy River Elementary

Open House:

WRE had open house on September 3rd. We used the open format. Parents could move from classroom to classroom. We had an excellent turnout.

Student Council Elections

Elections were held September 11th.

The class officers are: President Hans Rockwell, Vice President Cari Barton and Secretary Adara Hasbell

Team Meetings

WRE PLCs are up and running and they meet every Wednesday morning or lunch time.

Book Club

The book for this year is, “A Framework for Understanding Poverty”, by Ruby Payne. This book teaches the hidden rules of the economic classes, especially those that live in poverty and that despite the obstacles poverty can create in all types of interaction, there are specific strategies for overcoming them.

Sprit Award

Mr. Keefer and Mr. Beagle class won the WRE Spirit Award

Parent/Teacher Conferences

WRE had its first parent/teacher conference on September 30th. We 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 | Bianca Barajas | Megan Hearn | Paige Bither |
| Boor | Stephanie madrigal | Shandon Sanders | Alexis Mendoza |
| Browne | Juana Martinez | Alejandra Caldera | Carmen Puerta |
| Chapman | Lacey Mashos | Jenny Rodriguez | Ivan Escobedo |
| Cox | Julissa Sanchez | Jonathan Mendoza | Jasmine Puerta |
| Dames | Eon Castillo | Morgan Winchester | Rosalba Olvera |
| Gaede | Emily Sepulveda | Katie Gilbert | Marvin Calvillo |
| Keefer | Edith Velasco | Jordan Mashos | Cari Barton |
| Prindle | Caleb Thomas | Sadie Weatherford | Kassidy McCullough |
| Strebin | Alecia McDonough | Aaron Lester | Yvette Barrera |

Picturing America Grant

In winter of 2007, Anna Browne applied for a grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities called "Picturing America." We were approved and received 40 very high quality; laminated posters of paintings, photos, and photos of artifacts that are designed to strengthen the teaching of America's history and founding ideals. The set comes with an elaborate teaching manual with grade level-specific activities on how to utilize the posters in your teaching. The activities are very SIOP friendly. And best of all...everything was free. The only stipulation of the grant is that you display a selection of the posters in a visible area, like your library for at least one school year. This is an opportunity that each school can take advantage of by applying at www.PICTURINGAMERICA.NEH.GOV. In looking through the material, at one time or another throughout the school year, in my class alone, I could utilize more than half of the art in the portfolio. It is such a great way to expose our students to museum quality works that they might not otherwise get to experience. *Thank You Anna*

Forth Grade Parent Party

WRE's 4th graders hosted their first PARENT PARTY of this school year. Those parents able to attend were given a tutorial about accessing their child's grades online. This, of course, will allow

parents to get such information whenever they wish! Crisp apples were enjoyed, as was a magic math activity! Students performed, with their parents' help, a trick with a balloon and addition. Comments heard included, "Wow! How'd you do that?", and "How did you know the answer before I even told you the numbers I was thinking?" A great little trick! You'll need to ask one of the 4th graders to perform it for you!!!!

PARENT PARTIES will be held each month (except the short month of December), with different themes each month. Students present various activities, such as reading of poetry or presentations of research project, to name just a couple.

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for September

| | Academics | Respect | Responsibility | Safety | Attendance |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Kinder | Lupita Silva Kennysyn Wilkins Hannah Payne Azpen DeLosSantos | Omar Castillo Gavin Wade Yahir Colin Delia Hernandez | Hunter Leighton Chantal Lemus Samantha Rea America Pacheco | Gavin Cates Taylor Schneider Jacob Murguia Nate Harrison | Mrs. Creason 96% |
| 1st Grade | Jason Daltoso Arrik Russell Zoey Gilbert Lizette Sanchez | Esteban Herrera Jesus Carmona Lainey Rodgers Sandra Garcia | Dvita Sharma Eli Killion Kelly Ashe Abraham Silvia | Eliana Esparza Megan Gilbertson Nyssa Muniz Vanessa Sanchez | Mrs. Wilson 97% |
| 2nd Grade | Francisco Chavez Veronica Alvarez Brendy Avalos Jared Miller | Chris Stanger Kadrian Turner Lilliana Davila David Araiza | Monica Virelas Fatima Diaz Seth Nunamaker Trevor Peterson | Christain Murguia Ricardo Ramos Brenda Flores Karrizima Luna | Mr. McClenahan 96% |
| 3rd Grade | Kevin Madrigal Samantha Zapata Jose Peralta | Malysa Smith Andy Melendez Yonatan Flores | Misael Madrigal Lizeth Zuniga Maydi Barrera | Alicia Calvillo Emily Kirby Aramis Corpus | Mrs. Raible 98% |

Student of the Month Assemblies continue to be a hit with students, staff and parents. Everyone enjoys singing our school songs, watching students participate in AR promotional activities and seeing students recognized with their photo and accomplishments displayed on a PowerPoint presentation. Winning classes cheer with excitement to receive the attendance trophy for the month.

Site Council This year's site council selection is complete! First item of business will be to review our school report card and consider any revisions to our school-wide plan.

Teachers: Franca Drake, Carol Wilson, Stephanie Bigham and Debra Kennedy

Classified: Carman Diaz, Mary Lomas, Kim Finley and Anne Orcutt

Parents: Nancy Esparza and Julia Rodgers

Open House welcomed parents to Sam Boardman and the new school year. Greetings and introductions in the gym were followed by classroom visits. We concluded the evening with an ice cream social where over 300 sundaes were served. Scouts, BMCC, nutrition and sports activities were showcased in the foyer for parents and students.

Classified Staff are learning new skills. Due to a new requirement for staff working with students in Special Education, all instructional assistants participated in restraint training this fall. Five assistants new to working with students with autism attended a half day training provided by Susan Rodgers, autism consultant from the ESD.

Assessments are complete for all 1st and 2nd students in reading and math using MAPs (Measures of Academic Performance) . Shown are kindergarten students taking a primary skills checklist in reading and math. Teachers attended day training provided by Patrick Dugan, NWRL using the MAPs data to guide instruction. 3rd grade teachers are gearing up for OAKs assessments by learning about the new stringent administration guidelines. Assessments will begin mid October.

Join us for **The Caterpillar Hunter** presented by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company and sponsored by North Morrow Community Foundation on October 13th at 2:30 in the gymnasium.



grade

here

a half
on

Morrow Education Center

No report this month.