

Principal & Director Reports

January 2006

A.C. Houghton Elementary

We are amazingly close to halfway through the school year. Our primary goal this year has been to improve our scores in the Oregon writing assessment. We are sending staff members in the third and fourth grade to observe writing instruction at William Walker elementary, a school with similar demographics as ours, which achieved almost 50% of their students passing the writing benchmarks. Our percentage for last year's first-ever fourth-grade benchmark was 15% passing and 35% nearly passing. The vast majority of schools in the state didn't do much better. When you go after effective practices, you look at something that is being done that has a positive effect on student achievement. You just can't work harder.

We had two excellent Christmas programs before vacation. We have to hold two because our attendance is such that they will not fit in our auditorium if we hold one. As it was, our total attendance was over 800 people.

We have just completed a modification of our stage that will make it handicap accessible. We previously were kind of marginal in this with a steep ramp that we used for wheelchairs out of the west side of our stage. There was an unused wheelchair platform lift at the district office store room. We rebuilt the west entrance to the stage taking out the stairs and built in the lift so that it looks like an original installation. I would give a public commendation to our custodians, especially Ray Couchman for the technical knowledge of building in such a project. We saved thousands of dollars doing it ourselves.

We are preparing for our midyear assessments at all grade levels in math and reading and writing. Things look real good in reading and math has a ways to go to repeat last year's successes. We will be considering beefing up this area for next year. I think we will be making some improvements in writing, how much, I don't know.

Heppner Elementary School

HES conducted its annual Geography Bee on Friday, January 6th. There were 14 students that qualified from grades 4, 5, and 6. It was an intense challenge and touch and go right up to the very end when Stephanie Schuler-Inskeep came out on top. We are very proud of this individual and I am personally amazed at her knowledge of geography.

Our end of the semester Accelerated Reader party will be taking place on January 12th at 1:30PM for all those students who met their reading goal. HES teachers are doing a wonderful job of promoting positive reading habits and the students love it. It is a sight to see when students are excited about taking a reading test.

Heppner Elementary School has been without a prominent sign in front of our building. There are some small metal letters attached to the side of the building saying Heppner Grade School, but they are hard to see and I have never heard anyone refer to us as Heppner Grade School. The Heppner Elementary PTC has graciously donated up to \$1000 to purchase a new sign for our school saying Heppner Elementary School. We have commissioned Steve Marlatt to build a new sign. He provided us with a design and with much public input, it was decided that the sign will be four feet tall by five feet wide and cut from plate steel using a plasma cutter. It will be held in place by two large Juniper posts. The design will include the Heppner mustang/colt along with children, a deer, wheat, a cow, trees and other such items. I believe this design is representative of our community and will be a very positive addition to our school. If you would like to see the design it is in the school office.

The Science club has been a very positive addition to our programs here at HES. Sue Gibbs is heading up this activity for our kids and reports that over 80 students have been participating each month. I have seen some pretty wacky things come by the office on occasion. A big thank you to Sue for making such a positive impact on our kids.

Heppner High School

HHS is going well, wrestling program has been a hit and our numbers speak volumes as to whether this is something the community wants.

Working on implementing the ZAP program at both the Jr. High and High School levels.

ASB officers worked hard over the break to paint teacher quotes on the doors of both the upstairs and down stairs hallways.

Facilities are looking good and our Facilities Coordinator and Custodians are working hard on keeping things up with several inside projects going.

Best Practices are evident in our classrooms, and our training seems to be making a mark.

I am making personal phone calls to parents that have students that are struggling and have below a 2.0 GPA.

Along with senior parents.

ASB officers have commissioned some art work for our building. Look for it to be hung somewhere around the end of this month.

Our Library software is here and it seems to be working well, allowing some time for the learning curve.

Enrolled several students for on-line college classes this month.

Basketball is going well with both boys and girls at the start of league play.

School Spirit seems to be good right now.

Have had many meetings with teachers and patrons on board goals and the direction of our school.

There are several maintenance projects that we are looking at scheduling this spring.

Overall, our school is going very well and we are working on meeting the needs of our kids. Our teachers and support staff are working hard, and our students are responding positively.

Irrigon Elementary School

Holiday Program: This year we hosted the Holiday event at Irrigon Elementary, separate from the Jr-Sr High School. In preparation for our Holiday Program we set out 200 chairs based on the attendance at past performances. Fifteen minutes before the program was to begin, we set out an additional 100 chairs...all the chairs we had... and the families kept coming. Our students provided an excellent program for over 450 people. We greatly appreciated this show of support for our students.

Geography Bee: Our Geography Bee was held on December 8th. The winner was Zane Dike. Jacob Huff was second. All contestants did a fantastic job and the assembly was well attended.

Opportunities for Students: This month we are adding two activities for our students. Ms. Alma Rodriguez will be working with a group of student to start a dance team at IES and the Scorpion Chess Club will begin meeting and playing during the noon recess.

Student Body Assembly: Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, December 15th. The following students received recognition by their classroom teachers for:

Excellence: Richard Baxter, Osvaldo Macias, Aidee Resendiz, Saryna Horrace, Bethany Avalos, Madalyn Resendiz, Madisyn Cadek

Hard Work: Marissa Brundage, Alicia Martin, Dakota Johnson, David Resendiz, Samantha Mills, Brittany Foster, Vanessa Shatto

Caring: Cheyenne Garrett, Sybelle Davalos, Alexandria Perez, Angelique Kettlewell, Tyler Morley, Omar Resendiz, Elia Cruz, Jenifer Gonzalez

Irrigon High School

Advisor – Advisee Program

First period everyday our students have the opportunity to connect with an adult in a very positive way. Advisors and advisees are matched up at the Junior High level for two years and at the High School level for four years. This allows students to have a mentor; someone who will help monitor their academic progress and be an advocate for them when needed. As this program has evolved over the years we believe that it is at the point where it will be of help as students prepare to meet their Career Graduation requirement as seniors next year. Some of the activities will include Career Cruising, scholarship searches as well as meeting their reading needs in their classes.

Also included in the program is the Accelerated Reader curriculum. At the lower grades the advisors work with the students to present the Northland drug and alcohol unit. This class is important for all of our students, but will be essential for the first graduating class of I.H.S to meet their numerous requirements.

SIOP Core team to present at OMLA conference

We are excited to have a team traveling to the Oregon Mid-Level Association Conference to be presenters. The team will be presenting on SIOP and other activities. The presentation will center on the use of grade level teams for making positive changes in the school. The example we will be using is how SIOP has been implemented using team meetings and Friday faculty meetings. The team presenting will include Ron Anthony, Chris Davis, Blaine Ganvoa, Heather Miller, Robert Marshall and Lisa Constantine.

Clubs and activities

One of the things that we are proud of at Irrigon Junior Senior High School is the large turnout we have for extracurricular clubs and activities. We are excited to be offering a full slate of winter and fall sports and plan to do the same in the spring. With much of the focus put on sports we feel it is also important to ensure that other opportunities are available to all of our students, especially the non-athletes. The staff at IJSHS is encouraged to develop and create new club and activities for the students to take part in. IJSHS currently has many different opportunities for students to be involved some of these opportunities are the following:

Chess Club

Advisor: Eva Randolph

Open to all students; meet Monday and Wednesday until 4pm. Walk by and see students using 100% of their brains to come up with strategies to beat their opponent. The club hopes to compete in regional and state competitions.

Drama Club

Advisor: Heather Miller

This year the Drama Club will be presenting "A Midsummer Night's Dream, or The Night They Missed the Forest for the Trees" on March 16 and 17 at 7:00pm. It is a rollicking adaptation of the classic Shakespeare comedy in which love-struck teenagers, fairies, workers and royalty collide in a forest on a summer night and are bedazzled by a prankster. Approximately 25-30 students in grades 7-11 will participate in all aspects of production, including set, costumes, sound, lighting and stage management, as well as acting.

FFA

Advisor: William Coltrin

This year Morrow County FFA is 30 members strong. The students have been active this year in competitions and planning fundraisers. Their last fundraiser was a member auction that saw over \$2000 come into their account! They are also planning a trip to state convention and numerous other activities.

Honor Society

Advisor: Committee of teachers

Honor Society is different than all other clubs as it is a collection of students which have high academic standards and have to apply and be admitted based on their academic and community service. This year they are planning on getting involved in other community activities.

Pep Band

Advisor: Jeff Searles

The Irrigon Junior Senior High School Pep Band performs at the varsity basketball home games. This group includes members of the Advanced Band class that rehearses during 8th period. They provide entertainment for the crowd and encouragement for the team. It is a chance for the students to play rock and oldies music that would usually not be done in a traditional concert band class. They are an energetic bunch and have fun cheering on our teams.

Speech Club

Advisor: Eva Randolph

This club is just getting started and it meets Tuesday and Thursday until 4pm. Students hope to compete in state and regional events. They are excited and motivated to give it a try.

ASB

Advisor: Chris Davis

The official name of this club is Associated Student Body and anyone that pays their ASB fee (\$8 for JH, \$10 for HS) is an official voting member and with upcoming elections January 12 they will have the opportunity to let their voice be heard. ASB Officers are responsible for planning and running many school events.

Recognition assembly

Tentatively scheduled for January 19th for Junior High and January 20th for High school we will have a special recognition assembly for students that increased their TESA RIT scores during the first testing window. Also recognized at the assembly will be students that made the Honor Roll and students which had perfect attendance first semester. This will take place in partnership with the Advisor/Advisee program in which each student came up with an individual RIT goal for Reading, Math and Science. Advisors along with the administration will present certificates to each student recognizing their accomplishments. Mrs. Davis, the school counselor and DART coordinator, will lead the assembly.

Christmas Concert

We had a full house at our January 6th Christmas Concert. The concert was originally scheduled for December 15th but had to be moved due to inclement weather. The concert included performances by Junior High and High School choir as well as beginning, intermediate and advanced band. Mr. Jeff Searles, the band instructor and Ms. Adrienne Lorraine, the choir instructor, worked hard to give the community a wonderful concert even after the holidays. Over 80 students performed and we would like to thank all the parents and community members that came and supported the students. A spring concert is already in the works, but no date has been set.

Riverside High School

RENAISSANCE UPDATE

The newly instituted Renaissance program at Riverside High School is moving ahead with its emphasis on the positive things that are happening daily in our building. Teachers have been asked and are now creating positive notes to be sent home to students on a monthly basis. Our goal is not to send so many letters that the letter is not held in high regard; instead each teacher has been asked to select one student per month to praise. The letter home will cite a concrete example of why their child is making our world at Riverside a better place by their being part of our student body.

Another Renaissance activity is that students have been asked to write letters complimenting teachers, aides, and custodians for their impact on student lives. It is amazing who is touching which lives. These short paragraphs of praise will be read aloud at teachers' meetings, slipped in their box for a grand start to their day, and, in some cases, even published in the daily bulletin. Renaissance believes that thinking positively is a habit. It is just as easy to say good things as it is to complain. We're teaching, we're modeling, we're making a difference.

STARS

Eleven Riverside High School students, under the direction of Jay Rogers, will again participate in the STARS program. STARS stands for Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex and was originally developed by the Multnomah County Health Department in 1983. High school students are trained as teen leaders. The program is delivered in five separate classroom sessions and is designed to teach middle school students how to say "no" to sexual involvement. Student leaders will receive training on January 24th & 25th.

DRAMA BEGINS WORK FOR SOUTH PACIFIC

Characters have been cast and practice has begun for the musical South Pacific. The drama club will perform this classic this spring.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Riverside Student Body Leadership class held a canned food drive from the Monday after Thanksgiving until the Thursday before Christmas Break. Student collected much needed goods for needy families in the area as well as teaching students to give back to their communities.

RUMBLE ON THE RIVER

Riverside will host the 17th annual invitational wrestling tournament on January 7th. Each year Riverside invites eight to ten teams to compete in the Rumble. This year teams will include Southridge, Irrigon, Heppner, Umatilla, Pendleton, Grainger, Colton and Sherman County High Schools.

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

In order to recognize more of the positive role models we have at Riverside, we have decided to implement two categories of students of the month—Academic and Citizenship.

Academic: 7th Grader—Brigham Hansen
8th Grader—Shannon Callow
Freshman—Juan Colin
Sophomore—Tamara Tovey
Junior—Octavio Mendoza
Senior—Gabe Hansen

Citizenship

7th Grader—Isabella Mitts
8th Grader—Griselda Villegas
Freshman—Candice Grider
Sophomore—Kayla Sullivan
Junior—Octavio Mendoza
Senior—Joey Parrish

Teacher of the Month—Clair Costello

Classified Employee of the Month—Richard Rockwell

Sam Boardman Elementary

Many great things have happened at SBE since our board meeting in December!! SBE hosted the 3rd annual Holiday feast. This is the time we invite families in to have a holiday meal with their buccaneer. We had quite the spread this year! Kathy Hyder and all the ladies in the kitchen served up ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potato pie, home-made rolls and pumpkin squares. We served a total of 700 people and no one went home without a big smile. They were happy not only because of the food but also the ambiance of the gym and cafeteria. The teachers and students of SBE decorated the walls and tables with remarkable holiday decorations. Everyone awed over the place.

Then we all had a much needed period of rest and time with family. Christmas break is always a great time to charge the batteries!

Now 2006 is in full swing. We are focused on the next three months and are ready to make significant gains in academics. Studies have shown that Jan-March is the time that students make their best and greatest academic growth. At SBE we are utilizing the Mastery in Motion (MIM) and Survey of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) programs to target specific areas in the State Standards to make a great run at the TESA test in March.

Windy River Elementary

ELL Auditors at WRE 12-12-05

Holiday Feast @ WRE 12-13-05

Winter Concert @ WRE 12-13-05

Book Fair sold \$1100 and earned WRE \$400 worth of books! 50% increase over last year.

SOM assembly @ WRE 12-14-05

MORALES, CINTHIA	5B	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
RIOS, GEORGINA	5B	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
RODRIGUEZ, CRISTAL	5B	Confidence	DECEMBER
HERRERA, MARTIN	5C	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
NELSON, SHELBY	5C	Confidence	DECEMBER
SNYDER, JORDAN	5C	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
MENDOZA, PAOLA	5J	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
MUIR, ALICIA	5J	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
SAINEZ, ROCIO	5J	Confidence	DECEMBER
FLORES, JOSE M.	5K	Confidence	DECEMBER
NAVARRO, ROBERTO	5K	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
RODRIGUEZ, ANA	5K	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
BROADBENT, KIEFER	6B	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
HOWELL, CHEYENNE	6B	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
LLAMAS, JOVANNY	6B	Confidence	DECEMBER
BISHOP, WYATT	6C	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
MARTINEZ, CRISTY	6C	Confidence	DECEMBER
MURILLO, ABEL	6C	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
BARRERA, MCKAYLA	6F	Confidence	DECEMBER
MENDOZA, JAIME	6F	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER

VASQUEZ, ANNA	6F	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
ACEVES, DANIELA	6W	Confidence	DECEMBER
MURILLO, ESMERALDA	6W	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER
ZUNIGA, PAOLA	6W	ACADEMICS	DECEMBER

New baby from Mrs. Winters 1-9-06. Baby Girl. WRE Baby # 6 for this school year.

Upcoming Events at WRE:

Geography Bee 1-11-06

End of 2nd quarter 1-12-06

CSEPP drill 1-12-06

Morrow Education Center

Wow! It's 2006, can you believe it? As we wash away the highs and the lows of 2005, inevitably we are left with a number of resolutions for the New Year. With the end of the first semester rapidly approaching, Matt and I have reflected upon our first year in the district and developed a number of resolutions sure to improve the educational environment at Morrow Education Center.

We begin 2006 with 72 students enrolled, 45 of which are Morrow County students. Traditionally, the end of semester marks an increase in student referrals to our program. Matt and I have anticipated this increase and in a recent meeting with school administrators from Umatilla and Morrow County school districts, have made our recommendations for those students who we felt should be given the opportunity to return to their Jr/Sr. high schools. Those recommendations were based on the student's achievement of our three expectations—attend regularly, work productively, and behave appropriately.

Second semester brings with it a few new changes in the schedule at MEC. Due to popular demand we will continue our Health/Wellness class in the afternoon. In addition to our regular schedule Mr. Melendez will be offering the opportunity for students to take part in the construction of model cars as an afternoon activity. Initial interest for this opportunity has been immense. We are also gearing up for the writing assessment window to take place this February.

The staff at Morrow Education Center continues to place great emphasis on the goals set forth by the board, as well as the development of self-determination and self-advocacy skills needed to make a successful transition from school to adult life including—making appropriate choices, considering options, and communicating choices to others. Best of wishes to you all in the New Year!

Special Education

Because of Christmas break, not a lot of student contact time has occurred since our last reports, but there are several items of interest I would like to share with you.

We successfully completed our special education census this year. Last year we claimed 271 students. This year we claimed 289 students. With an increase of 18 students, we

have had to be more creative with our staffing and several of our resource rooms are at capacity in attempt to serve these students. This increase is higher than in districts around us. Hermiston was down three, but like our district, had an increase in students that have high needs. The ESD has indicated that we will receive about 15 students on IEPs into the district next year from the Early Childhood Special Education program. We will graduate 14 special education students from our high schools. I am attributing our increase this year on the general growth of student population and the demographics of our county.

Currently our severe needs students are at IES because of their age. As they become older, we will need to change our placement options. I have been talking to the special education director at Umatilla so see if there might be a situation that would allow us to serve these students by sharing resources. We will be visiting the severe needs classroom together on January 11th at Hermiston to see what they have done to meet the needs of these students. I will be working with Mr. Burrows and Mr. Smith on these solutions.