

Principal & Director Reports

April 2009

AC. Houghton Elementary

After School Benchmark Testing Tutorials: ACH is in full swing with its after-school program tutorials in preparation for the final benchmark testing in May. We screen students who have not met the benchmark and contact parents prescribing participation as part of our 236 plan. We currently have approximately 30 some students participating. These students are the ones either in math or reading, who have not reached their benchmark scores. Our hope is that this special focus can achieve farther than normal growth with the effort made.

Irrigon Youth Sports Complex Dedication: You should've gotten a special invitation to the dedication of our Sports Complex for April 18. beginning at 10 AM. This is very special for the community of Irrigon and it would be fantastic if all of you could be present to be recognized. The district land donation to the project is the **only reason we were able to leverage the grant funds that have built the project.** We very much appreciate this contribution to our community.

Irrigon Cleanup: On April 22, all ACH staff and students will be participating in an Irrigon cleanup as part of the Oregon 150 Program. All students will be spreading out over the central city area cleaning up the paper and plastic trash in about a 16 square block area. We typically pick up 4-500 pounds of crud in a very short time.

Spirit Week: The last week of April will be our annual Spirit Week. Three days of that week will be special dress-up activities involving Crazy Hair Day, 70s day, and PJ day. The final day of the week is our school colors day. Student Council will be awarding participation and extra effort awards for these efforts.

Heppner Elementary School

It is once again a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. April is upon us and as of today our enrollment at HES is 189 students which is up one from the March report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2008/2009 school year is 95.5%. As of today we have 14 students still in the running for perfect attendance for the year, as always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

March was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, with the highlight being the "Celebrate Oregon Western Dance" that was held on March 19th, sponsored by the HES PTC. This event was a great success and I would like to say **Thank You** to all who were involved with this spectacular family fun evening. I have received many positive remarks from some of the families who attended and it appeared that everyone really enjoyed spending family time together. The HES Chess Mates Club also celebrated their final day on March 16th and fun was had by all who attended.

The third quarter ended on March 20th and we held conferences at HES on April 2nd & 3rd. The Honor Card Assembly for the third quarter will be held in the HES gym at 2:15pm on Thursday, April 16th. Other noteworthy events for the month of April include the Writing Festival for 5th graders at WRE on April 2nd, and the MCSD Math Contest being held at RHS on the 16th of April as well.

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

Heppner High School

- Our spring sports are off and running very well. We have nearly 75% of our students involved in spring sports which include baseball, track, softball, golf, and a tennis coop with Ione.
- Operation Tobacco X was here on March 3rd to spend some time with our students on tobacco cessation. They played an array of games during lunch and learned some statistical information about tobacco use. This has been a great program that our students have gained great benefit from during the year.
- I took 7 of our ASB students to David Douglas High School in Portland for two full days. David Douglas is the biggest high school in the state with nearly 3000 students in grades 9-12. Earlier in the month, they brought over 11 of their students and spent two days at HHS. This has been a valuable experience for our kids to see a place where there are over 50 different languages and 65 birth nations all in one building attending the same school. We are planning on taking part in this every year, for it was a valuable experience for all involved. The Principal of David Douglas is ex Heppner student, John Bier. His dad was Jim, the principal at Heppner High School. There have been several partners formed in pulling this off and both schools gained a great experience being part of it.
- Our school play- A Broadway Review will be held at HHS on May 5th, and 6th at 7:00pm, and on the 10th at 1pm and 7pm. The students have been working very hard on this production and have done a nice job putting in the time- many with other extra-curricular activity commitments this spring.
- The National Guard landed their big helicopter at the high school on March 18th. It was a great experience for our students to see inside the ship and visit with the Guard folks.
- Our Outdoor Club has been active this spring skiing and going on outdoor trips as a club. With the late snows that the mountains have gotten in March, the club has taken advantage of Anthony Lakes 3 times in the last 5 weeks.
- State FFA convention was a hit. Our students got to experience the convention on a whole other level this year due to our students receiving some awards. It was really exciting to see four HHS students walk across the stage and receive their State Farmer Degrees.
- Mrs. Dickenson has been working with her Horticulture/Plant Science students on developing a marketing plan for their May Plant sale. I was asked to sit in on student presentations that illustrated different ideas of how they should market and advertise their plant sale. Needless to say, you will be hearing of it- some students developed a website, others are using flyers, and even others are working on painting some business windows with their marketing agenda. Needless to say- Mrs. Dickenson has it going on!
- It was a fantastic month for student achievement! Scores are to follow and I feel confident we are going to have some amazing results!!

Irrigon Elementary School

Irrigon Elementary School continues to press the focus on Reading, Math and the monthly activities of April.

OAKS Testing: We have finished our second OAKS testing and as of date our OAKS scores are: 5th Grade Reading Met is at 58%; 5th Grade Math who Met is 50%.

6th Grade Reading Met is at 66%; 6th Grade Math who Met is 49% .

We have been doubling up on math until the last OAKS tests are done in the end of April, and the beginning of May. This gives us Two months of solid teaching before our last OAKS test is given out.

ELPA Tests- For the month of March, the entire school district ESL students were taking the state mandated ELPA test (English Language Proficiency Assessment). This test determines how our district

ESL program is progressing ESL students towards English proficiency. We should receive our results by the middle of May or earlier. This will give me time to evaluate our schools, English levels, and the entire district program.

ESL District Audit- This month we received our Oregon Department of Education ESL District audit/ review. I prepared by reviewing with our administration team the basics of our ESL district plan, preparing our ESL teachers of what to expect, getting prepared our instructional aids of interviews that would be happening in our schools. The district had three findings to correct, seven recommendation and four commendations. We are still working to always improve on our sound programs, analyze data, and move forward.

Battle of the Books- This last month we finished our second Battle of the Books contest. 50 students were involved, and the winning team called, “The Smart Ones” beat out “The Book Worms”. Kids received prizes for participating and the last two teams won passes to the movies. This promotes tons of reading and challenging questions to be answered by each of the teams involved.

Washington Group Winner of a \$500 Science Grant- Ms. Laura Rowe our Title 1 teacher was chosen to be a winner of a science grant sponsored by the Washington Group located at the Army Depot. Ms. Rowe’s winning project will purchase two NEO 2’s to take reading tests related to science. Congratulations to Laura Rowe!

Irrigon High School

Over spring break Morrow County FFA had 11 students attend convention in La Grande. Students attended workshops, sessions, elected officers, and selected proficiency winners. This year, Morrow County FFA students had great success! Senior Pat Barron earned the Star in Agribusiness for the State of Oregon and will compete at the national level later this year with his proficiency. Fellow senior Breena Tolar earned 2nd Place in Ag Service for the state; her project included working for North Morrow Vector Control. Breena also earned her State FFA Degree. She is the 4th member from our chapter to earn the award.

We have been putting the final touches on our Friday interventions program. Before spring break, letters were sent to the parents of students who were in need of intervention based on their reading and mathematics OAKS scores. This week, we are following up the letters with phone calls as well. A database has been created that allows students, parents, and teachers to view graphical printouts that show how the students performed in each of the strands. By reporting strand scores, we will be able to target each student's specific areas of weakness and provide interventions that will bolster those skills. We have already developed interventions for each strand, and we will continuously add to the number of interventions available for students and teachers on Fridays.

The high school college visitations last month went very well. Each grade level visited at least two campuses in four different metro areas: Yakima/Tri-Cities, Portland, Spokane, Walla Walla. Students were presented with important information about the admissions process and the college experience, and the visitations seemed to have the desired effect: Numerous students returned with the desire to take their academics more seriously and focus on their post-secondary plans. Everyone seems to have enjoyed their experience and had nothing but positive things to report. Our Gear-Up team has already met with each grade level advisory group to debrief and make minor adjustments to improve our visitations next year. One possible change includes taking students to universities in the fall and subsequently taking advantage of the momentum gained by students' enthusiasm for colleges.

Our Spanish club spent the week of spring break in Spain touring the country. Everyone had a great time and was appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this trip. I would share more, but I have asked them to present the board with a slide show/recap of their trip at next month's board meeting.

Riverside High School

NHS BLOOD DRIVE

Riverside High School's National Honor Society hosted a blood drive at the Boardman Senior Citizen Center on March 11th. This blood drive succeeded in obtaining 44 units of blood. Seventeen pints came from first time donors. Although we fell short of our goal of 49, the members were excited. Why? Because for every unit of blood donated up to three lives can be saved. Thus we were able to help save a potential of 132 lives. Thank you to all who donated blood and we hope to see you at our next blood drive.

KEY CLUB

Area clubs; Hermiston (5A), Riverside (3A), Irrigon (2A) and Echo (1A); as part of Division 80 traveled by bus from Hermiston to the Seattle area for a weekend of workshops and networking about Key Club activities and projects.

Seven Riverside Key Club members traveled to the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Key Club Convention on March 27-29, 2009. Riverside members were: Tim Thomason, Gab Cox, Andrea Orozco, Juana Gaytan, Ashley Anderson, Amanda McKnight and Sasha Richardson. Workshops included officer training, fundraising, developing life changing service projects, and several dance style workshops in time for the convention ball and Brad Henning presented on "Don't Take Love Lyin' Down".

The eastern side of the Pacific Northwest district combined together to lend their voices while competing in the spirit competition during the opening ceremonies. The joint effort resulted in the entire eastside of PNW being awarded the top half of the spirit stick for decoration.

Installation of incoming 2009-10 Riverside Key Club officers trained during the convention will be held April 30, 2009 at the Port of Morrow.

FIRST AID & CPR

The Boardman EMT's are currently working with Mr. Boor's juniors and seniors for 2 weeks training them in First Aide and CPR. At the end of the training, students will receive their First Aide and CPR cards. These skills will help students prove their competence on their Senior Project as well as with employment opportunities. Mr. Boor would like to thank the Boardman EMT's for volunteering with this project.

DRAMA PRODUCTION

The Riverside High School Drama Department is presenting "A Midsummer Vacations Nightmare" April 3rd and 4th, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Tickets are available at Riverside, Banner Bank, and Bank of Eastern Oregon.

GIRL'S BASKETBALL

The Riverside varsity girls' basketball team was a member of the Dairy Farmers of Oregon Academic All-state program finishing with a 3.12 GPA.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Riverside Jr/Sr High had 120 students with perfect attendance for the 3rd quarter.

AP PROGRAM

Riversides AP Program has come a long way this year. Students enrolled in AP classes will have an opportunity to test with College Board in May. Veronica Cortez, Ben Bonser, William Pullen, and G Ann Thomas attended the summer AP program to prepare them to teach the program and coordinate with College Board this year. We also received a \$10,000 grant for training in June 2009; William Pullen, Ben Bonser, Veronica Cortez, and Kyle Carpenter will attend the AP Summer Program which will help them develop strategies, curriculum, and techniques for their AP classes in the upcoming year. We added AP World History (Pullen), AP Spanish Literature (Bonser), and AP Calculus (Cortez) to the existing AP Literature and Composition (Carpenter), and AP English and Composition (Carpenter) Classes this year.

We also received a \$3700 Pre AP Training Grant from the State of Oregon. We sent a team: William Pullen (History), Veronica Cortez (Math), Kyle Carpenter (Language Arts), Rebecca Renfro (Science) and G Ann Thomas (AP Coordinator) to Hillsboro to attend the workshop. They will go one more time in May for the second part of the Pre AP workshop. It is designed to help schools identify those skills in core areas that would be necessary for students to know when proceeding into AP classes in high school and as preparation for entering training in college or vocational schools after high school. The idea is to teach all students those identified essential skills so they will be productive not only in AP classes but in all core classes in junior high and high school.

Windy River Elementary

4th Grade Parent Party

4th grade hosted the monthly Parent Party on Wednesday, March. 18. The topic of this month's party was reading, specifically AR!

An explanation of how the program works. STAR testing is conducted at the beginning of each quarter, with a ZPD score resulting. What, exactly, a ZPD was explained, and modeled. Using this ZPD, the teacher assigns a goal for each student. This goal is coupled with a needed 85% average on tests taken. Parents at today's party enjoyed being read to, or reading with their child. We utilized both computer labs where students could take their individual book tests. It was a quiet party, with so much reading going on! This was also a great review for the students as to how the AR program works, and how we arrive at the ZPD.

Student of the Month(s)

FEBRUARY	Academics	Academics	Theme - Honesty/ Integrity
Beagle	Wenceslao Olvera	Ashley Martinez	Shellie Munoz
Boor	Lilian Melendez	Andrea Madrigal	Judit Castaneda
Browne	Dixie Gonzalez	Juana Martinez	Derek Bingaman
Chapman	Jenny Rodriguez	Hannah Mossman	Yaniva Garcia
Cox	Bethany Aldrich	Edwin Cisneros	Irydiana Alavarez
Dames	Gabrielle Miller	Veronica Rodriguez	Jared Snyder
Gaede	Belinda Lomas		Sadie Hasbell
Keefer	Ariana Corpus	Rocio Martinez	Crystal Marquez
Prindle	Marino Pena	Denisse Carrillo	Sonali Turner
Strebin	Dylon Walters	Veronica Garza	Gabrielle Ganvoa

MARCH	Academics	Academics	Theme - Courage
Beagle	Wenceslao Olvera	Clay Miller	Rickey Sanchez
Boor	Briselda Navarro	Zoey Gomez	Luis Garay
Browne	Ben Cobos	Kelly McLaughlin	Jonathan Lopez
Chapman	Jerry Rodriguez	Kirsten Taylor	Laura Afanador
Cox	Kelvin Jimenez	Zulema Ramirez	Sam Loshbaugh-Gilbert
Dames	Katelyn Bass	Eon Castillo	Veronica Rodriguez
Gaede	Xenia Velasco		Samantha Cabrera
Keefer	Edgar Rodriguez	Gabriela Alba	Cari Barton
Prindle	Bianca Gutierrez	Sergio Farias	Ricardo Mendoza
Strebin	Teneisha Peterson	Juan Torres	Sandra Madrigal

Artist in Residence

WRE will have an Artist in Residence from April 6-16. Her name is Nancy Attebury. She is an author from La Grande who is doing a writing project with our students for the next two weeks.

Writing Festival

On Thursday, April 2nd, Morrow County students had the opportunity to meet with Oregon author, Eric Kimmel, at the third annual Windy River Writing Festival. In addition to 4th- 5th grade students from WRE, 5th and 6th grade students from Irrigon and Heppner Elementary were also in attendance. This year's festival included Mr. Kimmel, an author from Portland who has published more than 90 books. Mr. Kimmel was a dynamic and exciting speaker, who motivated students about writing and telling stories. The theme for the day was "Stories from Around the World." In addition to a session with the artist, students participated in writing workshop style classes with teachers from WRE, IES and HES. All in all, the day was a huge success and students thoroughly enjoyed writing and meeting up with new friends from across the district. The author hopes that we will invite him back for a similar day in the future.

Los Lobos Presidential Honor Society

Fourteen fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students from Windy River Elementary School were inducted into membership of the Los Lobos Presidential Honor Society in a ceremony held at the school on March 20th.

To be eligible for membership considerations, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50. Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character. Members of Windy River's fourth, fifth, and sixth grades were evaluated and selected by the Faculty Council consisting of six members of the faculty chosen by the principal.

Leadership is based on the student's participation in two or more community or school activities, or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have been active in three or more service projects in the school and community. Citizenship is measured by the student's participation in civic-related organizations and/or activities. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty.

Students inducted were Bianca Barajas, Paige Bither, Sierra Koehler, Gabriela Mendoza, Edith Velasco, Sadie Hasbell, Belinda Lomas, Lacey Mashos, Gabrielle Miller, Kirsten Taylor, Xenia Velasco, Clay Miller, Eon Castillo, and Aristotle Rockwell.

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for March:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Gabriel Morales Liberty Jacquez James Tiboni Natalie Reed	Cynthia Diaz Pablo Claustro Karen Frausto Anayeli Ibarra	Adair Rodriguez Gavin Wade Hayden Bigham Will Keefer	America Pacheco Jocelyn Lezama Hannah Payne Ashanti Brister	Mrs. Christy 93%
1st Grade	Jesus Carmona Natalie Wade Rosella Brister Jacqueline Amaya	Anthony Flores Eliana Esparza Isabella Garvoa Aurora Garcia	Isaiah Armstrong Lisette Sanchez Destiny Aldrich Sebastian Sanchez	Kelly Ashe Blake Davis Alexis Navarro Sarah Calvillo	Mrs. Harrison 96%
2nd Grade	Rose Jurcich Karrizima Luna Gisselle Rodriguez Christian Murguia	Estrella Daltoso David Ghising Grace Wheeler Karen Cambero	Chance Frederickson Zulema Gayton Anthony Carrillo-Cortez Brendy Avalos	Adelfo Sanchez Blas Zapata Alexis Cambero Aidan Barresse	Mrs. Files 98%
3rd Grade	Ivonne Navarro Luis Gonzalez Sonia Medina	Jose Peralta Jessica Calvillo Kevin Madrigal	Ulises Calvillo Lizeth Zuniga Misael Madrigal	Angelic Perez Yoselin Ayuso Jesses Hibbitts	Mrs. Bankston 97%

Enrollment: 312 **Attendance:** Average attendance for March was 92.99%

Writing Assessments: Third grade students completed their off-grade writing assessments. We await the results.

Friday School: 81% of eligible students are participating (34 students). Teachers focus their instruction on reading and math and students practice OAKS type test questions using the computer program, Study Island.

In-school Extension and Interventions: Third grade teachers continue to provide small group instruction with a focus on math calculations and estimation. Third grade students continue to take advantage of the multiple readings provided by the “Read Naturally” content reading intervention program. Title 1A teacher provides direct instruction for small groups of our lowest scoring students K-3.

Annual CSEPP drill: Staff successfully loaded the CSEPP buses in record time, demonstrating preparedness in this annual CSEPP drill.



Third Quarter AR Party: Over 275 students reached their AR goals and celebrated the 4,176 books read this quarter and the 11,117 books read so far this year! Way to go Buccaneers!

Site Council updated progress on our school-wide goals. We reviewed OAKs assessment results and attendance and their potential impact on our school report card. Site council reviewed our parent survey in preparation for parent

conferences and added new questions on meals, bus, nutrition, and the frequency of our Buccaneer Newsletter. We look forward to these survey results.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are being attended well. Teachers are sharing the 236 Plan with parents and inviting those parents with students not at grade level to reserve summer school dates and look forward to spring assessment results. We have been promoting Serial Levy awareness with fliers and by wearing buttons. Parents taking the survey earn a coupon for a free RIF book.

SBE parents and staff are taking the Boardman Business Fitness Challenge! From April 1st through June 30th business teams will be logging their exercise minutes and competing for the best team average

Classified staff was appreciated all week Hawaiian style with treats including a breakfast, Luau Lunch, Smoothie Sailing Social and a cake sponsored by the district. Twice during the week certified staff provided coverage so that all the classified staff could enjoy a break together.

Please join us next month in celebrating **Certified Week**, May 4th through May 7th.