

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **June 2007**

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

##### **State Assessment**

What a fast school year. We are now finished with our state assessment paper and pencil tests and they have been sent in to the state for scoring. It is very difficult to stay in our research-based problem-solving mode when we don't have any data on how we have done because we will not get results until Midsummer at the earliest. We have appealed six of our writing tests that we felt were either passes or near passes. This could bump our success rate up above last year in the pass category.

##### **Stable Staff**

So far, it appears that we are going to be quite fortunate and are going to be keeping most of our, possibly all of our staff for next year. This helps with continuity of program and commitment to continue our efforts to make improvements as a building.

##### **Susan Castillo Visit**

State Superintendent, Susan Castillo, was here last week to present our Exceptional School Flag. Mr. Burrows joined our presentation and both had good words to say to students and staff. It was a brief, great program. It took a lot of hard work to make the Exceptional School Status happen and I'm very proud of our staff and students for accomplishing everything that they did.

##### **Project SOLV State Award**

Next Tuesday, 6/5, our student body officers and a parent will be in Salem to receive a State award from Governor Kulongoski for a student involvement community cleanup project from last spring. It is a tremendous honor for our school to receive this and opportunity for our student leadership to meet the Governor of the State of Oregon.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

##### **On the Road**

The Heppner Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students took a trip to The Dalles Discovery Center learning many things about Lewis and Clark and the beginnings of Wasco County. Students got to see how fires were started 'back in the day', learn how to use a compass and guess symbols that were used by Lewis and Clark on their journey.

Students also enjoyed swimming at the Court Club and dinner out at Spooky's Pizza with a special treat of meeting and petting a baby kangaroo.



Heppner Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade went to the John Day fossil beds. They had the opportunity to dig up fossils older than most of their teachers. The students were very well behaved and enjoyed the experience. It was a hot day and I know the parent chaperones were run ragged. A big thank you to them.



The HES awards assembly was June 4<sup>th</sup> and was a very big success. It was nice to see so many students receive awards for doing so well in school. The parent turnout was wonderful and you missed out on some terrific cookies.

Students at Heppner Elementary have been participating in the Bal-A-Vis-X program. Bal-A-Vis-X is a series of balance, auditory, and vision exercises of varied complexity. Most activities are deeply rooted in rhythm. The program utilizes beanbags, racquetballs, balance boards, and tracking devices. It demands cooperation, promotes self-challenge, fosters peer teaching, and also naturally lengthens attention spans.

Teachers have noticed that as the students' balance, fine motor, and coordination improve, their academics and behavior also improve.



I want to give a big thank you to everyone in the Morrow County School District. My experience here has been very positive. This is a supportive and loving community. I complement the Board on the dedication and support that they give. As an administrator in MCSD I have always felt the backing of the district.

Thank you again,  
Jack Thompson

### **Heppner High School**

- Our Senior GOAL interviews went extremely well with all students passing the first time through. This event involved many community members and staff. Our students were well prepared and it was pulled off without a hitch. What a great learning experience for all involved.
- Finished our School Improvement plan- the Site Council has done a great job putting this together.
- We held our last Attendance Pays assembly. The ASB Student Council gave out \$400 to students this year for their great attendance.
- Youth Sports Academy is happening this month. Our football camp is will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Our basketball camp will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and our volleyball camp will be from June 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are working on wrestling and baseball for later in the summer.
- Our spring sports are done and we have had an extremely successful outing by all sports with several state competitions, etc.
- There will be a Heppner Alumni football game on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the fairgrounds.
- Our Tech Ed students and our ASB are still working on new signs for our entries to the high school.
- We held our National Honor Society induction with a luncheon in the cafeteria. It was well attended by parents and our class of inductees was large compared to past years.

- Our Outdoor Club held its last event of the year with a campout at Cutsforth Park over the weekend of May 20<sup>th</sup>. The kids seemed to really enjoy all of the great activities that Mr. Fowler had prepared for their experience.
- We held our first FFA Banquet on the May 25<sup>th</sup>. A great deal of work and effort by both kids and our advisor went into this event. Mrs. Dickenson has been extremely visionary this year with starting our new FFA program- and is always a step ahead of the pack with activities.
- Summer basketball games are starting the week of the 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue throughout the month exposing our student/athletes to teams from around the state.
- The Drama Club finished their four dates of the spring play- Radium Girls- a comedy that turned out very good. We get a lot out of our Drama Club every year with many students involved and two plays annually.
- After losing five teachers last year, it has been refreshing to know that we have retained everyone for next year and will not be looking to hire anyone at this point. Exciting stuff!
- I am working on our Master Schedule for next year. We will not be offering any “Advanced Placement” classes due to us not being able to support a two year curriculum with AP. Instead, we will be offering the same class with one year curriculum named “honors” vs. “AP”.
- We will be sending letters home about summer school. We will be offering a credit recovery program using PLATO for High School students and for a few selected Jr. High students, we will offering some enrichment in the areas of Language Arts and Math.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**Evening of Stars:** We will have our GRAND end of the year event on the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup>. At “Evening of Stars” we recognize our students for accomplishments made throughout the year. Students will be recognized for AR success, achieving benchmark in reading and math, volunteer community service, contest participation, Walk Across Oregon and Chess Club. Many area businesses have generously donated items for a prize drawing. Students have been adding their names to the drawing as they have completed books all year. The prizes include bikes, tickets to a hockey game, fishing poles, and other cool stuff that kids love. Our bands and choir will also be performing. The evening will culminate with an ice cream social sponsored by our Parent Club.

**School Wide Planning:** Our Site Council and staff have finished evaluating our School Wide Plan implemented this year and have drafted the Plan for next year.

Accomplishments within our 2006-07 Plan are:

- Increased attendance and added enrichment opportunities for Afterschool Club
- AR Program with 16,000 points earned/read by our student body
- Development of a writing curriculum map with a continuum from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Increased family involvement at Student Body Assemblies, as volunteers, and at school events.
- Development and implementation of Bully Prevention via education and proactive intervention

**Community Service:** Irrigon Elementary School Student Council has held two events this year to raise money for the Irrigon Community Library. The first was a Family Movie Night held in February and the second a penny drive in May. The proceeds from both events were given to the Irrigon Library Fund. We are very proud of our students for embracing service to our community.

**Outdoor School:** We had a wonderful week of Outdoor School with our sixth graders. This year was the first year in many years that Boardman and Irrigon sixth graders went as separate schools. This proved to make a big difference in the activities we were able to offer our students. Students learned about weather, soil and rocks, watershed, wilderness survival, and wildlife. Each section was presented by an expert in the field who volunteered to join us at Camp Meadowood to share their knowledge with our students. Excellent weather, outstanding high school counselors, and enthusiastic teachers made the week a BLAST!

**Students Arriving @ Camp Meadowood**



**Students were divided into Tribes. They cooperative agreed on a name and made a symbolic flag.**



**Each day ended with a campfire with songs and skits.**



## **Irrigon High School**

First Irrigon Jr Sr High School Graduation!!!!

What a great evening it was! We printed 500 programs and had to print up 200 more. The crowd was tremendous—it was more like a pep rally! The guest speaker was Sami Griffin escorted by her graduating grandson Ben. Over \$280,000 in scholarship money and tuition payments was handed out to the graduating seniors. Thirty seven students walked across the stage with two more finishing up their requirements this week.

It was a great celebration for the students and their families. It was also a celebration for the community of Irrigon and all those that worked so hard to put a high school in Irrigon. Visitors included former IHS Comet alumni. Mr. Mark Burrows and Mr. Ken Matlack handed out the diplomas. Mr. Pat McNamee was also in attendance.

The atmosphere was electric and the audience was cheering throughout the ceremony. The graduates knew their place in the community's history and were awarded a special medallion commemorating the event.

I have been involved in many graduations, but never one that was the first. It was one I will always remember. It is safe to say that this school has a bright future and community support. Thank you to all who helped make this a special night and a very special year. Go Knights!

## **Riverside High School**

### **RHS CHOIR BRINGS HOME TROPHY**

Riverside's combined choir placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Music In The Parks Music Festival held at Silverwood Theme Park. Evelyn Garcia was selected as one of two outstanding soloists from over 200 students from nine different schools. Riverside was just nine points shy of receiving top honors of "Outstanding Choir" of the entire festival.

### **CAREER CRUISING**

Career Cruising is our career exploration program available to students and staff. Riverside will be changing the Career Cruising access codes and passwords for students to their SSID number and their PASS Pin number. This way the access to Career Cruising is the same as the one for their grades and other school information. The positive result is that parents will be able to look at what their students have done in Career Cruising, and all students will have access to their work from home without having to try to remember their latest version of username and password. The students will no longer be able to change their passwords/usernames in Career Cruising. All students 7-12 will have access from home to Career Cruising and its career pathway planning activities by the fall.

### **DOUG FLATT & CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD WINNERS**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, two of Riverside's finest were recognized at the Crystal Apple Award Ceremony held at the Pendleton Red Lion Inn. Language Arts teacher, Kathy Simonis was awarded the Crystal Apple Award and principal, Dirk Dirksen was honored with the Doug Flatt Memorial Leadership Award.

### **CLASS OF 2007**

Riverside will graduate 51 seniors on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thirteen students, or 25% of the class, have passed their CIM; seven seniors, or 14%, graduate with a 3.5 GPA or above; five students, or 10%, are National Honor Society Members; and eight student, or 16% will receive an Honors Diploma.

Ten seniors had Perfect Attendance for one or more years. One year: Dannielle Baker, Jennifer Flores, Andrew McKee, Marie Patterson. Two years: Josh Parker, Aaron Rouska. Three years: Nicholas Harrison, Aaron Hendricks, Robert Turner. Heather Hancock maintained Perfect Attendance throughout all four years of high school.



Four seniors received the OSAA Scholar Award for earning a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA while earning a varsity letter in an OSAA sanctioned sport or activity—Clay Callow, Aaron Hendricks, Josh Parker and Josie Pritchard.

Senior Aaron Hendricks was awarded the Principal's Leadership Award on May 15<sup>th</sup> during Night of Excellence. This award goes to a senior who has excelled in academics, school service, community service and who serves as a role model to his peers. The recipient must also demonstrate integrity, motivation, initiative and leadership qualities.

### **NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Over 2,000 high school student throughout Oregon have been honored as Students of Merit, sponsored by the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators. Riverside students receiving this award are: Jennifer Flores—Language Arts; Joe Rupe—Math; Daniel Hansen—Health/PE & Science; Candido Cornejo—Foreign Language; Josh Parker—Business/Marketing; Doris Hill—Visual Arts; Evelyn Garci—Performing Arts; Andrew McKee—Social Studies; Ofelia Cisneros—Computer Science; Eduardo Nunez-Lezama—Industrial Arts.

### **APRIL/MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

#### **CITIZEN**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Devon Rea  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Stephanie Medina  
Frosh—Griselda Villegas  
Soph—Hazael Mejia  
Jr—Berenice Morales  
Sr—Missy Morelli

#### **ACADEMIC**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Greysi Trujillo  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Ezio Rodriguez  
Frosh—Hortencia Madrigal  
Soph—Juan R. Rodriguez  
Jr—Daniel Hansen  
Sr—Jennifer Flores

### **Windy River Elementary**

As I begin to write this report it is hard to believe that we have just 3 student days left in 06-07 school year. It has been a great year for both staff and students at WRE. May was the icing on the cake so to speak with activities that students had been looking forward to for the entire year. Here is a list of the highlights of May and end of year activities:

**May 14-17** Outdoor school for 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

**May 14** WRE in evening/ District Spelling Contest in evening @ Pendleton

**May 24** Aquatic Day at Pendleton swimming pool grades 4-6

**May 30** SOM assembly 10:15 a.m.

**May 31-June 1** 5<sup>th</sup> grade Field trip to the John Day Fossil Beds

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** AR Skating party/ Students who met their goal for the first 3 quarters

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** 1:00 Final Awards Assembly

In between these activities we were even able to squeeze in our last set of tests. Thanks to our DART person Jenifer Cox everything went well with the old fashion paper and pencil testing method.

Our Outdoor school was a complete success. Wonderful weather greeted us each day and the students were enthusiastic throughout the week. Yes I did end up doing the chicken dance with a bucket on my head. I blame our cooks for serving such good food that everyone ate all of their food. The high school counselors were a great help as well.

Along with that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a great experience on their overnight trip to the John Day Fossil Beds. We look forward to this becoming an annual trip as a part of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum.

This will be my last report to the Board as my retirement date fast approaches. I would like to thank the Board for their support throughout my career as a teacher and an administrator in Morrow County Schools. My last two years as principal of Windy River have been the most enjoyable of my career. I wish Morrow County Schools all the best in the future; it has been a great ride for the past 31 years.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

This is a difficult time for SBE. The fire has taken a toll not only on the building but on the staff as well. It is hard to put into words the amount of their own lives teachers put into their classrooms and when the teachers heard the school had burned they felt a deep sense of loss and fear that their classrooms were a total loss. That loss would not be just paper or pencils it would also mean losing many years of work preparing books, bulletin boards and many other items that make SBE classrooms special for our students everyday.

But through it all the staff has kept their chins up and made life a little easier on the rest of the district stepping in as substitutes. This is a tough situation but one the staff at SBE handled with the utmost professionalism and respect.

The building is a buzz with activity. Cooper construction is working very hard to get the building empty so the interior contents can be cleaned off-site and the shell itself can start to be put back to normal. I know that the number 1 priority is the structural issues that the fire caused. In dealing with the gentleman from Cooper construction I am confident that the job will be finished in a timely manor and be of the highest quality.

On a more personal note, I would like to finish this report, my last with MCSD, with a heart felt thank you. I was welcomed into the fold 4 years ago to 2 buildings, 2 staffs, 2 offices and 1 very supportive vice-principal by the name of Thad Killingbeck. Since then I have grown as a person and as an administrator and made some life-long friendships. I will never forget my experiences at MCSD and most of all I will never forget the people who I had the pleasure of sharing my life with for the past 4 years. I wish my fellow administrators the best of luck in their new (and not-so-new) assignments and positions and to the board I would like to thank you for taking a chance on a young guy who loved kids and was ready to make the 'leap' to administration.

### **ELL Program**

The month of May has seen many changes and events, but we settle in that we are having a bonanza of calm and stability after many changing things that have come our way.

The last Family Education Night meeting in Irrigon was a success! We had about 50 parents, students and staffs attend our last family night of celebration with a pot-luck and speeches. Parents are excited to continue this program and even add other classes that would help the community learn more at Irrigon. We hope in the beginning of the new school year there is the same enthusiasm to continue this program of total family education.

The ELL director's involvement at Riverside High School continued to go forth in areas of school visitations, to senior interviews, school conference, and other administrative activities. All this came until a new assignment was properly made available to the ELL director to take the challenge of being

the principal of Irrigon Elementary School, and to continue the leadership of the district ELL program. This too is exciting and has its advantages.

Since this new assignment, the ELL director has moved to Irrigon Elementary School and he is nicely learning the wonderful environment there at his future new assignment.

The final ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessments) scores are in from the state. We have about 65 students who were at a level "5" the highest level. This means that about 13 % of our students will be exited from the ESL program next year. Level "5" students must be exited, because they show the highest level of English proficiency. Our numbers of ELL students will go down a little. We will not seek to exit the 20% of our ESL students that the federal government expects in order to make our AMAO's.

In spite of the Sam Boardman Elementary School fire, we have been able to bring to a proper close all of the final ESL program definitions that are in our ELL District Plan. We have been able to exit all level "5" proficient students, have our school end-of-the year summaries, order curriculum for next year, set staff changes, re-check our ESL data sent to ODE, and send notices to parents of any changes made to their students ESL placement. My ESL staff is a dependable crew to sail with. They have all worked very hard. I am proud of all the ESL staff in Morrow County Schools. They have given their best; they have given their all.

### **Morrow Education Center**

The third annual Morrow Education Center graduation is officially in the books. I must say there is nothing more rewarding than handing out twelve diplomas to twelve deserving graduates. By all accounts this year should be considered a huge success! We at MEC were able to provide a unique service to many students within the district, and in many cases were able to rebound educational and behavioral tracks that were headed in the wrong direction. We have also increased the average daily attendance percentage this year and continue to see an average of well over 25 students a day at the alternative school. I consider this an achievement in itself, considering we lost twelve students to graduation and many others to summer agricultural field work. We continue to praise each student on a daily basis for their continued motivation and desire to better themselves through this distinct educational opportunity, even though most already have visions of summer vacation dancing in their heads.

I would like to take a moment to thank and praise each of you along with Mr. Burrows for having the best interests of Morrow County students in mind, when you chose to take control over the daily operations of the Morrow Education Center three years ago. I have enjoyed the past three years here at MEC and have welcomed and embraced the daily challenges that go along with serving this population of students. My goal from the beginning has always been to serve the students of MEC with a safe and effective learning environment, which has ultimately led to more student engagement. The MEC staff is already thinking about next year's challenges, and has been considering some changes and program enhancements. I think you will find that this program will continue to build upon the excellence the board, administrators, and educators of this district have come to know and I know that MEC will be in good hands with Mr. Forrest McKinnis at the helm.