

Principal & Director Reports

April 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

ACH Carnival

The annual parent group/staff and student Carnival will be this Thursday on April 10. This has been a very successful function over the last several years raising many dollars for student activities and parent group projects. Some of the major funding this year was assisting with funding our Artist in Residence, Funding Our Family Skate/Reading/and Movie Night's. They also funded part of the cost of eight new teeter totters on the playground. Attendance is huge as it is one of the bigger events of Irrigon for the entire year.

Savings Program

Next week our local Bank of Eastern Oregon will be making special presentations to students in the area of economic education entitled " Teaching Children to Save ". This should be good information for many students who probably don't have a clue regarding the concept.

Good Behavior Movies

On Wednesday, we will be celebrating six weeks of excellent behavior as a school with our Good Behavior Movies. In order to attend, a student needs to have no contact with the office of any kind for disciplinary reasons. We have had a very good year for student management and behavior and discipline. Only a handful of students will not be attending.

State Benchmark Testing Preparation

We have completed our midyear state assessment for third and fourth-grade math and reading. We will be organizing assessment. tutorial work for students who have not yet passed benchmarks. This will mean there will be some influx and outflux from our afterschool program with the corresponding intensive parent contact for both directions of movement. Reading assessment is progressing as we would expect with fairly good scores even though the benchmarks are higher. Math is showing some improvement.

Also, we recently received our fourth-grade state writing assessment results. Results are approximately the same statistically with a couple less meeting benchmark and a couple more making the conditional benchmark.

Heppner Elementary School

It is once again a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. April snuck up on us and as of today our enrollment at HES is 194 students which is up four from the March report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2007/2008 school year is 95.7%. This is slightly up again

from last month and can be attributed to the “Be At School, Be A Winner” contest which began February 19th. Any HES student with perfect attendance from February 19th through June 5th will be entered into a drawing for great prizes to be given away at our end of the year assembly on June 5th. As of today we have 111 students still in the running and 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 “Steppin’ out with the Family Dinner & Dance” that was held on March 7th, and sponsored by the HES PTC. This awesome event was a great success, raising more than \$3,100.00 for the PTC. 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 the positive family time together. Spring Break was the other March highlight for most of the HES students and staff.

On April 1, 2008 Jan Coe retired after serving in the HES kitchen for the past 22 years, we appreciate her many years of service and she will be missed by all of us! The third quarter ended on March 20th and we held conferences at HES on April 3rd & 4th. The Honor Card Assembly for the third quarter will be held in the HES gym at 2:15pm on Thursday, April 10th. Other noteworthy events which will be taking place during the month of April include a Writing Festival for 5th graders at WRE on April 17th, and the MCSD Math Contest being held at HHS on the same day.

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

- Mrs. Dickenson took 14 students to the State FFA Convention in Pendleton. It was a great experience where Josie Miller just missed the cut to become a state officer. She made the top 10 and there was an article in the East Oregonian about all of the hurdles and adversity she faced with the process. Our school is very proud of her efforts and our FFA Program.
- ASB Elections and speeches will be this Thursday during Activity Period.
- The National Guard landed a big Chinook helicopter the week of the 21st. Our kids got an orientation and tour of the ship. It was an experience for all.
- Band Festival is coming on the 9th of April where our music students will compete in choir, individual talent, and Pep Band competitions.
- Baseball, Golf, and Track are all going strong and doing well! Our student numbers are high and it seems all are having fun.
- Our Writing scores are back and our school is pretty proud of our 10th grade scores- 31 out of 36 students passed or exceeded. That is an amazing 86%. Congrats to our entire staff with all of the writing that is happening in all areas.
- We held our last document camera training with the ESD this month. Our staff is using this technology in the classroom every day and most cases every period. The Eastern Oregonian did a nice article concerning what HHS is doing with technology and trying to stay exceptional. It was published on Saturday, March 29th.

- The HHS staff have made a commitment to contribute to the district wide shared folder. We have seen this as a great tool where schools, programs, and teachers can share information of good lessons, unit plans, etc. with one another. It will only grow from here.
- District Math Contest will be held here at HHS for students grade 4-8 at 6pm on the 17th.
- HHS has held two incentive based celebrations for our students that met their testing goal in both math and reading. For math, our staff put together a PI eating celebration and reading staff held a root beer float party. I am happy to say we had over 80% involvement overall!
- GOAL Celebration is the 9th and 10th from 6pm till 8pm at HHS. Our seniors have prepared for this and it should be a fun evening.
- National Honor Society has their induction ceremony during lunch on the 23rd. Please consider this an invitation to come if you would like.
- Pillow Talk spring play is the 23rd and 25th at 7pm, as well as the 27th at 1pm.
- Prom is the 26th of April this year. The Juniors have worked very hard to put this together for the Seniors.

Irrigon Elementary School

In March we had several activities that have been highlighted below:

1. **OAKS Tests-** Our second round of OAKS testing show that:
 - a. Fifth grade has: 37% met the Math benchmark test and 56% met the Reading benchmark test.
 - b. Sixth grade has: 52% met the Math benchmark test and 72% met the Reading benchmark test.

We still have one more try at the Oregon State OAKS test this month and next month. Our goal is to match the State average for next year's scores, and show growth from last year.

2. **Morning Math-** Since so many children come to school early, I saw the opportunity to have students work on Math. Those children who have not yet reached their OAKS Math benchmark are working on math until the morning bell dismisses them to recess. A credit of .10 cents is given for each page finished with 80% passing to buy things at the school store.
3. **Attendance-** From the beginning of school to the end of the first quarter Irrigon Elementary School is at 96% attendance. We have been awarding student \$25 gift card incentives every week for: Perfect Weekly Attendance, 100% of their Weekly AR goal, No referrals, and met their Reading OAKS test benchmark. Attendance is looking better every day.
4. **More Math-** We feel alright about doing well in our next state tests in Reading, but our concern is Math. Therefore, we have put aside one subject or limited its attention, and now every teacher is teaching Math twice a day to our students. We expect to show that it makes a difference of having "More-Math" being taught to our children. Let's see.

Irrigon High School

Senior Class Information

There are many things that the Senior Class is preparing for in order to be fully prepared for Graduation and beyond. On Tuesday April 8th Representative Greg Smith will be here discussing their State Government and issues that pertain to them as young adults. Seniors will also be feverishly preparing for their Irrigon Culminating Experience (ICE) interviews on April 14th and 15th. They will be presenting their portfolio of work as well as their goals for after Irrigon High School. If you are interested in sitting in on an interview panel please contact the school and we can get you the training needed.

Jostens will be here on the 17th of April to hand out all the graduation orders that have been paid for. If you still need to make a payment you can contact them at (509) 586-1621 to make arrangements.

Finally on April 30th the Senior Class will be traveling to Salem for the day. Visiting the State Capital, touring the Supreme Court as well as visiting Willamette University. This month is cram packed with activities and we will continue to meet with the seniors to make sure that all are academically ready to graduate as well.

ASVAB Planned

The annual ASVAB testing is coming up on Tuesday April 15th for all juniors. This test is one of the standardized tests that are offered to our students to help them begin planning their occupational goals. It tests the normal English and Math and Science but it goes beyond that to test their aptitude on skills needed for the trades. This has been traditionally a test given to those students interested in the military but here at Irrigon High School we have all the juniors take it as it assists the counselor and their advisors in guiding them in different avenues that they may not even know they are interested in. This test will take place the morning of the 15th in the cafeteria and the results will be included in their ICE portfolio.

Forestry Visitation

The Heppner Forestry office is coming back on the 21st to meet with the juniors. They will be discussing the employment opportunities as well as getting information on those that would be interested in participating in their camp during the fall. This year we had four seniors participate and two are being actively recruited for summer jobs in places like Pomeroy, WA and Ukiah, OR. This is a great opportunity that if students are interested could lead to careers after high school!

Artist Visit

On April 14th students in Irrigon will be able to watch a wonderful assembly put on by Homowo African Arts and Culture. The funding for the program was provided by North Morrow Community Foundation.

Each year the foundation fundraises to provide opportunities for the Boardman and Irrigon communities and students in the areas of arts and culture.

Knight's Klean-up Day

It is a scheduled day when all of the students of Irrigon Junior Senior High School will be out and around the community giving back for all that the community has done for them.

"Knight's Klean-up Day" is developed not only to help out around the community but as an educational activity. The students will be involved in the planning of the projects. They will also be writing reflection papers about their projects.

Each advisory class will work to develop an activity that gives back to the community. These activities might include spring cleaning, educational programs at the elementary schools, or other meaningful tasks or chores. The projects are going to focus on beautifying our town and school, helping those who could use a little help, and encouraging student involvement in the community

Riverside High School

AP Update

In planning for next year's schedule, we will offer several AP (Advanced Placement) Classes.

- ESL/Spanish teacher, Ben Bonser, will teach AP Spanish Literature.
- Language Arts & Social Studies teacher, William Pullen, will teach AP World History. We will use this class as a Pilot Program for juniors and seniors. This will provide a 3rd year of Social Studies needed for the new requirements and will give seniors a Social Studies elective.
- Math teacher, Veronica Cortez will teach AP Calculus.
- Language Arts teacher, Lea Mathieu will continue to teach AP Language & Composition and AP Literature & Composition.

Read Across America

Riverside Junior-Senior High celebrated "Read Across America" on Monday, March 3 with an all-school assembly. In honor of Dr. Seuss, who would have been 104 years old on March 2, teachers and students read aloud several of his works, including *Oh, The Places You'll Go* (dedicated to the seniors), *There's a Wocket in My Pocket*, and *Green Eggs and Ham* (in both English and Spanish). The assembly was organized by the high school leadership class.

Club Activities

National Junior Honor Society which consists of 8th and 9th graders participated in raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during the month of February and March. Each member was given the task to sell at least 10 hearts for \$1.00 a piece to family, community, and friends to raise money. NJHS was able to raise a total of \$112.00 to contribute to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation this year. Our hopes are to more next year.

MeCha (Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan) members volunteered their time to help create and laminate 24 posters that will be used for a workshop on living with chronic illnesses. The workshop "Living Well with Chronic Disease" is open to any adult. The workshop will be taught by Maria Romero and Teresa Marsh from the Columbia River Community Health Services in Boardman. The workshop will begin on April 10th at the Boardman Senior Center and will then meet once a week for six weeks.

Leadership Class Activities

The Leadership class collected a hundred pounds of canned food to help the program that the Tillamook Company is running to re-stock Oregon food banks.

Bulletin boards highlighting the athletes in every spring sport as well as individual locker signs have been prepared.

A major project is underway to celebrate the achievement of Riverside students who have met or exceeded the Benchmark in the areas of reading, mathematics and science. The CIM Wall of Fame is being prepared in the "Pirates' Cove" outside the library. Every student who benchmarked will decorate and display his own brick, with the idea that these students are building for the future. The idea is taken from the quote: "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it." (M. Little)

Over the spring vacation week the Youth Advisory Council sponsored a mid-week Soc Hop.

Windy River Elementary

Classified Appreciation Week

Starting on March 3rd Windy River Elementary honored all the classified staff who work very hard to help with the education of our students. On Wednesday March 5th the district office sent a caked and the teachers did a wonderful job providing lunch and treats all week long. Windy River wants everyone to know that our classified staff is one of the best to work with and we want to thank them for a job well done!

March Students of the Month

FEBRUARY	Academics	Academics	Theme - Courage
Beagle	Evette Calvillo	Karla Jimenez	Juan Landeros
Boor	Jonathan Mendoza	Paulina Pena	Dylon Walter
Browne	Jorge Lopez	Irvin Manjarrez	Veronica Garza
Chapman	Jose Olguin	Jose Agripino	Nicolas Garza
Cox	Daisy Navarro	Trevor Heiple	Maria Sanchez
Dames	Aaron Campos	Tanner Collier	Maria Virelas
Gaede	Edith Velasco		Maribel Lopez
Keefer	Emmanuel Muirillo	Jlyn Keefer	Ascencio Ramirez
Strebin	Kyla Dyer	Jessica Zamora	Tristan Collins



100% Classroom Attendance Winners

Classroom Attendance Award Winners for the Month of March:

March 3-6 Mrs. Browne's 5th grade class with 100%

March 10-13 Mrs. Browne's 5th grade class with 98.5%

March 17-20 Mr. Keefer's 6th grade class with 99.5%

March 24-27 Spring Break

Monthly Attendance Award Winner for March

Mrs. Browne's Class with and average attendance of 98.5%. Great Job!!!

Perfect Attendance Winners for March:

4th Grade: 45 Students

5th Grade: 49 Students

6th Grade: 40 Students

ELPA Test Primary Measure for ELL Students

This month, all English Language Learners (ELLs) are taking the

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). The ELPA is the primary state measure for determining English Language Learners (ELL) students' English Language proficiency. It measures student progress in learning the English Language and is used in meeting NCLB requirement that states report annual progress (reported as Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives or AMAOs) of English Language Learners in acquiring English. Students access the ELPA site on the internet where they are tested for listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students who achieve a level of "Advanced" on the ELPA are generally considered to be proficient and will likely exit from an English Language Development (ELD) program.

Fundraiser

Windy River Students the World's Finest Chocolates. Our fund raiser monies are used for student activities and awards. Parent support is greatly appreciated and directly benefits the students here at Windy River Elementary!

Spelling Contest

The following students are WRE Spelling Contest winners. They will be register on line for the UMESD Spelling Contest and then the winners will receive letters inviting them to the contest on May 12, 2008 at 6:30pm at BMCC.

Division I winners Windy River Elementary:
 1st Ryan Ibarra (will attend the contest at BMCC)
 First Alternate Wayne Killion
 Second Alternate Andrea Madrid

Division II winners Windy River Elementary
 1st Avika Sharma (will attend the contest at BMCC)
 First Alternate Joe Amaral
 Second Alternate Mario Sepulveda

Site Council

PTA options. We discussed holding an informational meeting for parents and the community either at the end of this school year or beginning of next.

Reviewed Differentiated Instruction examples. They were examples of work used here at Windy River Elementary.

Oaks testing There was a dramatic increase of students raising their points in the 6th & 5th grades with a tremendous growth school wide.

Title Program will be focusing on students who are close to meeting the bench mark in an effort to help them meet during spring Oaks testing.

Sam Boardman Elementary **Students of the Month for March**

	Academics	Respect	Responsibilit y	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Lilian Solis Johan Pena Marytza Prado	Cesilia Garcia- Hernandez Victoria Smart Itzel Ramirez	Dvita Sharma Jacob Hibbitts Ethan Harper	Ezequiel Ramos Juan Jose Madrigal Anddy Marti	96.3% Creason
K/1 st	Chance Frederickson Monica Virelas Jesus Carmona	Stephanie Morales Lizbet Madrigal Fatima Diaz	Sabreena Metcalf LilyAnn Rockwell Anthony Flores	Joshua Matthews- McCord Sierra Villegas Zoey Gilbert	98.9% Christy
1 st Grade	Brendy Avalos Zulema Gaytan Janet Landeros	Grace Wheeler Mario Madrigal Kadrian Turner	Jenna McCullough Francisco Chavez Silvestre Olguin	Karrizima Luna Daisy Sanchez Jerry Ruiz	97.6% Ogden/Harjo
2 nd Grade	Anthoni Chavez Jose Peralta Sterling Bither Misael Madrigal	Quincy Castillo Ruby Barrera Victoria Landeros Zuleyma Medel	Cody McCullough Karina Llamas Nahomy Claustro Ivonne Navarro	Maydi Barrera Jessica Calvillo Yoselin Ayuso Armando Aparicio	96.5% Hernandez
3 rd	Bryan Altamirano Ashley McCleary	Noe Madrigal Ivan Escobedo	Ashley Medina Jose Avila	Jenny Rodriguez Jared Snyder	97.2%

Grade	Hannah Mossman Kadi Sasser	Kynzee Axtell Sonali Turner	Osiel Madrigal Jerry Rodriguez	Joseph Muniz Noah Shorter	Prindle
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Third Quarter AR Party:

Over 225 students reached their AR goals and celebrated the 4,004 books read this quarter and the 9,781 books read so far this year! Way to go, Buccaneers!

Carnival: We had a great turnout for this annual event. Students played games, parents enjoyed their children and visited with other parents, raffle prizes were drawn and silent auction baskets were

claimed. Thank you PTO, SBE staff, and high school volunteers for all your work!

New Playground Equipment:

Many parents and teachers have donated and volunteered their time and energy over the past years and now the first piece of playground equipment is being enjoyed by SBE students. There are two more pieces to look forward to! Thank you everyone!



five



“The Wiz of the West: There’s no place like home...on the range”:

Boardman area students and parents participated with the Missoula Children’s Theatre in workshops to learn about costumes, dance, articulation, makeup, set design and more over spring break. They gave two outstanding performances. What a treat for our community! Thank you, North Morrow Community Foundation.

Parent Teacher Conferences:

Parent Teacher Conferences are underway and well attended! We encourage parents to complete our survey

for Site Council. Parents can take advantage of early registration for students targeted for Benchmark and Migrant Summer School.



Math:

SBE students benefit from individualized math lessons using computer programs such as PLATO

Professional Development:

Teachers will learn more about the Bridges math curriculum and strategies to help our students master basic math concepts on April 8th and 9th.

Spring Concert:

Join us for our Spring Concert, “Folk Songs We Love to Sing”, which includes singing, dancing, and guitar and fiddle music. Mark your calendar for April 10th at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Morrow Education Center

We begin the month of April with 109 students currently enrolled, 73 of which are Morrow County students. As spring break is now over and the fourth quarter is off and running, students at MEC are trying to focus on sustained progress and academic growth.

An important emphasis this month at Morrow Education Center has been placed on leadership and the willingness to allow our students to independently make decisions based on the well-being of our program and their academic growth. Thus, this month at any given point in the day students can be found developing life skills essential to their success outside of the classroom walls. Students have actively been involved in the routine cleaning of our building, administration of lunch to other students, cleaning of our buses and van, and certain non-intrusive clerical duties such as placing address labels on outgoing mail. It is our vision at MEC to create an environment in which the student body takes great pride in. No doubt the development of such self-directed learning has led to greater student motivation and engagement and helped in lowering our drop-out rates.

In addition to our focus on self-directed learning, we continue to offer a weight training hour. The MEC staff will also continue to demand growth in the fields of academics, attendance and behavior. While credit recovery is often a necessity for MEC students we also offer a wide variety of classes using multiple delivery methods. We continue to enjoy the classroom here at MEC and welcome the daily challenges that go along with the program. We are committed to serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe alternative learning environment for all students to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.