

Principal & Director Reports

December 2010

AC. Houghton Elementary

- The kindergarten-first grade music program was held on December 7. As usual we packed our gymnasium out. Santa visited also and passed out candy canes to the pre-schoolers.
- The second-and third-grade visit program was held on December 9. The gym again was pretty packed and a special theatrical production was presented directed by Mrs. Marquardt, our music teacher.
- In our Afterschool Program, we have now added all third-grade students who are at a deficit for passing state benchmarks at this time. This is happening significantly earlier this year due to the state increasing the benchmarks for math at the third-grade level. These math score expectations have been raised by seven points, which is an entire year higher than last year. With such lofty goals to achieve, we felt that it was necessary to make earlier interventions than in past years. Our scores were already ahead, for initial passing percentages in math, than last year, seven percentage points ahead. With these new benchmarks however, we will be lucky if we make 60% passing by the end of the year, an approximate 30 point drop from where we would have been without the benchmark score change.

Heppner Elementary School

It is a once again a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that November has ended, and that December is already upon us. Our current enrollment is 184 students and our attendance percentage for the year is 96.8%. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff and I are pleased to announce that **120** HES Students recently earned Honor Cards and **83** students had perfect attendance for the first quarter. Each student had to maintain positive grades, attendance, behavior, and citizenship to be eligible and received their certificates at an assembly on November 12th. Many thanks to the local Heppner businesses who support the Honor Card program, as HES Students are able to receive special rewards from 10 participating local businesses by showing their Honor Cards! The first round of OAKS testing is just wrapping up, and preliminary results indicate another strong showing by HES Students.

There are a couple of important upcoming events for your calendars; The HES Music Students will be presenting our winter concert on Wednesday, December 15th, at 6:00pm in the HES Gymnasium. The Heppner Light Parade will be held Thursday, December 16th, starting at 6:00pm and Winter break begins December 17th with school resuming on January 2nd, 2011.

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

Heppner High School

- Our open tutorial lists have continued to shrink each week with students taking responsibility for their grades and achievement. Our staff is working tirelessly to clean this up with students reassessing and working on making up assessments/projects that they fail the first time around.
- The district wide Professional Learning Community training with Janelle Keating went extremely well this past Friday. Our staff is working on building some common formative assessments where they can share data to make decisions about future instructional practices. We are very excited about the time that is allocated for such practices and we look forward to the outcomes it will produce.
- The Methodist church here in Heppner has held the second annual Christmas Is concert on December 5th and 6th. It was well attended and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to both the elementary and high school music programs.
- State AG Sales in Ontario is on December 11th this year. Brett Harrison, Zach Hintz, Devin Robinson, and Kelsi Putman will represent our district and school very well. These four individuals have nearly swept every FFA competition they have entered since the summer. Kudos to their hard work and for Mrs. Dickenson's efforts with her FFA students.
- Mr. Flaherty has a group of students that are participating in local Knowledge Bowl contests throughout the region this year. On December 8th, he will take 7 students to Umatilla to compete in the second contest of the year. We did very well at the first contest in Stanfield and we will be hosting an event on January 26th where schools will come to HHS and compete. This is a great opportunity for our TAG level students to compete against other schools such as Umatilla, Stanfield, Hermiston, Weston-McEwen, and Echo.
- We have finished the first round of testing and we are set to push forward from here with a baseline of data we can start with. Below are the results of HHS, District averages which include our scores, and the State averages in all three grade levels of student percentages that meet or exceed- enjoy😊. Please realize that the math scores in grades 7 and 8 reflect the new cut scores set by the state and sometimes these percentages can be a bit deceiving based on the size of our classes. One or two kids meeting or not can really illustrate highs or lows in the data.

| | Grade 7 Reading | Grade 8 Reading | HS Reading |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| HHS | 71% | 54% | 74% |
| MCSD | 60% | 48% | 22% |
| State | 72% | 58% | 41% |

| | Grade 7 Math | Grade 8 Math | HS Math |
|-------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| HHS | 43% | 44% | 69% |
| MCSD | 21% | 16% | 31% |
| State | 43% | 35% | 29% |

- Our winter sports have started with basketball and wrestling. They are off to a good start with contests starting last weekend.
- John Day and Umatilla will be visiting our school over the next couple of weeks. John Day is looking at a 7-12 configured building and what that looks like as they progress towards consolidation. Umatilla is looking at proficiency in the classroom and will be observing teachers all day and how they can implement more proficiency based practices in their school. These kinds of visits from other schools and staff is confirming to our staff that we are doing great things at HHS.

Irrigon Elementary School

1. **Response To Intervention:** After receiving a district training for administration this August, we have implemented a more formalized RTI team. This team, managed by Ms. Rowe our Title teacher, puts specific attention to students who are having difficulties in learning. The team will make a referral; assign a teacher to make a file review, and then convene a meeting to discuss the interventions this child specifically needs, or other medical or social concerns of the student. We'll put those interventions in with parent involvement and then adjust the instruction for a certain time and then reconvene to see the results of the student. Assessments are used before and after. If the student shows progress, we know the interventions were correct. If the interventions were not successful, other evaluations can be suggested before a recommendation is made for Special Education testing. It has made the process more accurate and specific with a paper trail of the progress.
2. **First Quarter Awards Assembly-** On our first year's Awards Assembly, the Masonic Lodge of Umatilla purchased for us two bikes to give away to students who did 100% of our AR reading program. The school bought a third bike and we were able to give away three bikes, one to each grade to the lucky students whose names were drawn at random to win the bikes. Again, students at IES are reading lots and lots of books.
3. **November First Parent Teacher Conference:** For our first conference we had 91% of parents attend our Student Led Conferences. We had a library Book Fair which raised over \$900 worth of books. Our general attendance was good.
4. **First IES Christmas Bazaar-** On November 20th, Saturday we had our first IES Bazaar. We sold table space and IES concessions which made about four hundred dollars. This helps go back into the ASB account to support school/ student activities.
5. **IES Title Parent Title Night-** IES hosted a Parent Title Night on November 30th. This evening explained to parents all the federal Title programs that we have at IES.

Irrigon High School

Last month, I reported that Shanna Backmann's 1st place poster for the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District would compete at the state level. I am pleased to let you know that she took first place there as well and her poster will now be competing at the national level in January.

Once again, we had a strong turnout at our parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter with a 38% attendance rate. We continue to work to schedule appointments for conferences which everyone seems to appreciate. Since moving to this practice last year, it has

helped to minimize large groups of parents showing up at once and having to wait for a teacher as well as providing parents and teachers a better opportunity to have more in-depth conversation.

Our building wide PLC (professional learning community) groups continue to meet monthly and are really starting to take off. They routinely discuss student learning, teaching strategies, and interventions. They have now started reviewing our first round of OAKS data and will be providing more review and interventions in areas identified as weakness.

We have now completed our first round of OAKS testing. Our PLC groups are pouring over the results and are currently working to analyze our fall round of testing to find both successes and areas that are in need of improvement. Our math group is taking a hard look at how to improve both curriculum and instruction to help our students find better success with the new math cut scores.

After the first round of OAKS testing, the following percentages of students have met or exceeded benchmark.

| Grades | Mathematics Reading | | Science |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Grade 7 | 17% | 57% | N/A |
| Grade 8 | 10% | 44% | 34% |
| Grade 11 | 43% | 63% | 51% |

It is evident from our math scores that the new cut scores have had a dramatic impact, and we will continue to work to help our students meet these higher standards.

Morrow Education Center

Christmas is almost here and the students are sensing it. We continue to have a steady increase of students and the students are buckling down and doing the work. We are now at three students who have completed their coursework and are looking forward to June when they will receive their diploma. We also have three students who are within just a couple of credits of completing and many more that are close. Our previous report of a higher attendance rate continues and we are encouraged by the focus the students are placing on their studies.

Earlier in the fall we wrote a small grant proposal to US Cellular for a couple of new computer desks to outfit the computer lab with some actual computer desks (instead of make-shift tables) and were granted that request in November. These desks will be used to help with the tables we are currently using as desks and alleviate some of the sore knees we currently have from the students.

As we are now finished with the first round of testing the results were mixed. However, we did see a huge improvement in the Reading category, which we hope to build off of and further enhance our Reading Interventions class and hopefully help the students gain more in their RIT score to the point they are passing the tests. The second round of testing will begin the last week of January and we are looking forward to witnessing more students pass the tests.

Riverside High School

STATE REPORT CARD

The Riverside Junior Senior High School administration takes great pride in recognizing Riverside staff, students and parents for the valuable contributions made to Riverside Junior Senior High School during the 2009-10 school year. The efforts were recognized by the State of Oregon and the Oregon Report Card. Students have been working hard to be proficient of the state standard and curriculum. The staff has aligned the curriculum to the standards and uses best practice teaching techniques to deliver the curriculum.

COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

RHS will be hosting the 2nd Annual College Night on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Juniors and seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend this valuable event. There will be representatives from a variety of schools from Oregon and Washington as well as important information regarding financial aid and the college application process. Some of the schools already committed are OSU, CBC, EOU, BMCC, WSU Tri-Cities, Portland CC and many more! There will be three breakout sessions including a student panel made up of RHS Alumni and a chance to meet with the representatives from each college/university. Kill two birds with one stone, parent/teacher conferences and college night all wrapped up into one informational night! For further information please contact our counselor Mrs. Jiménez.

POP CAN DRIVE

Save your cans/bottles. The Junior Class of 2012 is having a can drive through the month of December. Look for donation cans around the school to donate. Save your cans/bottles at home and bring them to the Boardman Shell January 8th from 1:00 – 5:00pm.

PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Each winter Partners of the Americas, a non-profit student exchange program, sends 25 Costa Rican students to Oregon for 8 weeks on a cultural exchange and language immersion program. This winter RHS if fortunate enough to host two of these students. From December 11th - January 8th Ilse Madrigal will be hosting a tica (as Costa Ricans are called), and from January 9th – February 5th Kyla Dyer will host a tica. These students will shadow their host sisters to their classes and various activities, experiencing school and life in Boardman, Oregon. We hope to provide a wonderful experience for these students!

RHS MEChA Club raising DIABETES AWARENESS

The MEChA members of Riverside High School are busy preparing for Diabetes Awareness as one of the many community service projects they are involved with. On Tuesday, December 7th, the club members will be providing parents and students as well as community members with information regarding Diabetes. They will have a booth with a poster display of information and they will be handing out flyers as well as diabetes awareness wristbands.

Teaching Tuesdays coming this January!! (FAFSA HELP)

Need help completing the FAFSA application? You're in luck! RHS will be hosting Teaching Tuesdays every Tuesday night in January starting Tuesday January 11, 2011. The Tuesday Teachings will be facilitated by our counselor Mrs. Jiménez and will be geared towards seniors and their parents who need assistance completing the FAFSA online. It will be a drop in format

where parents and students can come in and use the computer lab to work on the application. The sessions will be from 5:15pm to 8:15pm.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Riverside National Honor Society once again put on a successful blood drive. Many people came together either by appointment or walk-in to help save a life on November 15, 2010 at the Boardman Senior Center. "One pint of blood can save up to three lives" says Lisa Gallegos of the Red Cross. Every one of the eight NHS members helped schedule appointments for donors, set-up, and cleaned up after the blood drive. All the hard work paid off with 39 successful donations that day; "good turnout for my first blood drive" said Mrs. Callow, NHS advisor. NHS would like to thank the donors for coming in; without them, the drive wouldn't be possible, and fewer lives would be saved. A special thank you to Macarios Mexican restaurant for their donation of chips and salsa.

WRE READING DAY

Windy River Elementary hosted a school wide reading day November 12, 2010. The Riverside Leadership class was asked to participate by branching off and reading to a class of children. The theme of this event was "hero" day. We were looked upon as heroes to these children, giving them a pathway to follow. We were welcomed with gratitude, and kids who were excited and interested in our presence. This experience allowed us as individuals to realize our impact on younger children, reminding us that you may be a hero to some or many without realizing it.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Riverside Youth Advisory Council is hosting a school wide can food drive. This event is taking place December 6th – December 15th, with all proceeds going to the local food bank. Our goal is to enable those who are less fortunate the chance to have a happy holiday season, with a plentiful meal for all of their family. Kids will have the chance to drop off their donations in a box placed in the office. Youth Advisory Council members will gather and deliver all proceeds to the local food bank.

Sam Boardman Elementary School

Students of the Month for November:

| | Academics | Respect | Responsibility | Safety | Attendance |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------|
| K-Team | Gustavo Zuniga Quinn McClenahen Ivan Rodriguez Miranda Landeros Jessica Amaya | Shelby Hibbitts Faith Acheson Osvaldo Chopin Brenda Mendoza | Shaylah King Diego Villegas Joseph Jenson Anthony Lopez | Daniela Ruiz Natalie Lomeli Emmanuel Mendoza Monica Herrera | Mrs. Raible 94% |
| Team 1 | Anai Madrigal Marisol Pacheco Corbin Price Ivan Rodriguez | Dulce Frausto Martha Calvillo Chloe Winker Paegan Kang | Jose Napoles Azuena Morales Tyrese Boyd Makaila Lantis | Fernando Rodriguez Leonardo Rodriguez Siloe Barragan Rodrigo Guzman | Mrs. Bigham 94% |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| Team 2 | Cooper Szasz Chantal Lemus James Tiboni Evelin Guardado | Moises Lopez Eneida Meraz Damian Garcia Francisco Barajas | Isabella Mastriona Hunter Leighton Taylor Schneider Pedro Marquez | Edgar Murguia Jennifer Vasquez Andres Ramirez Liberty Jacquez | Mrs. Kennedy 98% |
| Team 3 | Sierra Villegas Bianca Avalos Ethan Harper | Brian Franco Jasen Lester Adeline Perales | Lainey Rogers Isabella Ganvoa Emmanuel Barrera | Eli Killion Jasmine Gomez Karina Mendoza | Mr. Jeppeson 94% |



Enrollment: 309 **Average attendance** for November: 93.10%



AR Reading: Sam Boardman students gobbled up their books and passed their AR quizzes with a 100% for a chance to vote for the teacher they wanted to see wear the turkey costume. They read past their initial goal of 1,300 books by more than a 1,000 books! Their grand reading total was 2,366 books! Congratulations readers and to our turkey, Mr. Gruber! Thanks to Mrs. Orcutt for the AR turkey fun!

Veteran's Day Assembly: We were honored with 20 veterans for our SBE/WRE combined assembly, including veteran Mark Jones, Kelli LaFramboise (WRE) and Robert Gruber (SBE). Student council members served as ushers and presented student made thank you cards to each veteran. Students sang several patriotic songs. Mrs. Appleton presented the history of Veterans Day and the celebration concluded with a short video thanking veterans.



Title Math Night: More than 40 families joined us for an evening of math fun. Parents played games with their children at two different grade levels and enjoyed a measurement exercise making trail mix sponsored by OSU's nutrition program. Rose Sebastian prepared math folders packed full of resources for each family.

Harvest Feast was a huge success! Thanks to Phyllis Danielson, Police Chief Zeiler, Officer Frank



Rivera, Mayer Chet Phillips, Migrant Liaison Abby Munoz, Site Council Representative Cynthia Navarro and PTO Parent Crystal Gilbert for serving at our feast. Students and parents certainly enjoy a chance to interact with such a wide variety of community members. Hats off to our cooks! The meal was fantastic!

The **Site Council** welcomed Cynthia Navarro, Sydney Reagan, Maria Madrigal and Amanda Wilson as new parent representatives. The council noted 90% attendance at parent conferences and 38 students (all but two of those falling below 204 in Reading &/or 205 in Math) attending our After School Program. Parent surveys will be discussed on December 14th.

School Mall: S.B.E. was awarded a check for just over \$430.00. Not bad for first quarter shoppers! These funds will support field trips and student incentives.

District PLCs: Sam Boardman hosted the second all-district PLC for K-3 teachers this past Friday. Teachers were excited about their progress in aligning standards, common formative assessments and to have had the opportunity to share strategies and interventions specific to their grade level.

Please join us! Our Winter Concert is this Thursday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. PTO will be hosting a bake sale after the concert.

Windy River Elementary

Reading Day and Scholastic Book Fair



Windy River Elementary held its first book fair for the year, November 4th –November 12th. Along with the book fair this year we held our READING DAY.

This was an all day event for students. We invited parents to read and have lunch with their child/children. We also had the RHS Leadership class and several RHS teachers read to the WRE students. This was a great opportunity for parents to come and check out what we had for sale at our book fair and it turned out to be our best book fair for WRE!

Student of the Month



| NOVEMBER | Academics | Academics | Theme - Caring |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Beagle | Vizta Sifford | Marvin Calvillo | Rosy Olvera |
| Boor | Ana Barajas | Fabian Meza | Zachary Ferguson |
| Browne | Ruby Barrera | Aramis Corpus | Angelic Perez |
| Cornelius | Tania Mendoza | Adolfo Bedolla | William Simmons |
| | Christian Reyes- | | |
| Gaede | Rosales | Emily Diaz | Monica Virelas-Garcia |
| Keefer | Lizeth Zuniga | Quincy Castillo | Skylar Wightman |
| LaFramboise | Brenda Flores | Dakota Durfey | Genesis Ferrer |
| Prindle | Janet Landeros | Anthony Rodelo | Francisco Chavez |
| Strebin | Maribel Lopez | Felipe Olvera | Ethan Ellison |

WRE Fundraiser

Here at Windy River Elementary we just completed our Fall Fundraiser. Our students sold Cookie Dough for the fourth year in a row, and it seems to do well for us.

Our Top Seller received a Ipod Touch. Second prize was a Portable PSP, Third prize was a flip camera and Top Selling Classroom a Pizza Party.