

## Principal & Director Reports

### February 2007

#### A.C. Houghton Elementary

- Our community reader board is finally coming together. 12 or 13 different organizations or governmental agencies in our community have contributed toward the sign in addition to the large contribution by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. It will be located on the southwest corner of our school grounds on the Greenway along Highway 730. The total sign will be 20 ft. high and 9 ft. wide when it is complete. It will allow the display of three lines of print announcement at one time, not only communicating well but safer at the same time. The little bank reader board in town has you read one word at a time as you drive by turning your head to catch the message.
- Our third and fourth-grade writing assessment is approaching soon. Staff are working very hard to get their students ready. We will have the second annual Writing Olympiad as our recognition program to build up this endeavor.
- On March 7, we will have a large demonstration of technology involved in school security and public education at ACH. We are in the planning stages now with County, State and federal organizations involved in the Over-pressurization efforts and other organizations involved in the local spread of wireless technology. Many local, County, state and federal officials are being invited. You are all invited also to this event which will begin at 10 a.m., March 7.
- I am nominating Mari Gordanier for Library Paraprofessional of the Year for the State of Oregon. The selection process is only beginning at this time. Her positive effect on our overall education program is probably one of the strongest in the district for this position.

#### Heppner Elementary School

- Magazine Drive for Tupper outdoor school is starting Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> with a kickoff assembly. The assembly will be in the gym at 2:00. Ignore all those renewal forms being sent by your magazines and renew through us. Remember this has been a cold winter and how wonderful it would be to have a nice magazine to read while curled up next to the fireplace.
- Breaking of ground has been started on the renovation of the lower field. There was a backhoe moving dirt and gravel being placed for the new retaining wall along the side. The repair of the end wall is still in limbo until we hear from Cycle Oregon. No decision has been made at this time as to how to make the improvements. Some say replace the wall and some create an amphitheater.
- The 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade students finished up the four week activity of basketball reading. The sleepover on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> was a great success. The students had a wonderful time and wore out the high school chaperones. I think the teachers are still recuperating. **The minutes for each student were tallied up and came to a whopping 145,753 minutes.** I want to give a personal thank you to Mrs. Allen for all of her hard work all year for this project to be a success.







- March 1<sup>st</sup> will be a community reading night at HES. Details will be coming out soon.
- Don't forget that the week of March 5<sup>th</sup> is classified appreciation week.

**Heppner High School**

- Held our second Attendance Pays assembly for perfect attendance- our attendance has improved since 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- Working on School Improvement plan- looking at it with Site Council.
- Our bullying committee is continuing to meet and deal with kids that are being disruptive or bullying.
- Our teacher of the year selected at Town and Country was our own Dave Fowler.
- AG kids and Mrs. Dickenson came back from NW Ag Show with a great experience and information to share.
- Met with Wade and custodians on walk around to plan maintenance projects for our building.
- We will have AED training this Friday for all staff in Heppner at the HS. Kudos to the hospital and Victor for making this happen.
- District Tournaments are next week for BB and this week for Wrestling.
- We have purchased back curtains for the stage using money the kids raised from their Grease performance.
- Have had unbelievable reaction to having Milton Creagh here from parents and kids from all three communities.
- I attended a workshop at Hermiston High School on Springboard LA curriculum. Was very impressed- cannot wait to see what others are bringing to the table.
- Our math scores are up from last year through just one testing window- really something to cheer about.
- Doing some team teaching with our Algebra I kids to help meet CIM standards- this has been incredible and we are seeing results-

**Irrigon Elementary School**

**‘GONG’ Day:** Several IES students were awarded with a strike of the ‘GONG’ for meeting their grade level benchmark. Students were told of the new ‘important numbers’ and why the change was necessary. The new benchmark score for 5<sup>th</sup> grade is 218 and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is 222.

*Who’s Who on ‘GONG’ Day*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Both</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	38 student	31 students	15
6 <sup>th</sup>	35 students	16 students	24

**Family Movie Night:** Our IES Student Council held a movie night on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. Students were encouraged to bring their whole family to the movie. The Student Council took responsibility for organizing, publicizing, finding parent supervisors, set-up and clean-up of the event. They also sold concessions and raised \$136.75 to be donated to the Irrigon Library fund. The movie was well attended by students and parents; 75 total attendance. Parents expressed interest in having more movie nights. Our Student Council makes a difference in our school.

**Bully Survey:** All students and staff completed a survey intended to determine the level of problem that the act of bully presents in our school. The surveys have been compiled. Staff will be using the survey to determine whether a plan of action is warranted. Our Site Council has also reviewed the survey and provided input.

**Artist in Education:** North Morrow Arts Council has donated funding for IES to host an Artist In Education for two weeks. Bill Friday, a cartoonist, will meet with students daily beginning February 20<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. Phyllis and Paul Danielson will host the artist during his stay in the community.

**Wrestling Team:** Our sixth grade wrestlers, along with the middle school team, earned the Sportsmanship trophy at the match in The Dalles over the week-end. We are very proud of the recognition they received.

**Student Body Assembly:** Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, January 18th. The following students were recognized by their classroom teacher:

**Responsible**

Skylar Blythe, Devin Stout, Roman Gutierrez, Sarah Kline, Jamie Thomas, Andy Zavala, Lamara Snyder, Mario Garcilazo

**Respectful**

Kyle Blurton, Pedro Resendiz, Andrea Guardado, Eric Sommerville, Rafael Garcia, Tesia Hunsucker, Alicia Martin, Madalyn Resendiz

**Reliable**

Weston Pomeroy, Andy Ricardo, Eric Vera, Beatriz Avalos, Justin Howey, Leon Luna, Antonio Sanchez, Marissa Stanger

**Irrigon High School**

Our goal for the second semester is to reduce the number of failing grades. We spent a portion of the Friday January 26 In-service discussing ideas including Main St and possible incentives.

One of the incentives discussed was a JH movie for less than two referrals and no failing grades. We surprised the students with our first movie last Thurs. Forty-three percent of the middle school students participated. We will expect more next time.

We changed the MS/HS schedule: Moved Advisory period opposite lunchtime. We hope this makes 1<sup>st</sup> period more important as far as getting to school on time. We also specified the activities approved for advisory period: Guided study hall, accelerated reading, silent reading of approved reading material, ICE activities and grade checks. Advisors will check grades with individual students twice monthly. Teachers will update grades every two weeks.

We had two teachers and two aides take Corrective Reading training on Monday Jan 29. We have now restarted JH Corrective Reading with all instructors trained and hopefully on the same page. We also changed the reading program schedule to allow all seventh grade and all eighth grade corrective readers to have the same periods.

I met with a committee from the Booster Club and a private citizen on two new scholarships. Both will be available to this year's seniors.

We just learned that one of our seniors has just received a \$40,000 Scholarship to Pacific University!

Barb Huwe, Chris Davis and I met with UCP representative about help with sports complex lighting. Chris put together a letter on the history of the building of IJSHS that was requested by UCP that we will bring to the SB Mtg. More to follow.

The IJH Wrestling team won the Sportsmanship Award at The Dalles MS Wrestling Tournament Sat Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Teachers and students have been preparing for the State Writing Testing that began this week.

Our Winter Formal is Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.

We have scheduled the Winter Sports Dessert for March 6<sup>th</sup>.

We are busy planning the first IHS Prom set for April 28<sup>th</sup>.

We are also planning the first IHS Graduation scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Program is tentatively written, stage is reserved and caps and gowns are ordered.

The Booster club has agreed to fund and build softball dugouts. They have also agreed to pay for outfield fencing for the softball and baseball fields. They decided not to purchase the gym floor covering because the outfield fencing was a greater need at this time

## **Riverside High School**

### **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

On Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Riverside's student body officers will attend a conference at Sunnyside High School. The featured speaker is Justin Lookadoo, a Teen Culture Expert who knows how to reach teenagers. For nearly a dozen years, Justin has been encouraging teens to take risks, follow their dreams and laugh at the simple things in life. He uses humor to motivate his audiences. Through props, costumes, drama and enough energy to light up New York City, Justin allows students the opportunity to interact and participate in his presentations.

### **F POLICY UPDATE**

On Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Riverside began implementing the "No F Policy". Students, who received an "F" or "No Pass" on their report card for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, were individually informed the prior week that they would need to report to the auditorium during their lunch. Approximately 75 high school students and 43 junior high students will receive the opportunity to study during their lunch period and improve their grades.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Milton Creagh, national spokesperson for the Pride Youth Program addressed the Riverside student body—grades 7-12. His message was that students envision a future of hope and believe that they have the power to achieve their dreams. Mr. Creagh spoke candidly about pitfalls such as poverty, drugs, alcohol, gang activity and pregnancy that can cause students to fail to achieve their dreams. There seemed to be a real connection between Mr. Creagh and the Riverside students. The greatest result of his visit seems to be that the doors of communication were opened between students and staff.

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY FUNDRAISERS**

The NJHS students, under the direction of Betsy Shane, have been busy raising money this year for a variety of causes. So far they have managed to raise enough money to offer one \$200 scholarship to a graduating senior. They also collected over 800 pounds of food which was donated to the Local Christmas Caring Tree Organization to be used in Christmas baskets to needy local families. They are currently raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and have raised a total of \$262. Their fundraising efforts will continue through February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **RIVERSIDE DRAMA**

Riverside Drama students, under the direction of Kathie Goad, are staging a murder mystery dinner theater the evenings of March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> with a Saturday matinee. Dinner will be served by the RHS Operation Graduation parents. We will have two one act murder mysteries, Pirate's Folly, and a variety review, which is student lead. The audience will be invited to vote for which character they think will be the killer for the first mystery. Prizes

will be awarded. There will be over twenty students on stage during the course of the production. Parent volunteer, Shelia Corpus, is working with the costumes and coordinating back stage activities. Dinner seating will be on a reserved basis. Tickets are \$10.00 dinner seating and \$7.00 theater seating.

### **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH—NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**

#### **CITIZEN**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Paola Zuniga & Sonia Barrera  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Emily Doherty & Lacey Teal  
Frosh—Vicky Hernandez & Jason Hendricks  
Soph—Megan Cooley & Jason Dolar  
Jr—Yvonne Torres & Navid Zelaya  
Sr—Heather Hancock & Danielle Baker

#### **ACADEMIC**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Lance Bose & Mayra Prado  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Isabella Mitts & John Orcutt  
Frosh—Alex Richardson & Matt Hyder  
Soph—Ofelia Cisneros & Lilly Doherty  
Jr—Michaela Vesela & Letty Rodriguez  
Sr— Ramiro Villegas & Andrew McKee

### **Windy River Elementary**

Windy River has been a busy as usual. We just finished our student of the month assembly for January. Students received awards for academics, positive character traits, perfect attendance, and AR reading awards. Teachers, Parents and students all enjoyed our paw power drawing and our silly relay competitions.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January we held our behavior reward movie and our AR party. Over 100 students reached their AR goal and were treated with root beer floats and an extra recess. 81 % of our students had the privilege of going to our good behavior movie. To qualify a student needed to have 3 or less tardies and no office referrals for the 9 weeks. Good work by our teachers and students.

We are also gearing up for our Writing test which we will begin next week. We have been working very hard on our skills and are looking forward to success.

Noon hours have been exciting the last two weeks with an intramural basketball tournament. We all had fun, teachers, students, and even the principal. They made me ref, great fun with the kids.

Our writing festival plans are coming together, we have an author committed the committee is working hard on the plans with Anna Browne leading the way.

Also coming up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February is our learning fair. Carol Chapman is leading this project. You are invited to Windy River to see what our students are doing and take part in other activities that night.

We are very busy at Windy River again this month as you can see. Check our website for other events taking place this month. Hope to see you there.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

This is a “sweet” time to be at SBE. Not only is Valentines Day fast approaching but we also had our end of the quarter pie-in-the-face AR assembly. 4 teachers and I had the distinction of receiving the most votes to get a pie in the face. As always this was a rousing success. We also had our AR party for



all students who met their AR goal with an average percent correct over 85%. This was such a motivator that the week after the students had already logged 400 tests taken!!

This time of year is also exciting because we are in the middle of our “super bowl” of instruction, and just like the Colts we plan on all students being successful in their TESA tests as well as other academic areas.

The students of the month for January were:

Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Teacher
Jeny Mendoza	Ceasar Agripino	Andrea Madrigal	Yolanda Lopez	3-Prindle
Jose Luis Perez	Lisa Finley	Abby Hernandez	Tarin Troxell	K-1 Files
Adolfo Martinez	Abraham Silva	Dylan shaw	Maria Gozalez Reyes	K-Christy
Sabreena Metcalf	Jose Peralta	Daniel Rodriguez	Lizeth Zuniga	K-Wilson
Morgan Winchester	Abram Hernandez	Yessica Gonzalez	Osiel Madrigal	2-Campbell
Viviana Garay	Abigail Bozarth	Ruby Barrera	Michael Velazquez	1-Harjo
Rene Morales	Jose Agripino	Alexis Mendoza	Consuelo Llamas	3-Bankston
Brian Franco	Brock Morgan	Alexis Velasquez	Nicholas Richardson	K-Ogden
Stephanie Madrigal	Aaron Muth	Maria Virelas	Manuel Perez	3-Jepeson
Andy Melendez	Carlos Olguin	Kirsten Edison	Anthony Ramirez	1-Harrison
				2-
Giovanni Hernandez	Vizta Murray	Jennifer Rodriguez	Edgar Guzman	Hernandez
Zachary Ferguson	Manuel Herrera	Ana Barajas	Jose Mendoza	1-Milton
Trevor Peterson	Lizbet Madrigal	Adriana Madrigal	Yoanna Lopez	K-Bigham
Alondra Caldera	Veronica Alvarez	Britany Watson	Aidan Barresse	K-Creason
Mariah Wimberly	Jassiel Carmona	Laura Lopez	Alyxandra Edens	2-Kennedy
Zoey Gomez	Lillian Melendez	Edith Velasco	Jose Jimenez	3-Raible
Noe Madrigal	Jason Navarro	Blanca Olguin	Tania Mendoza	2-McClen

### **ELL Program**

This month has seen lots of action directly after winter vacation was over. My first point of action concerns the AMAO, Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives. After conversing with the district administration, we felt the need to focus on Writing, Writing, and more Writing to get our students ready for the State Writing Assessment test. This launched me out to see specific ELL teachers and school principals to have a direct focus on writing instruction to ELL 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who will be taking the State Writing Assessment test. This is being done, and our teachers have been teaching everything about writing and doing a very good job. As I have finished observing ELL teachers for the last formal observation for the year, they are teaching writing in a focused way that will be evidenced in our writing report card next year. I guarantee it.

More planning has gone underway for the Family Education Nights. In meeting with B.M.C.C. we have concerted together to create two classes one in Irrigon Elementary and Sam Boardman Elementary. These classes will be for twelve weeks and they will be teaching parents on U.S. Citizenship, ESL, student educational support on Plato and Rosetta Stone, and early child education support. This joint adventure starts the first week of February. This will help our parents become U.S.

voters, help kids in more educational supports and satisfy the federal require for school districts to involve parents.

January concluded the final teacher observations. ELL teachers are teaching very well. I am glad that we hired people who have demonstrated good professional instruction to our ELL kids.

In working with parent groups, I have also been supporting the Parent Teacher Organization in SBE. We have met several times to discuss the school carnival, and how to get more Spanish speaking parents involved. This has brought discussion as to what to do to capture Spanish speaking parents into greater school involvement. I have contacted our ESD, and Yadira Gonzalez and I have discussed to create a Spanish speaking Parent Action Committee in order to get more parent participation in all aspects of our schools. Our first parent meeting will be at SBE on February 26 at SBE. It is combined with Spanish speaking Migrant Education parents and Spanish speaking ELL parents. I'm going to get them in.

A final major work is choosing ELD curriculum across the entire for every grade and for every level. This was State mandated and the State provided a list of acceptable publishers to choose from. Our ELL teachers all went to caravan of publishers in Pendleton, and they all chose two publishers to send for their curriculum to evaluate. We met at Windy River Elementary, and we took half a day to review the samples, discuss, debate, and decide what ELD curriculum we wanted for our programs. The secondary teachers met last Friday at my office and they did the same. By the next ELL site coordinators meeting, the ELL teachers will finalize their decisions on which ELD curriculums to acquire. That will be shared with administration, school board and other stake holders. This will give us a better focused instruction of ELD, and the same structure of curriculum across the district. Thus we expect to have improved teaching to the State ELP Standards, and improved student results.

### **Morrow Education Center**

The second semester brings with it a renewed focus at Morrow Education Center. Students have really started to focus on completing their current school work in hopes of regaining lost credits before the end of the school year.

We are currently serving 74 enrolled students at MEC, 40 of which are Morrow County students. We continue to receive new student referrals on a daily basis, and we are very busy at Morrow Education Center. The MEC staff is working diligently to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students. We are also pleased to report that our students have started the state writing assessment testing, and some even seem to be enjoying the challenge that comes along with it. The results of these tests will give us a sturdy assessment to build upon for future testing. We continue to place students in subject matter and provide support for the areas, in which they are deficient.

Overall, the program has been running smoothly and our staff continues to be dedicated towards student-centered achievement. Each day we are blessed to see the learning process take place at MEC. Approaching our student's interests as academic learners and as real people, will continue to assure that we are working towards our goal of serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing them with a safe and effective learning environment.