

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **January 2007**

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

- We have received notice that the final installation of our reader board should begin about the end of January. This is the project that many organizations and governmental entities in town have contributed toward which will be located on the southwest side of the ACH property on Highway 730. It will have a large district sign including the District logo and the Irrigon High School logo on top and the ACH and Irrigon Elementary names and logo toward the bottom. Otherwise it will be a large two-sided reader board .
- ACH has completed a draft of the school-wide plan that pulls together our school improvement activities operating this year and that will be the foundation for the School-Wide Plan for school year 0708 that we will build during the winter and spring months. School and parent representatives will be part of the team to work on the plan. We will be surveying students and staff also for input.
- At the end of first semester, we will be holding a raffle for two bicycles that were donated by the Wal-Mart distribution center. The two bicycles were the grand prize incentives for student attendance improvement during the first semester. Students have been getting tickets each week if they had perfect attendance and, in addition, they will get additional blocks of tickets if they have semester perfect attendance or miss one day or two days or less. The effect of this is that our attendance average to date is 95.93% average daily attendance. At the same time last year we were just a little over 94% for the same average. This is a tremendous improvement.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

I wanted to start out with cute pictures of kids singing at our winter program, but due to old man winder we canceled school on the day of the program. The program has been moved to Jan. 10.

Mrs. Matteson's 1<sup>st</sup> grade students did a wonderful job of reciting "T'was the Night Before Christmas". Parents came and were amazed at what the kids could do.



Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> the Hampstead Players were again welcomed by the HES students and staff. We watched a wonderful performance of “A Christmas Carol.” The Heppner Elementary PTC also funded an additional performance of “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.” that was done that evening for both parents and students and community.



Mrs. Allen’s class completed reading “Cricket in Time Square.” Parents were invited to have strawberry sodas with the kids. I think it was a big hit. I think we found a hidden talent of Mr. Smiths.



Fifth and sixth grade Basketball Reading program is in full swing. The students are very motivated to read so that they can earn some of the wonderful prizes. I would encourage board members to stop by Heppner elementary and take a look at all the hard work the kids are doing.

Heppner Elementary PTC is hosting an Open House on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to find out more about what is going on with our PTC and have a few snacks. The PTC is instrumental in providing programs for the kids and allowing us to have many extras.

### **Heppner High School**

- Working on getting storage for wrestling mats through the port.
- We have made more adjustments to the Jr. High ZAP and increased accountability by placing them all in Friday ZAP if they are on the list.
- Our bullying committee has sent letters home to all parents explaining the process and consequences to our program based on our documentation.
- The Greenhouse is running and we have heat in it for the first time ever! Kudos to Beth, Morrow County Grain Growers, Pendleton Electric, and her kids.
- We had three freshman students place in a statewide essay contest that was sponsored from the Garden Club.
- Our Bleacher dedication went well and we recognized all participants that contributed to the project.
- Making calls to senior parents on student progress and graduation.
- Winter sports have started and all is going very well.
- The drama club has been doing some fundraising to purchase new curtains for the stage.
- Milton Creagh will be here presenting on the 17<sup>th</sup> in all three high schools. He is an amazing speaker- you don't want to miss his presentation. He will have a parenting presentation at HES at 7pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Along with this he will hold a student presentation at IHS at 7:30am till 9am, Riverside presentation at 9:30am till 11am, and HHS presentation at 1:30pm till 3:00.
- Heppner Chamber's Town and Country Awards will recognize both a teacher and student this year from HHS.

**Irrigon Elementary School**

**Geography Bee:** All students are participating in the Geography Bee preliminary test. Finalists will be determined and will face off at our assembly on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**TESA Testing:** As a staff, we are analyzing the test data from our recent testing and making educational adjustments. We are on track with our reading results, and will be discussing how we can impact our students' math scores. The recent adjustments in the State Benchmark scores are our new challenge; how do we maintain student morale and move the target?

IES TESA Scores  
November Testing 2006  
Benchmark Scores: 5<sup>th</sup> grade 215 (New 218)  
6<sup>th</sup> grade 220 (New 222)

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Average RIT 215 Met Benchmark: 54%	Average RIT 213 Met Benchmark: 46%
6 <sup>th</sup>	Average RIT 222 Met Benchmark: 57%	Average RIT 216 Met Benchmark: 36%

**Holiday Program:** Our holiday program was well attended. It was held December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, IES gymnasium. Fifth and sixth grade bands and choir performed.

**Student Body Assembly:** Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, December 14th. The following students were recognized by their classroom teacher:

**Responsible**

Victor Aguilera, Kody Blurton, Ernesto Aguilera, Jennifer Working, Jasmine Anaya, Nathalie Campos, Celina Carrillo

**Respectful**

Brianna Abbott, Chella Rangel, Jordan Day,  
Zach Burnett, Emma Osmin, Nildia Resendiz, Faith Overton, Sam Gering

**Reliable**

Andy Aguilera, Seth Dynes, Brittany Lesperance, Taylor Gumbert, , Keiran Duprie, Zach Burnett, Sergio Cruz, Sinay Torres

## **Irrigon High School**

Here are some of the upcoming highlights:

- January 8, there was a huge JV Wrestling Tournament at IJSHS.
- January 11, Joel Chavez will be meeting with teachers and administration at IJSHS to discuss writing test preparation.
- January 18, Milton Creagh will present a 7-12 Assembly discussing positive self image.
- January 29, IJSHS and IES will be meeting to realign Corrective Reading between the two schools.
- January 31, College Visitation will be traveling to CBC and WSU.
- Three more seniors have been accepted to 4-year Universities.
- At Semester, two new foreign exchange students will be arriving and one will be leaving.
- We have a new Girls Varsity Basketball Coach, Michelle Morgan, and a new JV Coach, Amy Tolar.
- We have started discussing Summer School and are considering splitting Jr. High and High School instruction.
- MAIN Street (F Recovery Program) is in motion.
- ICE rubric and presentation dates have been set for mid-April (School Board Members, mark you calendars).

Please contact Tom Crane with any questions.

## **Riverside High School**

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Riverside held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Conferences on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a record number of parents attending conferences. Along with meeting with teachers and reviewing student progress, parents were informed of Riverside's No F Policy which will take affect in January.

### **FRIDAY TUTORING**

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Riverside again opened its doors for students to come in for additional instruction. Thirteen percent of our students took advantage of this opportunity to receive extra help with their classes.

### **BMCC VISIT**

Sixty students went to Blue Mountain Community College in late November for a campus visitation. Students signed up in advance for the trip. After attending an introductory Orientation Session and having Campus Tours, Riverside students were able to choose from the following workshops: Paying for College/Financial Aid, Careers in Education, Dental/Nursing, Hospitality Careers, Psychology and Social Service, Engineering, Agriculture Complex Tour, Accounting, College Life Stories, and Athletics. Afterwards, the college fed students and chaperones before the trip back to Riverside. Students enjoyed the day and came away with insight into college life and the steps necessary to get there.

### **NHS/NJHS CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society sponsored a Canned Food Drive during the month of December. They collected 721 pounds of food which they will donate to the community to be used in Christmas baskets for those in need.

### **RIVERSIDE WINTER CONCERT**

The Riverside Winter Music concert held on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at RL Bateman Auditorium was a treat to the nearly full house that attended.

All 3 choirs performed 2 numbers individually and joined on stage as a mass choir for 3 final numbers. The audience was treated to everything from African Celebration sung in Swahili to a medley of Elvis songs and then a final farewell as the mass choir sang a swing arrangement of We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

The bands then followed with the Jr. High band doing a pair of marches and then Silent Night. This was followed by the Concert Band Playing 2 Christmas numbers and then an arrangement of "Pirates of the Caribbean". The Jazz Band finished off the evening with St. Louis Blues, Amadeus Grooves (to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Amadeus Mozart) and then Feliz Navidad.

It was a fun evening for all including me. It is great to see such support from the community for what we are doing musically at Riverside.

### **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH CITIZEN**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Araceli Sanchez  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Kalynn McKee  
Frosh—Kelli Jones  
Soph—Alex Pacheco-Morales  
Jr—Tamra Tovey  
Sr—Candido Cornejo

### **ACADEMIC**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Briton Hansen  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Brigham Hansen  
Frosh—Atrayu Corpus  
Soph—Berenice Chavez  
Jr—Daniel Hansen  
Sr—Candido Cornejo

### **Windy River Elementary**

December was a short, busy month for the students and staff of Windy River Elementary. Here is a look at December activities.

The Highlight of the month was our Holiday Feast that we combined with our Winter Concert. We served over 400 lunches to our parents and students. During the feast our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders entertained their parents with songs and band music. It was a great success, with many positive comments by parents at the end of the program.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our Students of the Month. We had a great turn out of parents. We send a letter to the parent of each child that is to receive an award inviting them to our assembly to celebrate with their child. More parents are attending with each assembly. Below you will find a list of our December Students of the Month:

Windy River's December Students of the Month were chosen for Academics and the character theme "Confidence". Listed in alphabetical order: Joe Amaral, Bianca Barajas, Gavino Barrera, Page Bither, Bryant Cardenas, Esteban Claustro, Paola Cuevas, Jennifer Flores, Jorge Garcia Jr., Kenneth Gisi, Brian Gonzalez, Caitlin Hearn, Samuel Irons, Zachary Irons, Santino Leon, Caren Llamas, Janet Lomas, Carlos A. Lopez, Ana Madrigal, Gustavo Madrigal, Igancio Madrigal, Monica Madrigal, Israel Martinez, Briana Melendez, Jonathan

Mendoza, Clay Millar, Maria Morales, Juan Olguin, Jacob Papineau, Bianca Ramirez, Oscar Ruiz, Gilberto Silva, Joslynn Troxell, Esmeralda Villa.

Unfortunately we were not able to have our Christmas parties because of the school closure that we had the 21<sup>st</sup> of the December. But I am sure the students enjoyed the early Christmas present.

We continue to work hard school wide on our writing skills and are in the process of planning a writing festival later in the year. You receive more details about this project as we continue to plan. Our work with Write Source writing grant is also going well.

I hope that everyone had happy holidays.

We are looking forward to busy productive January.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

I hope that everyone had a very merry Christmas and that 2007 is off to a great start!!

When we came back to school the building looked great! Mr. Ost, Mr. Toms and Mr. Ayala did a phenomenal job cleaning while we were gone. There is nothing like sight of tile floor waxed so well that the reflection is almost like a mirror. Thank you SBE custodial staff.

We are gearing up for the last AR push for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. As of now, we have taken 8189 tests and passed 7820 of them. Our average score for the entire school is 87.6%. That means for the first 2 quarters SBE's K-3 students have taken an average of 24 tests and passed 23 of them!!! That is quite an accomplishment for students who are between the ages of 5 and 9.

Another great accomplishment over break was the completion of the climbing wall Mr. Cates applied for and received through the innovations in the classroom grant. Mr. Cates is looking forward to implementing the wall into his PE curriculum.



Finally, on behalf of the staff, students and parents I would like to wish you a happy board appreciation month. Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated in the Boardman community.

### **ELL Program**

The ESL district program is running smoother and more efficiently than before. In December ESL student files were reviewed across district schools and very few errors were discovered. We are in compliance and our ESL files are ready for any State audit or review.

In December the ESL director spent much time visiting the ESL classes, observing teachers teaching, seeing the curriculum used, and seeing if what was being taught is the English Language Development required by the State. In short, it is. We have been receiving boxes of different ESL curriculums from invited ESL publishers, and we are going to spend serious time to choose district wide curriculum that best fit the State English Language Proficiency Standards for our students.

In December we finished our first section of the Family Education Night program. All four classes completed with students involved in U.S. Citizenship class, ESL class and child support classes. Also with this, Blue Mountain Community College won a grant to do a similar program. So we have combined our efforts with B.M.C.C. to create a joint educational effort to provide the same educational supports in both Irrigon and Boardman. In February we will have two Family Education Nights a week. One class will be at Irrigon Elementary School, and the other at Sam Boardman Elementary School. B.M.C.C. will fund the work of a coordinator who will help in both program activities. Our aim is to double the numbers of parents of our communities in the classes above.



The ESL director was involved in a two day activity with Oregon Department of Education in setting the Standards for the ELPA testing. This was a rigorous process of making the summative decisions of the standards for various tests the State uses in testing our ESL students. Being on the ground-floor in this process enabled us not only to take the test ourselves, but to set the measurements of what our own students will need to know in order to pass from one level of English to the next. This directly relates to AYP, and AMAO's.

Efforts are now being put into place to meet our AYP, and the AMAO's for the district ESL students. We meet our AMAO's with exiting 34% of our ESL students last year. We almost met our AMAO's in going up from one level to the next. The latest ODE report gave us 82% and we needed to have 85% to have met. And the last part of meeting our AMAO's was to have at least 50% of our ESL students meet Language Arts State tests and the Math State tests. Of which we meet in our elementary school but didn't in our secondary schools. We are working harder to meet in all grades, all levels, with all our ESL students.

### **Morrow Education Center**

We begin 2007 with 68 students enrolled, 42 of which are Morrow County students. Traditionally, the end of semester marks an increase in student referrals to our program. As a result we are in the process of evaluating current MEC students and will be making recommendations for some students who we feel should be given the opportunity to return to their Jr/Sr. high schools. Those recommendations will be based on the student's achievement of the following three expectations; regular attendance, how productive they have been in regards to credit recovery, and appropriate behavior while in attendance at MEC.

Second semester brings with it a few new changes in the schedule at MEC. Due to popular demand we will continue our Health/Wellness class in the afternoon. In addition to our regular schedule Mr. McKinnis and I will be offering the opportunity for students to take part in a second weight lifting class due to high numbers in the current class. We are also gearing up for the writing assessment testing which will take place between now and the end of February.

The staff at Morrow Education Center continues to place great emphasis on the goals set forth by the board, as well as the development of self-determination and self-advocacy skills needed to make a successful transition from high school to adulthood. Best wishes to all of you in the New Year!