

# **Principal & Director Reports**

**April 2006**

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

### **Heppner Elementary School**

Science club was finished up on 3/14 at the disappointment of many kids. Sue Gibbs did a wonderful job of teaching kids and getting them excited about science. She would like to extend a thank you to Fish and Wildlife, Griebe, Larry Lutchter (extension), and Deiter Waite for helping out.

National Drop Everything and Read Day is April 12<sup>th</sup>. This year it will be honoring Beverly Cleary's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Take some time on April 12<sup>th</sup> to just read.

5/6<sup>th</sup> grade students each completed letters that were sent to Ireland. They are hoping to begin a correspondence with students.

On March 22 Mrs. Allen 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade class had Steve Pyle, who is the retired Weston-McEwen High School band teacher, come to their classroom and give a presentation with his Bag Pipes. He went over the history and how they were developed. The demonstration was impressive.

Heppner Elementary is hosting a program Sonnets in Spring on Friday, April 14 from 8:00 AM-Noon. Students in grade 3-6 are welcome to come and learn some fun writing techniques. Classes will be taught by advanced Heppner High school students. Morrow County schools along with Condon, Fossil, Spray, Ione, Echo, schools have been invited to attend.

Morrow County School District math contest will be Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at RHS. The contest will begin about 6:00 PM and awards will be given around 7:30 PM.

Heppner Elementary Chess club finished up the year with an in-house tournament. This year's winners were:

K.....Joe Jones  
1<sup>st</sup>.....Logan Grieb  
2<sup>nd</sup> ....Cai Arbogast  
3<sup>rd</sup> ....Cade Arbogast  
4<sup>th</sup> .....Shane Miles  
5<sup>th</sup>....Bryce Fowler  
6<sup>th</sup> ...Cody Nelson

All the kids were very excited!

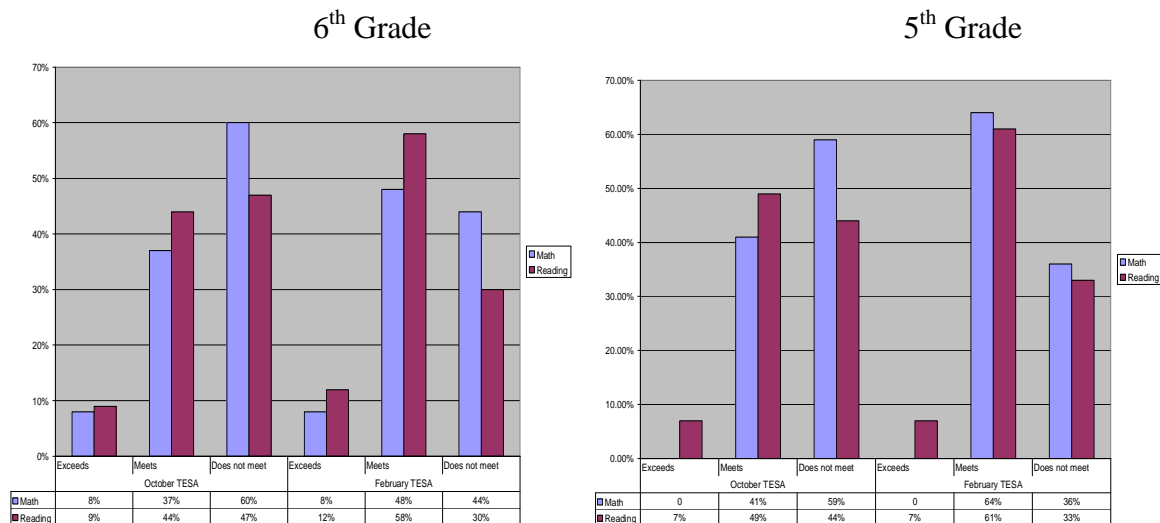
### **Heppner High School**

- Have been working on class offerings and master scheduling for next year.
- We finished up the STARS program and it was a success for all involved.
- Did walk around with my custodians to formulate five year plan on maintenance items.
- We held our first Bullying/Harassment committee meeting with Mark Thompson. It went very well and this month we will be working and collecting surveys distributed to the staff along with recording incidents to reflect upon.
- Have arranged and set up meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration for April 5th.
- We received our Carl Perkins allocation money and our PTE director is working on the budget and formulating goals for next year.
- Have been on the phone and recruiting for my open positions hard. Fun Stuff!

- I am making up a list of needed items to start the AG program with as to what I need to budget for. Getting someone hired as soon as possible is my goal.
- Held several parent meetings with struggling kids parents along with their teachers.
- St. Patricks weekend was a big success- our student body was actively involved with making baskets for Casino Night along with numerous other things throughout the weekend.
- ASB Elections happened and we have already starting assigning duties to the new officers.
- We have begun our science testing window and I am doing some extra incentives to kids for those that make their RIT gains.
- Our spring sports are off and running. Participation is good and they are looking forward to some good weather.
- We have tentatively scheduled the track to be finished at the end of April- weather permitting.
- Met with Library Techs to formulate direction for next year and transition of new people due to retirements.

### Irrigon Elementary School

**TESA Testing:** The scores are in and we are happy with the results. In the sixth grade, **eight** more students met the benchmark in math and **nine** more met the benchmark in reading. In the fifth grade, **thirteen** more students met the benchmark in math and **seven** more met the benchmark in reading. The charts below show the progress we are making at IES.



In April, all students will be celebrated during our 'GONG' ceremony. Each student will strike the GONG once for meeting a benchmark and/or increasing their score by six RIT points. We will be sounding the GONG outside letting the whole world know how successful our students have been at working hard and improving their test scores.

**Student Body Assembly:** Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, March 23th. The Resource Room class made cars and participated in a soap box derby during the assembly. Mrs. Luke's class also performed a play for us.

### Irrigon High School

#### **Irrigon Culminating Experience**

Irrigon Jr. Sr. High School has been busy trying to prepare for their first Senior Class this coming fall. A committee of 5 teachers, counselor and administration has been meeting since January designing the culminating project in which all seniors will need to successfully complete before graduating. The project

has been titled, "Irrigon Culminating Experience" or "ICE". This will satisfy for State and Morrow County School District requirements for Career Development credit. The committee compared requirements from a variety of schools in the area as well as adapted the Career Cruising component when developing the plan. The committee presented the plan to the staff and explained its importance in the Advisory classes as well as some of the core classes in which this project will be implemented. The Junior Advisors and administration will be planning a meeting in May to explain this project as well as numerous other things to the parents and upcoming seniors in order to prepare them.

### **"A Midsummer's Night Dream"**

March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the community of Irrigon was given the wonderful opportunity to see their students put on a Shakespearian play. The two nights saw crowds of over 100 and people said that the students got better as the performances went on. From the backdrop, costumes, programs and refreshments the students went above and beyond. Mrs. Heather Miller was the advisor in charge and under her direction the students did themselves and Irrigon proud.

### **TESA Returns**

After Spring Break and needed rest, the students at Irrigon Jr. Sr. High School will conclude their yearly TESA tests. The testing has gone smoothly so far with numerous students meeting their RIT growth goals as well as the State standards. We will continue to test in advisories and use the portable lap top computers. We are proud that in the past year our computer lab as withstood the rigors of testing and student use and we have not lost one to student mishap or misuse. Our students will also have an assembly leading up to the TESA window to celebrate the successes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> testing window.

### **Spring Sports**

Students at both the High School and Junior High continue to amaze the staff by the numbers that are turning out for sports. At the High School level we will have a full track team, softball and baseball team and even added Tennis to the schedule as well. At the Junior High level we are looking forward to having track. With new coaches and the first year of competition we are eagerly awaiting to see how our students will compete but also anticipate seeing us improve as the year goes on.

In addition to the sporting events, our Booster Club and administration has been working on getting the softball field built and baseball field to playing condition. Months of planning at the Booster Club meetings have gotten individual volunteers to come out and help mark the fields, get bids on fencing and getting sod ripped up and moved to the shop building plot of land. We hope to get this completed in the next few weeks so we can showcase our playing fields not just our athletes.

### **BMCC Skills Day/Student Leadership Conference**

On March 14<sup>th</sup> 25 High School students attended the Leadership Conference in Pendleton and 17 students competed in the BMCC Skills Day event. Students in both groups returned with ideas to improve themselves as well as a look into what is available in their future. Lisa Constantine, ELL instructor, and Johanna Davis, Counselor, were in charge of these events.

### **Honor Band**

Finally, On March 19-20, Mr. Jeff Searles took 3 students to Honor Band where they were able to perform their musical talents with others. The students that attended were Drew Prindle, Cassandra Feyder and Beth Reeves.

## **Riverside High School**

### **RHS CAREER EDUCATION**

The Career Education Credit at Riverside Jr/Sr High School is the culmination of several years of training/education for Riverside's students in grades 7-12. The credit comes from a combination of the final Senior Project, the Advisor/Advisee Program, and the utilization of the **Career Cruising** program to build a portfolio and plan for each student's future careers. The vision was each child traversing the 7-12 program at Riverside would have one person who kept track of their academic achievement, career goals, personal growth and issues, and helped them deal with problems. The Advisor/Advisee Program grew from this perceived need to meet with students in small groups and provide each student (and their parents/guardians) an adult in the school familiar with them, academically and personally. The law requires that schools have a comprehensive career plan grades 7-12, and it must be in place for Class of 2008.

The Advisor/Advisee program meets each day for half an hour. The advisee reads three days a week and does career activities one day a week. Two programs are utilized in the Advisor/Advisee program: **Career Cruising** for completion of career activities and **Accelerated Reader** Program for improvement in reading. Advisors meet with their advisees every day, but they only have activities planned for once per week. The program is dynamic and multifaceted. The Advisor/Advisee program provides time for the students to investigate careers

and to improve their reading abilities, which is tied to their language arts grade since they receive 15% of their grade from accumulating Accelerated Reading points.

Career Cruising makes the career planning fun and easier. Staff and students (and parents) can access the program from their home computers, so they can explore on their own as well as during the advisee activities during the advisor/advisee period. They need only to log on to <http://careercruising.com> the username is **Riverside** and the password is **pirates**. Then it is a matter of building a portfolio. Students can tell parents their password, or it can be obtained by calling Ms. Thomas or Mrs. Donna Barton at Riverside. Most of the first year is devoted to students completing their career plan activities. Each student builds an individual career exploration portfolio in Career Cruising over the course of time at Riverside. The advisor provides documentation of the plan as each student exits as a senior. The Advisor/Advisee Program is evaluated yearly and ideas for team building, improvements or any other thoughts are incorporated.

The Senior Project and exit interview is the culminating activity for the Advisor/Advisee Program. All advisors serve on the committees for the exit interview. The senior presents and defends his/her project to the committee. The project includes a resume, attendance profile, disciplinary issues, testing records, CIM scores, community service, job shadows, employee evaluation forms, the Career Cruising Portfolio, any other pertinent information, and official transcripts. Students present evidence that they have the appropriate skills and are ready for whatever path they choose beyond high school, whether that be the military, college, university, vocational school, or the business world. The best part of the whole project is it instills students with skills and prepares them for interviews they will encounter as they go out in to life. The senior project is evaluated yearly, incorporating suggestions and ideas to make it more worthwhile and beneficial for students.

G Ann Thomas/Counselor/Registrar

### PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Several years ago, in an effort to improve attendance at Riverside, a decision was made that students with perfect attendance would be excused from taking quarter finals. This year 56 high school students had perfect attendance during the third nine-week period of the 2005-2006 school year. Those students, with permission from home, were excused from taking third quarter finals.

### “SOUTH PACIFIC”

Riverside Drama Club successfully presented the World War II era musical “South Pacific” during three performances on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The production, under the direction of drama advisors Kathie Goad and Rick Drake, was well attended by the public. We would like to thank Dean Mason and Joy Pritchard for all they did to help make the performance a success.

### FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

#### **Academic**

7<sup>th</sup> Grader—Nuvia Ramirez  
8<sup>th</sup> Grader—Maddy Chikalla  
Freshman—Alfredo Alvarez  
Sophomore—Daniel Hansen  
Junior—Aaron Rouska  
Senior—Tatiana Lopez

#### **Citizenship**

7<sup>th</sup> Grader—Emily Doherty  
8<sup>th</sup> Grader—Ana Zuniga  
Freshman—Lilly Doherty  
Sophomore—Patricia Madrigal  
Junior—Josh Parker  
Senior—Brittany Swindler

**Teacher of the Month**—Kathy Simonis

**Classified Employee of the Month**—Melanie Hall

### Windy River Elementary

We have just completed our second round of TESA testing at WRE. Below you will see the results from Mastery in Motion as of March 22. (These numbers are not totally complete as we have a small number of students who have not finished.)

#### Sixth Grade Math

15% have exceeded their benchmark  
56% have met their benchmark

#### Fifth Grade Math

7% have exceeded their benchmark  
64% have met their benchmark

#### Sixth Grade Reading

10% have exceeded their benchmark  
64% have met their benchmark

#### Fifth Grade Reading

7% have exceeded their benchmark  
53% have met their benchmark

I am very pleased with the number of students that have exceeded their benchmarks. Another positive point is that many of our students have already achieved one year's growth as well as reaching their benchmark.

Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April. We will have some very positive news to share about student achievement when we met.

Then next most exciting thing is the progress of the new addition. As of today they have made great progress on the framing portion. You can see it taking shape each day!

We sent 21 students to a Leadership conference in Pendleton on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Our school counselor Ms. Torres made the arrangements and attended with the students. She reported to me that she received many positive comments about how well our students behaved and how well they participated in the activities. The students felt good about what they had learned at the conference. Please feel free to contact Ms. Torres about the content of the conference if you have questions.

Everyone is looking forward to Spring break. Kids and Staff!

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

We had some great events in March! Our Family reading night was a great success. We had over 75 people come and read with their children. Our guest readers read the book “If you give a mouse a cookie” in English and in Spanish. Each SBE students got some cookies of their own and a free book.

We also had our Carnival at the end of the month. This was a huge project that involves out PTO as well as our teaching staff. We also had a lot of help from RHS students. A special thank you to Jake Lemmon and Dave Boor for their help recruiting students who did a great job!! The school and PTO made \$5500.00, not bad for 2 hrs of work. I big thanks to the PTO and its president Laura Torres!

As always, we had or March student of the month assembly. And the winners are:

MARCH				
Student of the Month Names				
Academics	Responsibility	Respect	Safety	
Ted DuBry	Ramiro Madrigal	Gilberto Silva	Brian Gonzalez	4Nead
Rogelio Almonte	Karla Jimenez	Jesus Ortega	Ana Madrigal	4Lemmon
Alexis Schneider	Alonso Nieto	Steve Cardenas	Paige Bither	3Bankston
Dominic Valenzuela	Blanca Olguin	Abram Hernandez	Noe Madrigal	1Ogden
Lizeth Zuniga	Sergio Farias	Skylar Wightman	Kevin Madrigal	K-1Wilson
KassidyMcCullough	Jerry Rodriguez	Osiel Madrigal	Laura Lopez	1Harrison
Vanessa Calvillo	Yolonda Lopez	Eloy Hernandez	Wyatt Neal	2-McClen
Katelyn Bass	Yaneri Calvillo	Luis Aguilar	Laura Afanador	1-Harjo
Guadalupe Aguilar	Diego Pacheco	Briana Melendez	Wenceslao Olvera	3-Jeppeson
Josiah Chikalla	Lizeth Gaytan	Colton Neal	Laura Ponce	3-Raible
Winter Mitts	Jacob Papineau	Carlos A. Lopez	Winnie VanDaele	4-McClen
Kadi Sasser	Misael Madrigal	Jassiel Carmona	Yonatan Flores	K-1Files
Ryan Ibarra	Judit Casteneda	Stephanie Madrigal	Cari Barton	2-Kellison
Wyatt Edens	Gerry Ruiz	Ana Navarro	Eric Pacheco	K-Creason/Gering
David Rodriguez	Alyx Edens	Joana Afandor	Jose Mendoza	1-Milton
Wayne Killion	Adely Martinez	Kristen Fredrickson	Jonathan Ortega	2Campbell
Jasmine Puerta	Clay Miller	Gabrielle Ganvoa	Kelvin Jimenez	3-Smith
Andrea Madrigal	Edith Velasco	Aileen Velasco	Briselda Navarro	2-Kennedy
Manuel Herrera	Shane DuBry	Kirsten Edison	Abigail Bozarth	K-Lalande
Karina Caldera	Sarah Bose	Rene Ramos	Sean Wood	4-Dixon
Anthony Ramirez	Luis Olvera	Armando Aparicio	Jessenia Hernandez	K-Flores
Kelvon Johnson	Kaleb Caudron	Ana Barajas	Jesse Hibbitts	K-Prindle

### **Morrow Education Center**

We near the end of March with 80 students currently enrolled, 46 of which are Morrow County students. As spring break rapidly approaches, students at MEC are trying to focus on sustained progress and academic growth. The third quarter is winding down and students are anxious for spring break to begin.

The MEC staff continues 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.

### **Special Education**

We have had continued activity in the three weeks since our last report, but not many new items to report. This time of the year special education teachers are preparing for parent-teacher conferences and trying to complete extended assessments, which replace TESSA tests for students not able to take the regular test and the CLRAS (Career and Life Related Assessment System) for students that are unable to take any tests. These tests have to be given individually which takes a lot of time, but must be done because they reflect on our participation score.

We finished entering the data on our file review to the state. Earlier in the year all of the special education teachers met for a review of special education files. We had to report on 95 criteria from eight files selected by ODE to show we were in compliance. In general there were a few errors, some of which occurred because a student came to us from another district with errors in their records.

From the data turned in on the census, ODE also required districts to submit field reports on areas that they determined suspect. Our district did very well here. There were only a few areas flagged. We had a higher than average number of students listed for specific learning disabilities and a lower number listed for Emotional Disturbance. Because of our demographics, those were easier to explain. We were also flagged in the area of “low identification because of ethnic background” for Asian, Black and Native Americans. (That was the easiest to explain since we are below 1% in all of those areas.)

The next challenge after spring break is when the state will return their findings on our file reviews and I will need to write our Special Education District Improvement Plan. I don't think we will be found non-compliant in many areas.

### **ELL Program**

#### **30 Day Response to the ODE ELL Audit**

We were given 30 days to respond with program changes to the six findings to our Title III ELL audit review. With that, the ELL director met with school district administration and school principals to make plans as to how each school will respond to the audits corrective actions. Principals were retrained in the ELL student exiting process for it was a requirement of one of the audits stipulations. By March 17<sup>th</sup> the ELL director was able to adequately and properly bring every response of the corrective changes of the Title III audit and meet with the assistant superintendent. As of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, every piece of our responsibility was met, and mailed back to the Oregon Department of Education assuring

them of our legal compliance to their findings relating to our Title III program. The State is now required to audit every Title III school district's program in a small review every year. Every six years they are now required to do a major audit like the one we have just foregone.

#### Day of Talk, Planning, Vision with ELL Site Coordinators

With so much that our ELL program has forgone before the audit, and after the audit. And with the major structural change that we have made in the programs authority centralization, curriculum and the focus of ELD achievement, the district office and I planned a day to meet with all our ELL teachers, and talk. We discussed next year's vision and program change, curriculum. We shared ideas of how to teach reading, writing, speaking and understanding to ELL students. We shared the immediate changes that each school had to make in order to meet the audit's findings. It was a time to settle ourselves and focus back to what was most important. With this I have still called our ELL staff to help me create, out of all this constant intensive change, the best ESL program in the state of Oregon. It was a day well spent.

#### ELPA Testing

We have been getting ready for the new state mandated testing program called the ELPA English Language Proficiency Assessment. It has never been field tested, but half of the ELL students in the state have to do it, the other half are to be tested by the district's commercial test. It has required us to be trained, practice tested with ELL students, computer diagnostic checks, headsets with microphone prepared, registrations as district testing coordinators and a variable of many other smaller things. It does not make our job easier, for it conflict with our TESA testing periods and regular instruction. Our State has been mandated by the Federal government that they must have had this test in place by the spring of 2006. And that time is now.

#### Re-Focus of ELL Student Achievement

With all that we are hit with in administration and school challenges it's important to remember what the real purposes are. They are not to just satisfy paper work for compliant programs or make everything just look better organized. It is still the kids. I am self challenged to get the best instruction, by the best teachers, with the best curriculum, and the best vision of championship leadership, so that we have a clear road paved ahead of us to help our ELL kids achieve high levels of English academic success. It has been done, and it is being done. I too want to bring us into those Halls of Academic Fame, of what we have done, here in the dessert.