

## Principal & Director Reports

October 2006

### A.C. Houghton Elementary

### Heppner Elementary School

Three special students attended the Pendleton Round up. This was a fabulous experience for them. They had opportunities to ride horses and interact with some amazing people.





Thank you to my wonderful staff for assisting these kids. Staff pictured from left to right: Tami Lien, Elaine Miller, Mimi Flaherty (Volunteer), Mary Ann Elguezabal, Brandi Sweeney.

The HES teachers spent one evening sewing pillow cases for Caring Cabin for cancer children at the Oregon Coast. Love abounds in this school.







HES started its annual canned food drive the week of Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. I can provide total pounds at the Board meeting, just ask.

Homecoming was even wilder this year since the elementary got to be involved. HES attended the HHS pep assembly at the football stadium. It was fun to see the little kids cheer and yell with the big kids. Who knows maybe we have started a new tradition in Heppner.

### **Heppner High School**

- Had a great Homecoming week with many activities.
- Working on putting together the track shed and pouring the slab.
- ZAP is up and running and we are working on tracking kids. Two week grading period.
- Drama club is working on Grease and will have multiple showings.
- We had an AG Community Workday that was very successful involving over 30 community members.
- Our new staff is fitting in well and has added to our school community.
- We are working on taking the old bleachers out of the gym so the new ones can come in on Nov 4th.
- Our bullying committee is still taking issues as they arise.
- Cycle Oregon came and went- we did very well with our fundraising efforts. We received multiple thank yous and comments on the nature of our kids.
- Progress reports are due and we are tracking students.
- We have ordered a new scoreboard for the football field with a Pepsi contract and \$4000. It won't be put into place until next year.
- Working on getting donor boards for our metal art finished.
- Our advisory period has been a success and we are starting to work on the new grad requirements through our GOAL sheet.

- Putting plans in to remove some trees and brush up at the track to open things up for teams that will come to Heppner this spring.
- Working on bringing in a speaker to all of Morrow County High School kids on drugs and alcohol.
- Academic counseling has been an on-going work that I have been working with my staff on.
- Met with BMCC on credit recovery curriculum for hard to get classes.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**Open House:** Held Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm. We had a fair turn out for this event. Staff is currently working on ways to get more families involved in events held at school.

**Afterschool Club:** We started last week with a fantastic turn out of students. 34 students are currently participating in the program. This year we added a third day, Thursday, to the club. Students who participate on Tuesday and Wednesday get to select a class to take on Thursday. This quarter we offer art, school newspaper, and chess for our Thursday classes. Thursday classes will change each quarter.

**Student Council:** Student Body elections were held. Officers this year are:

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade President	Ashli Roberts
Vice President	Eric Vera
Sec/Treas.	Jasmine Anaya
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade President	Marissa Stanger
Vice President	Osvaldo Macias
Sec/Treas.	Emilie McKenney

These officers will travel to Pendleton on October 4<sup>th</sup> to attend OASC Fall Leadership Conference.

**Parent Club:** Parents will be meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> to establish a club. This is new for Irrigon Elementary and we look forward to several parents being involved in the process.

### **Irrigon High School**

September was a good month. The big event was the Booster Club dinner and auction that raised over \$9400!!! The students did a great job working to set up and serve at the dinner. Thanks to the school board members, administrators, staff, students and families, community members and Booster club members for all of their support. The Booster Club has already [begun](#) to review [the process](#) and start planning for next year. We will probably move to the gym to give us more room.

We had our second round of UA's. No positives were reported. We ended the practice of lunchtime detentions instead moving them to after school. We also had a great in-service on 9/22. We covered SIOP, ICE, DART, Student Led Conferences and Content Curriculum Mapping. We will expand on the Content Curriculum Mapping at the Oct 13 in-service.

Mr. Johnson's students put out their second newspaper. It talked about our foreign exchange students and new teachers.

October events include a Blood Drive Oct 5<sup>th</sup> and Spirit Week October 23-28. We will also have our first JH Dance Oct 26. The bonfire will be Oct 26 from 7-8 with the Homecoming game Oct 27 at 2:00. We hope this will be the second game played on our new football field (the first being Oct 20<sup>th</sup>). The Homecoming HS Dance will be Saturday Oct 28. The students are very excited about the first IJSHS Homecoming!

Some of our students learned the hard way about our drug and alcohol policy. Their actions affected their teammates and the reputation of both the school and each student. We had separate JH and HS assemblies to discuss the rules and choices. I also met with the staff to discuss both the recent school shootings and the shooting in Boardman. We discussed safety and our emergency plan and are planning a lock down drill. We are working very hard to provide a safe constructive learning environment for students and staff.

### **Riverside High School**

#### **RHS OPEN HOUSE/PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Riverside combined the first quarter progress report conferences with open house this year. Tuesday, October 3 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. parents were invited to visit with teachers in their classrooms concerning their student's progress and to learn about classroom activities. This year we also had a Community Barbecue from 4:00-6:00 as part of the Open House activities. CSEPP also set up an information booth on progress, questions and concerns.

#### **JR HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Junior High Accountability Flow Chart was reviewed during Open House to explain the current district policy for junior high students. The main objective of this policy is for junior high student to excel and become fully prepared to enter their next grade progression. Students who do not pass ½ to 3 of the core classes will take Second Semester Remediation or Summer School. If they still do not pass these classes, they will repeat the grade. If a student fails to pass all four core classes, they will repeat the grade. Our goal is to help students achieve success and reach their full potential.

#### **HONORS DIPLOMA**

The Honors Diploma was also reviewed with parents during Open House. In order to receive the Honors Diploma students must meet the requirements for a regular diploma and also achieve 26 credits over their four years in high school. Of those credits earned towards the Honors Diploma, 2 must be in Foreign Language, 1 in Career Education, 1 in Technology or Business and the others are a combination of advanced/honors/college level Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Science Classes. In addition to the above requirements, students must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA and have no D or F on their transcripts. The final requirement is that the student must have completed the CIM with the state. Parents and students can see all the requirements for the Honors Diploma on page 34 of the student agenda handbook.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

In preparation for the Oregon State Writing Assessment, all junior high language arts classes are working this quarter on essays written in the expository mode. The eighth grade has been focusing on autobiography, biography, and description, while the seventh graders' focus has been on their experience with language arts, with their shift in schools, and the typical "how to" paper. We are working not only on the essay form, but also the fluency of the sentences, and are targeting conventional errors which seem prevalent.

The math department at Riverside has made a goal to improve teaching by using as many different resources as possible in order to reach students at all levels. If we can find things that will motivate and excite students to learn then we have solved half the battle of getting students to reach their rit growth and either meet or exceed standards on TESA. We have been using the technology of an Elmo within the classroom to see if this will make a difference within the effectiveness of our instruction both in the junior high classes and the high school classes. The Elmo has increased student listening skills and participation because we can access the internet, share student work at moments notice, or solve problems in a manner that uses a camera to show process in live mode. This technology has also increased our ELL students' comprehension because of the visual affects added to instruction. After using the Elmo within in the classroom to see its impact upon students first hand, especially our ELL's, the math department has made the goal to implement this technology into all math classrooms instead of having to share it amongst the three of us.

The Science department would like to report that students enrolled in the new the forensics class seem pretty excited about the new curriculum. The course curriculum started out with concepts of law, justice, types of crimes, etc. Students were getting very anxious to get started doing some "real" forensics. Once we started on topics liked "evaluating a crime scene" (I set up a mock crime scene) and "classifying fingerprints and developing latent fingerprint" the interest level has escalated. This week we began exploring and classify hair evidence.

## **SENIOR NEWS:**

Senior Night will be October 23, 2006 from 6:30 to 8:30

6:30-7:00 Senior Meeting - FAFSA, SAT TEST, SCHOLARSHIPS

Senior Time Lines – **Auditorium**

6:30-8:30 Vocational Schools, Colleges, Military Information tables – **Old Commons**

8:00-8:30 Operation Graduation Meeting – **Auditorium**

## **Windy River Elementary**

School is going well for the staff and students at Windy River. Last week we celebrated our first Student of the Month assembly. 33 students earned awards for the first month; either for academics or empathy. Empathy was our character trait for the month. Each month we select and emphasize a character trait in our effort to help our students become better decision makers. We also had our first Paw Power drawing along with a homeroom contest. Each homeroom selected a 5 member wolf pack for our annual howling contest. There was some great wolf packs, lots of fun for students and parents. We sent a letter of invitation to the parents of each child that received an award so that they could join in the celebration with their child.

We have also elected our student body officers and they are:

Kiatlynn Dyer-President

Jaquelin Lazama-Vice President

Josue Garcia-Secretary/Treasurer

These students along with Mrs Browne and Ms. Sanchez will be attending a student council conference on October 4<sup>th</sup> to help them understand the purpose of student council and the ins and outs of how they work.

Our after school programs are up and running now. We have a title III program for ELL and migrant students. This programs focus is reading and math. Our Title I program which we call ASSIST (After School Studying and Instructional Student Time) Students who are missing assignments or failing a class are assigned to this program to give them extra time and help to catch up with their classmate. Parents may also request that their child attend if they believe they need extra help. It is much like the ZAP program that Mr. Stone has in place in Heppner. We are hoping that we see the same positive outcomes that his program has brought about.

We are sending out progress reports on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Along with the progress report we are sending home detailed instructions to help parents access our web page and check the progress of their child on a weekly basis. Our teachers post grades to the web every Wednesday. We hope that this will help our parents stay in touch with their child's progress.

September went by quickly and we are looking forward to a busy October.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

The system is running smoothly at SBE! This is a great timer to be in school. The mornings are crisp but by last recess, kids have peeled off their coats and sweatshirts to enjoy the warm afternoon sun.

Speaking of crisp, our schedule is running crisp and clean throughout the day! ELD and reading blocks are settled and kids already know when and where to go.

We have added another neat opportunity for kids at SBE. Mrs. Wendy Appleton has started a choir class with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. So far we have 53 students participating with more coming as the word gets out. Thank you to Mrs. Appleton for creating such a great time for students.

We will kick off our fundraiser this month. We are looking to fund our assemblies as well as other student centered activities this year. So if a SBE child hits you up please at least consider buying an item from them.

Finally, we had our first student of the month assembly. We are again recognizing students in 4 areas; Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Academics.

The September students of the month are:

		Student's of the Month for September		
Academics	Responsibility	Safety	Respect	Teacher
Kirsten Edison	Andy Melendez	Miguel Hoyos	Karina Llamas	1-Harrison
Kirsten Taylor	Brianne Bishop	David rodriguez	Jario Garcia	2-McClenahan

Manuel Perez	Kristen Frederickson	Henry Torres	Paige Esterbloom	3-Jeppeson
Bianca Gutierrez	Jose Avila	Dominic Valenzuela	Jorge Montoya	2-Hernandez
Yaneri Calvillo	Abram Hernandez	Gabrielle Miller	Katie Gilbert	2-Campbell
Yonatan Flores	Tarin Troxell	Jose Luis Perez	Misael Madrigal	K-1 Files
Aidan Barresse	Alondra Caldera	Ana Navarro	Gabrielle Hicks	K-Creazon
Arturo Flores	Ulises Hererra	Rocio Martinez	Edith Velasco	3-Raible
Maribel Lopez	Wayne Killion	Consuelo Llamas	Katie Wiese	3-Bankston
Kassidy McCullough	Scarlett Reagan	Ethan Akers	Luis Aguilar	2-Kennedy
Kelvon Johnson	Maydi Barrera	Eric Caldera	Jorge Alvarez	1-Milton
Kaleb Caudron	Ruby Barrera	Laura Avila	Abigail Bozarth	1-Harjo
Christian Murguia	Junior Jarrett	Jose Cervantes	Yulice Cobian-Laurel	K-Bigham
Jose Peralta	Daniel Rodriguez	Ricardo Navarro	Zuleyma Rodriguez	K/1 Wilson
Jenna McCullough	Anthony Rodelo	Emma Finley	Micah Mossman	K-Ogden
Mayra Hernandez	Eloy Hernandez	Juana Martinez	Cari Barton	3-Prindle
Daisy Sanchez	Abraham Silva	Anthony Flores	Monica Virelas-Garcia	K-Christy

### **ELL Program**

The month of September has been a month of swift passing. Yet we are on our way of complying with NCLB and district goals as it relates to the ELL program of Morrow County.

The beginning of the month I visited our schools' ELL programs to see that teachers were actively teaching ESL, and that instructional aids were working with our ELL students. It was exciting to see children being taught large amounts of English by our ELL staff.

At the beginning of the month we interviewed newly hired teachers who spoke Spanish, and we approved for six new teachers and counselor to receive the Spanish stipend over a process of three years. We are excited to see this part of the ELL District Plan being put into a reality.

In relation to staff development, we have opened up training for our ELL teachers at the ESD to be trained in the Focused Approach of English Language Development. We had our first training in September and we'll have more in the months to follow. The district had a review of SIOP instructional methods, and every teacher in the district was to attend. In light of my new responsibilities as ELL director, I have been meeting with ELL teachers to set professional development goals, and pre-observation conferences with ELL teachers in the district.

The month of September was also one of hiring new ELL instructional aid staff. We interviewed over 20 applicants, and we chose applicants with the skills and abilities needed to fit our student needs.

Parent Involvement has been a new program given to all of us in administration. I have been directly busy to get parents into Parent Teacher Organization, Boosters Club, Site Council, Family Education Nights, and to having direct administrative access of the superintendent and myself in meetings where schools have parents coming for other school related reasons. We want all parents involved, and we want them to know personally from all levels of administration that we care that they be an active part of our school district.

With this, I have represented MCSD at meetings relating to Immigrant Families held at the Port of Morrow, district area ELL directors meetings at the ESD in Pendleton, and ELL directors' meeting at



the capitol in Salem. These meeting keep me on top of things coming down from the State and Federal governments concerning ESL programs in our district.

### **Morrow Education Center**

Once again, it is a privilege to report the recent happenings of the Morrow Education Center. Forrest and I are still busy recruiting students who haven't yet re-enrolled at the Morrow Education Center. Our current enrollment as of today is 66 students, 38 of which are MCSD students and the other 28 are Umatilla students. This represents an increase of 20 students over last year at this time. With the influx in student population we are extremely pleased to have a new addition to our MEC family. Ms. Pamela Barrera recently joined the MEC staff and brings with her the ability to provide interpretation for the program along with the ability to work closely with our ELL population. We continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students at the Morrow Education Center, and most students have been responding well and attending regularly this year.

The MEC Staff and I have enjoyed the past month in the classroom here at Morrow Education Center and have welcomed the daily challenges that go along with serving this population of students. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.