

Principal & Director Reports

February 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

-Mr. William Walter is currently here doing an Artist in Residence visit. He is working with all of our students making puppets. He's been very well received and it helps that he is extremely good teaching kids. One kindergarten teacher's comment was that she was amazed that he could even keep kindergartners attention for more than five seconds.

-This year's parent activity nights have been the most successful during all the years that we have been doing them. Monday's Family Skate Night had 127 participants, students and parents. About one third of the group rides on the bus with students paying two dollars apiece. The other two thirds come in as family groups. It is amazing to see the number of adults who are going skating for the first time in 15-20 years. We have the occasional accident with kids but so far we haven't broken any parent heads.

In addition to Family Skate Night we do a Family Movie Night and we do a Family Reading Night. We go skating six times, Reading Night five times, and Family Movie Night six times. Our parent group has been tremendously supportive both financially and with coordination of these activities.

-We are just about to begin our State Writing Assessment in the third and fourth grade. We began this activity with our third annual Writing Olympics opening ceremonies which was an all school event. Students created banners with the various writing traits and organizational aspects of their writing and paraded in our gymnasium for these opening ceremonies.

Heppner Elementary School

As always it is a privilege to once again report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. January seemed to fly by with the assistance of a couple of snow days to the HES students' delight. February has arrived and along with it a lot of pink, red and white bulletin boards with heart shaped themes now adorn the walls of HES. Our enrollment as of today is 191 students which is up one from my December report as we just enrolled another new student at HES. Our current attendance percentage for the 2007/2008 school year is 95.5%, this unfortunately is slightly down again from last month but we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

January was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, among the highlights was the "Basketball Reading" afterschool / overnight party which took place on January 17th. Thanks to Mrs. Allen for overseeing this event! "*The Geography Bee*" was held at HES on January 23rd, Congratulations to 1st Place winner Cade Arbogast and 2nd Place finisher Tommy Bredfield! Thanks to Mrs. Rill for facilitating this event and to Mr. Burrows for helping read the questions for it! The 2nd quarter also ended on January 17th and we will be awarding about 80 HES Students with Honor Cards at an assembly on February 7th at 2pm.

There are a couple of important upcoming events for your calendars; HES is sponsoring the Regional "Chess for Success Tournament" here tomorrow Saturday, February 2nd for Umatilla and Morrow

County schools. Thursday February 14th is Valentine's Day, and is also the night of the "Smart Hearts" Health Fair, which will be held in the HES Gym. This event will run from 5:30pm - 7:30pm and includes a Free taco dinner, puppet show, booths, games, and raffle prizes! The event is sponsored by Parents for Parents in cooperation with HES. President's Day is on February 18th, there will be No School on this day, but "Freaky Friday" (the make up school day) will be on Friday February 22nd.

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

- The National Honor Society held a school-wide Penny for Patients fundraiser to help the cause of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Oregon and SW Washington. Several hundred dollars have been raised. Kudos!!!
- Our choir and Mr. Lindsey did a great performing at our Annual Chamber Awards. Ms. Whitney Matthews was named student-citizen of the year.
- We had Mark Thompson (ESD bullying expert contractor) here one full day this month. He observed our student body both in classes and during pass time. We then held a bullying committee meeting at the end of the day and we set up an easy to follow flow chart of handling bullying behavior. This chart and plan has been two years in the making and is the final piece of our labors. He was honest and told our staff that we are improving student behavior based on what he observed during the day. We have worked hard on addressing some of these issues and Mark has helped us in our endeavors.
- Josie Miller a senior at HHS placed second in the district public speaking contest held in Hermiston. She will compete on the state level and also has applied for a state officer position. This young lady has worked very hard in preparing herself for this chance and we are all rooting her on!!
- We have been finalizing our School Improvement Plan with our Site Council and refining our document so it is easy to apply.
- I personally met with 6 kids this month and set them up on assignment sheets. These students are struggling with organization and our staff is committed to helping them learn the skill of keeping track of their responsibilities.
- Our LA teachers and I have been reviewing test data in their respective departments and age groupings. We are working on problem solving our issues with low scores our first round of testing.
- We are working on getting teacher pages up on our website. I will be meeting with Erika Lassiter from the ESD to remake our website and update it.
- Obviously, we have had winter here in Heppner the last couple of weeks. We are working hard in communicating school closure information both with our phones, man power, and our website.

Irrigon Elementary School **High School Student Aids**

This semester, with an emphasis on helping students in Math and Reading we have been able to get seven Irrigon High School students come to Irrigon Elementary School and help younger students. The work they are doing gives them credit as a high school class and for B.M.C.C. credit as well. Their work also helps in receiving community service hours. Most of all, we get the one-on-one help that a high school junior and senior can give to 5th /6th graders in Math, Reading or tutoring. This is a win-win situation.

Attendance and Motivation

We want our kids to come to school. With Christmas visits away, colds, flu, and bad weather I want kids to come to school and keep on consistently being taught with our sound direct instruction. With ASB approval we are doing similar to ACH in that we are giving weekly awards for weekly perfect attendance. One student wins a \$25 gift card if they have had perfect attendance that week. It pays to go to school!

Word of the Week

With a desire to see kids test very well with vocabulary that they will see on the state reading tests, our School Action Plan has planned to have a Word-of- the Week program. This is put in the announcements every day. A different sentence is used everyday. Teachers are given the words and they use them in different ways during the week. I wear my word on my clothes on my forehead every where I go. I may look silly but kids get the message. Words are important.

Irrigon High School

Volunteer Dinner

Plans are currently under way for our first annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We have set up to host the dinner on March 3rd in the cafeteria. The High School Jazz band will perform and all of the volunteers will be recognized for all that they do to make Irrigon High a great school. We will be recognizing businesses that have made contributions to the large projects that have taken place during the year. We will also be recognizing the individuals and families that volunteer for the wide range of programs and projects. The cafeteria staff will be making a great dinner for the volunteers and some of the members of the staff and students will be serving the dinner.

Wrestling Tournaments

We have been fortunate to host a number of wrestling tournaments this past season. The most recent tournament we hosted was the pre-districts tournament. The poor weather has led to teams not being able to make it, but it still has showcased the program and all of the hard work put in by the coaches and athletes. Blaine Ganvoa, athletic director, and Erich Harjo, head coach, continue to work hard to increase the number of home matches and tournaments we can host.

College Acceptance

Currently we have 10 seniors who have been accepted to a four year college or have signed up to enlist in the Armed Forces. Students have been accepted to University of Indiana, OHSU, Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon University. We have many more that are in the application process and by graduation we have 15 students that plan on enrolling in a four year university that is almost 1/3 of our senior class. Many others are seeking out BMCC and CBC's vocational programs and are looking at transferring after two years. Applications to the OSAC have increased and several parents have made appointments to come in and get assistance on their Financial Aid Application.

Last week we had BMCC's Ambassador come in and speak to all of our freshmen and juniors. The presentation focused on planning for success in college by planning well in high school. Emily Henningshaw did a fantastic job and brought a TON of giveaways that definitely helped keep the kid's attention! On the 12th of February Lewis and Clark College will be in to speak to the seniors and juniors about opportunities for them.

Duel Credit / Ed 100 and Ed 280

We currently have 13 Seniors and Juniors receiving up to 3 college credit for being teacher's aides. The credits only cost the students \$10 per credit. They are issued through BMCC as count for our students as an elective credit. The students are currently working at IJSHS, IES, and ACH. In order to receive the credit the student must complete 40 hours of time in the classroom as well as receive positive evaluations. Along with the class time requirements there is some course work that goes along with it. The course work includes exploratory searches, surveys, and the upper level class must design a lesson. Students who are interested in the teaching field can end up after two years 18 college credits.

FFA Accomplishments

We are proud to announce that Jasmine Wagner and Pat Barron of Irrigon and Casey McClure of Riverside will be receiving their State FFA Degrees. This is the fourth step in degrees for the FFA program. They will be recognized at the state convention for their accomplishment. Some the criteria for the degree is to maintain a 3.0 GPA, are an active FFA member for 2 years, pass a 100 question agriculture and FFA history exam, and have project with either \$500 or 700 hours invested in. The convention will be held in March in Pendleton.

On Thursday the FFA will be competing in a regional parliamentary procedure contest at BMCC. The teams have been practicing and prepping for this competition for a few months now. The FFA chapter will be taking two teams, a beginning team and an advanced team. Each team consists of 6 competitors.

Another competition coming up later in the spring is the ag mechanics competition. The students will compete in the following areas; wiring, welding, master mechanic test, tool reconditioning.

The FFA also just finished up their annual Member Work Auction. The students raised over \$1500 through the auction. The students were auctioned off during the halftime of

Riverside High School

LEADERSHIP CLASS PROJECTS

The Leadership Class has been collecting school supplies and gently used clothing during the month of January to send to the students and citizens of Vernonia, Oregon. Their school and many of their homes were destroyed by flooding last month.

Dean and Karen Kegler were recognized at the pep assembly on January 25th for their service to Riverside. This is part of an ongoing project that the Leadership class has been working on throughout the year to thank longtime supporters of Riverside.

The Leadership class has undertaken a new project of displaying photographs of past Riverside High School students who have gone on to play college sports. A "Wall of Fame" will be created to let students know that there is "Life after high school." Anyone with knowledge of any athletes who played at the collegiate level, are urged to contact Mrs. Fritz.

NEW JR HIGH NUTRITION PROGRAM

We have a new program in our school for junior high students. It is Oregon State University Extension Service's Oregon Family Nutrition Program. OFNP works to educate and equip Oregonians to live healthy, active lives through nutrition education. Funded through the USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program, OFNP partners with schools that are 50% Free and Reduced Lunch and agencies that are 50% Food Stamp Eligible to deliver interactive lessons on food selection, preparation, and safety through fun, hands-on activities. Through this once-a-week program our 7th and 8th graders are learning that making better food choices and staying physically active help them grow and develop and have the energy they need to learn and play. They are also learning that staying physically fit helps them maintain a healthy weight and reduces the risk of serious diseases like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Some of the messages that our students have heard so far are "Breakfast Boosts Brain Power", "Make Half Your Grains Whole", "Vary Your Veggies", and "Focus on Fruits." The students report that they are having fun preparing and tasting new foods and learning how to eat healthier.

MINI-CHEER CAMP

Students from Sam Boardman Elementary and Windy River Elementary will participate in the bi-annual Mini-Cheer Camp hosted by the Riverside HS Cheerleaders. This year's mini-cheer camp will be Jan 30-Feb. 1, 2008. During camp, the RHS cheerleaders teach camp participants Riverside cheers and a dance routine. The mini-cheer participants will perform at the RHS girl's varsity basketball game during half-time on February 1, 2008.

TSA CLUB WORKS WITH NORTH MORROW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Riverside High School's TSA (Technology Student Association) Club has been busy with a community service project. They are scanning all the hundreds of newspaper articles that were collected and used for the *Higher Ground* DVD. They are helping the North Morrow Community Foundation (NMCF) organize and scan the articles so they can be saved. These files will be saved to special archival discs. Copies of the discs will be available for the public's use at some time in the future. According to Carol Michael, "This project is an expansion of the project 'Higher Ground'. After the DVD was completed in 2006, the Oregon Heritage Commission and Morrow County Government funded NMCF to complete an additional project: to safeguard and make useable the large collection of newspaper articles and clippings focusing on the Boardman and Irrigon communities from 1960-1974. The collection was used in the preparation of the DVD, and many people expressed interest in having access to the collection."

Windy River Elementary Certificate of Appreciation

Justyce Banks a fourth grade student received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Boardman Police Department for being a good citizen and doing the right thing. Justyce, while playing in the Boardman city park found a bag of marijuana and turned it over the Boardman Police. Good job Justyce.



December and January Students of the Month

JANUARY

Academics

Academics

Theme - Citizenship/Patriotism

Beagle

Lacie Trowbridge

Joe Amaral

Juan Landeros

Boor

Bianca Barajas

Hans Rockwell

Bryant Cardenas

Browne

Briana Melendez

Jasmine Puerta

Aaron Lester

Chapman

Gema Juarez

Markus Smith

Ryan Ibarra

Cox

Caren Llamas

Brian Gonzalez

Justyce Banks

Dames

Manuel Perez

Natalie Melendez

Andrea Madrigal

Gaede

Crystal Marquez

Jonathan Thomas

Henry Torres

Keefer

Guadalupe Aguilar

Bethany Aldrich

Paige Bither

Strebin

Sandra Zuniga

Juan Villegas

Sarah Bose



Geography Bee

Avika Sharma, a sixth grade student at Windy River Elementary, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 16, 2008 and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 20th annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The other student the competed were: Joe Amarel, Kelsey Caudron, Kristen Fredrickson, Sam Gilbert, Megan Hearn, Sara Bose, Aaron Lester, and Katelyn Taylor. Great Job!!!

Teacher of the Year

WRE's physical education teacher, Jean Strange, was honored on at Heppner's Town and Country Dinner on January 24 by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. She received the Citizen-Education of the Year Award for 2007 for her contribution to the community and to the children of the district. Jean Strange has been teaching for over 28 years, the majority of those years in the south end of the district. Congratulations on a well-deserved award!



Math Night

On January 24th Windy River Elementary held its first annual math night. It was a huge success. I estimates over 100 people were in attendance. The participants were able to move freely among 9 different stations. Stations included tangrams, geometry gems, probability puzzles and make your own rocket graph. A baked potato bar, with all the fixings was available as well. "Playing Blokus and Mrs. Boor's games were my favorite part." said one sixth grader. Several fourth graders loved making rockets with Mrs. Chapman.



Knowledge Master Open

Sixteen 5th and 6th graders from Windy River Elementary represented their school in the Knowledge Master Open academic competition on January 23, 2008. They competed against thousands of students in the U.S. and several foreign lands. The teams faced their computer to answer 100 challenging questions in the event, which earned them points for the speed and accuracy of their answers. The team placed second against other schools in Oregon after many hours of practice with Mrs. Proctor-Reece.

This contest is designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement, the Knowledge Master Open runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The competition is presented twice each school year by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado software publisher. The next competition is March 19, 2008

Perfect Attendance for the first Semester

4th Grade:

Kristen Frederickson, Natividad Garcia, Mayra Hernandez-Torres, Gema Juarez, Humberto Lopez, Yolanda Lopez, Juana Martinez, Kelly McLaughlin, Jeny Mendoza, Jonathan Thomas,

5th Grade:

Guadalupe Aguilar, Bethany Aldrich, Joan Cardenas, Megan Hearn, Sierra Koehler, Brian Mendoza

6th Grade:

Jose Amaya-Orellana, Justyce Banks, Kelsey Caudron, Jose Garay, Carlos A. Lopez, Ana Madrigal, Angelica Martinez, Daisey Navarro, Gilberto Silva

Anna Browne

Columbia River UniServ Council recently awarded two \$500 Promising Practices Grants for 2007. One of the grants went to Anna Browne, 5th grade teacher at Windy River Elementary, of the Morrow County Education Association for her Integrated Earth Science Curriculum. Her grant will help fund the purchase of instruments for students to use when they visit the John Day Fossil Beds this spring. Congratulations, Anna!

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety
Kindergarten	Karina Mendoza Lilian Solis Delmy Barrera	Sebastian Sanchez Ezequiel Ramos Sarah Calvillo	Roberto Calixto Eduardo Afanador Eric Medrano-Estrada	Itzel Ramirez Cesar Montoya Andrea Olguin
Kinder/First	Emmanuel Barrera LilyAnn Rockwell Julian Jimenez	Isabella Ganvoa Aurora Garcia Serafin Roque	Yoanna Lopez Alexis Navarro Kloe McAllister	Abraham Cervantes Seth Thomas Megan Gilbertson
First Grade	David Duenas Francisco Chavez Lilly Davila	Christopher Stanger Stephany Dubry Zerek Baker	Stephanie Gonzales Maria Gonzalez Karrizima Luna	Gerry Ruiz Jose Sanchez Brandon Juarez
Second Grade	Maite Nova Quincy Castillo Lizeth Zuniga Kaleb Caudron	Hector Ponce Luis Gonzalez Jesse Hibbitts Victoria Landeros	Jazmyn Dubry Abby Hernandez Juan Manuel Torres Alexandro Lucatero	Isaias Cervantes Angelic Perez Jesus Ochoa Jose Luis Perez
Third Grade	Mathilda Goodeve Veronica Rodriguez Mirna Daltoso Ahtziri Trujillo	Rubi Salazar Rosy Olvera Adolfo Bedolla Jassiel Carmona	Jenny Rodriguez Donovan Carmack Jessica Calvillo Roberto Hernandez	Noe Madrigal Daniel Cornelius Gabrille Miller Ricardo Rosales

Classroom Attendance Awards:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Mrs. Creason	Mrs. Wilson	Mrs. Campbell	Mrs. Raible



Student Receives Special Award:

The Boardman Police presented a special classroom award to Malyssa Smith. She and her brother found marijuana in the city park and reported it. The police officers wanted Malyssa to know that she made her classroom, school and community very proud.

Accelerated Reader: SBE students celebrated 5394 books!

Reading Mastery and flexible groups:

Fluency scores are reviewed frequently and groups are adjusted to ensure each student receives instruction at their skill level.

Professional Development:

In January, teachers were introduced to Power Standards.

These are the standards that students need for success in school, in life, and on state tests. On February 8th, SBE and WRE teachers will begin to identify Math Power Standards. Grade level teachers will then compare their selection to the grade above and below and begin to identify gaps, overlaps and omissions.

Classified staff participated in ODOT training for cross guard and traffic safety.

Lights, lights and more lights:

Street lights in front of Sam Boardman have been repaired. New lights for the staff parking lot and a dark playground ensure safety and a spot light now shines on our US flag giving honor.



Boardman's Best Bet! The Boardman Chamber selects *two!* *Educators of the Year*

Wendy Appleton is a professional teacher of which the SBE staff is very proud. She connects her program to academics in the school and involves students in the community. Students love music because of her enthusiasm and passion.

and

Michelle Raible takes a typical activity, gets students actively engaged with purpose

targeting reading, writing, math, art and social studies while using levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. It is evident that she enjoys teaching because it shines through her students.

Family Fun in Education:

You won't want to miss this exciting learning event!



ALL

February 7th from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Participate in a Reading Mastery lesson, an art lesson, or a science experiment. Read an AR book or make play dough with your preschooler. Attend an information session on reading with your child, state assessments, bullying, bus safety, suspected child abuse. Learn about Title Programs and how they support student achievement. Sessions by SBE staff, Boardman Police, Oregon Nutrition, MidCo Bus, Morrow County Health, SMART Program.

Morrow Education Center

It's a pleasure to report the recent happening at Morrow Education Center. The numbers at MEC continue to grow with a recent influx of new students from Umatilla School District. We currently have 102 students enrolled in the program and are consistently seeing between 65 and 70 per day. Of the students enrolled the break down per community goes as follows; Boardman (31), Irrigon (39), Heppner (6), and Umatilla (26).

The second semester has begun and we have 21 seniors who are within reach of graduation this year. Mr. Melville and I have been working diligently with each senior and their parents to develop a plan of action that will assure the students meet their goal of graduation this year. The plan of action is developed around our three core expectations—students will continue to behave appropriately, work productively, and attend regularly. We have also been working hard at creating new opportunities for students learning at MEC. I am extremely thrilled to share with the board that we have recently begun a sewing course for our 8 parenting/pregnant mothers, as well as begun work with Laura Aviles of the Morrow County Juvenile Probation department to develop a weekly “Careers” cruising opportunity for which students are given the chance to explore career fields, learn how to fill out job applications, develop resumes, and complete college applications for admittance and financial aid.

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 school to adult life including—making appropriate choices, considering options, and communicating choices to others. Best of wishes to you all in February!

ELL Program

ESL Students and the OAKS Tests

Our first round of the State Reading and Math tests has given me concern. Usually we test very well in the beginning with our elementary schools. This time I have noted that we are not doing as well in the lower elementary grades, but we are doing better, much better in the high school grades. The ESL site coordinators and I have discussed possible reasons for this change. I hope to have a better hand on this and report to you a change in the second round of OAKS testing of ESL students across the district.

ESL & Migrant Education Numbers/ New Recruiter

There are generally about 485 *identified ESL* students in the district receiving English language services. We receive an extra .5 weighting per ESL student, and we give them specifically more English language, so that they are able to succeed in a mainstream classroom in 5 years from the start of their U.S. education.

Of the Migrant Education students, there are about 263 *Migrant students* being served the additive services for the Migrant or Title 1-C students. They are served with After-School, Instructional aids in

all areas, and other specific activities where Migrant student can participate in leadership, college visits, and other tutorial supports.