

Principal & Director Reports

March 2011

AC. Houghton Elementary

At AC Houghton Elementary School, student progress is tracked very closely. Our reading program, Reading Mastery, has assessment progress built in to the lessons over time. If a student is getting 100% on a series of assessments, they are retested by our title reading program coordinator and their reading group is changed to an appropriate challenge level. Or, if they are not able to make normal progress assessment benchmark levels, they are changed to a reading group where they can be successful in advancing their reading skills. For math, assessment is built into the Saxon math programming. Our grade level PLCs (professional learning communities) track student progress collectively and individually in each class. If the general assessment level falls below a successful percentage, the PLCs address the skills in the lesson by re-teaching or by a stronger focus on the deficit skills the next time they come around in a lesson because the program is cyclical in its content. In writing instruction, each grade level breaks down the grade level writing benchmark skills and monitors progress by team scoring for review through the PLC process weekly. They modify and adjust their instruction based on student progress.

Student statewide assessment through Oaks and through the Maps testing are used to screen students into our Afterschool Program. Those students in the third grade who showed benchmark deficit skill areas in the spring Maps assessment of their second-grade year are automatically started in program at the beginning of the third grade year. Additionally, those students who are not one year's normal progress away from the third-grade benchmark are added to program after the first round of the state Oaks assessment. Additionally, those students who are not at grade level reading at the end of their first grade year are started in our Afterschool Program by teacher recommendation and the assessment at the beginning of their second-grade year. The Afterschool Program analyzes the benchmark deficit areas in reading and math and puts together direct instruction lessons that address these benchmark deficits during the course of the school year.

Finally, we have enough computer lab space to increase students test taking skills using the curriculum that they are practicing through the Study Island programming. We specifically operate this lab situation exactly like the test taking environment with the allowable test taking materials and support in operation. This reduces the test taking anxiety because it is a normal curriculum practice process rather than the one time high stress Oregon Oaks assessment.

Heppner Elementary School

It is a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. March has arrived and as of today our enrollment at HES is 186 students and our current attendance percentage for the 2010/2011 school year is 96.35%. Rest assured we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

February was full of many exciting events; the HES Magazine Sales were held from February 10th through February 22nd to help support Tupper Outdoor School and other HES sponsored activities. Thanks to all the 4th-6th grade students who sold magazine subscriptions and to the friends and family members who helped support this cause. Heppner Elementary School also sent a team of chess players to Hermiston for the "Chess for Success"

Tournament on Saturday, February 12th. They represented HES very well and several of our top placers will be attending the state competition in Portland this weekend.

Get out your dancing shoes for the “Spring Sock Hop” event! On April 7th the HES Parent Teacher Club is hosting a Spring Dance Party for families and friends of HES from 7 to 9pm at the HES Gym. The end of the third quarter is just around the corner, with March 18th being the last day of the 3rd nine weeks. Spring Break for students will begin on Friday, March 19th and school resumes on Monday, March 29th.

District Maintenance Update: In addition to the HES Report - I would also like to report that there were a couple of issues on the maintenance front this past month. We did have a major heating related issue at the DO, due to the old steam boiler crashing which involved purchasing a new one to replace it. We also recently had a heat pump related issue at HHS that required a replacement being installed. In both instances Apollo worked with us to resolve the issues in a timely fashion however, the DO was without heat for two weeks as there was also some asbestos abatement that had to be done before the old boiler could be removed. Jan and I are currently in the process of putting all the schools project estimates together for the 2011-2012 maintenance budget and hope to have it completed soon.

I would like to end this month's report by 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

- Winter sports came to an end with all of our programs making extended participation in the state competition. Our girls and boys basketball teams lost in the first round of the playoffs and had a great season considering all of the hurdles that especially the girls program overcame. Jarred Miller placed 4th at the state wrestling tourney in Portland, and Jared Lemmon placed 2nd this year as a 9th grader. Congrats to all of our winter athletes/coaches on a job well done this year!
- Check out this video on youtube of some of our kids at the state FFA convention last year. We have posted it on our website as well. Good kids having a great time seems to be the story with our FFA program ☺.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hrGuvmcG-4>
- Classified appreciation week is this week and our staff has put together something special for them every day during the week. Here is shout out to these folks for we could not do business without them. We have an amazing classified staff that works tirelessly to meet the needs of our students and staff!
- Mr. Burrows, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. Kuhn spent a day exploring avatars and the Second Life in Condon yesterday. It was interesting to see the options there are and how it could apply to the classroom. More to come on this, but it looks as if we could use some of the technology right now in a few of our classrooms if we had the computing power to do so.
- Our school has been holding meetings with parents and students that are struggling so everyone is on the same page with figuring out a solution to each individual need. It has been successful so far, and there will be more to come as the third quarter comes to an end.

- Mark Mulvihill came and spent nearly two hours with our staff on the Eastern Promise and what that could look like here at Heppner High School. Being able to offer an Associates degree within the walls of a Heppner High school is looking more and more apt to happen. My staff is excited and will be making a decision to join the cohort of schools in Eastern Oregon that is going to participate in this pilot very soon. More to come☺.
- Parent Teacher Conference will be held on March 31st from 4pm till 8pm and on April 1st from 8am until 12pm by appointment.
- Our FFA group continues to shine in our region and around the state. Brett Harrison and Devin Robinson both have placed in the top four in the state with proficiency awards. They will compete to be state champions at this years State Convention over spring break.

Irrigon Elementary School

Irrigon High School

Congratulations to our winter sports athletes. Wade Aylett and Andy Aguilera both won district titles in wrestling and finished second at state. Both our girls' basketball team and cheerleaders made the Dairy Farmers of Oregon Academic All-Star top ten list. Our Lady Knights basketball team had Celina Munoz, Cheyenne McKenney, and Marissa Stanger earn all-league honorable mention. On the boys side, we had Francisco Nunez receive 1st team honors while Ernesto Aguilera receive honorable mention.

On Friday February 18th, we hosted our first "Breakfast of Champions" where each staff member was able to nominate a student of their choosing. Staff provided an informal and heartfelt rationale for why each student was chosen. In all, we recognized eighteen different students. Thanks to Mayor Burns for providing the opening address. There was a lot of positive feedback from students, parents, and staff.

Last week we started a new junior high intervention program during advisory. Students who are receiving D's or F's in any of their classes are assigned to a specific teacher during advisory for two days during the week to receive assistance and time to complete missing work and build on academic deficiencies. For instance, students who are failing writing are assigned to the writing teacher during intervention time. Students who are passing every class receive an extended recess as a reward for maintaining good grades.

To manage the new intervention program, we were able to create a module for our discipline program that allows teachers to simply mark which kids are not passing. Once every class is entered, the program creates evenly balanced lists that keep the group sizes small and level to make sure that each student has the attention and assistance they need to be more successful. The lists are given to teachers and posted for students to see right before they go to lunch, which allows us to maintain accurate attendance and intervention records.

With the help of our Knights Pride Booster Club, our jazz band was able to raise enough funds to attend the Lionel Hampton Jazz festival in Moscow, Idaho. During the festival, they were able to listen to a variety of high school bands from schools our size up to extremely large schools from the Seattle area. They were also able to compete in front of a panel of judges where they received high marks. Manhattan Transfer and Victor Wooten provided concerts on Friday night. Given the excitement of everyone who attended, this is sure to become an annual event.

On Saturday March 12, the Knights Pride Booster Club will be hosting their fifth annual dinner auction. The doors will open at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, and the live auction will begin at 7:00. Dinner tickets, with your choice of stuffed pork chops or parmesan chicken, are available in the office for \$15 per person. All proceeds will be used to directly benefit students. Some of the past projects have included the lighting on the athletic field, score table for the gym, soccer goals, laminator, and annual scholarships. There will be a raffle for a whole hog, cut and wrapped, courtesy of Pat and Sean Barron and Mikes Mobile Slaughter and Processing. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of the members of the auction committee and the booster club for their continued commitment to the students of Irrigon Jr/Sr High School. I hope to see everyone there!

Morrow Education Center

As the third quarter comes to an end, we are still seeing a steady flow of new students coming through our doors. We are now witnessing a steady attendance of over 70 kids and some days into the 80's. This continual strength in numbers can be attributed to the staff who are continually calling home to see where students are and why they have missed school. Additionally, as our school year progresses, we have officially added an MEC specific college scholarship at a minimum of \$1000 from the local Kiwanis Club. This was in response to multiple engagements the Director and Lisa Connell had with the Kiwanis and their interest in the program and who we serve. This has been an exciting time to help students and the addition of another scholarship to our program will help these students in their continual pursuit of success.

Though our numbers are high, we are expecting it to level off and then taper off as seniors graduate. As the third quarter comes to an end, we will witness the last of the students who need help in recovering their credits and/or the behavior issues turn into very isolated enrollment issues. We are excited about what the year has brought and are extremely excited about what the year has to bring.

Riverside High School

KEY CLUB

The Riverside Key Club is proud to announce Mayra Prado has been elected Lt. Governor of Division 80. She will represent Key Clubs in Northeastern Oregon from Arlington to Baker City. She will become part of the Pacific Northwest District Key Club governing board. Mayra will be responsible for communication within Division 80. Currently the active clubs include Boardman, Hermiston, Umatilla, Echo, and Irrigon. The RHS Key Club will provide Mayra with moral support as well as fundraising for travel.

Key Club has been active this year providing food service, clean-up, and child care for the annual Boardman Foods Holiday Dinner. They continue to help the Senior Center with their Pancake Breakfasts

on the first Saturday of each month. They are making plans to attend District Convention this March in Seattle. Key Club officers are: President – Paola Cuevas, Vice President – Leticia Alvarez, Secretary – Linda Ruiz, Treasurer – Caitlin Hearn.

JUNIOR HIGH NUTRITION PROGRAM

We are in our third year of working with Oregon State University Extension Service's Oregon Family Nutrition Program. OFNP works to educate and equip Oregonians to live healthy and active lives through nutrition education. Funded through the USDA Food Stamp Nutrition 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 & 8th graders are learning that making better food choices and staying physically fit helps them maintain a healthy weight and reduce 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", "Calcium Builds Strong Bones and Teeth", and "Focus on Fruits". Students report that they are having fun preparing and tasting new foods and learning how to eat healthier.

WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports at Riverside saw much success this year. Boy's basketball finished 2nd place in the Eastern Oregon League, qualifying them for the first round of State. They lost their first round game to Horizon Christian of Tualatin who went on to win the State Championship. The following basketball players received all-league recognition: Honorable Mention~ Erik Ruiz, Noel Villegas, Whitley Reece, 2nd Team~Fabiola Lopez, 1st Team and Player of The Year~Marco Carranza. Wrestling finished 5th in the State as a team and had the following individual finishes: 4th Place~Trevor Graff, 3rd Place~Briton Hansen, State Champions~Brigham Hansen & Gustavo Madrigal. Junior high wrestling is sending the following wrestlers to State in Woodburn: Hans Rockwell, AJ Rockwell, Elijah Conlon, Clay Miller, Brian Mendoza, Ricardo Mendoza.

CLASS OF 2011

The RHS Class of 2011 is currently working diligently on college applications and scholarships. This hard work is paying off as 30 of our seniors have already been accepted to a university or community college. Western and Eastern Oregon Universities came to RHS in mid February for on-site admissions with 14 being admitted to Western and 12 to Eastern! We have had a high volume of interest in Columbia Basin College and are currently planning a visitation.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

For the past month the Riverside Leadership students have been involved in several activities throughout the school. The students worked hard to send our state wrestlers and boys basketball team off to state at the top of their game by making goodie bags and posters for them, as well as forming a spirit tunnel to encourage them and show the support of the student body. Currently the students are working to provide our classified staff with a fun filled Classified Appreciation Week. They've made signs which were hung throughout the school, provided coffee and donuts, as well as little gifts each and every day.

Sam Boardman Elementary School

Students of the Month for February:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
K Team	Emilia Gutierrez Natalie Lomelie Lucas Szasz Ivy Baltazar	Gustavo Zuniga Nataly Martir Armando Ibarra Caden Szasz	Yitsel Mendoza Emmanuel Mendoza Quin McClenahan Jose Morales	Eloy Ramos Faith Acheson Osvaldo Chopin Monica Herrera	Ms. Smith 92%

Team 1	Rigo Martinez Sayda Meras Zuriel Martinez Nikolas Fuerstenburg	Makaila Lantis Alexis Sanchez Mariela Mendoza Juan Rodriguez	Giovanni Salas Nathan Ellis Bernardo Marquez Daisy Torres	Carlos Magana Heidi Gomez Jasmin Jimenez Lorena Lopez	Mrs. Fletcher 97%
Team 2	Hunter Dyer Luz Frausto Gunnar Livingston Alexis Zapata	Nathan Baltazar America Pacheco Vicente Zuniga Jaylene Altamirano	Myles Harper Yazeli Lomas Jose Ruiz Eneida Meraz	Belen Ponce Miriam Coria Marco Barrera Eros Figueroa	Mrs. Files 98%
Team 3	Dvita Sharma Abraham Silva J.J. Madrigal	Stephanie Chavez Vanessa Sanchez Antonio Rivera	Ulyses Lopez Fed Ortega Jose Rodriguez	Lisette Sanchez Destiny Aldrich Destanee Battaglia	Mr. Jeppeson 95%



Enrollment: 319 **Attendance:** Average attendance for February was 93.41%

Second grade students have been learning to read and perform rhythm patterns using whole notes, quarter notes, eighth notes and rests on a variety of instruments. Thomas Brandon Stewart, student teacher from EOJ, led this talented group in a

rhythm



performance at our Student of the Month Assembly. They sounded awesome! Never missed a beat! What a performance!

Third grade students have been learning science first hand from **Science Fellow, Eric Shamay**, from the University of Oregon. Mr. Shamay is here as a Scientist in Residence to demonstrate the inquiry approach to science and the fun lessons associated with the FOSS Kits. Kits are available to us via the ESD.

Our classified staff is being celebrated this week to the theme of Indiana Jones. They do incredible feats and rise to the adventure! **Sam Boardman appreciates our classified staff!** They are the best group of people to work with, so dedicated!

We took a S.B.E. team to the **Northwest PBIS Conference** in Eugene to learn more about Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. At this regional conference we learned much about a system approach to creating a social climate where students can achieve and where parents enjoy being in the school. We came back with research based best practices in supporting all students in school, on the playground, and on the bus; as well as, strategies and interventions for those students needing additional support.

Parents and students enjoyed another PTO Family Movie Night. The parents are gearing up for carnival. Mark your calendars! **Carnival will be on May 5th** to the theme of Cinco de Mayo. Our second round of 3rd grade OAKS in math is complete and SBE shows growth! **SBE's average OAKs Math RIT is 208**, three points higher than the state average, and four points higher than last year at this time! Congratulations students and teaching staff, your hard work is showing! OAKS Reading and ELPA are still underway. We look forward to sharing all results with Site Council, Child Study Team and parents at spring conferences.

Windy River Elementary

Kiss A Pig Contest

WRE has started the “Kiss a Pig Contest” to raise money for playground equipment. Last year the 6th grade team won.

Classified Appreciation Week

Starting on March 7th Windy River Elementary honored all the classified staff who works very hard to help with the education of our students.



Parent Teacher Conferences

We had an extremely large turn out for WRE. The mid-term conferences were held in the gym and parents were able to move from teacher to teacher very easily. Students benefit a great deal when we communicate with each other about their progress and well being. Along with the conferences, WRE held a Learning Fair.

ELPA Test Primary Measure for ELL Students

This month, all English Language Learners (ELLs) are taking the

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). The ELPA is the primary state measure for determining English Language Learners (ELL) students' English Language proficiency. It measures student progress in learning the English Language and is used in meeting NCLB requirement that states report annual progress (reported as Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives or AMAOs) of English Language Learners in acquiring English. Students access the ELPA site on the internet where they are tested for listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students who achieve a level of "Advanced" on the ELPA are generally considered to be proficient and will likely exit from an English Language Development (ELD) program.

Writing and OAKS Testing

WRE has completed the writing assessments and almost completed second round of OAKS testing.

Fundraiser

Windy River Students are selling the World's Finest Chocolates. Our fund raiser monies are used for student activities and awards. Parent support is greatly appreciated and directly benefits the students here at Windy River Elementary!

Book Fair

WRE's held its book fair from February 24th to March 3rd.

SOM



FEBRUARY

Beagle

Boor

Browne

Cornelius

Gaede

Academics

Eon Castillo

Laura Avila

Jose Peralta

Minerva Pena

Gabriel Romero

Academics

Sadie Weatherford

Jose Mendoza
Anthony Kernal-
Yonally

Blas Zapata

Theme - Honesty/ Integrity

Vizta Sifford

Eric Pacheco

Malysa Smith

Jose Avila

Adelfo Sanchez

Keefler

Jose Perez

Abigail Bozarth

Manuel Herrera

LaFramboise

Jose Cervantes

Odalys Ibarra

Brenda Flores

Prindle

Grace Wheeler

Chance Frederickson

Chance Frederickson

Strebin

Shantel Davis

Laura Lopez

Ruby Kennedy