

## Principal & Director Reports

June 2011

### AC. Houghton Elementary

- **State Assessment-** What a quick year this has been. I never cease to be amazed at the excellent work done by the staff and students of ACH. What a privilege it has been to work with the professionals here over time with enough staff stability and dedication to good curriculum that results in excellent student achievement across the board.

This year's achievement in reading and writing and math is as high as it has ever been. our results are as follows:

Reading-95% meeting or exceeding state benchmarks

Math-76% meeting or exceeding benchmarks (this is the percentage passing the new state standards which were raised an entire grade level during the middle of the year.)

Writing-91% met or exceeded state off grade benchmarks

**Great job ACH students and staff**

**Summer Swim Program-the Irrigon Marina Park District will once again sponsor swimming lessons for Irrigon area students , grades kindergarten-fifth grade. We will use the first week in July and will have double lessons for the four days 7/5-8.**

**Professional Learning Communities**-one of the elements that has had a big impact on our academic success has been the continued positive evolution of our PLCs (professional learning communities). This is an on purpose meeting of one hour every week during which staff review progress in the reading, writing and math skill areas for the previous week, my plan, and make curriculum decisions based on student success. I described this as evolution because we are more sophisticated and on purpose this year than we were last year and we will be even more so in the coming school year. It will take this kind of focus and planning for us to achieve a high success level with the new state benchmark standards.

### Heppner Elementary School

It is hard to believe that June has arrived and that the last days of this school year are coming to a close. I guess the old saying still holds true, "time flies when you're having fun". Our end of the year enrollment for HES is currently at 189 students, up a couple of students from my last report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2010/2011 school year is currently 96.25% which is the highest ending percentage at HES in several years. The final round of OAKS testing was

recently completed at HES and I am happy to report that most of our students met or exceeded the benchmarks for their grade levels again this school year.

May was full of many exciting events and field trips which took place with the highlights being Tupper Outdoor School in early May and the “Spring Musical Program” which was held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. HES students who met their AR Goals all four quarters this year were rewarded with a trip to the zoo on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Our sixth grade students also had their Heppner Junior High school orientation on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and they found it to be a worthwhile and eye opening experience.

We are having the HES Field Day, BBQ and Awards Assembly this week and look forward to another fun filled end of the year celebration with family, friends and community members.

**District Maintenance Update:** In addition to the HES Report - I would also like to report that with the 2011-2012 maintenance budget completed, Jan and I continue to work with head custodians to complete all of the remaining projects that were planned for this current school year. We are also preparing for an energy audit for all of our schools in MCSD as part of the Governor’s proposed “Cool School” initiative. Once the audits have been completed I will share the results of the audit report.

I would like to end by thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, have a great summer!

### **Heppner High School**

- Graduation came and went with 33 graduates this year. 17 of these students passed all of their benchmarks in reading, writing, science, and math. 9 of these students were National Honor Society members, and 10 of them received honors diplomas. Over \$350,000 in local, state, and national scholarships were awarded to this year’s class as they move to the next chapter of their lives. It will be hard to see them go, but it was very rewarding to see the successes they have acquired in part, due to their experiences here at HHS!
- HHS ASB speeches were held and our student body has elected new officials to represent the ASB next year.

Zech Hintz- President  
Bryce Fowler- Vice-President  
Garrett Robinson- Business Manager  
Andrew Bara- Publicity Director  
Natalie Rauch- Secretary  
Taylor Gould- Treasurer  
Tessa Gould- Asst. Treasurer

Congratulations to these fine students. They delivered great speeches and the President and Vice-President held a debate with other candidates!

- The Pirate Island Dinner Theatre went well with three showings that were memorable to both participants and fans. Dinner was provided along with a production that was well planned and executed. Congratulations to all students that participated and gained this experience!

- Tupper Outdoor School was again a huge success with our high school students being counselors for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The weather could not have been any better- especially on Wednesday when they went to Bull Prairie.
- Our annual Night of Excellence was once again a fun activity where we were able to recognize our academic all stars along with athletics! Our Booster Club provided ice cream and desserts for parents. We had over 400 people in attendance and the entire event lasted less than 2 1/2 hours.
- Oregon State Career Development Days in Corvallis was a success as we took 10 students of our FFA chapter to attend the event this spring. The amount of information that our students gain from this event is amazing. The career fair is one of the largest in the state and is impressive with those that attend.
- HHS spring sports went well with teams and individuals participating and placing at state competitions. Our baseball team made it to the semi-finals before losing to Portland Christian. It was exciting to see three of the four teams in the semis from our own conference.
- Mustang Mop-Up was again a huge hit with over 130 civic/service learning projects completed this year in both Heppner and Lexington.
- Once again, HES and HHS partnered up and held a joint spring music concert in the HES gymnasium. The gym was packed and our kids and teachers did an exceptional job showcasing their skills!

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

1. **IES & the Irrigon Jr. High Accountability Program-** On May 3<sup>rd</sup> the principals of both IES and IHS met with parents in the library to discuss the new accountability program the Junior High School will have for students not passing classes or meeting state benchmark tests. About 10 to 15 parents attended.
2. **Mark Thompson: School Bullying Expert** visited IES on May 11<sup>th</sup> and met with 6<sup>th</sup> grades classes about school bullying. He told students the Oregon law related to school bullying and talked with students about what they can do to avoid being bullied. It was the third time Mr. Thompson visited IES this year to inform staff and students.
3. **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip-** This year the 6<sup>th</sup> graders went for two days and one night to the museums and places of interest around the Hood River and The Dalles areas.
4. **The IES 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert** went off well. Many parents and family members came to hear the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class sing patriotic songs and songs they practiced all this semester. Many people attended, it went well.

### **English Second Language (ESL)**

1. **ESL District Improvement Plan-** on May 9, 10 the ESL director went to Salem, Oregon to attend an ODE sponsored training to make our AMAO's. The district has not met our AMAO for four years and we took a team of ESL teachers to create a plan which will be implemented across the district to improve our ESL program in student achievement in passing to the next higher level, exiting the ESL program and meeting AYP.

## **Irrigon High School**

### **GRADUATION**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we held our graduation ceremony. Despite only graduating 30 seniors this year they did a fantastic job earning scholarships – over \$200,000! Alison Burnett was recognized as our valedictorian with a 4.075 GPA and Krysta Feyder was our salutatorian with a 4.05 GPA.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL**

In conjunction with our 236 plan, we will be offering summer school interventions to middle school students who are below benchmark. The program will consist of twenty hours each of mathematics and language arts interventions beginning August 8<sup>th</sup> and ending August 19<sup>th</sup>. We have sent letters out to 25 students in May and will be following up with a second letter with report cards. Our high school summer school program which utilizes our Plato program as part of a credit recovery has also begun.

### **SENIOR CAREERS TRIP**

Last month, we took our seniors to visit Intel and Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, two of Oregon's largest employers. The tours were fantastic. Intel met us at the door, provided snacks, and gifts. Students were treated to a brief presentation by one of their senior fellows, which I am told is a rare occurrence, and then we were given a tour. Students were also given information about the different kind of jobs available through their company, the necessary educational levels for those positions, as well as the various internships available. They have more opportunities than any of us realized. Providence also provided us with a tour, a hazmat demonstration, and explained the different opportunities available in the medical field. This was a great experience for our students as there are several interested in becoming nurses and we have quite a few that are on the volunteer fire department. Providence capped their presentation by having the nurse robot come into the room for a question and answer session.

### **TRACK**

The state track meet was held in Monmouth on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Sophomore Aranza Quezada qualified for state in the 200m while junior Adriana Sanchez took 6<sup>th</sup> in the 100m hurdles. Junior Ramon Leon placed 5<sup>th</sup> in both the 110m hurdles and the long jump and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 300m hurdles. Way to go Knights!

### **Morrow Education Center**

Well, the last week is here and we have now concluded our graduation. We are excited to be able to say we had 25 graduates, with 24 walking (one is living in the Mid-West and was unable to attend). At our graduation we had over 400 people in attendance to continue the strong support for our graduates. We expect great things from our recent graduates and wish them the best.

With school wrapping up, we are already looking forward to next year and the changes that it will bring. We are looking at revamping most all of our curriculum to Heppner High School's Curriculum, by using technology even further to enhance how students learn. Students will be logging in to computers and taking their curriculum via Heppner High School and the curriculum their teachers provide. With this new model, we will be able to use their teachers as the teacher of record. This will help in maintaining MCSD's high standard of education and the use of Highly Qualified Teachers as our teachers of record.

Additionally, we are pleased to say that we are going to have many students capable of returning to their referring high school and hopefully be able to maintain proficiency at their resident school. Furthermore, with the school year coming to an end, we are excited to welcome a new ELL Assistant in Eric Lougee to our staff. Eric will be filling the vacated position by Mayra Colin.

## **Riverside High School**

### **GRADUATION/SENIORS**

Riverside graduated fifty-four seniors Saturday, June 4, 2011. Twenty-seven (50%) of them have passed their CIM. Thirteen (24%) graduated with a 3.5 or above GPA. Six (11%) are National Honor Society members. Eleven (20%) earned an Honors Diploma. And forty-seven (87%) will be pursuing post secondary education right after high school. \$300,400.00 in scholarship funds was received.

Twenty six seniors had perfect attendance for one or more years. Seniors with one year of perfect attendance were Michelle Cardenas, Jose G. Chavez, Jackelyne Correa, Emily Doherty, Guadalupe Gameros, Forrest Guenther, Michael Kummer, Oscar Madrigal, Alejandra Sanchez, Stephanie Sepulveda, Gerardo Tellez. Seniors with two years of perfect attendance were Cody Frederickson, Melanie Mejia, Alejandra Mendoza, Cain Murillo, Cody Parker, Elisabet Villegas, Noel Villegas. Seniors with three years of perfect attendance were Irania Amaya, Stephanie Fuentes, Juana Gaytan, Oscar Lopez, Harley Orcutt, Whitley Reece. Two seniors maintained perfect attendance of all four years; they were Francisco Martinez and Kalynn McKee.

Eight seniors earned the OSAA Scholar Athlete Award for earning a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA while earning a varsity letter in an OSAA sanctioned sport or activity; Cody Frederickson, Stephanie Fuentes, Brianda Gutierrez, Brigham Hansen, Kalynn McKee, Melanie Mejia, Alejandra Mendoza, Whitley Reece.

This year's Co-Valedictorians are Kalynn McKee and Brigham Hansen.

### **NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE**

On May 17<sup>th</sup> Riverside High School honored 149 students in grades 9-12 for academic excellence in all areas. Seniors who received their Certificate of Initial Mastery and members of National Honor Society all received special cords to wear at graduation.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION**

On May 12, 2011, National Honor Society held its annual Dessert for the initiation of new members and installation of new officers. Six new members were inducted into National Honor Society.

### **MUSIC IN MAY**

**Richard J. Drake, Director**

As I take students here and there for various music events, I am continually amazed at most of their dedication to their art. I am no less amazed as I take students to the Music In May Festival in Forest Grove, Oregon. This year was no exception. The rehearsal

schedule is arduous to say the least (16-18 hours depending on the group); starting within 1.5 hours of arrival and finishing just before final performance before nearly 1200 people. Although we did not have a specific soloist in this year's performance, we were well represented by Senior Emily Doherty (trumpet, Mayra Prado (clarinet), and Ky Leigh Nelson (soprano).

Thank you for your continued support of music at RHS that allows us to participate in this and other events.

**Sam Boardman Elementary School**

***Students of the Month for May:***

	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>K Team</b>	Andrea Caldera Emilio Trujillo Cynthia Gonzalez Matias Calvillo	Shaylah King Leslie Lopez Daniel Crist Alondra Sanchez	Emilia Gutierrez Emilio Medel Caden Szasz Arelly Ramos	Daniela Ruiz Fernando Martinez Yitsel Mendoza Allison Newton	<b>Mrs. Matheny</b> 93%
<b>Team 1</b>	Nathan Ellis Dayana Sepulveda Paegan Kang Siloe Barragan	Jasmin Jimenez Anai Madrigal Nikolas Fuerstenberg Corbin Price	Xochitl Jimenez Lilly Richardson Logan Cordova Alexis Sanchez	Levi Pringle Noe Ruiz Jesus Resendiz Layla Castillo	<b>Mrs. Fletcher</b> 94%
<b>Team 2</b>	Hunter Leighton Belen Ponce Hilary Payne Hannah Payne	Chantal Lemus Hunter Dyer Jack Curtis Vanessa Rodriguez	Gavin Cates Fernando Chavez Edgar Murguia Gerardo Lopez	Jocely Lezama Myles Harper Kevin Navarro Richard Hurley	<b>Mrs. Files</b> 96%
<b>Team 3</b>	Sarah Calvillo Lainey Rogers Lisette Sanchez	Bianca Avalos Eli Killion Ulyses Lopez	Adi Perales Zena Pena Cesilia Garcia	Karina Mendoza Juan Frausto Fracia Rodriguez	<b>Ms. Thompson</b> 96%

**Enrollment:** 318      **Attendance:** Average attendance for February was 93.51%



**AR Reading:** This year has been a fabulous reading year! Our school has devoured a total of 17,271 AR books. We have learned how to complete yearly reading goals and celebrated this success with a trip to Pendleton Skate City. It was a fun filled day with 196 students (grades 1-3). Our busses filled up fast with the support of 47





parent volunteers! Imagine the fun-filled atmosphere of students skating, slurping down ice drinks and playing arcade games. We had a few snags, but boy does SBE hop over them and keep things running smooth. It was a wonderful way to celebrate a year of reading!

Bob Chicken from the **Talk About Trees Program** provided classroom presentations for K-3 students giving a general introduction to tree classification, seeds, tree growth, life cycle, habitat and resources. Web sites were available to teachers prior to the presentation with follow-up activities.

**Eric Shamay, Science Fellow**, returned for another two weeks, this time working one-on-one with third grade teachers in learning how to use the newly adopted FOSS Science Kits. He demonstrated how to use the materials, direct scientific instruction and how to best utilize different aspects of the kits. Eric taught lessons (Physics of Sound) for the first week and then the teachers taught from the kits with Eric's support and guidance. The experience proved to be valuable learning for teachers as they look forward to using the kits next year. We would like to recognize our local ESD for their efforts in restocking the FOSS kits and delivering them to our building!

**The Maryhill Museum of Art** graciously hosted our **third grade** students for Museum Week. The staff at the museum had well-prepared lessons for the students to complete. They did an excellent job of teaching the students about the value of portraits and how to use wire to make a self-portrait. The staff also provided hands-on activities, such as making mosaics, while simultaneously teaching them art history. At the end of the day, the students got to enjoy a play put on by a theater troupe. Students and staff were greatly impressed with the overall quality of the field trip. The students really enjoyed the various activities and the peacocks in the park area!

Third grades students also had the opportunity to travel along the Columbia River through our beautiful desert gorge to Walla Walla where they toured Fort Walla Walla. The third grade social studies curriculum includes a unit on the Oregon Trail and the movement west. The museum's pioneer town provided students with primary-source discovery of history that is important to our region and nation.

**Second grade classes** toured a food processing plant, a bank, Vector Control and the tree farm as well as the old Union Pacific Train Depot, the Cap't Al James and the US Armed Services Memorial. Not all classes saw exactly the same places, but all classes went to Greenwood Resources to tour the forest with 7.5 million trees! One highlight was getting to see fledgling owlets in their nest box at the tree farm! A huge thank-you goes out to all the local businesses that cooperated and graciously allowed 50 second grade students into their facility.

**Site Council** celebrated student growth in all areas, completed our school wide plan and our calendar of events for 2011-2012. It has been an awesome year!

Congratulations, Rose Sebastian, for receiving a Local Community Contribution grant from the Walmart Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00. Her proposal is based on "The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor" and brings the ocean to our desert students with learning activities from the Oregon Coast Aquarium Outreach Program at Newport.



**Summer School:** Clara Beas Fitzgerald already has 135 students registered for SBE's Benchmark and Migrant Summer School. Summer school starts on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. **Please join us for a Summer School Open House on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**Windy River Elementary**

**Outdoor School**

The sixth grade classes had a great time at Outdoor School. Throughout the week students participated in classes that revolved around the outdoors; learning about wilderness survival and first aid, wildlife, trees, water, the rock cycle, and much more. The weather was nice. We had 5 inches of snow the first night. The rest of the time was wet and muddy. When asked what the best part of Outdoor School was, students answered with a resounding "CAMPFIRE!"

**May Students of the Month**

<b>MAY</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Theme - Respect</b>
Beagle	Ivan Escobedo	Belinda Lomas	Vizta Sifford
Boor	Kevin Madrigal	Fabian Meza	Alicia Calvillo
Browne	Juan Salamanca	Andy Melendez	Nahomy Claustro
Cornelius	Daniel Pacheco	Ahtziri Trujillo	Corbin Towler
Gaede	Gerry Rodriguez	Allan Gutierrez	Nicholas Richardson
Keefer	Zuleyma Medel	Daniel Rodriguez	Jesse Hibbits
LaFramboise	Juan Torres	Gisselle Rodriguez	Oscar Lopez
Prindle	Ashley Price	Carlos Figueroa	Brandon Juarez
Strebin	Marino Pena	Ricardo Mendoza	Rubi Salazar
Rhinhart	Achievement ----- ---	Daniel Strickland	Viviana Garay

**AR Umatilla Dam/Bowling**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> 45 students who met all four AR goals toured the Umatilla Dam and bowled a couple of games in celebration of meeting their AR Reading goal. Students work very hard all year long on their reading goals, taking tests and trying to achieve an 85% average all together. We love to see them grow and the AR program is a wonderful way for students to see their growth on each test, each quarter and end of the year. All students who meet all 4 quarters of their goals will receive a certificate at the end of the year awards assembly the last day of school.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Field Trip to the Fossil Beds**

Mr. Keefer, Mrs. Browne, Mrs. Wainwright, and Mr. Jones took 53 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Windy River to the John Day Fossil Beds June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd, 2011. The bus was loaded up and left for the Clarno Unit around 8:30 AM. We took a hike around the cliffs and rock formations in that unit. The students were able to look with their eyes and learn how to learn with out touching. It drizzled a little, but we enjoyed the scenery and ate lunch. We travelled to Wheeler High School in Fossil, Oregon. There we investigated the history of the land and the changing landscape. The students were able to dig for fossils most of the late morning. The kids really enjoyed looking for fossils. We then loaded up and travelled to the Painted Hills. There we looked at the scenery and wrote Diamante Poems about what they saw. After a long day we headed to Dayville to sleep in the ever famous haunted gym. In the morning, we were off to explore Blue Basin and take a hike around that area. Students could see fossils in the ground and learn about how the runoff water is not a normal clear color.

We then toured the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, eat lunch and head home. The trip went well overall. The kids were exposed to regions they would never see. The students were able to learn what it means to respect nature, see how the world evolves, and learn how to dig to understand the world over millions of years ago. The students were able to keep their fossils and share them with others. In a nutshell the students had a good time and we only had 2 students throw up on the trip. Students were



able to learn that Paleontologists are finding mammal fossils all over this region. Mrs. Browne and Mr. Keefer would like to thank Morrow County School District for allowing our students to experience this wonderful adventure. We would also like to thank Mr. Jones for driving the horse trailer with the gear. We are striving to make this trip more interesting and more adventurous in the years to come.

### End of the Year BBQ

We will have our traditional end of the year BBQ for students, parents and staff on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone looks forward to it and we have many parents who come and eat lunch with their children that day.

### End of the Year Photo

The end of the year photo will be on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and it is when we get all our students and staff together and take a picture of them. We try to take it from the front of the school and it is interesting to try to get everyone to look at the camera at the same time! We have been doing this since Windy River opened its doors and the students enjoy looking at them from the past years. This is one tradition that we hope to continue.