

Principal & Director Reports

March 2006

A.C. Houghton Elementary

Balloon Launch Update-In the fall we launched 400 balloons to commemorate the 50 plus years of existence of AC Houghton Elementary. Each balloon contained a card with the school return address and a message from a student or a staff member. 16 cards were returned over the next several months in what turned out to be a great science experiment seeing the effect of the jet stream winds aloft on that particular day in October. We had some balloons come down in the Blue Mountains, a group come down in northern Idaho, several come down in the Rocky Mountains of Western Montana, and, unbelievably, three come down in Southeast t Iowa and Northeast Missouri. Each student that got a return had the opportunity to respond to the sender creating some great pen pal situations. The whole experience was exciting for staff and students.

Tesa Testing-We will finish our major Tesa testing in the next few days. We will report to the D.O. and School Board in our April report covering growth from the fall testing. The area of greatest need for growth is in third grade math. We will be starting a special benchmark booster section of our After School Program in the next five or six days that will last through the benchmark testing in May targeting students who have not passed their benchmarks in the third and fourth grade. We did that last year with great success.

Reading assessment-we've sent the writing samples from the third and fourth grade in for scoring. We have high hopes of improving student performance in all writing areas. We will know in about a month to seven weeks, we hope.

Attendance Improvement- We are averaging 94.6% daily attendance rate. This is an improvement over last year. We are going to do some special activities and class improvement competitions between now and the end of the school year to try to build this rate to 95%, which the state considers an exceptional rate. It will take some doing.

Heppner Elementary School

Our 6th grade class has been studying Ancient China and we took the opportunity to use one of our own students who just moved here to teach us some Chinese writing and a tad of speaking. 6th graders were fascinated by the 5th grader who was able to speak Chinese and write it. Fun to watch a student teaching his/her peers.

In reading 5th and 6th grade students have been doing puppet skits to show the literary element; dialogue. The students have some wonderfully creative stories. This has been a fun activity.

All of the fifth and sixth graders are doing pen pal letters with Heppner's sister city, Cardonagh, Ireland! John Edmondson has had a vision for a number of years to try and start a conversation with these folks. I wonder if they have any secrets to finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

The ZAP is coming to Heppner Elementary. We will be having a ZAP program on Friday's that we do not have school. Teachers will be covering 3hrs from 8-11 AM to help students with school work that they need to get caught up on. I believe this will help our students that need that additional instruction and also adds an additional learning opportunity for our students.

On March 22 the 2nd Knowledge Master Competition will take place. Kids are getting geared up and are excited about this competition.

Tupper Fundraiser a Huge Success:

The Heppner Elementary would like to thank the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students and the community for once again making the magazine drive a great success. There was a total of 636 items sold along with donations raising approximately \$4700 for Tupper Outdoor School. To all the community members who opened their doors and

purchased an item or just donated Heppner Elementary would like to say a big Thank You! We appreciate this community and all of its supporters.

I would like to give a personal thank you to the Morrow County School Board for all of their extra efforts beyond the board meetings. It is so nice to be able to call any board member and get assistance with job interviews or what ever and these extra impositions are always met with a positive attitude. Thank you again.

Heppner High School

- Spring sports have started and our participant numbers are high.
- Unbelievable how well ZAP is going- our numbers have drastically dropped off, and our Friday ZAP has dropped by more than half. Needless to say, it seems to be working.
- The STARS program is in place and our kids have been working at the Elementary School.
- Facility projects are popping up with the weather, and our custodians and Facility Coordinator has completed several this month. We are preparing to do a renovation of the floor in the kitchen and it will be completed over Spring Break.
- We have set up a committee and commitment to Mark Thompson from the ESD to meet once a month on Bullying/Harassment issues within our school. He is planning this month to do some student education on the topics and will be spending one whole day working with small groups.
- Have evaluated Honors Diploma recipients and will be meeting with those kids to congratulate them on their success.
- Met with Theresa Phiele from the ESD to find if there was a way to offer more dual credit offerings through BMCC.
- Have gathered public input on adding an AG position and FFA to the high school for next year- most has been positive.
- Completed AG survey from kids on the possibility of classes offered to get student feedback.
- Held several parent meetings with struggling kids parents along with their teachers.
- Looking at athletic funding and having meetings with all of the high schools in our district on passes, money, etc.
- ASB Elections are happening this month so we can have more help with St. Patricks weekend and to offer some training from outgoing members of responsibilities.
- Held our Bridges to Achievement community meeting- it was well attended and was a success.
- Our Board goals have been the topic of many conversations that I have had with patrons of the community.
- We will be working on the track (rock, prep, etc.) in preparation of getting it rubberized this spring.
- We are looking at programs, staffing, and scheduling for next year.
- The second testing window is coming to a close and we are evaluating our scores.
- Things really are going smoothly at this point, and we are looking forward to the spring.

Irrigon Elementary School

Writing Assessment: Fifth and sixth grade students have completed the writing assessment. We will be using in-service time to practice scoring the samples to compare our scores with those done by the hired scorers.

TESA Testing: Second round of reading and math testing is nearing completion. We are planning a 'GONG' celebration to recognize students who meet their benchmark and/or show a six point gain. You will receive an invitation to this event in which the entire community will 'HEAR' how well our students have done.

Student Body Assembly: Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, February 24th. The following students received recognition by their classroom teachers for:

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Excellence

Jacob Foster, Marcos Rosales, Osvaldo Macias, Amber Kramer, Jessica Reteria, Leticia Mendoza

Hard Work

Kolton Moe, Jose Carrillo, Orayda Campos, Francisca Salas, Austin Pitts, Jessica Munoz

Caring

Robin Sykes, Keiran Duprie, Jesse Ringquist,

Tyler Fox, Vanessa Shatto, Travis Martin

Irrigon High School

Riverside High School

THIRD QUARTER CONFERENCES

Riverside High School held its third parent-teacher conference of the year on February 27th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Progress Report Cards were mailed home the week of February 20th. Parents were invited to visit with teachers in their classroom where they would have the opportunity to receive an updated progress reports for each of their student's individual classes.

RENAISSANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

As mentioned previously, we have begun a new Renaissance program at Riverside Jr/Sr High School. Renaissance, which means "rebirth," points the way for school-wide change or improvement in attitude, performance, and behavior. The goal is to achieve these changes through positive actions and recognition. As part of this, on Wednesday, February 8th, students who received a 3.0 GPA or higher on their 1st semester report cards or who had raised their GPA by .5 points from last semester were invited to attend the 2006 Central Washington Leadership Workshop in Grandview, WA. Students who wished to attend were asked to pay \$7 or one half the cost per student. Renaissance advisors are pleased to announce that 109 students attended the conference.

RIVERSIDE WRESTLERS ACADEMICALLY RANKED

Each year the Oregon Dairy Farmers and the Oregon State Athletic Association recognize athletes for their academic success. The top ten teams in each of the four classifications receive recognition based upon the total team grade point average. This year Riverside Wrestlers were ranked among the top ten. Each member of the team will receive an award pin from the OSAA.

STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Monday, February 6th, Riverside Student Council Advisor, Jake Lemmon accompanied the Leadership Class to the Oregon Association of Student Councils Winter Regional Conference held at the LDS Church in Hermiston, OR. About 90 students from Riverside, Hermiston and Pendleton High Schools attended the conference. Guest speaker, Norm Hull spoke to students about the importance of representing all groups in the school environment.

TEACHERS RECOGNIZED

Riverside staff members, Ron Prindle, Mark Jones, Robin Graff, Donna Barton and Mark Rouska were recognized during a staff meeting for their immediate response during the incident on January 3rd, performing life-saving measures and taking steps to calm and disperse the crowd.

DRAMA TO PERFORM SOUTH PACIFIC

Riverside drama advisors and students have been working hard since the first week of January preparing for the musical South Pacific. There will be three performances—March 10th at 7:00 p.m., March 11th at 2:00 p.m. and March 11th at 7:00 p.m.

ARMED INTRUDER ALERT REVIEW

In light of the recent school shooting in Roseburg, OR, Riverside staff reviewed procedures for School Lockdown and Armed Intruder Alert:

During a "Lockdown" an announcement will be made over the intercom stating, "This is a lockdown". A number of causes could precipitate the need for a lockdown, such as a locker search, a civil disturbance outside of the school, an accident or tragedy. Teachers should keep all students in their classrooms and close and lock the doors. An intercom announcement will conclude the lockdown.

There will be no confusion between a lockdown and an "Armed Intruder Alert". An announcement will be made stating, "This is an armed intruder alert. I repeat; this is an armed intruder alert. Teachers, please secure your students and classroom." Upon this announcement, teachers should lock all doors and have students act as they would during an earthquake drill—sitting on the floor away from the windows. Once your door has been locked, DO NOT open it except for police or an administrator. Do not call the office unless you have students out of your classroom. If you do have students out of your classroom, call the office and quickly

inform them so that these students can be located and secured. An armed intruder alert is not concluded until an administrator or police officer releases you from your room.

DECEMBER/JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Academic

7th Grader—Alejandra Mendoza/Cindy McLaughlin
8th Grader—Hortencia Madrigal/Jason Hendricks
Freshman—Jason Dolar/Justine Parker
Sophomore—Yvonne Torres/Patricia Madrigal
Junior—Diego Reyes/Alfonso Colin
Senior—David Barajas/Sandra Canales

Citizenship

7th Grader—Stephanie Fuentes/Claudia Alejandra
8th Grader—Kyle Strong/Kayla Nelson
Freshman—PJ Keefer/Ofelia Cisneros
Sophomore—Sam Pedro/Tamra Tovey
Junior—Doris Hill/Joe Wedding
Senior—Veronica Nunez/Cristina Sautto

Teacher of the Month—Ron Prindle/Dean Peck

Classified Employee of the Month—Tracy Gordanier/Pam Hancock

Windy River Elementary

The new construction project at Windy River has gotten started, although at the moment it is a demolition project as they remove the playground and the remove all of the facing from the end of the two wings. The construction of our new playground is slated to begin soon; the kids are looking forward to that. School is going on as usual with no interferences from the project. I met with the project leader to do a walk through of the work area and set safety lanes for students to enter the school. He was very easy to work with and I am pleased with the safety plan that we put together. We will be making a photo portfolio of the project from start to finish; we will share these with the board as the project progresses.

February was again a fast moving month for us at Windy River. Here is an overview of some of the great things that went on at WRE is month:

- ❖ On the 16th we held our annual learning fair; along with this we had a Scholastic book fair going for families to purchase books, and our student council sold ice cream sundaes. Our students and teachers worked hard and filled the gym with projects that they had completed in their classes. I pleased with the turn out and the wonderful effort that my staff made to make the fair a real success. All the credit goes to our students and their teachers!
- ❖ On the 17th of February we celebrated our Students of the Month assembly. WE had a good turn out of parents present to see their child receive their awards. Then we all had great fun with our Paw Power drawing and the cup stacking relays put on by Mrs. Stranges' PE class.
- ❖ We have also started our second round of TESA testing. We will complete this round before spring vacation. We have been working very hard setting our testing atmosphere and I am looking forward to some good results.
- ❖ On March 6th we will have the Traveling Lantern Production here for a performance. I believe our students will enjoy this acting troupe perform.
- ❖ March looks to be a busy month as well; testing, construction, teaching, and learning will keep us all on our toes.

Sam Boardman Elementary

March is the month that some big things are happening!! First we had our 3rd grade play on the 2nd. It was great!! The kids had their line memorized and sang wonderfully. I want to thank Mrs. Bankston, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Jeppeson and Mrs. Raible for all their time and dedication also, Mrs. Appleton for working on the music and choreographing.

TESA testing started on Monday the 6th. We started with Reading the first week and Math the second. Kids will have the chance to show just how far they have come since November. I believe many students will meet the benchmark this time that did not in the fall.

Finally, we had our student of the month assembly for February. Not only did we celebrate our student's success but we also celebrated a teacher success. Mrs. Alison Ogden was named 'Educator of the Year' for the city of Boardman. Mrs. Ogden is a well deserved recipient of this award. Her dedication and intuition with the students is impeccable. Here is the list of our February students of the month.

February Students of the Month

Safety	Responsibility	Respect	Academics	Teacher
Tanner Collier	Tyler Hancock	Connor Wood	Maria Virelas-Garcia	2-Kellison
Stevie Groce	America Ayuso	Saydee Schnieder	Diana Calvillo	2-Mc
Kaylyn Morgan	Jessica Calvillo	William Simmons	Gavin Harper	1-Milton
Daniel Pacheco	Quincy Castillo	Alex Madrigal	Belinda Lomas	K/1 Files
Sinahi Torres	Brian Mendoza	Veronica Garza	Bryant Cardenas	3-Raible
Alexis Mendoza	Jose Jimenez	Kelly McLaughlin	Aaron Muth	2-Campbel
Brodie Davis	Elijah Hicks	Rene Ramos	Margarita Calvillo	4-Dixon
Kelvin Jimenez	Alescia McDonough	Araceli Ibarra	Elijah Conlon	3-Smith
Luis Gonzalez	Ryan Macomber	Ivonne Navarro	Ruby Barrera	K-Flores
Markus Smith	Rene Morales	Rory Barresse	Aileen Velasco	2-Kennedy
Dustin Maddox	Oscar Lopez	Nahomy Claustro	Karina Llamas	K-C/G
David Bradley	Tristan Collins	Erendira Salgado	Jose Garay	4-Lemmon
Jose Afanador	Jazmyn DuBry	Miguel Hoyos	Ulises Calvillo Rosas	K-Lalande
Odalys Ibarra	Jennifer Rodriguez	Kristen Dipo	Kirsten Taylor	1-Ogden
Noel Lopez	Jason Navarro	Kara Heiple	Giovanni Hernandez	1-Harrison
Jorge Lopez	Silvia Gonzalez	Sam Hibbitts	Juan Fernandez	3-Jeppeson
Kasside Harrison	Jorge Garcia	Eon Castillo	Alex Velasquez	1-Harjo
Clarissa Mendoza	Andrea Mejia	Taylor Kress	Andres Mendoza	4-McClen
Ricardo Mendoza	Xenia Velasco	Lizzette Martinez	Angelic Perez	K-1 Wilson
Carlos Torres	Elijah Rytting	Tiffany DuBry	Andrea Madrid	3-Bankston
Lakota Adams	Justus Schwabrow	Justic Eaton	Christina Calvillo	4-Nead
Victoria Landeros	Sterling Bither	Daniel Eubanks	Silvestre Olguin	K-Prindle

Morrow Education Center

We begin the month of March with 74 students currently enrolled, 44 of which are Morrow County students. Second semester is in full swing and students are enjoying the second semester schedule at MEC. Due to popular demand we have continued our

Health/Wellness class in the afternoons along with Weight Training. Mr. Melendez's model car class has proven to be a favorite afternoon elective as well. We just completed the state writing assessment testing this past week, and are looking forward to seeing how the MEC students tested in this area.

Switching gears slightly, MEC has also seen the start of many building improvements this past month. One of our goals at MEC is the development of a unique, safe, and adequate educational environment. In lieu of such a lofty goal we recently contracted High Performance Signs to construct a new sign for MEC. We are happy to report the new sign has been completed and hung on the building. We have also recently met with Erika Lasater from UMESD and have begun the process of building an MEC specific webpage. While these are only two of the many projects in motion at MEC, we continue to strive for new ways to strengthen the program.

The staff here 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. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective 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

February was a short month, but in the last three weeks we have been busy. We heard from the state department that we will not know the amount of funding we will receive above the 11% cap on reported students from the December special education census until next week. Our district reported about 13% of our students in special education. The state has changed the procedure for distributing funds to districts over the 11% cap. In the past districts had to make an application for the funds and provide information explaining their high rate of special education students. Many districts that were just over the cap did not apply for the additional funding. The state is not requiring applications now and is including all districts that have gone over the cap. That means the amount we receive will probably not be as much as we did in the past because all districts in the state will be considered.

We are still working out some problems with our new special education software, but the problems are becoming fewer. Our number of initial referrals is slowing down, which is typical for this time of the year. Most students with difficulties have been recognized and referred by now.

I had the pleasure of attending the job fair in LaGrande on March 2nd with Mr. Anthony and Mr. Chavez. We interviewed several teachers that were promising candidates for our district. We noticed that the fliers for our own job fair were placed in the buildings around campus. There were about ten applicants that indicated they planned on attending our job fair on the 20th. Hopefully we will get a good turnout. Additional fliers were left in the buildings. Most of the potential candidates we interviewed were very impressed by the Morrow County School District's folder that Mr. Smith produced and all the information that was in it about our district. Many candidates also indicated that they had checked out our district's web site as well. I hope we have a good turnout on the 20th.

ELL Program

Starting off this month I met with each principal in the school district, and discussed the ELL program for the next 06/07 school year. With this, we discussed staffing, classes, and assignments of ELL instructional aids in each school site. We also discussed how to exactly comply with the directives given to us with the Oregon State audit findings. A summary of each meeting was reported to the district office in order to have full understanding of what the ELL program in each school site must apply in their buildings.

The ELL director also visited four schools during their SIOP in-services. And he was impressed as how principals and their staff were teaching SIOP methods of instruction to other staff. As we grow, this method of Best Practices must continue to be an iatrical part of our on going staff development program.

Our formal Oregon Department NCLB Title III Program Review finally came in, and we had to adjust to the immediate need to make our program changes in 30 days! After meeting with district administration, we decided to meet with each of the six principals where the audit was conducted and gave them the responsibilities to create a program change now in the middle of the school year. We also had a special meeting with all the principals at the Port of Morrow to discuss the changes, and to conduct a specific training as mandated by the State. The other audit program changes I can do from the district office point of position. The other major program change the principals would be at the helm of their program change. All of us have been busy complying with the requirements of ODE's findings. Before, March 17th every principal will have sent to me what each building has done and some are in the process of doing to comply with the State. We will fully comply with Federal and State directives.

I met with ELL parents and students of the Heppner schools. Our other school principals, Jack Thompson and Daye Stone were also present to have a wonderful lunch and meet the patrons in the ELL program in Heppner. Parents were explained the program, and they're encouraged to be able to use Rosetta Stone for ESL education with Mrs. Elguezabal our ELL teacher in Heppner.

This month has been a search for the best English Language Development curriculum for the primary and the secondary schools. The State cannot give us a clear direction on curriculum now. However, they have referred us to contact other school districts in the State. Our search is not yet over. I am meeting with all the ELL teachers in the district on March 7th to discuss the changes we must make for this month, next year, and the curriculum we want to get to be the best ELL program in the State of Oregon.

I have started to make changes to basic documents to be in compliance with the State audit findings. We have already changed School Master data submitted last year and sent it back to the State fulfilling a requirement of our ESL program identification and the change of levels of ESL student to a 1 to 5 scale.

Next month, change keeps moving us along. We are doing sample testing on our students with the new mandated State ELPA test. We're planning our future program for next school year. And finally, we're changing our programs now to be in compliance with the Oregon ELL audit. We're staying sane. This is an exciting time to be in the ELL program.