

Principal & Director Reports

January 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

We had incredible participation by our parents and community in December for our Christmas programs. We have long since outgrown our cafeteria seating and/ or in the ability to do our program in one night. We did two programs, one preschool-first-grade, and one grades 2-4. Attendance for the lower grades was a little over 500 and for the upper grades 550 plus. These are the largest programs we've ever had.

After-School Program Changes

During January we are going to be adding some programs to our after-school extended learning opportunity. We are gearing up to offer extra help to students who have not yet passed their math and reading benchmarks. Reading scores are in extremely good shape but we need to do a lot of extra work in math. We are going to add what we will call a benchmark math section for the third and fourth grade participants. In order to do this, we will be adding some educational assistant time, within our budget available, and we will be temporarily exiting some students who have been participating but who have either passed their benchmarks already or are very close to passing. This hopefully will make room for approximately 35 slots for this involvement in benchmark math improvement. We will be concentrating on the problem-solving vocabulary and the mathematical operations necessary to do the appropriate grade level benchmark math.

Buck and Elizabeth

Last year the musical duo of Bach and Elizabeth were here for four days. They will be working with our third and fourth grade students writing and recording unique songs for their grade level. This is a tremendous musical experience and the CD of original songs that they produced sold out last year, purchased by our parents and staff, which helped a little bit to fund their visit. We are looking forward with great anticipation to their visit.

Geography Bee

This year's Geography Bee will be held in the middle of January. Our winning students will compete in countywide competition. This is a test of geography skills at an international and national level.

Morrow County Ski Program

The 14th year of the Morrow County Ski Program, a four Saturday skiing experience for families and individual students, will begin January 5. If you know anybody in the county interested in going, please have them call John Sebastian at 922-3321, at ACH.

Heppner Elementary School

As always it is a privilege to once again report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. The month of December and The Winter Break seemed to fly by; it is hard to believe that 2007 has ended, and that 2008 is already here. Our enrollment as of today is 190 students which is up from my December report as we just recently enrolled four new students at HES. Our current attendance percentage for the year is 95.9%, this unfortunately is down a little bit from last month but we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

December was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, among the highlights was the "*Elfis and the Sleigh Riders*" Winter Music Concert directed by Mrs. Stone on Tuesday, December 11th 2007. It was a wonderful event and we had many parents comment on how much they liked this year's concert. We also held the HES "Title Family Movie Night" on Thursday, December 13th 2007. I am happy to report that we had a great turnout with over 60 people showing up for a fun filled Title Program - Informational session, followed by the movie "*Olive, the Other Reindeer*".

There are a couple of important upcoming events for your calendars: Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on January 21st. There will be No School on this day, but "Freaky Friday" (the make up school day) will be on January 25th. The HES Geography Bee will be held in the gym on Wednesday, January 23rd at 1:30pm, volunteer scorekeepers are still needed for this worthwhile event if you are interested in helping please contact Mrs. Rill or Mrs. Sweeney.

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.

Happy New Year!

Heppner High School

- Our FFA program initiated 22 new Greenhand members by hosting a community ceremony this month. Our FFA program has grown significantly, and Mrs. Dickenson is doing a great job recruiting and retaining new members through a myriad of activities.
- We have enrolled seven foreign exchange students this year. We have a community coordinator and there seems to be a fairly large group of people that want these students. I am careful as to how many of these students we get, and our staff understand the balance that needs to exist.
- I have held three senior parent meetings (the third this month) this year to discuss our new Senior Grad night (there will be no senior trip) and what fundraising efforts we will be doing. You may of saw water being marketed in our local grocery store to benefit the kids after grad drug and alcohol free party. I also have covered all of the grad requirements (GOAL) that needs to be taken care of so parents know what is expected of their son/daughter to graduate.
- Our secondary LA teachers have been meeting to discuss our newly adopted Springboard curriculum as a Professional Learning Community. This group headed by

Phyllis has created some great conversation about the direction our LA people are going. It has been good to discuss achievement progress with my staff and help determine what needs to be taught. Needless to say, it has been enjoyable for me to be part of this process as well.

- Our Outdoor club has been taking quite a few trips to various ski mountains. Mr. Fowler has done a great job putting these together on the weekends and giving kids opportunities that they would not have without his efforts.
- Our winter sports numbers are good and off to a good start. We will be hosting three HS wrestling tourneys at Heppner this year. Our HS numbers are 15 kids and Mr. Morgan has done a great job putting together a great group of students that are enjoying the experience.
- Josh Browning our Jr. High LA teacher will be attending a Power Standard workshop at the ESD for several days working on the standards that mean the most when teaching. He will bring back what he learns and share his findings with our staff and take on a leadership role of sharing information district wide with our LA Professional Learning Community.
- Our District has purchased Tobacco Cessation curriculum to use when a student has a problem with tobacco. Each of our HS buildings will be putting this to use when necessary.
- Since Jack Thompson left our area, I will be finishing his duties as a Heppner Chamber of Commerce board member for the remaining time of his term.

Irrigon Elementary School

Student Multi-Disciplinary Team

By now we have needed to put 5 students on student behavioral plans. In the time school starts and by the time we have enough referrals and students identified with behavior issues, it's about November when we see the need to go to the next the professional level of serious intervention. Behavior of students is getting much better. This team of parents, teachers, counselors and school administration come together and create a plan to help the child change and be more successful at school.

Reading Implementation Plan

In December's in-service day, our staff met to create more time in the school schedule to teach more math, and also to create a plan on implementing the newly purchased reading curriculum. I am confident that our teachers are focusing in on the exact math and reading standards which are most pertinent in showing the best results in student achievement.

Family Education Night Finale

On December 11 we had our last night of the Family Education Night in IES. We will resume the first week in February. We celebrated a pot-luck dinner and we gave out awards to our student and teacher volunteers. There were about 40 people present. People are encouraged and continuing to attend classes in two levels of English, US Citizenship and tutor classes for children in school. We plan to start again in February.

IES Christmas Concert

We celebrated our 5th & 6th Grade concert last month. There were over 150 people in attendance. Our local PTO provided refreshments and cookies. People stayed and had a great time talking; staff attended as well. It was a nice time talking with parents. The kids amazed me on how well they really played. It was a nice success.

Battle of the Books

To promote reading, about 80 students and 10 staff members have gotten together to start the Battle of the Books program which was in our school action plan of improvement. Students have been given a list of books and the books to read and have battles of answering questions. The winners will be given movie passes and enjoy being the champions of the program. I myself was also required to be a reading coach by a group of 5th graders. We're making reading fun and competitive here at IES.

Irrigon High School

Academic Assembly

Just before break we had our first academic assembly and recognized every student that made the honor roll, reached RIT growth on testing, or met or exceeded on the TESA/OAKS test. Advisors honored their students during the assembly. Each student was called down and received a certificate.

Surprise Reward Activity

On Thursday December 20th at 1:30, we had a surprise reward activity for every student that met the following criteria; no discipline referrals, two or fewer absences, and no failing grades. The students were treated to root beer floats and a reward movie. The high school and junior high took part. In all we had 75 students who met the criteria.

Battery Drive

Mr. Greer and the FFA program finished up their fall battery drive and would like to thank everyone who donated used batteries. The FFA rounded up 14 pallets full of batteries to be recycled. The exact amount of money they raised is not known yet, but they exceeded their expectations. The battery drive is a good fundraiser for the group as it focuses on more than just the money raised. It is a good learning tool as well as a service that the group can provide the community.

Financial Aid Night

In early December our counselor, Johanna Davis, arranged for BMCC to present to parents the needed items for college financial aid. The presentation focused on the Federal and state resources available to students. It was information that any student could use, not just students attending BMCC. As the meeting ended the parents were encouraged to stay behind and log onto the computers and set up PIN numbers for their FAFSA forms which students can begin to turn in January 1st. The presentation was attended by 20-30 parents and students.

Chamber Awards

At Irrigon High School we had two award recipients. The first was for the young person of the year. That award went to Elise Ross. Elise is a senior at Irrigon High and is involved in athletics, drama, band, honor society, and is currently number one in her class. The other award winner was Amy Tolar, for business person of the year. Amy is the head secretary during the day and small business owner every other moment. She owns a photography business.

Graduates Return

This was a new experience for our staff and students when two former students returned, Isaac Rivera and Cristina Montes, for an Educational Experience that Oregon State University offers college credit for. Isaac worked with Mr. Marv House in the Mathematics Department and Cristina worked with Mr. Cody Booth in the Second Language Department. Both were instrumental in assisting this year's seniors on their graduation requirements in the Advisory classes as well. We look forward to having them back in the upcoming vacations as well. Other students returned throughout the weeks leading up to winter break. They attended ball games and the winter band concert.

Riverside High School

Canned Food Drive

In November, the Riverside Jr/Sr High School Leadership Class, under the direction of Advisor, Shane Fritz, accepted a challenge from the Umatilla High School Leadership Class to see which school could collect the most non-perishable food items for the food banks in their communities. The loser would have to learn the other school's fight song and perform it in front of the winning school's student body during a pep assembly. Riverside students began gathering cans of food and other non-perishables. Throughout the month of December, students collected, counted, boxed and bagged items and encouraged their families and neighborhoods to do the same. By the deadline on December 19th, Riverside students had collected a total of 4,100 items. The leadership advisors from both schools called at the end of the day to compare their totals. After some discussion between the two advisors, it was determined that the final tallies were too close to call. Through an act of charitable cooperation, it was decided that the contest would be considered a "draw". This friendly competition and act of charity has been a win, win, win for both schools and communities. The students learned the valuable lesson of giving and Christmas will be a little merrier for families in both communities. As far as the fight song performance, both schools will learn the other's fight song and send a video tape of their students performing it to the opposing school. Congratulations Pirates and Vikings!!

TSA Donates Toys

At a recent TSA (Technology Student Associations) Competition held at Blue Mountain Community College, the local Riverside TSA Chapter, under the direction of advisors Robin Graff and Cynthia Kuchenbecker, took first place in the manufacturing prototype competition. The teams were to design and manufacture 20 toys each. Riverside students designed and produced the toy helicopter. Following the competition, all teams exchanged toys which would be donated back to the communities represented at the competition. The RHS Chapter of TSA donated their collection of wooden toys to the Banner Bank Christmas Campaign where they will be given away as Christmas

Presents to needy families in the community. Work crew and team presenters were Bryce Doherty, James Town, Chris Benson, Fernando Castenada, Tanner Wightman, Ricky Trim, Harley Orcutt, Nick Armstrong, Johnny Pena and Chase Simpson.

Key Club Contributions

The Riverside Key Club (affiliate of the Kiwanis) also contributed in helping to provide meals and toys to those in need during the Holiday Season. Advisor Kathie Goad and student members of the Key Club helped box and transport the non-perishable food items and toys.



Riverside Performs Winter Concert

Riverside music students, once again, "rose to the occasion" and gave an outstanding Winter Concert. Under the direction of music teacher, Rick Drake, not only performed on the evening of December 11th, but gave three additional performances the following week. Head Start students traveled to Riverside for their own private presentation on Tuesday, December 18th. That same afternoon, students boarded buses and performed at the Boardman Senior Center. The group then traveled to Hermiston Terrace Assisted Living Center where they gave a final performance for residence at the center.

Valuable Lessons

Riverside students learned valuable life-long lessons during the 2007 Holiday Season. They learned the value and reward of giving of their own time and resources to their community and to those less fortunate living among them.

Windy River Elementary

January Students of the Month Assembly

Academics;

DECEMBER

Beagle

Boor

Browne

Chapman

Cox

Dames

Gaede

Keefer

Strebin

Academics

Joe Amaral

Maria Morales

Shaylee Dipo

Kristen Frederickson

Luis Navarro

America Ayuso

Alexis Mendoza

Miranda Taylor

David Bradley

Academics

Larissa Steinlicht

Joan Cardenas

Juan Fernandez

Sergio Navarro

Nancy Llamas

Briselda Navarro

Brianna Snyder

Arik Corpus

Theme - Self Discipline

Gavino Barrera

Alonso Nieto

Eduardo Murguia

Wayne Killion

Natasha Epperson

Eloy Hernandez

Aileen Velasco

Gavin Roberts

Clarissa Mendoza



Classroom Attendance Award Winners

12/03-12/06: Ms. Chapman had 98%.

12/10-12/13: Mr. Keefer had 98%.

12/17-12/20: Mr. Keefer had 97%

Monthly Attendance Award Winner

Mr. Keefer's class was also the winner for the month of December, with 97% attendance.

Staff Development

Book Club: The staff is still reading "Results Now". Book Club was placed on hold for most of December.

WRE Leadership

The leadership team is still working on science alignment and a science driver's manual. The dead line for alignment is January 18, 08.

Special Events

Winter Concert was a great success this year. The gym was packed full of family and friends. This year's concert went off without a hitch. Each grade performed different genres of music for their parents and friends. The forth grade sang in two different languages; Hebrew and Mexican from Christmas folk song, the fifth grade sang traditional Christmas spirituals with one old English carol, and the sixth grade gave a stellar performance playing classical orchestral favorites of kings and saints. Each class moved smoothly from performance to performance.

The students had fun singing and the parents seemed to enjoy the concert. Overall, the mixed ethnicity of our school was well represented through music. The support of the music program at Windy River was shown by a standing room only audience.

Knowledge Master Open is designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement. The Knowledge Master Open runs on a classroom computer to allow a team of 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. WRE competes as a team against thousands of students in the U.S. and several foreign lands at both the state level and the national level. The team faces the computer to answer 100 questions in the event, which earns them points for speed and accuracy of their answers. The winter contest will be January 23 and the spring contest will be in March.

National Geographic Bee, a nationwide contest for schools in the United States for grades four through eight. There are three levels of competition: **school, state, and national**. The winner of the school level competition will go on to take a test to compete against others at the State level and then on to the National level if he or she is the state winner.

The preliminary competition was held December 22, 2007. **The Preliminary Competition** consisted of seven Preliminary Rounds of 30 questions each. The top ten students from the Preliminary Competition will advance to the **Final Competition** to be held *on January 16* in Windy River Elementary's gymnasium. It should be a lot of fun and very challenging.

Windy River Elementary gave away three bicycles at the December Student of the Month Assembly. Students who met their benchmark during the first round of testing in November were eligible for the bikes. We had a drawing for 4th grade, 5th grade and one for 6th grade. There were over 40 names in

each grade's bucket. Jeny Medoza from Mrs. Dames' room was the 4th grade winner, Yvette Barrera from Mr. Keefer's class was the 5th grade winner, and Jesus Pacheco from Mrs. Cox's class was the 6th grade winner.

Sam Boardman Elementary

SBE students created a "Collage for Christmas" with a variety of songs highlighting the many things we celebrate at Christmas time. Students gave a wonderful presentation of singing, playing instruments, and even a little acting. Great job SBE.

Teachers' hearts were warmed when the Boardman Tillicum Club presented them with \$10,000 to help replace personal classroom materials lost to smoke damage.

The Staff and Family Holiday party was really fun with increased attendance in its second year. Committee members planned from beginning to end a wonderful, self-funded party at the Port of Morrow. The committee enjoyed designing tickets and fliers, coordinating food, decorating, arranging door prizes, coloring packets for the kids, and scheduling Santa, as well as many other things.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Students, staff, and parents continue to enjoy our power point presentation with student photographs. It is fun to watch our students put positive attributes to the faces of their peers.

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	Kinder	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade
Academics	Andy Marti-Hernandez Ezequiel Ramos Cristian Rea	Dakota Durfey Micah Mossman Brenda Flores Benjamin Hernandez Alexis Aguilar Seth Nunamaker	Ulises Calvillo Zuleyma Medel Luis Olvera Martin Chavez	Noel Lopez Nick Salinas Sadie Hasbell Sadie Weatherford
Respect	Edgar Murguia Juan Jose Madrigal Isabella Ganvoa Soloadad Munoz	Destanee Bataglia Anthony Carrillo Estrella Daltoso Abraham Silva Monica Virelas	Sterling Bither Neira Cardenas Tarin Troxell Karina Llamas	Kirsten Taylor Blanca Olguin Marvin Calvillo Jason Navarro
Responsibility	Christian Dominguez Riley Twidwell Brian Franco Jordy Mendoza	Brandon Madrigal Silvestre Olguin Adelfo Sanchez Christian Murguia	Marielena Lopez Emily Kirby Emily Taylor Ruby Barrera	Diana Esparza Brienne Bishop Emily Sepulveda Luis Aguilar

		Ashley Price		
Safety	Carlos Conchas Vanessa Sanchez Erick Zamora Jasen Lester Jasmine Gomez	Ana Navarro Emma Finley Sidney Bartholow Nadia Mendoza	Courtnei Trowbridge Lizeth Zuniga Katia Garay Gwinevere Slawson	Ruben Lopez Shelby Collins Francisco Gutierrez Veronica Rodriguez

Buck and Elizabeth kicked off the New Year and opened the hearts and minds of students with an all school assembly. As they sang, students were introduced to a creative writing project. For three days, our 2nd and 3rd grade students had the opportunity to write words to songs with Buck and Elizabeth. (Oh yes, Peter, too.) Classes spent two hours learning to write words along a theme, learning the songs and sign language, and then ended the week with a rousing performance for the school and parents. Buck and Elizabeth were outstanding! We are already planning to invite them back next year. Thank you, Buck and Elizabeth!



Parent surveys, staff surveys and student assessments! Site Council continues to look at data for continuous school improvement.

Professional Learning Teams: Teachers met by grade level and revisited SBE's mission and vision. Grade level teams established group norms and set assessment dates for the year.

Morrow Education Center

Happy New Year!

Wow! It's 2008, can you believe it? As we wash away the highs and the lows of 2007, inevitably we are left with a number of resolutions for the New Year. With the end of the first semester rapidly approaching, Dave and I have reflected upon our first year in our new positions with the district and developed a number of resolutions sure to improve the educational environment at Morrow Education Center.

We begin 2008 with 96 students enrolled, 74 of which are Morrow County students. Traditionally, the end of semester marks an increase in student referrals to our program. Dave and I

have anticipated this increase and plan to meet with school administrators from Umatilla and Morrow County school districts, to make our recommendations for those students who we feel should be given the opportunity to return to their Jr/Sr. high schools. Those recommendations were based on the student's achievement of our three expectations—attend regularly, work productively, and behave appropriately.

Second semester brings with it a few new changes in the schedule at MEC. Due to popular demand we will continue our Weight Training class in the afternoon. In addition to our regular schedule Mrs. Lemmon will be offering the opportunity for students to take part in a beginners sewing class. Initial interest for this opportunity has been immense. We are also gearing up for the writing assessment window to take place this February.

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 the New Year!