

Principal & Director Reports

February 2011

AC. Houghton Elementary

- The week of January 17-22 was a flurry of activity around ACH. We had a visiting troop from the Missoula Children's Theater bring together students from the Irrigon and Boardman area, about 25 strong, to practice and perform a theater production with two performances on Saturday, 1/22. The production was Beauty Lou and the Country Beast, a takeoff on Beauty and the Beast. Practices took place each day between 4 PM and 8 PM for the five days of the week and then we had two performances for the general public on Saturday. This production was sponsored by the North Morrow Arts Foundation. It was a great experience for our students K-12th grade. The husband-and-wife production team from the Missoula Children's Theater were posted during the week by John and Rose Sebastian and Judy and Rob Brown.
- We are just entering into the second round of Oaks state assessment. Every student who did not pass the assessment the first time around has had the benefit of additional math and reading instructional time in our afterschool program during the past three months. Also, teachers have been specifically organizing their regular curriculum and during the day intervention times to focus on deficit areas indicated by the first round of testing. We will report results of this second round in our next month's board report.
- In the first week of March, ACH staff will participate in our fourth annual McTeacher's Night in Hermiston. Better than half of our staff will be working at the Hermiston McDonald's doing all of the out front, service to the public jobs parallel with regular McDonald's workers. The incentive is that McDonald's donates a percentage of all of the profits for a two hour to the school. We usually get a big turnout from the Irrigon community and from our parents. It also is a great staff morale booster, working together for a common purpose. In the past we have bought electronic equipment for the classrooms here at school.

Heppner Elementary School

February has arrived and along with it pink, red and white bulletin boards once again adorn the halls of HES. Our enrollment as of today is 186 students which is up from my last report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2010/2011 school year is 96.5%; we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

January was full of many exciting events at HES; among the highlights was the "Basketball Reading" party which took place on January 27, 2011 from 3:30pm-9:00pm. The 2nd quarter ended on January 12th and we awarded 128 HES Students with Honor Cards at an assembly on January 27th. In addition to the honor card students we also gave out award certificates to **46** students who maintained perfect attendance for the entire first semester. We would like to

extend A BIG THANKS to John Gould at Les Schwab Tire Center for partnering with us to reward HES perfect attendance students for their "Pride in Performance".

The HES 4th, 5th and 6th grade students began selling magazines on February 7th and sales will run through February 17th. This is our main fundraiser for HES and it supports many activities including Tupper Outdoor School, AR Reading parties, and COLT T-shirts to name a few. Please help support HES by contacting us at 541-676-9128 if you are in need of a magazine or if you'd like to renew a current subscription.

President's Day will be observed on February 21st, and there will be no school on that Monday, but "Freaky Friday" (the make up school day) will be held on Friday, February 25th.

I would like to end this months report by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

Heppner High School

- We ran honor role and the number of Fs at the end of the two week grading period and our staff is very excited with the results. Out of our student body of 218 students, we only had 26 Fs at the end of semester one. That compared to nearly 140 Ds and Fs earned at the end of first semester two years ago. This definitely is a sign that proficiency is working for our kids.
- Another sign that our proficiency model and extension classes are working is that of our improved testing numbers as we move through our second window of testing. We have had some huge victories this past week with a half dozen students passing standards that have struggled to do so in the past.
- Our Knowledge Bowl competitions are still going strong. We hosted an event here at HHS and it went very well. Our last competition is in Echo and our students are representing our district, school, and community very well when compared to others from the bi-county region.
- The Bank of Eastern Oregon wrestling tournament was again a large success due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, coaches, and athletes. Over 130 kids competed from 11 different programs. The development of our program continues to move in the right direction. Our wrestlers are seeing more success than ever before and the numbers of participants are high.
- The Business Education Compact has been spending some time in our district training teachers on proficiency. It has been fruitful to see other math and science teachers from across the district jump on board with the model in their classrooms. Our teachers are picking up some new things through meeting and working on the model with other teachers from around the state that the BEC has brought to these trainings. There will be two more trainings this spring that teachers can take advantage of. We have 25 teachers from each community involved.
- We have hired a new English teacher in Jolene Stensland. She has moved here from Hillsboro and is looking forward to working in our school and district. Please welcome her as she transitions to the position and our community.
- Mark Jones and I have been working with all of the necessary folks to help create a flow chart of how to handle attendance as a county. Justin Nelson, Steven Myren, Ann Spicer, and Tom Meyer have been great to work with in creating a

document that all of us can use when dealing with compulsory attendance. More to come on this subject as we may need to amend our policy?

- Project Graduation is going well with senior water showing up here this week. Please help support the drug and alcohol free after graduation party by purchasing some water from either a student or from Heppner Family Foods.

Irrigon Elementary School

1. **Vision Screening at IES-** On January 12th two retired nurses Rita Drake and Karen Winter from Spokane, WA came to IES and did the vision screening for our entire school. There were about 60 students who were identified with visual needs. They were retested two weeks later and parents will be notified of their student's eye screening results. We truly are thankful for the volunteers who came and trained our staff to do our future vision screening.
2. **IES Raises Funds for Irrigon Family-** The Day family had a fire which consumed the entire home in minutes. Irrigon as a community came together to help raise funds to help the Day family. One student attends IES, a sixth grader. The IES ASB decided to raise support for the family. This was done by having all the concessions for the Good Behavior Movie, go to the Day family. IES raised almost \$250 to help the family in getting things that they lost. IES cares about the needs of their own students and the family too.
3. **Bullying and Staff Training-** Mark Thompson an expert on School Bullying came to IES on January 25 to give staff more training on School Bullying. It was informative, and valuable. This month later he will be visiting IES classrooms and speaking to students about this subject. We will also follow with a parent night informing parents about School Bullying and their students.
4. **2nd Academic Awards Assembly at IES-** On Friday January 21st we celebrated our second awards assembly. Teachers gave out certificate awards for their classrooms. This time we gave out new awards. There were: Counselor awards, Music Awards, ESL Awards, After School Awards, and Bal-A-Vis-X awards. Many parents came; the gym was packed. It went very well.

Irrigon High School

Congratulations to our FFA chapter! Last week we had both our beginning and advanced teams take second place in the Parliamentary-Procedure contest in Pendleton. The advanced team was comprised of Jessika Osborne, Molly Creason, Sam Baumgartner, Sierra Gilman, Max Riles, and Janie Zavala. Our beginning team consisted of Andrew Bevington, Alicia Martin, Wyatt Mills, Ricky Amburgy, Ashli Roberts, and Rachel Newport. They will now travel to sectionals in La Grande later this month where they will have a chance to qualify to compete at the state level.

For the last four weeks, we have been hosting a FAFSA night for both students and their parents. Ms. Thomas had done a good job of encouraging seniors to get in, get help, and get the form completed. We have been fortunate enough to be able to utilize the Spanish speaking services of Fawn Vernon, from the BMCC Outreach Program, at

each of our evening sessions. Ms. Thomas was even able to capitalize on the services of student ambassadors from Washington State University Tri-Cities on one evening as well.

On Tuesday, February 8th we were able to send a group of 11th and 12th graders to Pendleton for a college fair. Students had the opportunity to visit over twenty colleges as well as get a campus tour of BMCC. They also discussed financial aid and college life. On Wednesday February 9th our 8th graders will be attending the annual career showcase at the Pendleton Convention Center. They always return excited and anxious to explore new career choices. Teachers will follow up with students in advisory about these careers and help them with additional research.

Over the last month, several of our teachers have attended a couple of workshops offered by the Business Education Compact (BEC). The focus of these workshops has been on a credit for proficiency approach to the classroom. After each session, our teachers have returned excited and are eager to incorporate this approach into their classrooms. Given the amount of work this task involves both inside and outside the classroom, they will be implementing it in just a couple of classes next year.

We will also be hosting a "Breakfast of Champions" before our next Fifth Avenue Friday tutorial. During the breakfast, each teacher will invite a student of their choosing. Staff will speak for 1-2 minutes each about what great qualities or actions led them to select their champion. It will be informal and heartfelt, and we're looking forward to the connections we will build with those students and their parents.

Morrow Education Center

The second semester is going full speed ahead with many students beginning to understand the end of the year is near. With a current enrollment of 97 students, we have witnessed a steady flow of new students for the school year enrolling with us. The overall attendance rate is still hovering around 70% for the school year. Our students have embraced (although reluctantly at times) the increase of rigor with our program and what is required of students to earn credits. This and the phone calls home is what has helped in the increase in attendance rate, as the students understand they need to be present to complete the proper amount of work.

Additionally, as we have now completed the second round of OAKS testing, we are beginning to witness a steady growth in RIT gain of students, especially in the area of reading. The Reading Extensions class that Lisa has been conducting is a major contributor to the increase in test scores and is a testament to the great job our staff does.

As was mentioned last month in the board report, Morrow Education Center is searching for a Special Education Teacher and we have now concluded our interviews, refining our search to a couple of select applicants. Morrow Education Center is witnessing a wonderful school year of 2010/2011 and are excited to see what the rest of the school year brings us.

Riverside High School

CONFERENCES

3rd Quarter Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, February 22nd from 3:30pm – 7:30pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.

TSA DONATES TOYS

The RHS Technology Student Association Club recently competed at the December TSA Competition, held at Blue Mountain Community College. Also attending were the TSA Advisors, Mr. Robin Graff and Mrs. Cynthia Kuchenbecker. The competition had four categories that the students' competed in with other chapters in the region: Structural Engineering, Manufacturing Prototype, Flight Endurance, and Promotional Graphics. The RHS student who competed in Structural Engineering were: Chuy Alba and Arrow, Corpus, Trevor Graff and Alissa Mashos, Briton Hansen and Harley Orcutt. Students who competed in Manufacturing Prototype were: Trevor Graff, and Alissa Mashos. The students who competed in Flight Endurance were: Arrow Corpus, Harley Orcutt, Chuy Alba, and Briton Hansen. Roy Dugan competed in Promotional Graphics. Briton Hansen placed 3rd in Flight Endurance. The Manufacturing Prototype team designed and manufactured 20 wooden, Tower of Hanoi games. Following the competition, all teams exchanged toys to bring back to donate to charity. The RHS Chapter donated their collection of original wood toys to the Banner Bank Christmas Campaign. The toys were then given to children in the Boardman Community. The TSA Club members who built the toys were: Harley Orcutt, Trevor Graff, Briton Hansen, Arrow Corpus, Chuy Alba, and Alissa Mashos.

LEADERSHIP

During the month of December, RHS students volunteered their time to help make community food baskets for the less fortunate. Jordan Connell, Whitley Reece, Tessa McLaughlin, and Cindy McLaughlin all participated in this event. They sorted cans and food that was donated by various organizations in the community. Once all items were sorted, there was more than enough to make many food baskets to be distributed to the community for the holiday season. The volunteer help was greatly appreciated, time well spent for such a good cause.

TESTING UPDATE

- January 31 – February 3, 2011: Writing
- February 7-10, 2011: Writing
- February 14-17, 2011: Math
- February 22-25, 2011: Math
- February 28 – March 3, 2011: Reading
- March 7-10, 2011: Reading
- March 14-17, 2011: Make up

MIN-CHEER CAMP

Riverside Cheerleaders once again held their annual Mini-Cheer Camp the week of January 10-15, 2011. During camp, the RHS cheerleaders taught camp participants Riverside cheers and dance routine. The 30+ mini-cheer participants performed at the RHS girls varsity basketball game during half-time on Saturday, January 15th and did a great job!

Sam Boardman Elementary School

Students of the Month for January:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
K Team	Brenda Trujillo Alondra Sanchez Gustavo Zuniga Abril Rosales	Miranda Landeros Allison Newton Nicholas Koerje Charlie Smith	Bryan Napoles Loli Jacquez Yasmin Martinez Jesus Morado	Mirella Ponce Angelica Resendiz Shelby Hibbitts Jonathan Ramirez	Mrs. Matheney 89%
Team 1	Elvis Medrano Cassandra Calvillo Zuriel Martinez Caleb Cambero	Dayana Sepulveda Xochitl Jimenez Karlie Tiboni Valery Gutierrez	Jacob Murguia Sayda Meras Arelly Cambero Angela Camacho	Alissa Kennedy Maya Navarro Layla Castillo Wyatt Wilson	Mrs. Harrison 95%
Team 2	Dezirae Klaviter Yazeli Lomas Savannah Morris James Tiboni Vanessa Rodriguez	Aldo Murguia Eduardo Afandor Hilary Payne Humberto Sanchez	Azpen De Los Santos Kennisyn Wilkins Eduardo Afanador Gerardo Lopez	Sidney Fuerstenberg Michael Carroll Jonathan Araiza Gabriel Morales	Mrs. Hocker 97%
Team 3	Edwin Pacheco Jazmin Barrett Abel estrada	Marytza Prado Luz Lopez Lilian Rockwell	Johana Sepulveda Yoanna Lopez Ezequiel Ramos	Erik Orta Cristian Rea Jacob Hibbitts	Mrs. Bankston 95%



Enrollment: 308 **Attendance:** Average attendance for January was 92.05%
S.B.E. students read 4904 books second quarter, which is an additional 1177 books from the first quarter. Fun incentive programs help students get excited about reading. Anne Orcutt kicked off our third quarter incentive introducing “The Magic Tree House” lunches in the library. We purchased 37 Magic Tree House books to give away weekly. There will be a special picnic for 12 lucky students, whose names will be drawn from students earning 100% on their AR test. This week’s theme was volcanoes and Melissa Hocker provided an exciting volcano demonstration. Next week’s theme is dinosaurs, and a dinosaur bone exhibit is already underway.

Books went home with 57 children on Family Reading Night. Thank you, Nancy McElhany and Annabel Sosa, for the fantastic read-alouds!

Our Safety Committee published a home-to-school safety brochure. This brochure highlights



safety in the parking lot, crosswalk, with bikes and on foot. It reminds parents of the importance of sending written notes for transportation changes and how we want to hear about bullying. Much credit goes to Kevin Harper and Brenda Profitt for this professional looking brochure. It makes our school proud!

Grade level PLCs celebrated progress! As teachers prepared quarterly report cards and reviewed assessment data, they were excited about their students' progress.

Our second round of OAKS will start right after President's Day. We are anticipating much growth as a result of our Saxon Math, grade level interventions, After School and Friday School programs.

Site Council reviewed our AMAO results for ELL students, noting the upcoming District professional development opportunities for "A Focused Approach". By March, all teachers at SBE will be trained in this systematic approach in language development. Site Council is also looking into the advantages and disadvantages of having students going to recess before lunch. SBE is hosting a Zumba class, and it is the talk of the town! Chelsie Bonifer teaches this dance and exercise class to 81 BMCC students. What fun!

Windy River Elementary

Knowledge Master Open

Sixteen fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from Windy River Elementary represented their school in the Knowledge Master Open academic competition on January 19, 2011. They competed against thousands of students in the U.S. and several foreign lands. The teams faced their computer to answer 100 challenging questions in the event, which earned them points for the speed and accuracy of their answers. The team placed first against other schools in Oregon and 47th out of 250 schools nationwide according to Mrs. Proctor-Reece, TAG Coordinator.

This contest is designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement, the Knowledge Master Open runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The competition is presented twice each school year by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado software publisher. The next competition is March 17, 2011

LACEY MASHOS WINS WINDY RIVER ELEMENTARY GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Moves One Step Closer to \$25,000 College Scholarship

Boardman, Oregon, January 12, 2011 – Lacey Mashos, a sixth grade student at Windy River Elementary, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 12, 2011 and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 23rd annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The kickoff for this year's Bee was the week of November 15, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Lacey, took a written test; up 100 of the top scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state Bee April 1, 2011

The National geographic Society will provide an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the National geographic Bee national championship on May 24 and 25, 2011. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic (visit www.expeditions.com).

“Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 25. The program will air on television. Check local listings for dates and times.

Everyone can test their geography knowledge with the exciting GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which poses 10 new questions a day, by downloading the GeoBee Challenge app for iPhones, iPods, and iPads.

Elementary All State Honor Choir

On Jan 13, six WRE students departed for Eugene to participate in an All State Honor choir for selected students in grades 5 & 6. Our first stop was in Salem to tour the Capitol building. Students were in awe of the building as they entered. The tour provided history, not only of the building, but also of the state.

Students spent one day in Eugene rehearsing with nationally renowned children’s choir conduct, Judy Herrington. The experience culminated with a concert at the Hult Center in Eugene before an audience of over 1,500 parents and music educators. The sound from the choir of 112 children was absolutely amazing. From the very 1st phrase, the audience knew this was a very special choir.

I am very proud of our students and count it a privilege to not only work with them at WRE but to prepare them for this event. Students attending were: Lisa Finely, Abram Hernandez, Danny and Jennifer Rodriguez, Kirsten Taylor and Skylar Wightman.

Students of the Month

Here are the students of the month names for January. The theme was Citizenship/Patriotism

Beagle	Shelby Collins	Vizta Sifford	Belinda Lomas
Boor	Emily Kirby	Ivonne Navarro	Hunter Strickland
Browne	Durga Chapagai		Quentin Cordova
Cornelius	Yaniva Garcia		Jordyn Schaible
Gaede	Emily Diaz	Lilliana Davila	David Araiza
Keefer	Samantha Zapata	Sonia Medina	Jesse Hibbits
LaFramboise	Nestor Ramirez	Sabreena Metcalf	Juan Torres
Prindle	Scout Reagan	Francisco Chavez	Maria Gonzalez
Strebin	Bianca Gutierrez	Wyatt Hurley	Selene Andrade

4th Grade Parent Party

On January 6th, in preparation for the upcoming State Writing Assessment, student introduced their parents to the world of 4th grade essays. Students discussed the five steps of the writing process, the meaning of a good fourth grade paragraph, and the scoring guide. Parents worked with their child to revise, edit and publish an essay. Along the way parents were able to offer suggestions for bettering student writing.

5th Grade Parent Party

The fifth grade held their parent party on Friday, January 21. This parent party went from 8:20-12:00. The parents were able to rotate with their students to three activities. The first activity was a science inquiry lesson. The parents were able to see Dr. Ashley (UO doctoral student) teach the students on separating mixtures. In the second activity, parents were involved with their students learning about geometry. They made 3 dimensional shapes using toothpicks (edges) and marshmallows (vertices). In the last activity, parents were working with their students in reading and writing lesson.

6th Grade Parent Party

Parent parties for sixth-graders were centered around math games. In Mrs. Strebin's and Mrs. Cornelius' rooms, students learned a traditional dice game called "Pig." It required some strategy; the winner was the first person to reach 100 points. The game could be played in groups of two or more. Students challenged their parents and each other to win. In Mr. Beagle's room, students and their parents worked with tangrams to create different geometric shapes with the same pieces.