

## Principal & Director Reports

November 2007

### A.C. Houghton Elementary

- ✚ Mid-October was the first round of our return to having the Parent Group meeting on the same day as our Family Reading Night. We had done this in past years quite successfully, building up the attendance and participation in the parent group as well as creating a ready-made audience to blend into the Family Reading Night. We also built up the parent group participation because they had a recognition program from the Group for our monthly new Self--Managers, sponsored by McDonald's. The parents of our new self-managers bring them to the parent group meeting for this recognition of a McDonald's treat. The net result of all this was that our attendance at October's Parent Group meeting was 70 total people and for Family Reading Night, approximately 80 total participating.
- ✚ On Wednesday, 10/30, we held our annual Community Halloween Party in our gym. This is a family activity that we partner with our local churches on to provide an alternative to trick-or-treating. We had more than 250 in attendance.
- ✚ Our parent-teacher conferences will be on Friday, 11/8-evening, 11/9-morning, and 11/13-evening. Teachers will be sharing student progress toward state benchmarks, as well as other curriculum information. We will also use this time to survey our parents for program and school improvement information.
- ✚ Our first round of testing with the Oaks/Testa State benchmark program assessment will begin 11/5. We have been doing preparation and orientation for students with the new computer testing program following the paper and pencil debacle from the past year. We are very anxious to see how we do in third-grade math , which is one of our most important improvement areas for the current school year.

### Heppner Elementary School

It is a privilege to once again report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that October has come and gone, and that November is already upon us. With the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter we are busy getting ready for parent teacher conferences this week. Our enrollment as of today is 190 students and our attendance percentage for the month of October was 96.33%. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff and I are proud to announce the recently elected HES Student Council Members; President - **Ryan Dougherty**, Vice President - **Jared Lemmon**, Secretary -**MeKayla Kindle**, Treasure - **Micha Hintz**, Publicity - **Colby Hedman**, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Representatives - **Ryan Smith**, **CJ Kindle** and **Faith Jones**. Please join me in welcoming these fine students as our new student council members.

HES students also recently raised over 1500 lbs. of canned food to help the Heppner Neighborhood Center; I am told that this was more than had been raised in the last few years. Congratulations to Mrs. Rill's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class who collected the most food, narrowly beating Mrs. Morris's Kindergarten class by 2 lbs. I would like to end this months report by thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

Have a great month and a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Heppner High School

- Thought I would start this report out by giving you a “short” run down of my trip to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. I was able to go with 12 of our students and Mrs. Dickenson. The trip was literally a once in a lifetime trip for me as well as many of our students that attended this year. I cannot begin to tell you all of the things we experienced, so I will leave that up to our kids and Mrs. Dickenson to do. One of the things that I would like to mention is how the FFA has grown. It is the largest student organization in America today. There are over 500,000 student members nationally and even a few from places like the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. When I went to the National Convention as a student in 1989, there were about 18,000 members that attended the convention that year. This year, we had an excess of over 50,000. As I walked around the RCA dome and Conseco Field House, I was amazed at the positive interactions, engagement, and the character that was being displayed from all students wearing blue jackets. As a Principal, I reflected on turning 50,000 random students loose without a common thread to hold them together and came to realize just how special the FFA is. The organization’s mission of making a positive difference in lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education was apparent in all I experienced at this years convention. Workshops, one of the largest career fairs in the world, nationally known speakers, business and industry tours, and opportunities to network with others from around the globe are a few of the benefits that our students got to experience. In the end, taking students to a place like the National FFA Convention was rewarding beyond words, and our students will always remember the value in their learning experiences that you allowed. Thanks so much for giving us the opportunity to take our students to a place where student engagement and learning were apparent.
- Our football team has again won the conference and will be moving into the football playoffs as a number one team. If we win on the 9<sup>th</sup> vs. Scio we will then host another game the following week vs. Glendale or Kennedy.
- Our Veteran’s Day Celebration will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> this year from 10:30am till 11:30am. The Veterans will be in classrooms all morning talking with students about their experiences, etc. This is a great school wide event, and I invite you to come and enjoy the festivities along with lunch with our local veterans.
- The rest of our document cameras and digital projectors are here and in the classrooms. With the Wildhorse Grant and our district innovation grant, we were able to put one in every classroom here at HHS. We will have a three hour training with Stacey Buglione from the ESD on the 9<sup>th</sup> as well.
- We are gearing up for the first testing window with our new OAKS system. We are training teachers and getting our testing under way. We are excited to improve our scores in several areas and our staff is working hard to address our weaknesses.
- Our Booster Club had a very successful auction and steak feed. I am amazed at how well everyone pitches in and is able to pull this thing off for our students here at HHS. Kudos to the HHS Booster Club!
- I am still working with our staff to get AP certified in our four areas this year. We are making syllabi and getting ready to put it in front of the auditors.

- I am investigating some credit by proficiency options with our AG program. We are looking at some options for life science credit that other schools are doing to meet the science standard.
- Our Bullying Committee has met with Mark Thompson and we are addressing many behavior issues concerning bullying/harassment within our school.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**Irrigon ASB** - Six students went to the Leadership Student Conference in Pendleton. They were challenged to be better leaders by having vision, trust and knowledge. They had special work sessions for students and leaders. We had a nice lunch and an ice cream desert before we returned.

**OMSI Assembly-** The ASB and the school partnered half and half the bill to have OMSI do a fantastic assembly showing the student science, physics and amazing tricks of science. Things blew-up, foamed, froze and came grab our attention for an hour. The kids and staff want OMSI to come again.

**Fund Raiser-** Our IES fundraiser experience finished with the school raising about \$3500 dollars for the ASB. These kids know how to raise funds! They have chosen to not go to the Watershed Day but want to take the fifth grade somewhere else. These funds help pay for the Out-Door School and other school related event with students.

**Staff Meeting and the Reading Report Card-**We met twice to discuss how we can improve Reading scores. We discussed last year's scores, TESA and OAKS tests, and we discussed what were doing now. Our hope and efforts will be to improve both Math and Reading scores for the 07-08 year.

**Scorpion Night-** Scorpion Night was a huge success in attendance. With students, student helpers, and adults there were about 100 people in attendance from 7:30 p.m to 7:30 a.m. the next day. Kids played gym games, ate pizza, watched movies, sang karaoke, played board games in the library, and broke piñatas. It was a long night for us adults, but in the morning the thanks that children were telling us for letting them have so much fun was very much appreciated.

### **Irrigon High School**

The lights are on. It was an exciting night on November 2<sup>nd</sup> when Irrigon High School played its first home game under the new lights. We went through a long list of thank-yous and a ribbon cutting ceremony. The ceremony was culminated with a group of five families who led the volunteer charge flipping the switches and lighting the field. The bleachers were overflowing and the concession stand was backed up through the game. The long wait was over and the excitement was in the air.

FFA Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana was the destination for Lenn Greer and a contingent of students and chaperones from Irrigon and Riverside. They flew out of Portland and for the next few days were able to get energized and learn many new things that can help improve our local chapter.

Fish are alive and well here at IHS. Our staff has adopted the World Famous Pikes Place Fish Market theme of: Play! Be There! Make Their Day! and Choose Your Attitude! On a monthly basis a staff

member recognizes another for something they have done in one of these categories. This past in-service they were able to add Commit! Be It! Coach It! Staff also handed out individual FISH awards to each staff member that was present. It was refreshing to hear staff members saying positive things about each other and edifying one another.

Pink Out was an activity that our students and athletic department created to bring a service learning project to Irrigon. Students, coaches and even the referees were dressed in pink to show their support in the fight to find a cure for breast cancer. There was a good turnout and we hope to have similar activities in the future. Thanks go out to Blaine Ganvoa for organizing this event.

JR High Spirit Week was a hit! With the separate bell schedules and focus on creating a separate identity for our Junior Highers they planned a GREAT spirit week full of dress up days and lunch time activities. These students have laid a fantastic foundation for future spirit weeks.

HS Homecoming Week was full of hall decorations; dress up days as well as Powder Puff football and Macho Volleyball. Each day had the classes competing for the most spirited award. Court was announced, football game was played and the dance is over...now the staff can relax again!

November events that we are currently planning for include:

- ASB Leadership trip to Seaside for State Conference and trip to Pacific University 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Start of Basketball and Wrestling 5<sup>th</sup>
- State Testing 6-14<sup>th</sup>
- Book Fair 7-14<sup>th</sup>
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- Financial Aid Night 14<sup>th</sup>

### **Riverside High School**

Riverside has been a busy place this fall. Of the 408 students currently enrolled at Riverside, 282 students, or nearly 70%, are involved a sport or club or in many cases—both.

- ❖ October 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> was Riverside's Homecoming Week. Pep assemblies and class competitions were held each day and students were asked to dress in a different theme. There was plenty of "Pirate Pride" during the week. Homecoming Royalty was crowned at half-time of the varsity football game on Friday night. Queen Kenna Purcell and King Johnny Pena reigned over the Homecoming Dance following the game.
- ❖ Seniors recently participated in the annual Job Shadow Day sponsored by the Boardman Chamber of Commerce. Sixty five seniors were placed in businesses around the community and Hermiston. We have received some very positive feedback from employers concerning the Riverside students. Mrs. Barton and Mr. Christy were instrumental in matching students to employers. The day ended with a luncheon held at the Port of Morrow building.
- ❖ The Leadership Class and National Honor Society sponsored Breast Cancer Awareness Week and the second annual "Are You Tough Enough To Wear Pink Day" at Riverside. Students and staff were encouraged to purchase hot pink beaded necklaces and wear them throughout the week. Proceeds from the sale of necklaces will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. *Help For Today...Hope For Tomorrow*. They earned \$318 which exceeded their goal of \$300. Thursday saw the majority of Riverside students and staff dressed in pink

in an effort to raise awareness about breast cancer, which is no longer the leading cause of death among women.

- ❖ Advanced Placement (AP) is an internationally recognized program authorizing college-level courses taught in high schools. Riverside now offers two AP classes with a total enrollment of 37 juniors and seniors: English Language and Composition (writing) and English Literature and Composition. Students in these courses may take the appropriate AP examinations in May and, with a passing score, receive credit at the college they attend. Riverside plans to increase AP offerings to include all core academic content areas. For more information, contact Lea Mathieu at [mathiel@morrow.k12.or.us](mailto:mathiel@morrow.k12.or.us).
- ❖ Riverside High School recently took the opportunity to thank some of its longtime supporters at the pep assemblies held for Homecoming. For their unselfish, tremendous support behind the scenes over the years, wooden plaques bearing the image of the high school were presented in front of the assembled student body. Student Body President Jordan Mittelsdorf explained the award, then introduced the special guests to the student body. Honored were Glaya Baker on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Smokey Joe Wightman on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Ray Michael as well as the Port of Morrow on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Accepting the award for the Port were Lisa Wightman and Eileen Hendricks.
- ❖ The Riverside Key Club, an extension of the Kiwanis Club, with the support of Boardman Parks, and the City of Boardman recently performed an act of community service. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Key Club, under the supervision of Advisor Kathie Goad, along with several Riverside students painted the Main Street fence from the Interstate Eastbound Exit to Wilson Road. Special thanks to Pam Dockens, Kiwanis member and business owner for providing a staging area and plenty of doughnuts and hot chocolate; Marci Rodelo, Kiwanis advisor for overseeing the project; and Ted Lieurance, Boardman Parks for providing the paint and supplies.



### **Windy River Elementary** **Site Council**

Site Council just finished updating WRE School Improvement Plan

### **October Students of the Month Assembly**



| <b>Academics</b>  | <b>Academics</b> | <b>Theme -<br/>Perseverance</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kelsey Caudron    | Katelyn Taylor   | Juan Olguin                     |
| Teneisha Peterson | Maria Rodriguez  | Audrey Guenther                 |
| Adara Hasbell     | Bianca Ramirez   | Sinahi Torres                   |
| Uber Hernandez    | Wayne Killion    | Cari Barton                     |
| Omar Barrera      | Karina Caldera   | Jesus Pacheco                   |
| Gabby Alba        | Mayra Hernandez  | Rene Morales                    |
| Edith Velasco     | Derek Bingaman   | Valerie Colin                   |
| J'Lyn Keefer      | Marissa Pratt    | Abel Rodelo                     |
| Angelica Martinez | Janet Castaneda  | Andres Mendoza                  |

### Classroom Attendance Award Winners

Over the month of October the following classrooms had the best attendance:

- Rhonda Boors 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 100% attendance the week of 1-4 October
- Angela Dames 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 100% attendance the week of 8-11 October
- Carol Chapman 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 100% attendance the week of 15-18 October
- Angela Dames 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 100% attendance the week of 22-26 October
- Anna Browne 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 100% attendance the week of 29 Oct. – 1 Nov.

### Monthly Attendance Award Winner

Angela Dames 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Great Job!)

### Staff Development

WRE staff is still having our book club meetings on the book “Results Now”

We have covered the social, intellectual and economic power of acquiring authentic literacy. We came away with an understanding that we must make deep significant changes to literacy instruction in all subjects. Finally, we read starting examples of literacy instruction in most classrooms. What an eye opener.

In the second section we discovered that Professional Learning Communities is the most powerful practice to improve instruction. School leaders’ actions should be built around the fundamental concepts of learning communities. This will allow teachers to have a greater impact on instruction and its improvement.

### WRE Leadership

WRE Leadership is working on a driver’s manual for science.

## Red Ribbon Week



October 29<sup>th</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

This week Windy River Elementary decorated its halls with red and white, indicating the celebration of national RED RIBBON WEEK; a time that is used as an educational tool to promote drug prevention and making healthy choices.

In order to make RED RIBBON an event that is remembered and strongly participated in, we split our week into daily drug free themes, chosen by our Student Council. Aside from assigning dress up days to our themes, we also had daily class competitions; each competition is ranked on a point scale and at the end of our RED RIBBON week, the class who has earned the most points, is declared our RED RIBBON winner.

This year RED RIBBON consisted of:

Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> “Wear Red Day”. Students and staff were encouraged to wear red, as it is the color that is recognized nationally as representing drug free awareness. Everyone was also given red ribbons with assigned numbers on the back; each day we announced random numbers and distributed prizes.

Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> “Friend’s Don’t Let Friends Do Drugs”. Students and staff took the opportunity to dress the same as a friend. On this day we also held our October Student of the Month assembly; recognizing students from every class who showed academic achievement and, this month’s theme, perseverance.

Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> “Drug Free, the Healthy Way to Be”. Students and staff were encouraged to wear athletic gear, sports, or exercise clothing...anything that encouraged/promoted being active and staying healthy. We also held an indoor soccer tournament on this day, where classes competed against one another in hopes to come out with the bragging rights of being our 2007 soccer champions.

Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> “Put the Slip on Drugs”. Students and staff were encouraged to wear their pajamas and slippers.

Other competitions and activities throughout the week included a penny drive, coloring contest, and classroom presentations on reasons to pledge to be drug free.

Overall the main focus of our 2007 RED RIBBON week was the encouragement of abstaining from drug use. We not only wanted to educate our students on the harms of drugs and alcohol, but to also teach them that there are positive and healthy outcomes with CHOOSING TO BE DRUG FREE.

### Girls in Science

Anna Browne, a fifth grade teacher, had the opportunity to take 4 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls (Samantha Hernandez, Katelyn Taylor, Kyla Dyer, and Avika Sharma) from WRE to EOU this weekend for the “Girls in Science” activity day. EOU sponsors this activity every year. This is a valuable experience for our students. They spent the day with college students working in the biology and chemistry labs on campus to solve a forensic mystery. They were joined by about 100 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls from all over eastern Oregon. This was an extremely valuable activity to get girls excited about science, college and careers.



### Sam Boardman Elementary

**TESA / OAKs:** Students took their practice tests to learn about the new changes in the TESA/OAKs assessments in preparation for their first round of testing starting November 13<sup>th</sup>. Students can flag questions and go back, or cross out items to eliminate in the answer selection. Teacher will set up their own labs for the first time. We are looking forward to the data provided once the students have had an opportunity to celebrate all their learning!

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE:** Students with perfect attendance received a special certificate and coupon.



### **RED RIBBON WEEK AND HARVEST**

**PARTIES:** These were great ways to celebrate drug and alcohol free choice making and mark the end of the first quarter of instruction. Each day students wore something different. Many parents joined us for Costume Day and Harvest Parties.



The culminating event was dressing in red, as a way to declare a drug and alcohol free choice.



**FLAG DAY is back in the NEWS!** Remember when Mrs. Appleton celebrated Flag Day the first month of school? This multi-disciplinary study of the Star Spangled Banner during music has earned special attention! Students learned the history, measured, marked and painted a flag on the playground the size of the one that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814. The entire school gathered around the flag and sang the Star Spangled Banner on the poem's anniversary.

This picture along with the unit of study was submitted to the National Association for Music Education and The National Anthem Project. Sam Boardman Elementary was awarded a certificate recognizing our students as an "*All Star School*" based on excellence in studying and presenting our national anthem. The picture and certificate will be displayed in the display case in the entry. Congratulations SBE third grade students and Mrs. Appleton!

**PTO and custodial staff** are making arrangements for the new play ground equipment which was delivered today!

**Phase II – Fire Restoration:** Furniture and supplies have been ordered. Technology and library books are still in progress.

### **Morrow Education Center**

We are excited to be the host facility for this month's meeting. Over the course of the past month our staff has continued to work diligently on ways to improve attendance. Mr. Melville will be presenting our goal(s) and game plan for doing just that. Currently, we are seeing numbers at MEC equal to those typically found second semester. Our total population stands at 82 enrolled, broken down as follows—Umatilla (23), Irrigon (26), Boardman (29), and Heppner (4). On average we are seeing 54 kids per day, including 5 mothers with toddlers who are extremely focused on their goal of graduation.

I am very pleased to report that Mr. Melville has hit the donation circuit in hopes to obtain a few things that might improve our program. To date Wilcox Furniture has donated a recliner rocker for our parenting room (to be delivered soon), Daisy Bucket has donated supplies to begin a scrap booking class, Office Max has donated an IPOD for our "Drop a Ticket" attendance/behavior give away, and the MEC staff has donated a digital media player also for our "Drop a Ticket" give away.

In addition to our focus on self-directed learning, we have also begun our weight training hour. In past years this hour has been well received by our student body, and this year appears to be following suit. Due to the recent MRSA outbreak it should be included that I have visited with our custodial staff and

they have provided us the proper disinfecting agent to spray down the equipment each day after it is used.

### *In the Hooper*

The OAKS/TESA exams are right around the corner and all of our students have been walked through the practice tests provided with very little difficulty navigating the new management system. We are scheduled to begin testing November 14<sup>th</sup>.

We are also exploring our ability to offer a “Food Handlers” course for all students as a means to better prepare them for life outside of school.

As always we welcome the unique challenges as they come through our doors this school year and will continue to work towards building a successful educational environment that harbors student understanding and achievement.

### **ELL Program**

**30 Day Parent Notification Letters-** By October 4<sup>th</sup> every identified one of the 490 ESL students in our district had a letter sent home to parents notifying them what level their child tested last year in the ELPA test. They were notified what services their child is being given in each one of their schools. This is required by the State and Federal governments.

**Oregon Department of Education ESL Directors Meeting-** On October 16<sup>th</sup> all the State ESL directors met with Carmen West to get new State and Federal information on our district ESL programs. One big piece of information is the use of the new state ELPA test and its percentages for each district to make the AMAO’s NCLB federal requirements. The federal government has not yet responded to the State’s proposal of percentages a district has to meet in order to make the AMAO’s (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives). As soon as the State proposal is approved, we will be told what we have to achieve in our ELPA tests in order to fulfill our AMAO challenged goals.