

# **Principal & Director Reports**

**May 2010**

## **AC. Houghton Elementary**

### **Kindergarten Screening**

On May 6, we screened prospective kindergartners for the coming school year 10-11. We screen between 30 and 40 students, which is a good predictor of having a normal size kindergarten in the coming school year of approximately 70 students. This has been our stable size for several years. The screening process allows us to examine early learning skills of entering students, which in turn allows us to make up class sizes that are balanced using student current abilities, boy/ girl balance, ethnic balance, etc.

### **Bear Day/Night**

On May 18 we will hold our annual Bear Day/Night. We have a reading program, Accelerated Reader, that functions all year with students working towards goals each quarter. The last goal that students are working toward is making the Bear Day activities for kindergarten and first graders and to make the nighttime activities for second and third graders. The big change this year is that we will balance the students between day and night, because fourth graders moved to Irrigon Elementary School this year. Second graders will be switching from activities right after school to activities that will take place between 6:30 PM and 9 PM. Only third graders will continue to stay overnight as we still feel that second graders are a little young to do that.

### **OAKS Testing**

We have the last round of OAKS state assessment underway. We have worked very hard over the last three months, since the 2<sup>nd</sup> OAKS, to prepare our students, and to have as many pass the OAKS state standards for math and reading. Our goal is to have math and reading both over the 80 percent level by the time we are done. That should be no problem in reading, but it will be a bit of a stretch in math. In both cases, I think we will exceed last year's passing rates.

## **Heppner Elementary School**

It is a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that May is already here, our enrollment at HES is 195 students and our current attendance percentage for the year is 94.9%. HES recently started the third round of OAKS testing and I am happy to report that most of our students have met or exceeded the benchmarks for their grade level. We will continue working hard to get the few remaining HES students over the benchmark hump during this third and final round of testing.

April was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, with the highlight being the "Honor Card Assembly" which was held on April 7<sup>th</sup> where 88 HES students received Honor Cards and Certificates for the third quarter. Honor Cards are given to students that maintain positive grades and behavior during each quarter of the school year. HES students also performed very well at the district sponsored math contest held at HES on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We also held our Kindergarten Roundup on April 27<sup>th</sup> and had a positive turn out.

With the fourth quarter well under way we are rapidly approaching the end of the school year. Our 32 sixth grade students headed for the hills this week for Tupper Outdoor School and several other classes will be going on field trips later this month. Other noteworthy events which will be taking place this month include; The HES/HHS Spring Concert on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 31.

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

### **Heppner High School**

- We are starting our third window of OAKS testing and we are excited to test and see the growth of our students that have not met the standard through two windows. There will be a full report next month of our progress.
- Our baseball team had a unique opportunity to be part of the first high school baseball game held at PK (Pat Kilkenny) Park in Eugene at the University of Oregon this past weekend. We invited several teams to play us and Sherman was first to accept the offer. This experience was amazing for both our baseball program and the community members that traveled to watch. Pat Kilkenny and good friend Pat Sweeney were instrumental in making this happening and HHS would like to publicly thank them for making this trip possible. Mr. Kilkenny and Mr. Sweeney will be looking at ways and working with our athletic department to host an annual Mustang Invitational round robin of some option every year at PK Park. The boys attended a University of Oregon game on Friday night and some took in the spring football game on Saturday after our baseball game was over. Needless to say- this was an experience that many will remember for a great number of years.
- Our GOAL (Graduate Options of Achieved Learning) presentations were held on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. These went very well and many community members experienced the success of our seniors these two nights. As an employee that has worked with these students for six years, it was amazing to see the growth and confidence in them as they embark on the next chapter of their lives and how HHS has shaped and prepared them for graduation and beyond.
- ASB Elections will be held after speeches during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>. Students are campaigning right now and our student leadership is doing a nice job managing the campaigns.
- We held our last knowledge bowl competition during the week of April 26<sup>th</sup>. This was the state competition that is on-line and our students did very well. With the added five local competitions, our TAG students have had more exposure to challenging opportunities this year than ever before. Kudos to Mr. Flaherty for his time commitment and efforts in giving our TAG students these experiences.
- We held our first of two high school track meets this season on April 30<sup>th</sup>. There was an amazing amount of community support and volunteers that helped to put this on. Fourteen teams competed with both of our teams doing very well with our girls winning the meet.
- The annual HHS Golf Scramble fundraiser was held on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a great fundraiser for our golf team and this year's scramble hosted 30 teams of either three or four participants. It is amazing the support we have locally for our golf

program and this scramble is a testament of the successes that our students have experienced while being part of the golf program.

- Certified Appreciation Week is the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> and our classified staff, parents, and ASB have spoiled our teachers for a week. They have received gifts, snacks, breakfast, and lunch throughout the week. It has been fun to reward those that have worked so hard in the education of our students.
- AP Exams started during the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have ten students taking the AP Government test, one student taking the AP Calculus test, sixteen students taking the AP English Literature test, and twelve students taking the AP Biology test. Several have to take the late date exams due to the conflict with being a counselor at Tupper Outdoor School.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**Parent Teacher Spring Conferences-** This spring April 1 & 2 teachers had parents in and out of their rooms. This was a good sign of parent involvement in our school. The whole school had an average of 90% parent attendance to the conferences. Parents love our school. We make IES a place of learning, safety, respect and enjoyment for staff, parents, and children.

**Shakespeare at IES-** In April we had the Hampstead Stage Performers do different parts of Shakespeare and the next day Ms. Osterlund's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class performed Macbeth the Shakespeare play of the sixteenth century. Our school has had this tradition for the last 5 years and it has shown in her reading scores marking improvements with these extra curricular school activities.

**Writing Olympics Closing Ceremony-** On April 29<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the students who conditionally met, met, or exceeded in the Writing Assessment. Students who conditionally met got a bronze medal, those who met got a silver medal, and those who in any area exceeded of the Writing Assessment got a gold medal. Parents were invited and the whole school celebrated this event for the first time. Ms. Hodgdon the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher sponsored the event and her class and older brother designed the signs for our Olympic ceremony. It was a mini success!

### **Irrigon High School**

#### **AP Classes**

We will begin our AP testing next week. In all, we will be administering 20 AP tests with about 70% of our students in our English Language and Composition and World History classes participating. We also have one student who will be taking the AP Spanish Language test in an effort to improve their score from last year. Unfortunately, we will not know the results until July.

#### **Knight of Excellence**

On May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm we will be hosting our annual academic awards ceremony. We will also have our junior high and high school National Honor Society inductions that evening. Postcards will be sent out two weeks prior to the evening specifically inviting parents of students who are to be recognized.

### **I.C.E.**

Our seniors have been working hard to put their finishing touches on their ICE projects. This is their culminating experience in which they share what they have accomplished thus far in their lives both in and out of school as well as how these decisions have prepared them for their future careers and educational choices. Their presentations will be on Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Knight Klean-Up Day**

We will be holding our annual Knight Klean-Up day on May 6<sup>th</sup>. In all, we will have seventeen advisory groups out in the community doing a variety of jobs assisting the elderly, parks and recreation, ACH, and the city of Irrigon. This provides students the opportunity to give something back to their community. We usually conclude the day by providing a variety of outdoor activities in the afternoon including a Chinook helicopter from the Oregon National Guard. This is always been a huge hit with students and usually brings a couple of dozen community members into the building to tour the helicopter. Unfortunately this year we learned that all of the National Guard helicopters have all been deployed, but we they will be able to provide an obstacle course that we will set up in the gymnasium. A special thanks to Mr. Johnson and our Key Club for coordinating all of the activities that day.

### **Athletics**

Our softball team recently secured the conference title. This is a first for any team from Irrigon. They will be competing in Pendleton on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> at districts before moving on to state. The Knight's track team continues to post great results and expects to have at least a dozen athletes qualify for state at the district track meet in Stanfield on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Our baseball program also continues to show improvement from last year. Way to go KNIGHTS!

### **Riverside High School**

#### **RIVERSIDE WELCOMES GEORGE MENDOZA**

George Mendoza comes to Riverside High School with 13 years of experience in education. His professional experiences include working in Pasco, Washington as an elementary school principal the last five years. While working in Pasco schools he gained extensive knowledge related to Professional Learning Communities, aligning curriculum and common assessments to standards, using data to inform instruction, shared leadership and decision making, budget management, as well as implementation of many school improvement plan initiatives. Prior to his principal position, Mr. Mendoza was an associate middle school principal and athletic director as well as an elementary school teacher and high school football coach.

Mr. Mendoza grew up in the Yakima Valley of Washington and graduated from Prosser High School. He went on to attend Eastern Oregon University and in 1997 earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. In 2002 he earned his Masters Degree in Education Leadership from Northwest Nazarene University.

Mr. Mendoza is fluent in Spanish and when not working he enjoys spending time with family playing basketball and golf, as well as coaching his children in sports. He and his wife Krisit have three children, Elyssia, Sophia, and Cristian. They also have a baby girl on the way (Ava Quinn Mendoza) due in early June.

George tells me he is passionate about his work as an educator and enjoys assisting adults and children to accomplish their goals in life. Mr. Mendoza is excited to work at the high school level and indicates that he will do all that he can to enhance the learning environment and assist students to graduate and pursue a post secondary education.

## JUNIOR HIGH LEADERSHIP

Riverside's Junior High Leadership students sold hearts for Cystic Fibrosis during the month of February and raised \$83 to help fund research for a cure.

## RHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Riverside Music Department has been busy this spring. In March they performed at the Boardman Senior Center luncheon and Sun Terrace Assisted Living Facility. April found them at the Tri-County Festival in Stanfield. Riverside was represented well as Emily Doherty was chosen as one of only two soloists. Riverside hosted the Junior High Band Festival April 21<sup>st</sup> with over 200 participants. After practicing all day they hosted an evening concert for the public.

## UP COMING EVENTS

May 5<sup>th</sup> – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Spring Concert

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Night of Excellence

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Baccalaureate

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Graduation

## Sam Boardman Elementary School

### *Students of the Month for April:*

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Hunter Dyer Joe Reagan Dulce Frausto Melanie Foster	Charlie Smith Ivan Rodriguez Trinidad Mendoza Jonathan Araiza	Kevin Navarro Dayana Sepulveda Damian Garcia Hilary Payne	Logan Cordova Ali Zapata Xochitl Ramos Zuriel Martinez	Mrs. Matheny 93%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Belen Ponce Ana Calvillo David Madrigal Rolando Guadarrama	Ramon Montes Bobby Garcia Alyssa Luna Azpen De Los Santos	Aldo Murguia Marco Landeros Jennifer Vazquez Edgar Murguia	Evelin Guadado Lucero Medel Jacob Murguia Delia Hernandez	Mrs. Hocker 96%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Brandon Madrigal Zenía Pena Blake Davis	Jazmin Barrett Bianca Avalos Aaliyah Calderon	Jacob Hibbitts Anthony Flores Edwin Pacheco	Soledad Munoz Eli Killion Jose Rodriguez	Mrs. Files 95%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Adelfo Sanchez Alexis Cambero Monica Virelas Oscar Lopez	Emily Diaz Lizbet Madrigal Nestor Ramirez Estrella Daltoso	Blas Zapata Yoanna Lopez Ricardo Ramos Jessica Rodriguez	Jacqueline Amaya Juan Torres Adolfo Martinez Lane Hurley	Mrs. Bankston 93%

**Enrollment:** 309    **Attendance:** The average attendance for January was 92.72%.



**Students of the Month Assembly:** Parents, teachers and students listened to two short clips from the new kindergarten video. The video debut contained a memorial to Beth Creason. Carnival was promoted and we celebrated all the books being read by students who want to vote for a teacher to eat bugs.

**Butterfly Garden:** April 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and the kick-off of an exciting new project at Sam Boardman. Gardening Friends and SBE are working together to create a garden near our front entry to invite butterflies and humming birds. Our first contribution was the Mexican Feather Grass and Purple Phlox in the planter. Each morning in the announcements students are learning about the plants and how to safely explore the new area. You will enjoy watching this garden develop and learning right along with our students.

**Dynamic and dedicated teacher:** Beth Creason will be honored with the Crystal Apple Memorial Award at this year's Crystal Apple award ceremony on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion in Pendleton.

**Site Council** celebrated a notable increase in our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade off-grade writing assessment scores. The number of students meeting and exceeding grade level standards was up 14% over last year! Congratulations students and staff!



**Carnival** night was a huge success! The PTO worked very hard to give our carnival a new make-over using a circus theme, and it was a grand new look. The Cookie Monster booth featured fresh baked cookies with all the

proceeds from that booth going to the Beth Creason Memorial Fund. The variety of booths appealed to all ages. Families and staff enjoyed their time together. A special thanks to Riverside High School students for their help, and to Agape House for the three-hole golf course.







**Kindergarten Round-up** is just around the corner on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Parents attending the Round-up will receive a free transition video introducing preschool students to the school and music.

**Continuous School Improvement:** 12 SBE teachers will spend two days learning more about Rick and Rebecca DuFour's Professional Learning Communities and their three big ideas: 1) ensuring that students learn, 2) creating a culture of collaboration, and 3) focusing on results.

**Celebrating Learning:** We are just beginning our third testing window and can not wait to see the results of all the great learning at SBE.

**SBE gives tribute to Beth Creason on May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Kindergarten students will be releasing butterflies and dedicating a pine tree to the lasting memory of Beth Creason. Our Student of the Month Assembly will be featuring a slide show dedication to this fine teacher.



## **Windy River Elementary**

### **Crystal Apple Award**

Jennifer Leighton was WRE Crystal Apple award winner. We are very lucky to have a aide like Jennifer at our school. She is a wonderful teacher and we couldn't imagine what we would do if she wasn't here.

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Theme - Courage</b>
Beagle	Eloy Hernandez	Shandon Sanders	Stephen Groce
Boor	Giovanni Hernandez	Ruby Salazar	Kevin Bravo
Browne	Mirna Daltoso	Kassie Harrison	Anisha Ghising
Foster	Anthony Ramirez	Luis Olvera	Emily Taylor
Wainwright	Alonso Cambero	Arturo Flores	Markus Smith
Dames	Samantha Zapata	Angelic Perez	Emily Kirby
Keefer	Belinda Lomas	Sadie Hasbell	Josue Calvillo
			Durga Chapagai & Devika
Prindle	Sterling Bither	Maydi Barrera	Luitel
Strebin	Derek Bingaman	Dixie Gonzalez	Jose Agripino



### Learning Fair

Windy River Elementary's Learning Fair was a spectacular celebration for all of our students and their hard work. The annual event was held April 22, 2010 from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. Learning projects from each classroom were arranged in a panoramic fashion around the gym. All curriculums were well represented. This year our school has made a priority to improve our student's writing scores and this was evident in all of the various displays of children's writing from poetry to book design. Science included owl pellets. Students dissected a pellet and were surprised to find the bones of the creatures the owl had eaten over time. A project about Native Americans was displayed where students wrote about a particular group of Indians and made a model of their home using natural materials. Learning can be fun and without a doubt, it was when viewing this event.

### Whitman Mission

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students went to Whitman Mission on Thursday, April 22. They had a fun filled trip learning about the Oregon trail, Marcus Whitman and his family and the significance of the missionaries and the impact on the native American tribes.

### Writing Festival

On Thursday, April 15th, Morrow County students had the opportunity to meet with Oregon author, Heather Vogel Frederick, at the fourth annual Windy River Writing Festival. In addition to 4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from WRE, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Irrigon and Heppner Elementary were also in attendance. This year's festival included Mrs. Frederick, an author who has published more than numerous books. Mrs. Frederick was a dynamic and exciting speaker, who motivated students about writing and telling stories. The theme for the day was "how to write and publish your own book" In addition to a session with the artist, students participated in writing workshop style classes with teachers from WRE, IES and HES. All in all, the day was a huge success and students thoroughly enjoyed writing and meeting up with new friends from across the district. The author hopes that we will invite him back for a similar day in the future.

### Math Contest

Twenty-one Windy River Math students competed against other Morrow County students from grades fourth, fifth, and sixth at the annual District Math Contest on April 22 at Heppner High School. Tag Coordinator, Theresa Proctor-Reece coordinated the event along with the help of other district coordinators. WRE should be very proud of their kids. We placed very high in the standings and took home two out of three plaques. Way to go Windy River!!!!!!



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Watershed Field Trip

This is an annual event for 5<sup>th</sup> grades put on by the ESD and OSU extension office. It is an all day activity letting students participate in many science activities. It was held in Lexington this year and our students came back with a greater understanding on how water affects their lives.