

Principal & Director Reports

September 2006

A.C. Houghton Elementary

ACH is off to a good start for the 0607 school year. First, we would like to introduce four new staff:

Jackie Johnson is our new reading teacher. Jackie has been at ESL /migrant assistant director for the ESD for the last several years. She is a real coup to get on our staff.

Kelly Phillips is a new second-grade teacher. Kelly worked for several years here as an educational assistant and worked her way through the Eastern Oregon University teacher program. She student taught here last year.

Raul Alvarado is our new PE teacher. Raul did at one year position with the Hermiston School District last year. Our staff is extremely excited to start a new PE program.

Juana Santillan is our new ESL teacher. Her position will allow us to have full ESL coverage for all students for language development instruction. She is a homegrown Irrigon young lady who attended Eastern Oregon University.

Our main thrust this year will be to sustain our achievement level in math and reading and continue to improve our student achievement in our writing program as reported at the August board meeting. The writing academic area is by far the most difficult to make improvements. We were astounded by student academic growth last year and hope to, at minimum, sustain this growth if not bump it up a notch or two.

Heppner Elementary School

Heppner Elementary has started off this **exceptional** year with some **exceptional** numbers. We had estimated 186 students and have 195 currently enrolled. Forget the Mill site and the Raceway we are growing no matter what. ☺

I want to give a huge thank you to HES' Parent Teacher Club for the purchase of the new sign in front of the building. The steel sign with Juniper posts was built by Steve Marlatt and Corey Sweeney and was painted by Brandi Sweeney. If you have not had a chance to drive by please do so.

HES was the stop over sight for Cycle Oregon. Please ask for an update at the meeting for how things went.

HES students and staff will be looking fine on Thursday September 14th. Life Touch will be taking pictures of our happy smiling faces.

As a way for the HES staff to build stronger relationships and to get a chance to talk with each other we have implemented a breakfast program for staff. Each payday staff are getting together to have breakfast. Stop in on a payday at 7:00 AM and have some fun conversation.

Heppner High School

Have had a great start to the year with both staff and students.

- ATLAS track will be here on the 6th to finish with painting the track and lane names.
- ZAP will start during the week of the 18th and we have made several adjustments to making it more effective by going to a 6 day grading period, after school time for high school kids, etc.
- Kitchen remodel is finished and it turned out very well.
- Approach steps to track are finished and put in place.
- Our new staff is fitting in well and has added to our school community.
- Football and Volleyball are off in full swing and our numbers are at record highs in the high school- 51 for football and 34 for volleyball.
- Our bullying committee has met and we have distributed sheets to staff to record and recognize below the line behavior.
- Cycle Oregon is coming to town on the 10th and 11th, we are preparing some fundraising ideas with students.
- Scheduling is complete and adding staff was a great thing this year due to our elevated enrollment.
- We have ordered a new scoreboard for the football field with a Pepsi contract and \$4000.
- Pat Kilkenny, Bob Kilkenny and family and other donors have set up and donated nearly \$45,000 towards a new set of bleachers that are handicapped accessible for our gymnasium.
- We have moved our advisory period from first to third period to help with attendance and it seems to be a good decision.
- We are working on the new grad requirements for all students and our staff has gotten on board with this.
- We currently have two AP track courses (AP LA and AP Physics) and they are going through an audit to register them with the College Board.
- We are working on a grant through ODE to get some new video conferencing equipment for the high school that will give us another version of V-Tel in the shop complex.
- The wrestling program has purchased two mats from the Canby School District. One is a practice mat and the other is fairly new and we will be able to host a dual meet or maybe even a tourney this winter. Exciting stuff!

Irrigon Elementary School

Current Enrollment:

5 th grade	66 students
6 th grade	59 students
Total	125 students

Open House: Tuesday, September 12th @ 7:00 pm. Starting in the gymnasium.

Afterschool Program: A committee of teachers and educational assistants are currently designing the program for our Afterschool Club. We hope to have the program up in running in the next two weeks.

School Focus: Teachers will be closely monitoring and adjusting their writing instruction this year. Grade level teams are engaging in weekly meetings to discuss instructional strategies and map writing instruction for the year.

State Spelling Contest: Faith Overton, IES sixth grader, participated in the Oregon State Spelling Bee over the Labor Day week-end. She reports that she did her best, but did not place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. She said she enjoyed the experience and we are PROUD that she represented IES and MCSD at this event.

Irrigon High School

“Make it Great” is our school theme this year. Whether it is staff morale or student recognition our school’s aim is not to just be a good school but to be a great school. We have posters around the school and staff will be brainstorming ways to Make it Great in classrooms and around the school. Students are also a part of the process. When making decisions about their daily decisions or planning big events, we are working with them to plan for great things.

We are off to a great start; 339 students strong, 5 of those being Foreign Exchange students from Czechoslovakia, China, and Germany. We are making a push to help out our middle school students achievement in Reading and Writing. We have created a Language Arts block for all of the 7th and 8th graders. At IJSHS all 7th and 8th graders will have a 53 minute class for Language Arts and another 53 minute class to work on Reading strategies.

There is much optimism and excitement around the school and community. We have some exciting firsts taking place this year. Not since the Comets were still in town have we held a Prom or Graduation. Our student council is already planning some of our first time events, Homecoming and all of the festivities that goes along with it is set to take place October 27th. The student council is excited to be putting it on as the first of many big events to take place this year.

Our fall sports are off and running with a full slate of football and 3 volleyball teams as well as boys and girls soccer and a full compliment of junior high sports.

Our football field was just recently surveyed and is now staked. We will be planting football goalposts soon, as well as putting concrete slabs in for our “soon to be built” softball dugouts. The facilities are looking great as grass has been laid around the PTE building and new fencing has been added as well. The grounds crew and custodial staff have worked very hard this summer to have the buildings ready for students.

We have new staff members who have added enthusiasm and energy. Mr. Greer, the new Vo-Ag teacher has been working with kids even before the school year started. His students represented the FFA program at the county fair and did very well. Our High School English department is all new, Mr. Aaron Byers and Mrs. Paula Cavaness are working on aligning curriculum to state standards and getting our high school students excited about literature. Mr. Ryan Preuit is teaching our first ever physics course; we have enough student interest to schedule two sections. Mrs. Colleen Grigg has been busy working with the staff to help them create modifications and accommodations as needed. Mr. Jake McElligott has been a smooth transition from IES, now teaching 7-8 Math. Mr. Brian Bigham has been a wonderful addition to our Physical Education department by teaching 2 sections of

Junior High PE. We have also added Mrs. Amy Tolar as an Educational assistant. We currently have an ELL opening that should be filled very quickly.

Riverside High School

Riverside Student Populations:	404
7 th Graders	78
8 th Graders	63
Freshmen	74
Sophomores	62
Juniors	69
Seniors	58

RHS Open House/First Quarter Progress Conferences/Community Social

Riverside will host its Open House, Community Social and First Quarter Progress Parent Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, October 3rd from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

New Staff

Riverside welcomes new staff members:

Alissa Daltoso—Alissa came to Riverside for her first teaching position, teaching Freshman and Sophomore Language Arts from 1997-2002. She is excited to return this year to teach Sophomore Language Arts during Lea Mathieu’s sabbatical. Alissa and her husband, Dan, have four children, Mirna—age 8; Estrella—age 5; Jason—age 4; and Hailey—age 2. She has dedicated her time since leaving Riverside to raising their children. The Daltoso family enjoys living in Boardman and being part of the community and activities here. In her spare time, she likes to travel, read and spend time with family and friends.

Karen Brown—Karen has been a teacher with the Morrow County School District for eight years. She comes to us from Irrigon where she taught first at Columbia Middle School and later made the transition along with staff and students to Irrigon Junior-Senior High School. She taught writing in the Innovative Basic Program and Language Arts at various grade levels. She will teach 7th & 8th grade Language Arts at Riverside. Her goal is to make sure that every student is ready for the state tests and high school. She also hopes to prepare her students for life beyond graduation.

University of Lexington Calculus Course

Last Friday September 1st was the first meeting of the 2006-2007 U. of L. Calculus Course. Eleven students were in attendance; three from Heppner, four from Irrigon, and four from Boardman. We covered the first three sections during the session. The students seemed eager and motivated. They were given their first three assignments to be completed during the next two weeks. Our next meeting will be Sept. 15 from 8 to 12 in the morning.

Site Council

The first meeting for Site Council will be next Wednesday, September 13th at 5:30 in the Library. We will be discussing the School Improvement Plan. All community members, teachers and staff members are invited.

Junior High Accountability Report

During the summer Riverside students who had not passed 7th & 8th grade classes were required to attend summer school in an effort to be promoted to the next grade. Forty nine students participated in the program; and forty of those students earned the right to advance to the next grade. Of the forty nine original students only six 7th graders and three 8th graders will be repeating this year. The true test of the effect of this year's Accountability Program will be to see the number of students who will be required to attend summer school next year and the test scores of the forty nine students who received the additional help this summer.

Windy River Elementary

We are moved in and moving on at Windy River Elementary. We are now officially a 4-6 school. It is exciting to see things come together after working through construction last year.

The students are happy to have a complete playground again. It is fun to watch as they make the most on their new play areas. The best news is that the ponds are gone; it will be nice not to have to deal with those.

This year at WRE we set a school wide goal to improve the writing skills of our students. We have received a grant from the Write Source writing program and will participate in a study with them as well as using the program in the 5 and 6th grades. Our 4th grade will use some of the materials; however they are not included in the study. Our thanks goes to Anna Browne for the work that she did to obtain this grant. As a staff we believe that a uniform school wide writing curriculum will bring about the improvement that we need to see in the writing skills of our students.

I believe we are going to have another great year at WRE. I am looking forward to the challenges that the new year will bring us. Students and Staff are off to a fast start

Sam Boardman Elementary

We had a great start to school at SBE. Kids came with happy faces, new clothes and a new outlook on school. What a great time of year!!

We welcomed parents with an Open House on the 24th of August and we had a great turn out. About 140 students came to meet their teacher and pick out their desk.

SBE also is welcoming Migrant and Head Start preschool on September 5th. The 4 year olds will attend a morning session for Head start and an afternoon session for Migrant. This will boost our numbers close to 400 students!

Speaking of numbers, our kindergarten class is tipping the scales at 100+ students. We are very full in our K-1 wing!

I hope everyone has a great September!!

ELL Program

The month of August has started with ELL with it focused preparations for the whole 06/07 school year.

We started with about 30 staff members being retrained in SIOP instructional methods so that they are more precisely assured of teaching sheltered content classes to all their students. Also, every new teacher hired in the district went through a day's training in SIOP with Jacque Johnson, who is now employed with MCSD. Our teachers are ready to teach all students well in Morrow County.

Our district has taken the lead again in starting a pre-school program at SBE. In consortium with Head Start, Boardman Community School and the Migrant Education with our ESD, we now have about 40 pre-school students at SBE. Most of these students are monolingual Spanish speakers. We are getting these 3/4 year old children ready to be prepared in school socialization, learn numbers and letters, and start their kindergarten year all together ready.

Other ELL teacher in-service preparations we have done this month have related to Rosetta Stone training. This is a supplemental computer education of ELD that we have in every school. This is to help our students get lots of English development in every way. Our ELL teachers also went thru more training with School Master, reviewing the data inputting that is specific to our ELL children.

All our ELL teachers are hired; we have hired the best teachers with many accomplishments of instruction and language development. Also with educational assistants, we have interviewed almost 20 applicants and we've hired new persons with great experience, language abilities and with a good attitude to join a winning team. I feel very good about all our staff.

I've been giving more time in a supportive roll in getting all our ELL teachers ready for kids in the classroom, materials, computers, curriculum and taking off smoothly. I believe we have the best ELL team in the State of Oregon. Our records will prove that in the year to come. Personally I set my goal to have four 90's. That would be 90% of the ELL 3rd graders, 4th graders, and 5th graders reach state benchmarks in Reading and Writing. My other goal is to reach 90% of everything else I'd like to do as well. I'm definitely not bored.

In the light that our district will possibly be asked to show that we have Hispanic parent involvement in parent groups or committees, the district administration has given me charge to solicit more parent involvement in all school parent groups and committees. Included with this good responsibility, I continue to encourage student involvement in co-curricular activities in other school district programs.

Morrow Education Center

Once again, it is a privilege to report the recent happenings of the Morrow Education Center. Forrest and I are busy recruiting students who haven't yet re-enrolled at the Morrow Education Center. Our current enrollment as of today is 42 students, 26 of which are MCSD students and the other 16 are Umatilla students. We expect to see many more students in the next couple of days as Umatilla School District's first day was yesterday. We continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students at the Morrow Education Center, and the students are responding well to the new school year.

The MEC Staff and I have enjoyed the past week in the classroom here at Morrow Education Center and have welcomed the daily challenges that go along with serving this population of students. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.