

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **September 2007**

#### **A.C. Houghton Elementary**

New staff.

Stacy Wainwright-Stacy will be our new reading teacher. She replaces Jacque Johnson , who has become the principal at Sam Boardman Elementary. Stacy is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University. She is making a good start working on reading group coordination with our other reading teacher Mrs. Pullen.

Dawn Mills-Dawn is returning to us as a one-on-one educational assistant, halftime. She was laid off several years ago , when we did a staff reduction. She is a local resident and parent of an ACH student.

Erin Iveson-Erin will be a replacement one-on-one educational assistant. Erin is a resident of Irrigon and a parent of ACH students.

Deb Sherman-Deb is returning to ACH after two years at IES. She will be teaching special education , which she did for 2 Years at ACH prior to going to IES.

Irrigon Youth Sports Complex.

Last year I wrote a grant as a member of the Marina Park Board to the State Parks Department , to complete the Youth Sports Complex, which is in the Marina Park, north of our school. This grant was successful, receiving \$315,000. After we get through the planning commission and city council planning approval process, we will begin construction on this project. My participation in this effort has continued a School District -Park Board partnership providing extra opportunities for our children.

New Board meeting Month for ACH.

It is strange not having the school board at ACH at the beginning of the school year. We had been having the meeting in August in past years , which allowed us to kickoff the year with news about program and school facilities. We will look forward to seeing everybody after the first of the year.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

It is a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is our first day back and we are off and running here at Heppner Elementary. It was a fast and furious start from 7:30am to 8:00am, but once the kids hit the classrooms it was like a well oiled machine and everything was running smooth as of 8:30am. Our current start-up enrollment appears to be right at 190 students, we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students at Heppner Elementary.

The HES Staff and I enjoyed the past couple of weeks preparing for the start of the 2007-2008 school year. We had a welcome back assembly this morning at 9:00am, and a challenge was issued to each class to come up with a name for the HES Colt mascot. Each class will select a name for

the mascot, and then at our open house on 9/24/07 ballots will be available for Students and Parents to vote for the name of the mascot.

Here are some other dates of interest:

- September 11, 2007 - HES Site Council Mtg. 6:30pm.
- September 11, 2007 - HES Parent Teacher Club Mtg. 7:30pm.
- September 13, 2007 - Picture day at HES.
- September 22, 2007 - Colt Football 9am.
- September 24, 2007 - HES Open House 6pm – 7pm.

### **Heppner High School**

- Our school looks great inside and out. The custodians have done a great job getting our facility put together and addressing maintenance issues. Kudos to Mike Doherty, Theresa Parret, Kelly Fox, and the several youth that helped get our building looking great!!
- We had a wonderful time during our in-service week. Our national SIOP speaker was very good and our staff enjoyed our time together learning the next step with our SIOP staff development plan.
- Fall sports are up and running- with both volleyball and football holding their first contests this past week. Our numbers are high in both programs.
- Our enrollment is up a bit and we have seen quite a few new students this year enroll.
- We applied last spring and have received the Wildhorse Foundation grant for the amount of \$10,000 to purchase document cameras and digital projectors for every classroom at HHS ☺! We will be the only high school in our region that will have this type of technology in every classroom. Also, the ESD has committed to matching this money with another \$10,000 to benefit other schools in our district through our district innovation grant!
- All of our teachers have been declared highly qualified by TSPC- kudos to Julie for her work with licensure!
- Our FFA chapter has purchased two female pigs this summer and will be starting a breeding program to meet the demands of area 4-H and FFA student fair projects.
- We will be having class elections this week and preparing for Jr. High ASB officer elections next week.
- Our preliminary test results have come back, and I and our staff are excited about our early results.
- Again, we have met AYP status as a high school this year. Exciting!
- We are looking ahead to a great school year and I am enjoying the start of the school year in part to starting school after Labor Day weekend. The extra week in August made a big difference in preparing for students and staff ☺.

## **Irrigon Elementary School**

The school is off and running with a zest of energy and excitement!

The school is starting off very well. The teachers are in their classrooms, the students are in their classrooms getting ready to learn. We are all very excited to be here and get school started.

This month has been a spring up-ward spiral of learning. As the new principal, I have been learning something new about the school everyday! The staff is very supportive, and the program is going forward.

The 06-07 AYP report is in and congratulations to the previous principal, Mrs. Danielson, and staff at IES for making AYP. They did a great job last year. We are looking forward for a wonderful academic year of student continued success and fun.

## **Irrigon High School**

### **Extra time**

We are looking at our current school schedule and trying to carve out time for those students who are not having academic success or are not meeting state standards. Below are some of the programs that we will be using this school year.

**Main Street** - We are going to continue to promote academic success by giving students the time that they need to meet academic standards. All students will have the opportunity to be in **Main Street**; an academic program that meets during a student's lunch and advisory period where they have the time to catch up on any missing work.

**Math or Language Arts Extension** - Both Junior High and Senior High students that are not meeting Oregon's State Standard in Math and Language Arts will be assigned to a class period of **Math or**

**Language Arts Extension**. These classes will be in addition to their assigned Math and Language Arts class but will offer a variety of lessons to assist them in their classes as well as on the state test.

**PLATO Program** - High school students that are not on track to graduate will participate in the **Plato program** during the school day and after school. This program individually assigns curriculum to help them in their current classes as well as allow them to make up missing credits.

### **Life Skills Room**

We have added the Life skills program this year. Charlene Baker will be teaching the classes. There are currently six students directly receiving services from this program. Other students will benefit through tutoring and extra assistance.

### **Junior High Changes**

If you walked through the halls you will notice a new twist to the school. We have offset the bells for Junior High and High School classes. This simple change will lead to virtually no contact between the two grade levels of students. We are hoping to create an improved identity for the junior high. They

have been lumped together with the high school in the past and that can lead to them feeling left out and on their own at times. The Junior High will have their own activities and establish a sense of a school within a school.

The Junior High staff is also committed creating a smooth transition into the IJSHS for the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders. The teachers put together a two hour orientation program for the students during registration. Over half of the students and their parents attended.

### **Lighting Project**

The gym lighting and PTE building projects have been wrapped up and completed. The multi purpose room is now fully useable. The lights in the gym look great and have made a tremendous difference. The field lighting project is coming along nicely. The poles are lying on the ground, the first trenching has been done and more will be completed this week. The most important piece that is still being worked out is the building of the footings for each pole. The completion date for this project centers on when the footings being built. Craig Bensen, Blaine Ganvoa, and Amy Tolar continue to work with community members to organize the work and schedules. Wayne Huwe, Dan Young, Dwight Osborne, Dan Combes, and many others have been volunteering and time and energy into this project.

### **New Staff**

The new staff is fitting in well. They have each been paired with a mentor teacher and will continue through the year with that teacher. They are there to answer questions, give suggestions, and at times to just listen. Our new teachers include Juana Santillan ELL, Cody Booth Spanish, Lynn Allport Special Ed., CJ Johnson Math, and Charlene Baker Life Skills.

### **Riverside High School**

I hope you had a wonderful summer. I hope you had time to relax and enjoy your time off from school board responsibilities. A new school year presents opportunities for various new beginnings—new classes, new faces, sometimes new courses and often new material.

I am looking forward to the challenges of this school year and anticipating the return of staff and students to the full classrooms and hallways of this school year.

Riverside is happy to welcome the following staff who are new, returning or transferring to Riverside, or who are transferring to a new position:

- Congratulations to Donna Barton who will be replacing Mark Jones as Vice Principal
- Congratulations to Clair Costello who will be the new Athletic Director
- Welcome back to Lea Mathieu who is returning from her one-year sabbatical
- John Christy—Social Studies—replacing Mark Rouska
- Rebecca Renfro—Science—replacing Wayne Whitley/Gretchen Kirchner
- Cindy Velazquez—ESL Ed Assistant—transferring from ESD
- June Dabling—Special Ed Assistant—transferring from Windy River and replacing Jo Burt
- Rosa Norwood—ESL Ed Assistant—transferring from Windy River and replacing Virginia Garcia
- Jody Marston—Registration/Student Records Secretary—transferring from Windy River and replacing Runnisha McNamee
- Richard Bruhn—Boardman Facilities Coordinator

***\*The following school plan was developed by staff using the board goals as the guidelines:***

# RIVERSIDE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PLAN

- **GREAT LEARNING ATTRIBUTES**
  - Time
  - Viable Curricula
  - Instruction
- **AREAS OF EMPHASIS**
  - Rigor
  - Viable Curricula
  - Staff Support
- **2007-2008 PRIORITIES**
  - SIOP Professional Development
  - Identifying Viable Curricula
  - Developing AP Classes
  - Maximizing Use of Classroom Instructional Time
  - Sharing the Writing Load
  - Communicate Parent/Patron Involvement Opportunities

## Windy River Elementary

WRE started the year off with a staff breakfast. We had made to order omelets with sautéed onions and mushrooms, ham, sausage, and locally grown cantaloupe on the side. The staff raved how delicious the omelets were. The chef did an outstanding job. He made over twenty omelets and didn't even complain. The best part no one got sick. During this time I introduced new staff members. After introductions the staff was able to catch up on the latest family events and summer activities. The staff worked in their rooms all day and no meetings were held this day.

The second day of inservice, during the staff meeting, I introduced my new staff development plan, a book club. I handed out the book "Results Now" by Mike Schmoker. Reading this book will give my staff a baseline of common knowledge and a common vocabulary. Schmoker lays out the steps to improve student achievement. The steps are research based and use best teaching practices. "Results Now" works well with SIOP because it talks about good teaching.

WRE book club will start on September 10<sup>th</sup> after school. At the first book club meeting we will review and discuss the first three chapters. We will continue the book club meetings every Monday.

**Sam Boardman Elementary**

**Building:**

From smoke to ribbon cutting...87 days...and Sam Boardman is practically new in every way! Our Certificate of Occupancy and Mayor’s Proclamation are proudly displayed.



**Staff:**

Kudos to a dedicated staff for an awesome job of getting ready for students with only one “short” week in the building! Their perseverance, resilience, resourcefulness and hard work have made our first day possible.

Deliveries continue. And we will start our second phase of ordering curriculum, furniture and supplies now that teachers have experienced their classrooms with

students.

**Students:** The first day for students, and a ***BIG*** day for Sam **Boardman Elementary School!**

Grade	Students
Kinder	73
1 <sup>st</sup>	89
2 <sup>nd</sup>	68
3 <sup>rd</sup>	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>



**Community:**

***Thank you*** Windy River Staff, Banner Bank, Boardman Pharmacy & Hardware, Boardman Senior Citizens, Boardman Tillicum Club, Dan & Mary Lou Daltoso, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jim

& Margie Hollandsworth, Jo & Kurt Gantenbein, Lee & Pam Docken, Mike & Barb Wetherell, Mountain Valley Land, Susan & Mick Tolar, "WELCA" Ladies of GSLC, Kopaz Nursery, CostCo, McNary Elementary School Teachers, Heppner Elementary School Teachers, A.C.Houghton Elementary School Teachers, Oregon Reading Foundation...and the list goes on and on!

### **ELL Program**

ESL is alive and well in Morrow County. The program is running smooth in all schools. Sam Boardman Elementary school is set up and going well.

We were given a large gift from Albany School District of \$22,000 of Avenues ESL curriculum. They were brand new! This gift enabled us to have the books we had ordered and more. Not all the books we had ordered during the summer came in. The fire at Sam Boardman destroyed the Avenues books we had before. The new gift of books has been distributed all across the district ESL programs, and we are ready to teach our children more English.

The ESL students are showing growth in most of our schools with the AYP. We are fitting a plan together to help Hispanic, and all ESL students to achieve their highest and best. Our goal is to keep improving in English Reading, Writing, and Math.

### **Morrow Education Center**

Start of the Year Report

Greetings from Morrow Education Center! We are ecstatic to be offering a very important program for another year. With the summer has come a few staff changes that I am confident will continue to portray a positive, friendly, and stimulating educational opportunity for the students of Morrow County. I am pleased to have added Mr. David Melville to our program as the teacher. Mr. Melville comes to us after a teaching stint at Heppner High and brings with him an integrated understanding of the challenges and rewards encountered while serving "at risk" student populations. He has also served for a number of years in the Oregon National Guard as a captain and is excited to have been given the opportunity to show off his leadership skills in our classroom. Along with Mr. Melville we have also added some badly needed ELL and bilingual support with the addition of Mrs. Alma Perez who comes to MEC from Boardman and will join our staff as an assistant.

Along with the change in staff, we also expect to see close to 20 students to begin the school year. As is common with our program, we welcome the small student body early in the school year; fore we understand our program enrollment blossoms as the winter holidays approach. Due to the addition of Phyllis and Rose's office space at MEC we have made a few changes to our program that will certainly provide more opportunities for student achievement and engagement. Our relocated computer lab is now home to 20 new (to us) Dells and will give our students the opportunity to explore the importance technology plays in our lives today.

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. We are truly excited about the 2007-2008 school year.