

Principal & Director Reports

March 2010

AC. Houghton Elementary

Assessment Update

The following is a comparison of where we are for third-grade passage of Oaks this year versus the same point in time last year.

For this school year in **math**, **68.5%** of third graders have now either met or exceeded benchmarks. This class can gained **35.5%** points from first Oaks to second Oaks.

Last year at this time, **44%** of third graders had passed or exceeded their **math** Oaks benchmark. The class from last year gained **28% passing** or exceeding between the first Oaks and the second Oaks.

This year for **reading**, **72.6%** of our students have met or exceeded benchmarks after the second Oaks. This is a gained of **20.6%** points from the first Oaks in the fall.

Last year at this time for **reading**, **58.6%** of students had met or exceeded benchmarks. This was a gain of **12.6%** from the fall Oaks of 0809

Good job to all involved. We are maintaining a great focus.

Heppner Elementary School

It is once again a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. March has arrived and as of today our enrollment at HES is 199 students and our current attendance percentage for the 2009-2010 school year is 94.9%. As always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

February was full of many exciting events; the HES Magazine Sales were held from February 8th through February 19th and brought in nearly \$5000.00 dollars to help support Tupper Outdoor School. Thanks to all the 4th-6th grade students who sold magazine subscriptions and to the friends and family members who supported this cause. Heppner Elementary School also sent a team of chess players to Hermiston for the "Chess for Success" Tournament on Saturday, February 20th. They represented HES very well and several of our top placers will be attending the state competition in Portland on Saturday, March 13th.

Get out your dancing shoes for the "Luau Dance Party" event! On March 18th the HES Parent Teacher Club is hosting a Luau Dance Party for families and friends of HES from 7-9pm at the HES Gym. If you would like more information about this exciting event please contact Brandi Sweeney at 676-9128.

The end of the third quarter is just around the corner, with March 18th being the last day of the 3rd nine weeks. Spring Break for students will begin on Friday, March 19th and school resumes on Monday, March 29th.

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

- Our girls have made the final 8 teams in the state basketball tournament in Pendleton. Our boys basketball team had a great season losing in the first round of the state playoffs to DeLaSalle in Portland in a tough loss. Our wrestling team finished their season with a great surge to finish with a fourth place winner in Wacy Coil and a third place winner in Chance Day. It was the first time any Heppner wrestler has placed at the state competition and we put two on the podium. Our wrestling story is taking root in our community and really is a success story from beginning to end. This year our boys finished fourth place as a team at the district championships. Needless to say, our winter athletic programs had a great season. Congratulations to all of our winter coaches and student/athletes!
- I attended a workshop with the Career and Technical Education teachers at the ESD this month. They are working on proficiency in the classroom as a consortium. This is exciting to be part of and watch the Tech and Ag teachers leading the parade with this new way of delivering instruction. So much so, that when this work is finished- other districts and regions will be using them as a model to emulate.
- We hired a new 2 hour a day Assistant Cook in Kim Carlson. Please welcome her to our team and we are excited to have her on board.
- HHS got some positive press from Erin Mills and the East Oregonian about our proficiency work. It was printed in the weekend editorial on 2/27/10. Good stuff!
- A little birdie told me last week that HHS could gain the benefit of another grant that the Business Education Compact has written that they plan on farming out its gained resources to its partner schools! I will keep you posted of further developments as they occur☺.
- Second window testing is almost done with both reading and math. We will have about another week until it is finished. We are excited to see the growth and are celebrating our individual successes to date.
- Congratulations to Kelsi Putman for being elected as the Blue Mountain FFA District Reporter!
- Congratulations to the following students for their achievements in their FFA SAE projects, which will be going on to the State. Brynna Rust in Grain Production, Lane Wright in Outdoor Recreation, Garrett Gibbs in Natural Resources, Brett Harrison in Diversified Crop, Devin Robinson in Beef Placement, and Jarreid Miller in Ag Mechanics. These awards were our students competed against the rest of the district students from 8 other schools that include Hermiston, Pendleton, and Milton-Freewater! Congratulations to our teacher, Mrs. Dickenson as well for her efforts and demonstrated success!

Irrigon Elementary School

1. **OAKS**- Last month we did our second round of OAKS tests. We are doing well. This is the percentage of students passing or exceeding:
 - a. 4th Grade
 - i. Math 50%
 - ii. Reading 65%
 - b. 5th Grade
 - i. Math 49%
 - ii. Reading 60%

- c. 6th Grade
 - i. 55% Math
 - ii. 70% Reading

AYP this year is has 70% meeting in Reading and 69% meeting in Math. The growth is not yet included in the percentages above.

2. **Writing Olympic Opening Ceremony-** Last month we officially opened our State Writing assessment with an Olympic Ceremony. Ms. Cynthia Hodgdon and her 4th grade class sponsored and created this event for the first time here at IES. We showcased the Writer's Olympic Medals that all students will win. If they get a score of 6/5 - a gold medal; a score of 4 for a silver medal; a bronze medal for a 3, and a certificate of participation for those who get a one or a two. We are having a final ceremony when we get the results back and will award students their medals. Our guest of honor was Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Danielson.
3. **AR Reading and IES Tri-City Hockey Award Field Trip-** We took over 200 students and parents to the Tri-City American Hockey game on Valentines Day. They had a great time. Kids who met their AR goal got to get in free and ride the bus. For many, it was their first time to see a hockey game. After the game most kids went ice skating. Everything went very well. Irrigon was recognized for having the biggest group there in the Toyota Arena.

English as a Second Language Program

1. **Oregon Association of Latino Administrators-** Lake Oswego-I attended OALA and obtained lots of good information of Oregon schools, and how they are doing with Hispanic students in the state. Oregon is near the bottom of the list of states in the U.S. in the N.A.P.E. tests. Many districts represented had large numbers of Hispanic student populations.
2. **Title III ESL Directors'** meeting was held in Salem. We received more information on making AYP and AMAO's. Carmen West and other state directors gave us pertinent information on the English Language Proficiency Assessment and other needs of ESL students also in Special Education.
3. **Focused Approach Training for Morrow County's ELD Team-** Portland- A team of four teachers and myself went to this training to know how to help content and regular elementary teachers teach not only their content but also language development. This is in accordance with the district's staff development plan to help all teachers teach our students with language savvy techniques.

Irrigon High School

Way to go IHS Wrestling Team! We had two district champions Giles Ellet (171) and Wade Aylett (189) and a second place finish with freshmen Andy Aguilera (140). Andy went on to beat the number one seed at state in the semi-finals and ended up with a second place finish losing a tough match 1-0. Wade, in his second trip to state, became our third state champion from Irrigon. In the team standings, we placed ninth out of twenty-eight teams – way to go wrestlers.

Congratulations to our beginning Paril-Pro team! On February 4th they competed in districts at Pendleton where they beat Hermiston finishing second behind Pendleton. Their second place finish qualified them to compete at the regional contest yesterday in La Grande where they took first place. They now will compete at the state level during spring break. The beginning team is comprised of Jessika Osborne, Leon Luna, Madisyn Cadek, Samantha Mills, Vanessa Shatto, and Samantha Baumgartner. Due to an athletic conflict, Marcus Shelton was only able to participate at the district level.

We are currently in the middle of our second round of statewide testing. We have set goals for each of our students and we have already helped a few more students meet the tenth grade benchmark as ninth graders. We are scheduling our testing to provide students with opportunities to stretch and move about; we've planned a short recess outside for each of our testing blocks. We are also providing snacks at the beginning of testing and peppermint candies (which have been shown to increase standardized test scores) throughout testing. In addition, we will be recognizing students who made benchmark or significant increases the coming weeks with posters celebrating their success.

Through a partnership between the Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) and GEAR-UP, our 7th graders will be attending classes and programs designed just for them at Eastern Oregon University on Thursday. The program is designed to be high interest and get our students thinking about college from an early age. Our students have spent the last several weeks in their advisory classes preparing for the trip by learning about what colleges and universities are and how to prepare themselves academically and financially using workbooks provided by NELA. This is the second year that we have been able to provide this program, and we look forward to a continued partnership EOU.

The Knights Pride Booster Club is hosting their 4th Annual Auction dinner on March 13th. Stuffed pork chops and parmesan chicken are on the menu for the night. Tickets are on sale for \$15 and the doors open at 5:00. This is the booster clubs primary fund raiser of the year. They are also selling raffle tickets for a 47" flat screen and blue ray DVD home theater system valued at \$1495. The booster club continues to be a strong supporter of our programs.

Riverside High School

CONFERENCES

3rd Quarter Progress Parent/Teachers Conferences were held Monday, February 22nd from 3:30 – 7:30pm in the commons.

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

MeCha Club is currently selling wristbands to raise money for the American Diabetes Association (ADA). MeCha Club will be hosting a School Walk-a-thon for the ADA Saturday, May 1st by the Marina Park in conjunction with the Cinco de Mayo Committee. More information on this event will be available at a later date. MeCha will also be helping the Cinco de Mayo Committee with children's activities on May 1st.

“PAPERS” THE MOVIE

On Thursday March 18, Riverside Jr/Sr High School will be hosting a community screening of “Papers” which is a documentary on undocumented youth and the challenges they face. We are inviting neighboring educators and anyone who would like to learn more about this issue affecting our communities. The screening will raise awareness and understanding on how this affects our students. The documentary is 88 minutes long and will begin at 4:30pm in the RHS Auditorium.

RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2010

We currently have 57 students who are on track to graduate in June 2010. Of those 57, 30 have already been accepted into a post-secondary institution. WOU was at RHS on February 9th for on-site admissions and admitted 7 of our seniors. We also hosted a Financial Aid night on February 9th for seniors and their parents to learn more about financial aid and the FAFSA. Representatives from EOU, SOU, and WOU were present to answer financial aid questions. Seniors are currently working hard on completing their Portfolios.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BLOOD DRIVE

National Honor Society is busily organizing its next blood drive to be held Wednesday, March 3rd at the Boardman Senior Center. While NHS tries to recruit first-time donors and get students established in a pattern of regular giving, we welcome community involvement. District patrons who would like to donate can make an appointment with Mrs. Fritz, or simply walk-in.

LA DEPARTMENT FIELD TRIP

Riverside High School's English Department will be taking students to see world renowned writer, poet, and filmmaker Sherman Alexie in person, at a reading by Alexie at Whitman College in April. Alexie, a native of Washington, has been honored with numerous awards including The New Yorker: 20 Writers for the 21st Century Award (2000), the O. Henry Award (2000), the Poet Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award (2001), and the National Book Club Award for Young People's Literature (2007). Alexie has been praised for his writing that typically deals with being a minority and growing up in the Northwest, drawing on much of his experience as a Native American.

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for February:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Jasmin Lopez Damian Garcia Siloe Barragan Hailey Daltoso Trinidad Mendoza	Suzie Newton Estella Castro Jonathan Ramirez Isabella Gonzalez Karyme Lopez	Miranda Landeros Giovanni Salas Melanie Foster Zuriel Martinez Benancio Sanchez	Moisha Shoeships Isabella Mastriona Estefani Llamas Maya Navarro Keilah Mossman	Mr. McClenahen 95%
1st Grade	Wendy Sanchez Cooper Szasz Wyatt Duke Patrick McConnell Vanessa Rodriguez	Taylor Schneider Nate Harrison Samantha Rea Matthew Eubanks	America Pacheco Karen Frausto Jaylene Altamirano	Maria Marquez Francisco Barajas Lupita Silva	Mrs. Wilson 96%
2nd Grade	Johan Pena Edwin Pacheco Cristian rea	Serafin Roque Blake Davis Jocelyn Rodriguez	Isabella Ganvoa Soledad Munoz Megan Gilbertson	Zoey Gilbert Jesus Carmona Alexis Zapata	Mrs. Files 96%
3rd Grade	Aidan Barresse Trustin Winn Veronica Alvarez Silvestre Vasquez	Sabreena Metcalf Lainey Rogers Odalys Ibarra Sylvia Johnson	Andrew Vestal Marytza Prado Ana Navarro Joshua Matthews-McCord	Isaac Terry Jared Miller Daisy Sanchez Ethan Harper	Mrs. Raible 96%



Enrollment: 307 **Attendance:** The average attendance for January was 93.43%. **Students of the Month** were recognized in our four categories of Respect, Responsibility, Academics and Safety. SBE's choir sang a beautiful harmony song, and Mrs. Hocker's 1st grade class presented a touching song about tolerance. Teams of students competed in a book relay to promote AR reading. For each book students read they earn a vote for the teacher they want to have a pie in the face. Pies will be

served at our next assembly. A new award was the highlight of the assembly! Students have been working together to keep their classrooms clean to earn "The Golden Garbage Can" award. This highly coveted award was presented to Mrs. Drake's 2nd grade class and Mrs. Matheny's kindergarten class.

Student Council encouraged the spirit of "Buddies not Bullies" by asking students to bring a stuffed animal, their buddy, to school on February's Freaky Friday. On this day (and every day of course), we emphasized sharing, taking turns, making a friend, using kind words, showing social and empathy skills (care, respect, and understanding for other people). At the end of the day, students and staff could donate their buddies to local children focused charities. This day/theme was completely student driven! At the end of the day we collected three bags full of buddies that will join other children who are in need of a friend.

Kindergarten students are creating a **special music video**. The project will include some favorite songs, songs about colors, numbers, letters and shapes and songs in both English and Spanish. The DVD will be given to students who will enter kindergarten in the fall of 2010. It will also be available for purchase by other families in our school and community.

Site Council noted the increase in the number of students meeting their 3rd grade OAKs in reading and math as compared to this time last year. This increase was attributed to our PLC/Data Teams, After School, Friday School, Study Island and most importantly, the dedicated and hard working staff behind these initiatives and programs.

PTO's first time movie night was a success...200 people attended! It was a fun and entertaining evening for the entire family. Their Valentine Sale was also a first time event, and the PTO sold out. **PTO did cancel their hopes of a Spaghetti Feed and Late Night Reading Night this month so that they could concentrate on improving carnival which is fast approaching in April.** PTO will host another Movie Night instead. PTO is encouraging parent involvement and communication by recruiting representatives from each classroom.

After-School Program update: All third grade students (36) not meeting benchmark in OAKs are now receiving After-School or Friday School support, with most receiving both. All second grade students (47) not meeting grade level expectations in reading or math were invited to either After-School or Friday-School. After School's focus is practice (Study Island, Read Naturally) with some small group instruction, and Friday School's focus is class instruction based on strand data. Many English language learners benefit from the extra day of language practice offered at Friday School. Currently all students in the 2nd and 3rd grade who are not quite at benchmark standard in reading or math are receiving additional extended day opportunities.

Windy River Elementary

Windy River Elementary March Board Report

WRE SHOWS COMPASSION FOR HAITI

Kiss A Pig Contest

WRE just wanted to personally say THANK YOU to everyone in helping our COIN WARS be such success; \$1,100 what a GREAT CONTRIBUTION!!



We also want to update you on where exactly our money was going. The organization is called Schools for Children of the World and its mission statement is “committed to improving educational opportunity in under-developed countries with quality school facilities.” I have spoken with someone directly in the administration office and have verified their nonprofit status (as well as researched their website) and 100% of our donation will go directly on the rebuilding of schools in Haiti. What a great way for our students and staff to show empathy for others in terms of helping give back the gift of education! The website is www.schoolsforchildren.org in case you would like to gather additional information and they will also be updating me on the project. I plan on continuing to participate in this fund raising activity to help with school building projects. Once again, thank everyone for your generosity and the 6th grade staff for puckering up and being great sports.



Classified Appreciation Week

Starting on March 1st Windy River Elementary honored all the classified staff who works very hard to help with the education of our students. On Wednesday March 2nd the district office sent a caked and the teachers did a wonderful job providing lunch and treats all week long. Windy River wants everyone to know that our classified staff is one of the best to work with and we want to thank them for a job well done!

Parent Teacher Conferences

We had an extremely large turn out for WRE. The mid-term conferences were held in the gym and parents were able to move from teacher to teacher very easily. Students benefit a great deal when we communicate with each other about their progress and well being.

ELPA Test Primary Measure for ELL Students

This month, all English Language Learners (ELLs) are taking the

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). The ELPA is the primary state measure for determining English Language Learners (ELL) students' English Language proficiency. It measures student progress in learning the English Language and is used in meeting NCLB requirement that states report annual progress (reported as Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives or AMAOs) of English Language Learners in acquiring English. Students access the ELPA site on the internet where they are tested for listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students who achieve a level of "Advanced" on the ELPA are generally considered to be proficient and will likely exit from an English Language Development (ELD) program.

Fundraiser

Windy River Students are selling the World's Finest Chocolates. Our fund raiser monies are used for student activities and awards. Parent support is greatly appreciated and directly benefits the students here at Windy River Elementary!

SOM



FEBRUARY	Academics	Academics	Theme - Honesty/ Integrity
Beagle	Dipshika Pradhan	Eloy Hernandez Giovanni	Cari Barton
Boor	Brianne Bishop	Hernandez	Ruben Villa
Browne	Bianca Gutierrez	Minerva Pena	Jose Avila
Foster	Karina Llamas	Jose Perez	Sonia Medina
Wainwright	Natividad Garcia	Aileen Velasco	America Ayuso
Dames	Ana Barajas	Zachary Ferguson	Manuel Herrera
Keefer	Jessica Calvillo	Jassiel Carmona	Noe Madrigal
Prindle	Skylar Wightman	Felix Aparicio	Maydi Barrera Kristen
Strebin	Luis Hernandez	Carmen Puerta	Frederickson