

Principal & Director Reports

December 2005

Riverside High School

PROGRESS REPORTS & PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Riverside held its 2nd quarter progress reports and parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, November 29th from 4:00-8:00. Many parents took advantage of this opportunity to visit with their student's teachers and learn of any problems early in the grading period, giving them time to make adjustments or corrections before final grades are posted.

LEA MATHIEU EARNS NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Lea Mathieu has earned certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Language Arts from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the most rigorous certification process available to K-12 teachers.

According to the NBPTS, "National Board Certification measures a teacher's practice against high and rigorous standards through an extensive series of performance-based assessments that includes teaching portfolios, student work samples, videos and thorough analyses of the candidate's teaching and student's learning. They also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students."

National certification qualifies Lea for a continuing license in Oregon and for employment throughout the United States. She is also certified in Social Studies and is completing endorsement requirements this winter for both English to Speakers of Other Languages and as a Reading Specialist.

Lea is in her 7th year of teaching for the Morrow County School District, at Riverside High School in Boardman for the last four years. She will be taking a sabbatical next year to teach at Colegio Mexico-Americano in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, with the goals of improving her Spanish and deepening her understanding of the Mexican culture, to better serve Hispanic students at Riverside.

RHS ATTENDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Riverside had the honor of participating in the annual MENC Regional Honor Band & Choir Festival which was held in Pendleton on November 7th & 8th. It was two days of intense rehearsal followed by an evening concert. This was a great opportunity for our students to get together with some of the best high school musicians in the area and to work with first class conductors who are brought in specifically for this occasion. It was a time of incredibly hard work with some fun and social time mixed in culminating in the reward of performing to a nearly sellout crowd on the final night.

RIVERSIDE DRAMA PRESENTS

Eighteen high school students and four junior high students entertained the community in "Pirate's Folly" on November 18th and 19th under the direction of Kathie Goad, Rick Drake and community member Kathiy Martin. The fall production was set about as a challenge issued to the students to select and produce material to be presented on stage. There were several groups of students who explored the possibility of a play or musical selection. Their field narrowed down to about four or five active groups. One group pursued comedy by combining classic material with today's advertising. Other groups adapted movie material or one-act plays to suit their creative outlet. Another group had a student who wrote and used his vision to cast and stage his dialogue. The material for "Inuyasha: Onaga, the Shadow Demon" is based on anime, form of serial cartoon out of Japan. There was even one piece developed while taking a break during an evening of practice.

The students had to block out their productions, schedule practice time on stage and organize props, costumes and stage settings. "It was a real lesson in collaboration and compromise within the smaller groups and a great sense of cooperation in the group as a whole," said Mrs. Goad.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BLOOD DRIVE

The National Honor Society conducted a blood drive in conjunction with the Red Cross. Forty-five pints of blood were collected. Although that was below the goal set by the Red Cross, the amount represented a great opportunity for saving lives in an area that chronically has a shortage of blood.

Further, many of the pints came from first-time student donors, who will hopefully make giving blood a regular habit. One is eligible to donate every 56 days.

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

In order to recognize more of the positive role models we have at Riverside, we have decided to implement two categories of students of the month—Academic and Citizenship.

Academic

7th Grader—KaLynn McKee
8th Grader—Chris Benson
Freshman—Gustavo Cruz
Sophomore—Kathryn Kinney
Junior—Ciera Lucas
Senior—Nayeli Guzman

Teacher of the Month—Dave Boor

Citizenship

7th Grader—Lacey Teal
8th Grader—Andrea Orozco
Freshman—Bernice Chavez
Sophomore—Binaka Munoz
Junior—Jennifer Flores
Senior—Dana Dilley

Classified Employee of the Month—Richard Rockwell

Irrigon Elementary School

Good Behavior Movie: We celebrated 122 of our 143 students who had not received an office referral during the first nine weeks of school by inviting them to attend a movie in the IES movie theater (cafeteria transformation). The student council made all arrangements for the movie and sold concessions just like the ‘real’ thing.

Geography Bee: All students are participating in the Geography Bee preliminary test. Finalists will be determined and will face off at our assembly on December 8th.

TESA Results: As a staff, we are analyzing the test data from our recent testing and making educational adjustments. We are pleased with our reading results, but have a lot of work to do in Math. As a result of our low math scores, we have adjusted our schedule so that all students have an additional 90 minutes of math per day using the PLATO program. This program allows low students to develop skills and high students to excel.

IES TESA Scores
November Testing 2005
Benchmark Scores: 5th grade 215
6th grade 220

Grade	Reading	Math
5 th	Average RIT 216.2 Met Benchmark: 55%	Average RIT 213 Met Benchmark: 41%
6 th	Average RIT 220.7 Met Benchmark: 48%	Average RIT 210.6 Met Benchmark: 35%

Student Body Assembly: Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Tuesday, November 22nd. The following students received recognition by their classroom teachers for:

Excellence

Rogelio Carrillo, Jessica Munoz, Jake Huff, Kristine Tolle, Yvette Carrillo, Latasha Adams,

Jordan Johnson

Hard Work

Brandy Hoffman, Kevin Feyder, Sergio Cruz, Gabriel Resendiz, Celena Carrillo, Edgar Mendez, Mario Garcilazo

Caring

Monica Calvillo, Saryna Horrace, KaSandra Kanester, Orayda Campos, Skylinn Cowan,
Elia Cruz, Jenifer Gonzalez

Windy River Elementary

I will begin my report with some great news for Windy River. We received a \$4,416.00 grant from the Cycle Oregon Organization. This money will be used to for the purchase and installation of a reader board for Windy River. Anna Browne wrote the grant proposal in cooperation with our WRE site council. We are excited about the project and look forward to its completion. At this time we have not established a time line, so look for more information in upcoming reports.

We have also finished our first round of state testing with very encouraging results. 67 % of our 6th grade students met or exceeded their math benchmarks and 56% met or exceeded their reading benchmarks. Our 5th grade had 60% meet or exceed in Math and 55% in reading. These are exciting numbers considering we still the majority of the school year left to increase our scores.

Our parent teacher conferences that we held in early November were very successful; with 77 % of our parents coming in to visit with their child's teacher.

We also celebrated our November students of the month assembly on the 30th. A list of those students follows:

AGRIPINO, MARIE	6W	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
ALBA, JUAN	6B	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
BOSE, LANCE	6W	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
CALVILLO, NEREIDA	6F	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
CHIKALLA, ANNA	5J	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
CHOPIN, DIANA	6C	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
DUENAS, EDGAR	6F	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
DYER, KAITLYNN	5B	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
FRANCO, AMAIRANI	6F	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
GALLOWAY, MEGANN	5C	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER

GARCIA, STEFANI	5B	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
GONZALEZ, VICTOR	5J	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
GRAFF, TREVOR	6W	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
GUTIERREZ, MIGUEL	5K	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
GUZMAN, SANDRA	6C	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
HARRISON, VINCENT	5J	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
HEARN, CAITLIN	5C	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
KENNEDY, CHEYENNE	5C	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
MADRIGAL, IGNACIO	5K	Responsibility	NOVEMBER
REA, TAYLOR	5B	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
SANCHEZ, ARACELI	6B	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
THURMAN, SCOTT	6B	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
TORRES, STEPHANIE	5K	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER
ZUNIGA, IGNACIO	6C	ACADEMICS	NOVEMBER

December is going to be a very busy month for us at Windy River. The times and dates for our activities can be found on our Windy River website. You are cordially invited to all of our December activities.

Morrow Education Center

The first snow of the season brings with it a jubilant enthusiasm for the holidays at Morrow Education Center. Students have really started to focus on completing their current school work in anticipation of their holiday plans.

Over the past month Morrow Education has experienced an increase in our student population. We are currently serving 73 students, 47 of which are Morrow County students. With the influx in student population we are extremely blessed to have a new addition to the MEC family. Mr. Noe Melendez joins our team from Irrigon Junior/Senior High School and brings with him the ability to work closely with our English Language Learner population, as well as provide interpretation for the program. Forrest and I are working diligently to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students and Mr. Melendez, no doubt, will help us reach out to our diverse population.

We are also pleased to report that our students have completed their first round of TESA exams. While scores were below average for some students, they've been given a sturdy pre-assessment to build upon for future testing. We continue to place students in subject matter and provide support for the areas, in which they are deficient.

Overall, the program has been running smoothly and our staff continues to be dedicated towards student-centered achievement. Each day we are blessed to see the learning process take place. Approaching our student's interests as academic learners and as people continues to assure we are working towards our goal of serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing them with a safe and effective learning environment.

From all of us at MEC, we would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Irrigon High School

Testing Completed – This testing window the students at Irrigon Jr. Sr. High School were able to initiate the mobile lap top computers and were able to stay with their Advisory groups. This allowed the students more elbow room, accountability opportunity to test in their advisor's classroom. The testing went very smoothly with many students' scores improving. Teachers and students remarked at how they appreciated this format. One highlight of this testing window was that our math scores were comparable to last spring's scores.

Booster Club Involvement – The Knight's Pride Booster club has been working hard with the teachers, administration and coaches to promote and encourage student activities at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School. Halloween Night the community was able to get together by the Booster Club sponsored bonfire. The many people that came enjoyed cookies and Hot Cider. The Booster club is also working to have dinners available at weekend basketball games as well as operating the concession stand. All money raised by the Booster Club is distributed to clubs and sports as well as the establishment of a scholarship. All those that are interested can sign up for membership.

Canned Food Drive – This year giving at Irrigon Jr. Sr. High was exceptional. Our students and staff competed with each other. Over 2100 items were collected in the days leading up to Thanksgiving Break. All the items donated will be given to the Irrigon Fire Department who will distribute them to needy families in the community around the holidays. Mr. David Westenskow's classroom led all others by bringing in over 400 items. Students celebrated their accomplishments by holding a special assembly, which included throwing pies at a number of advisors.

Award Recipients – Students and staff at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School have recently picked up some awards. The Irrigon Chamber of Commerce announced the following outstanding people in Irrigon. Cristina Montes was selected as Irrigon Outstanding Student; she is a junior who is active in the School ASB Leadership. She has coordinated the annual food drive which netted over 2000 cans this year. She serves at the Senior Center, plans activities for all students and is on the Honor Roll. She is also on the Varsity Track Team. The Irrigon Educator of the Year Award was given to our Library Tech Sharon Sample. Sharon works tirelessly to make sure our students are equipped with everything they need in the library.

Other award recipients include Breena Tolar, Cassandra Feyder, and Patrick Barron for their participation in a poster contest put on by the Soil Water Conservation District. Students also received awards for participating in an essay contest put on by the Veterans of Foreign War. The students were Breena Tolar, Trevor Gering, Aaron Gering, and Jered Gering.

Winter Sports beginning – Winter sports are off and running. At Irrigon Junior Senior High School we are encouraged by fielding our first High School Wrestling team. Our Girls Basketball teams are looking good by the 25 young ladies that have turned out this year, our boys team will also be supported by a Junior Varsity team. This will also be the first time that we will be playing a full Varsity schedule with the opportunity to win berths in the State Tournament.

Construction Report – We are still looking forward to the beginning of Second Semester and the students being able to move into the classrooms and shop classes, this may be possible as the workers are sandblasting the exterior walls and framing the interior walls. Electricity is now hooked up and from all appearances there is good progress on the completion of our Shop Building.

Special Education

This time period is probably the most stressful for those special education personnel that are involved with the Special Education Child Census. With the new software program are using (Edvantage), there were a lot of quirks with the system that we were not expecting. The other problem we encountered was that our old system did not download student information to the new system. We have been working at a furious pace to get old and new information into the system that funds our district for special education students. That has taken most of our time and will continue to take our time until December 15th when all final changes must be in to the state department.

On another note, we held a very successful training opportunity in our district on November 9th and 10th. We hosted John Gill, who is an expert in Autism, at the Port of Morrow for two days. His workshop explained how to work with students with Autism at all different age levels. Some techniques could be carried over to other severe disabilities. Through an ESD grant, all substitute teachers, transportation and meals were paid for. There were no costs incurred by the district. We had 45 people participate over the two days. Five were from Milton-Freewater and three were from Umatilla. The other 37 participants were Morrow County School District employees. I was very please with our attendance.

ELL Program

This month and the end of last month have gone by in an hour and a day.

The greatest experience of my educational career was experienced at Dallas, Texas with two teachers and the assistant superintendent.

Our visit to Houston Independent School District was a paradigm shift in our thinking. Visiting the educational nation champions of our educational system led us to believe in bigger things for our entire school program. It gives me too much to ponder, too much to immediately understand to put into perspective in our small end of the state. This for sure I can and will bring back to our school district. I want to have the best ESL program not just in the state of Oregon, but in the whole West Coast. I think we have found our example to beat.

SIOP was fantastic. By good thinking and discussion, Mr. Smith and I have put together a staff development program that follows along the SIOP program's model to educate teachers and administrators in the program. We were excited to have the creators of the SIOP model be our direct teachers, and to be present with other districts across the nation who were at the same place in our programs. SIOP was present also in our visitations in Huston.

With the award and recognition from the Oregon School Boards Association come great expectations. Yet I want to thank the teachers and instructional aids that really make it happen to our ELL students. We are honored and we are challenged. We want to have every ELL student in our programs achieving like our lower elementary schools at the 90% percentile in state benchmarks. I've seen it. It can be done!

Every administrator, school principal, ELL site coordinator and anyone involved in the ELL program is getting ready for the ESL Title III state audit. We are putting together all things that we do and preparing for their program visit. We will be found lacking and we will be found doing good things. What they discover to be changed will be for our own good. We welcome that. What we may be commended for is only our duty and responsibility. Now the time of our program's scrutiny has come, a full special report of their findings will be made to the Morrow County School Board for your knowledge.

Sam Boardman Elementary

December sure came in with a bang! Bitter winds and snow/rain mix makes me glad that most kid activities are inside. Sam Boardman has its share of activities as well. We had our student of the month assembly on the first of December. The students of the month are;

ACADEMICS	SAFETY	RESPECT	RESPONSIBILITY	TEACHER
Shelby Collins	Jason Navarro	Yaniva Garcia	Ivan Escobedo	1-Harrison
Rosy Olvera	Ashley Medina	Joana Afanador	Mersadees Avila	1-Milton
Valerie Colin	Maribel Lopez	Judit Castaneda	Cari Barton	2-Kellison
Kaleb Caudron	Yoselin Ayuso	Sterling Bither	Brittney Ellison	K-Prindle
Alex Velasco	Nahomy Claustro	Gerardo Ruiz	Eric Pacheco	K-C/G

Megan Hearn	Luis Claustro	Cresencio Mendoza	Yvette Barrera	3- Bankston
Omar Barrera	Carlos Lopez	Caren Llamas	Sandra Zuniga	4-McClenahen
Katelyn Taylor	Marisol Alvarez	Karla Llamas	Catherine Groce	4Nead
Noe Sanchez	Adolfo Martinez	Andy Melendez	Ruby Barrera	K-Flores
Brianne Bishop	Angeles Zuniga	Katelyn Bass	Yessica Gonzalez	1-Harjo
Joe Amaral	Daisey Navarro	Dalton Neal	Monica Madrigal	4-Lemmon
Shane Dubry	Ayana Reyes	Ulises Calvillo Rosa	Manuel Herrera Alvarez	K-Lalande
Maria Zainez	Bianca Barajas	Aaron Lester	Taylor Collier	3-Smith
Casey Muir	Stevie Groce	America Ayuso	Natalie Melendez	2-McClenahen
Adrian Harrison	Lizeth Gayton	Maria Morales	Brianna Snyder	3-Raible
Briselda Navarro	Juliana Guzman	Briana Reyes	Andrea Madrigal	2 Kennedy
Tarin Troxell	Jose Luis Perez	Abby Hernandez	Lisa Finley	K/1 Files
Diana Chavez	Israel Martinez	Angel Murgia	Juan Villa	4-Dixon
Paige Esterbloom	Kelly McLaughlin	Elizette Camargo	Jonathan Ortega	2-Campbell
Malysa Smith	Kelly Martin	Daniel Cornelius	Jose Sanchez	K/1 Wilson
Wenceslao Olvera	Eduardo Murgia	Guadalupe Aguliar	Jlyn Keefer	3-Jeppeson
Rubi Salazar	Vizta Murray	Edgar Barrera	Gavin Baker	1-Ogden

December 6th is the SBE winter concert. Mrs. Appleton is going to put another great show together and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Kindergarten, First and Second grade will have their concert at 6:00pm, Third and Fourth will begin at 7:00pm.

The 8th will be our Third annual Holiday Feast. Mrs. Hyder and the ladies in the kitchen have been planning for weeks and will prepare another great meal this year. Also, each grade level has participated in decorating. The cafeteria and gym will look very festive with kid-work all over. I hope all of you can make it and share a meal with us. The fun begins at 11:00.

The last week of school in December will be a great one! There will be all sorts of holiday activities and lessons in the classrooms. Our week will end with the parties in the classrooms. Each class will have a party at 2:30 on December 15th.

I hope everyone has a safe and restful holiday season. I look forward to seeing parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles at one or all of our events at SBE. Take care and remember that school resumes January 3, 2006.

A.C. Houghton Elementary

ACH felt honored to be recognized by the State School Boards Association. We want to thank you for being able to go to the Portland meeting to share and to be recognized. Thank you also for the board's sharing of \$500 each for ACH and SBE.

We are in the middle of Christmas programs which were well received. Our music teacher has done a good job by bringing feeling and soul to our student's local music efforts. We haven't had that for quite a while.

We have been recently visiting William Walker Elementary. William Walker is an elementary in the Beaverton school district that also is high ESL and high poverty. They also have had three times as many students passing the writing benchmark at the fourth grade compared to Sam Boardman or ACH. We are trying to take some ideas from their program to help us do better in our assessment as part of our overall effort to improve writing. Actually very few fourth graders in the state did very well in this assessment. It is very difficult for limited language and background students

We recently completed our magazine sale with the students raising \$4800 of gross sales. Those efforts will challenge Mr. Carson and myself to complete 15 mi. of rollerblading in the near future as our annual challenge to students sales efforts.

Technology Report

The ESD is preparing an RFP for telecommunications systems. Morrow County SD has submitted an E-Rate application to provide funding for a new phone system due to the current system reaching its end of life and support costs rising annually. A new phone system will reduce annual support costs and allow it to take advantage of the ESDs extensive communications network providing toll-free calling to selected areas in Oregon and Washington.

The new library management software (InfoCenter) will go live during Christmas Break. This new web-based product will revitalize the districts library inventory/checkout systems and make inter-library cooperation much more efficient.

The Information Technology Department has put together a research team to look into the feasibility of providing services for the installation and support of camera-based security systems. Using Riverside High School as a model system, and the feedback from other districts, we believe this will be a valuable service to provide our customers.

Heppner High School

- HHS is going well, just finished up all fall sports and looking forward to the winter.
- Veterans Day Celebration was a hit and we had special speakers tell their story to students in small groups during the morning- it was a huge success.
- ASB officers are working on getting quotes from teachers to start on lower hallway with painting project- have set up two dates to start painting this month.
- Facilities are looking good and our Facilities Coordinator and Custodians are working hard preparing the grounds for winter.
- Best Practices Staff Development training was held at HHS and our teachers are gaining much benefit from SIOP.
- I am making personal phone calls to parents that have students that are struggling and have below a 2.0 GPA.
- ASB officers are still working on commissioning some art work for our building.
- ASB is trying something different this winter with a hallway dance.
- Our Library software is here and we are working on installing it on the network to better suit our district and students needs.
- Football lost in the Semi-Finals to Vale- The other three teams in the Semis have enrollments over 300. Great season!
- Students have sold out to singing the school song at the end of all home varsity games. It was great to host two playoff football games this year.
- School Spirit continues to be very high right now.
- There are several maintenance projects that we are looking at scheduling this spring.
- Overall, our school is going very well and we are working on meeting the needs of our kids. Our teachers and support staff are working hard, and our students are responding positively.

Heppner Elementary School

HES 5th and 6th grades are having another after-school reading program Thursday 12-8. It lasts until 5:00 pm and usually about 80% (or more) of the fifth and sixth graders attend. This is a wonder to see. No wonder kids don't want to read at home they are having too much fun doing it at school.

The Geography Bee team has qualified for the Bee on Friday, January 6th. 1:15 p.m. in the gym and everyone is invited. Geography bee qualifiers are taking every second to look at maps, ask each other questions, put puzzles together, quiz each other..etc.

As a school on Thursday we took 2006 seconds and read silently. We are also reading 100 books in each home room to get scholastic to donate 300 books to those in need.

The Tennis court lights were connected and turned on just as planned. OK it wasn't until the 30th, but they were still hooked up before December. I would like to give a big thank you for the following donations to the lighting project:

HES Parent Teacher Club for \$100
Booster Club for \$100
Heppner Chamber for \$200
Pioneer Memorial Hospital for \$172

Heppner Elementary is lacking a sign. Steve Marlatt a skilled craftsman in plate steel has drawn a design for a sign to go in the front lawn of HES. I have received positive input from patrons and staff. I have started collecting donations for this project. If you would like to see the design please stop by.