

Principal & Director Reports

January 2009

A.C. Houghton Elementary

Geography Bee

This annual event brings a lot of interest from students each year. This is a national competition that begins with individual tests given to fourth graders. The top scorers from each of the classes compete in a regular "Bee" on our stage with the student body in attendance. Our TAG coordinator works with classroom winners prior to this with a two-week tutorial to prepare them for the final competition.

Third Annual Writing Olympics

The ACH Annual Writing Olympics will be held at the end of this month. The opening ceremonies are participated in by third and fourth graders carrying banners that highlight the writing traits. This creates a great deal of enthusiasm for the beginning of our state writing testing process. Following the testing, and when we receive results back from the state, we hold a medals ceremony awarding gold, silver, and bronze for nearly meeting, meeting, and exceeding benchmarks.

Heppner Elementary School

As always it is a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. Winter Break seemed to fly by and it is hard to believe that 2008 has ended, and that 2009 is already here. Our enrollment as of today is 190 students which is up from my December report as we have just recently enrolled five new students at HES. Our current attendance percentage for the year is 95.93%. This unfortunately is down a little bit from last month due to the inclement weather prior to the break, but we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

December was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, among the highlights was the "Winter Music Concert" directed by Mrs. Michelle Stone and Mr. Joe Lindsay which took place on Tuesday, December 16th 2008. It was a wonderful event and we have had many parents comment on how much they liked this year's combined concert. We also held the HES "Title Family Movie Night" on Thursday, December 11th 2008. I am happy to report that we had several people show up for a fun filled Title Program - Informational session, followed by the movie "*The Snowman*".

The HES Geography Bee will be held in the gym on Wednesday, January 7th at 1:30pm. Here are a couple of other important upcoming events for your calendars; January 15th is the end of the first semester and Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be observed on January 19th this year. There will be no school on this day, but "Freaky Friday" (the make up school day) will be held on January 23rd.

I would like to end this 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

- We held our first combined winter concert with the elementary school at HES. It was very good with our patrons coming to one place on one evening. Joe and his kids put on a tremendous program.
- With winter weather being a struggle, we have made some new improvements to getting information out to our parents and patrons via our website due to the ease of updating information in a matter of minutes. When making school closure decisions- our team of both Heppner principals, the bus company, and superintendent work together very early to make decisions that are based on the most up to date information possible. I am glad it stopped snowing☺.
- FFA held its annual Greenhand initiation in the cafeteria, awarding 22 new members to the organization this year.
- Mrs. Dickenson and her AG classes went to the World Forestry Center for a field trip. This is an annual trip that our students get to experience many things that apply to real world technology and agriculture.
- I have been meeting with senior parents every month preparing for the after graduation drug and alcohol free party (called Project Graduation). Our senior water is here and will be sold at Heppner Family Foods and by seniors. Our slave auction fundraiser will be on January 23rd during half-time of the girls and boys basketball games. We are again working hard to make this night a special one for our outgoing seniors.
- Our I 17 process is in initial stage with the federal offices of immigration. We have had an on-site visit and now we are waiting for our license to be able to accept F1 visas of foreign students. This process should be complete by the end of the month.
- Our AP class numbers are as follows- AP Chemistry- 26 kids, AP Biology- 25 kids, AP Calculus- 17 kids, AP Government- 22 kids, AP English Language and Composition- 28 kids for a total of 118 students registered in these 5 classes.

Irrigon Elementary School

IES Professional Learning Community: At IES we make time in our weekly schedule to meet with each grade level and discuss instruction and curriculum. This month both grades have gotten together with me to continue to hash out our Math Power Standards for our school. With the help of the district teachers who are also giving us their opinions on other Math Standards from other districts, we are closing in on knowing what we want to teach and when we want students to know those standards. This PLC time is important because it gives us time to talk together on the teaching-learning direction of our school program.

Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School Key Club Volunteers at IES. Starting in January, IES will be receiving after school about 20 high school students to help in an After School Program of tutorial help and in supporting student clubs on Thursdays. We welcome the older kids coming across the street to help our students in homework and fun activities. This is a win-win situation!

IES Olympics: On December 11th we held our first IES Olympics. Ms. Osterlund one of our 6th grade teachers and her class put on a school-wide Olympic program. It had an Opening Ceremony, Sports Events, Closing Ceremony, and an Awards Presentation. The subject was tied into her class by reading, writing, and social studies. It was a wonderful success!

Second Round of OAKS testing: We are ready for the next round of OAKS tests. Our goal is to improve from last year's scores. We have two computer labs which makes our testing faster and more efficient. I will let you know how our results come out.

Irrigon High School

Attendance

During the first few months of school we have been averaging about 329 students. Our enrollment dipped slightly during December as some of our students left for Mexico. Overall, we had about fifteen students leave, but most are already back with the last few expected back by next week.

The winter weather wrecked havoc on our attendance rates the week before winter break. Up to that point, our overall weekly attendance average was 92.6%, slightly higher than last year at this time. However, with the inclement weather our attendance rate dropped 6% compared to the same week last year. We expect our attendance rates to rebound and will continue to explore ways to improve attendance.

AP - Update

This year our AP courses include U.S. History, Spanish Literature, and English Literature. Our current enrollment in these classes is 10, 15, and 25 students respectively. We are continuing working as a staff to increase the number of AP offerings for next year. At this point we are looking at adding at least two more to our course offerings which are English Composition and Studio Art.

5th Avenue - Update

We continue to promote our 5th Avenue program on Fridays to provide additional help for students. At this point, we are averaging just over twelve students at each session. Our counselor also regularly attends our 5th Avenue program to help students with career and college research and scholarship applications. We expect more and more students to utilize her help with these endeavors as we quickly approach important deadlines. Several parents accompany their student as they meet with her.

Recently, a flyer has been circulating around town stating that the city of Irrigon has teamed with the Oregon Department of Transportation and a team of transportation, urban design and economic specialists to create a Downtown Plan and US 730 Streetscape Plan for Downtown Irrigon. The purpose of the Plan is to enhance the safety, beauty, and vitality of Downtown. I visited with our leadership class and explained what the meeting was about and the kind of input these groups would be looking to receive. I then asked the group to brainstorm ideas and improvements they would like to see around town to make it a better place – a place where families and businesses would like to call home. Finally, I asked the group to send a couple of students as representatives to a public meeting to present their ideas from a student / young person's point of view. This is a great opportunity for our school and students to get involved in something that has the potential to have a huge impact on their community and to demonstrate their commitment to making Irrigon a better place. It also helps provide students with a 'bigger picture' of how things work, how things are planned out, and the time commitment necessary to make these kinds of projects happen.

Riverside High School

PARENT NOTICE OF STUDENT PROGRESS

We enclosed a recent progress report with the last newsletter: “When your child comes back after Christmas there will be two weeks of school left this semester. For high school students, remember that credits are issued from the semester grades. For junior high students, please remember that both after school and summer remediation are assigned from semester grades.

We would like to remind you that you can go onto our school website and view detailed progress reports as well as directly emailing a teacher by selecting their name. If you need help with this or if you need to make an appointment to visit with a teacher about your child, please call the school at 481-2525 and we will be happy to accommodate you.”

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARD INFORMATION

We enclosed a copy of the District and School State Report Card with the last newsletter. For the second year in a row we are ranked as a STRONG school and have been improving in assessments, attendance and dropout rate as monitored by the state. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in the report card, please contact the school.

FRIDAY SCHOOL

Riverside will host Friday School from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for students who are failing, behind in a class, have projects to work on, need extra time for AP classes or labs on the following dates; January 9th, January 30th, February 6th, February 27th, March 6th, March 13th. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize this opportunity and attend. The Library and PLATO Lab will also be open. We have an average of 40 students each Friday with a total of 283 students having attended Friday School.

AP Classes/COLLEGE CREDIT

We currently have 42 students taking 1 or more AP classes.

We currently have 34 students taking Dual credit college classes.

- AP Spanish Lit
- AP English Language Composition
- AP English Lit
- AP Calculus
- AP World History
- Math 111
- Math 112

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Riverside Jr/Sr High School hosted the American Red Cross December 26 – 28, 2008. A fire in a local apartment complex resulted in the evacuation of all the apartment occupants. Riverside is the staging area for the American Red Cross and approximately 20 residents stayed at the school until housing could be secured for them.

Windy River Elementary

Site Council

- Scholastic Search Engine(similar to Google, but with educational focus) – Mark reported that at the Tech level there would be a lot of changes needing to be made to our existing system, so at this time it is not possible.
- Family information programs for all families are in the progress stage and we are expecting information next month.

December Students of the Month Assembly



DECEMBER

Beagle
Boor
Browne
Chapman
Cox
Dames
Gaede
Keefer
Prindle
Strebin

Academics

Paige Bither
Briselda Navarro
Alejandra Caldera
Mirna Daltoso
Jorge Delgado
Jessica Calvillo
Shelby Collins
Ryan Ibarra

Irvin Manjarrez

Academics

Sierra Koehler
Gema Juarez
Marcelo Rea
Laura Lopez
Maria Morales
Jassiel Carmona

Sergio Navarro

Diego Pacheco

Theme - Self Discipline

Taylor Collier
Maria Virelas-Garcia
Ulises Herrera
Daniel Cornelius
Jessica Maya
Ruben Villa
Jose Avila
Felipe Olvera

Paulina Pena

December Perfect Attendance

Agripino, Cesar S	5	Groce, Stephen S	5	Mendoza, Jeny	5	Swatman, Makenzie	6
Aldrich, Bethany	6	Guenther, Audrey H	6	Mendoza, Jonathan J	6	Taylor, Kirsten M	4
Avila, Jose J	4	Harrison, Adrian K	6	Miller, Clay D	6	Taylor, Miranda L	6
Barrera, Edgar A	4	Harrison, Kassadie M	4	Miller, Gabrielle E	4	Thomas, Caleb C	4
Barrera, Yvette M	6	Hearn, Megan L	6	Morales, Maria G	6	Torres, Edward	4
Bingaman, Derek J	5	Hernandez, Abram M	4	Murillo, Emmanuel	6	Torres, Juan C	6
Cabrera, Samantha A	4	Hernandez-Torres, Mayra	5	Navarro, Briselda S	5	Virelas-Garcia, Maria d	5
Caldera, Alejandra	5	Herrera, Ulises E	5	Navarro, Jason	4	Winchester, Morgan A	4

Cardenas, Bryant	6	Hood, Daniel	6	Navarro, Sergio	5
Cardenas, Joan P	6	Irons, Zachary S	6	Olvera, Wenceslao	6
Castillo, Eon R	4	Keefer, M Jlyn R	6	Pacheco, Diego A	6
Cisneros, Edwin	6	Koehler, Sierra	6	Pena, Marino	4
Colin, Valerie I	5	Lomas, Belinda	4	Pena, Paulina N	6
Collier, Tanner L	5	Lomas, Janet	6	Perez, Manuel S	5
Collier, Taylor L	6	Lopez, Jonathan A	5	Ramirez, Zulema	6
Conlon, Elijah M	6	Lopez, Laura E	4	Rea Camacho, Marcelo	5
Conway, Jennifer A	6	Lopez, Maribel	5	Rodriguez-Pena, Jennifer	4
Cornelius, Daniel R	4	Lopez, Ruben C	4	Rosales, Ricardo R	4
Daltoso, Mirna L	4	Lopez, Yolanda P	5	Salazar, Rubi E	4
Escobedo, Ivan M	4	Loshbaugh-Gilbert, Samuel C	6	Sanchez, Elizet P	5
Farias, Sergio M	4	Mashos, Jordan T	5	Sanchez, Julissa	6
Garcia, Yaniva	4	Mashos, Lacey R	4	Sanchez, Rickey S	6
Garcia-Chavez, Cecilia C	4	Maya, Jessica G	6	Sasser, Akadia R	4
Gaytan, Lizbeth	6	McDonough, Alescia M	6	Schaible, Jordyn L	4
Gaytan, Lizeth	6	McDonough, Phillip R	4	Sifford, Vizta S	4
Gomez, Zoey	5	McLaughlin, Kelly L	5	Simmons, William J	4
Gonzalez, Dixie L	5	Medina, Emily L	6	Snyder, Brianna P	6

4th Grade Parent Party

This month's Parent Party focused on sentences! Demonstrations were presented by teachers and students as to what a sentence is, subject and predicate, and parts of speech. Emphasis was placed on speaking and writing in COMPLETE sentences. Examples of sentences and non-sentences were constructed, with students explaining if a group of words constituted a sentence, and why/why not. Conventions were also stressed, especially with CAPITALS and p.e.r.i.o.d.s. being used correctly.

There were some websites suggested for students to use at home, if possible, in order to give them some extra work and fun at learning!!!!

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for December:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Gerardo Lopez Carlos Mejia-Ortega Eduardo Afanador Hunter Leighton	Evelin Guardado-Nino Jose Ruiz-Nino Vanessa Rodriguez Jose Napoles	Cinthia Diaz Kennisyn Wilkins Jennifer Vazquez Nate Harrison	Daria Sanchez Joselyn Lezama Lizbet Martinez Christopher Lomeli	Mrs. Christy 89%
1 st Grade	Emmanuel Barrera Ulyses Lopez Lainey Rodgers Neri Munoz	Anthony Flores Luz Lopez Sarah Calvillo Christian Flores	Jordy Mendoza Kenneth Twidwell Sebastian Sanchez Cristian Rea	Julian Jimenez Zena Pena Christian Dominguez Jacob Hibbits	Mrs.Ogden/ Mrs. Harjo 92%
2 nd Grade	Micah Mossman Stephanie Gonzalez Daisy Sanchez Jenna McCullough	Janet Landeros Jose Afanador Aidan Barresse Mario Madrigal	Emily Diaz Dakota Durfey Lizzette Martinez Oscar Lopez Nadia Mendoza	Gisselle Rodriguez Jose Abraham - Cervantes Yoanna Lopez	Ms. Kennedy 89%
3 rd	Ruby Barrera Juan Torres	Eric Pacheco Skylar Wightman	Katia Garay Jose Mendoza	Marcalina Reymundo Martin Chavez	Mr. Jeppeson

Grade	Daniel Eubanks	Karina Llamas	Ethan Akers	Emily Taylor	95%
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Enrollment: 311

Attendance: Average attendance for December was 88.27%



Christmas Concert: Many families ventured out in blizzard conditions to hear our holiday concert, "**Sing and Celebrate**". Mrs. Appleton presented a festive compilation of songs and students sang with their usual holiday excitement.



Accelerated Reading: This reindeer relay promoted reading during our Student of the Month assembly. Reading books for carnival tickets has helped to keep the chapter book momentum through the holidays.



Site Council: Cancelled due to inclement weather.

Teresa Mounts: SBE is losing another great employee to retirement. Mrs. Mounts has been with SBE for 27 years. She has worked with many of the children of former students. Mrs. Mounts will be truly missed by students and staff.

Mrs. Kennedy's 2nd Grade students helped put books into the hands of children in need by reading 100 books for Scholastic Book Club. Scholastic

then donated books to the Yakima Clinic Early Literacy Program on their behalf. We are very proud, kids helping kids!

Looking forward to January! January is one of the best months for student learning, several teachers will travel to Portland to learn more about Professional Learning Communities; and everyone is invited to join us for our Buck and Elizabeth evening concert on **Thursday, January 22nd**.

