

Principal & Director Reports

February 2006

A.C. Houghton Elementary

-We are entering our midyear period of testing student progress. Students appear to be making expected gains in their math and reading. Third-grade math will be our challenge to bring along by the end of the year. We are maintaining close attention to achievement in this area.

-We continue to work very hard for improvement in our area of writing. Tomorrow, February 8, we are visiting William Walker Elementary in Beaverton again. This will complete a cycle of visitations for all third and fourth grade teachers to observe a school that had almost half of their students make state writing benchmarks at the fourth grade level. They are similar to us in high poverty and high ESL population. And we had only 15% of our students pass the benchmark.

-We want to again express our appreciation to the school board for their willingness to match the \$500 award from the State School Boards Association for our improvement in math and reading. Many staff have expressed positive feelings towards this initiative by our school board.

Heppner Elementary School

- Heppner Elementary kindergarten – fifth grade chess team won 2nd place in the regional tournament. Our sixth grade team came in fourth.
- Honor Cards were awarded to students who received all A's and B's, all E's and S's, had no discipline referrals, and had been absent two days or less during the nine weeks. The students received a certificate and a card providing them with discounts at four different businesses in Heppner. The recipients were:

Allen, Alexandra
Allen, Rachel
Arbogast, Cade
Brannon, Drew
Bredfield, Tommy
Burch, Patrick
Chen, Joyce
Collins, Maggie
Collins, Patrick
Coster, Cidney
Currin, Kolby
Day, Camron
Day, Cassidee
Dougherty, Ryan

Dowdy, Josh
Dubry, Ted
Eads, Caleb
Gentry, Tate
Gibbs, Garrett
Gibbs, Macy
Gorham, Riley
Gray, Larissa
Gutierrez, Austin
Haguewood, Carrie
Harrison, Kyle
Healy, Diana
Hintz, Zechariah
Jones, Faith

Jones, Jordan
Kendrick, Jason
Kindle, MeKayla
Kollman, Rylee
Lovgren, Hanna
Lutcher, William
Maben, Sydney
Moore, Jacob
Morgan, Sierra
Murphy, Michaela
Murray, Kevin
Orr, Cody
Orr, Jaden
Palmer, Seth

Palmer, Skyler
Pappas, Conner
Pappas, Emily
Pranger, Justin
Putman, Weston
Rauch, Natalie
Rea, Amanda
Rea, Emily
Robinson, Garrett

Sample, Kailea
Schmidt, Demitra
Schmidt, Joseph
Shaw, Nichole
Smith, Ryan
Stone, Nalani
Sweeney, Kane
Thompson, Ashley
Thompson, Brittney

Thompson, Stephen
Victorio, Alexis
Wagoner, Rylee
Williams, Dustin
Williams, Jessie
Yocom, Zachary

- I will be attending the 5th Annual Safe Schools Summit in Salem on February 16th. This summit brings together schools, police, and health officials to help in understanding the many different things that are having an impact on our schools i.e. drugs, suicide, gangs, youth violence.
- Students in grades five and six at Heppner Elementary certainly took time out of their daily routines to make time for books during the month of January. The annual reading incentive program, appropriately named Time Out for Reading, was a huge success as these young readers logged 131,179 minutes during the first month of the year.

Heppner High School

- HHS is going well, all winter sports seasons are nearing the end with district tourneys and state looming in the future.
- Have implemented the ZAP program at both the Jr. High and High School levels- it is going well and we have seen a drop in failing grades in two weeks.
- We have the STARS program and training happening this month and our team of students has been selected.
- Facilities are looking good and our Facilities Coordinator and Custodians are working hard on keeping things up with several inside projects going.
- Our last SIOP training is finished and went very well. We are seeing some of the benefits in the classroom.
- I am making personal phone calls to parents that have students that are struggling and have below a 2.0 GPA. (tracking athletes as well) Along with senior parents.
- ASB officers have commissioned some art work for our building. It is put in place and is a welcomed addition to our building.
- James Montgomery, our commissioned artist spent two days installing both pieces of art and teaching art appreciation to our students.
- Working on scheduling some of the tough situations with student schedules.
- Have two teachers working on our art/music textbook adoption.
- Went to our Booster Club joint dinner and raffle with Ione held at MCGG. It went well and was well attended.
- Darlene Marquardt is offering several adult education classes in the evenings at the high school.
- Our Board goals have been the topic of many conversations that I have had with patrons of the community.

- I have had communication and a meeting with Erin Heideman on what direction to go if we re-instate the AG position at the high school.
- There are several maintenance projects that we are looking at scheduling this spring.
- I will be meeting with the CEC to work on some future facility items.
- We are looking at programs, staffing, and scheduling for next year.
- The writing window is open and we are currently testing our students at the 7th, 8th, and CIM levels.
- Overall, I am pleased with the strides we have made this year at HHS. We are on track and working hard to be an exceptional school.

Irrigon Elementary School

Writing Assessment: Fifth and sixth grade students will be participating in the writing assessment this week.

ELL Parent Meeting: Held January 17th. Approximately 5 families were in attendance. Mr. Chavez went over the ELL program and introduced the teacher. CSEPP representatives were there to provide information about sheltering in place if there were an event at the depot.

Outdoor School: Sixth grade teachers at WRE and IES have started monthly meetings to prepare for Outdoor School. Outdoor School will happen May 15th -18th and be held at Meadow Wood Speech Camp.

Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting: All staff received training as mandatory child abuse reporters. This training was provided by the Department of Human Services.

Bal-A-Vis-X: Balance/Vision/Exercise program is being piloted by teachers Deb Sherman and Laura Rowe with a small group of students who struggle to read. This program is currently being researched and is believed to significantly impact a student's ability to read and comprehend by strengthening their coordination, eye movement, and balance.

Student Body Assembly: Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, January 26th. The following students received recognition by their classroom teachers for:

Excellence

Celina Munoz, Mitch Maine, Maritriny Mejia, Courtney Hubbard, Leon Luna, Sage Pryhorocki, Diego Lopez

Hard Work

Marcos Rosales, Francisca Salas, Jose Carrillo,
Seth Dynes, David Resendiz, Dominique Cuevas, Martin Garcilazo

Caring

Stephanie Ramos, Ricky Ramos, Jeff Howard, Marissa Stanger, Roel Ramirez, Angelica Perez, Sean Barron

Irrigon High School

Building Update:

The new building is complete. We have been through the inspection and now have full access. Only a few finishing touches are left. One of those is the outside paint and landscaping. Students will be walking the halls long before the outside is finished up. The main thing that we are waiting on before we let our students through the doors is a chance for our custodial staff to get in their and do a thorough cleaning and put down a sealant over the bare concrete floors. That will take place soon and students will begin using the new building.

TESA Testing Round II:

We have just completed two successful weeks of testing. Using the portable laptop lab was once again a huge hit with the students. The first time it was exciting because they had the opportunity to use the laptops, this time it has

been all about comfort. Each of our students tested with their advisors and most did this in their advisors classrooms. The students and advisors have been sharing strategies and goals for the tests. Another fun thing we did was to hold two academic recognition assemblies the day before testing was to begin. All students who showed 5 points or more in growth from last year's tests to the first testing opportunity received a certificate. Also receiving certificates were students who met or exceeded the state standards. Advisors also gave out certificates not tied to testing. They included students with perfect attendance or who were on the honor roll for 1st semester. We found that the best aspect of the assembly was the conversations that took place between students about testing. Our students are talking about doing well and are talking with their advisors about their growth.

This week we are beginning the state writing test and we believe that the energy will carry over to that test as well.

Winter Activities Wrapping Up :

All through out the district winter sports are wrapping up. Our athletes have put in a great deal of hard work and effort. The coaches are appreciated for all they do for our athletes. Wrestlers will be heading off to districts on February 10th the same day as our last high school basketball game. The pep band and cheerleaders should also be recognized for all that they do. The Irrigon gym has been filled with excitement all winter and we hope that this will carry over into spring activities. As the sports wrap up their season our drama club kicks off theirs. Drama just recently held tryouts for the spring play. Over 35 students tried out. The club will be performing A Midsummer's Nights Dream in March. Also performing in March will be the music department.

Career Showcase Event:

If you drive by IJSHS on February 15th you will not see any of 8th graders in attendance. They are set to travel with their advisors to the Career Showcase in Pendleton. The Career Showcase is put on by the ESD and allows all of our 8th graders a chance to explore jobs and careers that they may be interested in the future. The day is well structured and provides information and opportunities to start our students thinking about what is life going to look like after high school.

Students and advisors have been working together to be prepared for the showcase. The ESD provided packets of worksheets and surveys for the students to complete before arrival.

Riverside High School

ADDRESSING SCHOOL CONCERNS

The following guidelines were sent home to parents in the Riverside January newsletter:

It is the goal of Morrow County Schools to effectively educate and enrich the lives of its students. Occasionally, however, the goals and practices of the school may not always correspond with those of the parent. In these cases, we have a system in place for parents to address such concerns involving their child. In our effort to improve communication between the school and our community, we have put together a list of steps to aid in this process.

Step 1: If a parent has a concern involving a staff member, he/she should first contact the staff member in an effort to resolve the conflict.

If the concern involves student discipline, the vice principal should be contacted.

If the issue involves a coach or an athletic situation, the athletic director should be contacted.

Step 2: If the issue is not resolved to the parent's satisfaction, the parent should then schedule a meeting with the principal.

Step 3: If after meeting with the principal, the parent still feels the issue has not been resolved, he/she should request a Formal Complaint Procedure Form from the main office. Once the parent has completed their portion, the form should be returned to the main office at which time the principal will respond and submit the form to the superintendent.

Step 4: The superintendent will review the complaint and respond within ten working days.

Step 5: If after meeting with the superintendent, the parent still does not feel the issue has been resolved, the Formal Complaint Procedure Form will be forwarded to the school board. The board will make a ruling within five working days following the regular Board meeting.

STARS

Eleven Riverside High School students, under the direction of Jay Rogers, will again participate in the STARS program. STARS stands for Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex and was originally developed by the Multnomah County Health Department in 1983. High school students are trained as teen leaders. The program is delivered in five separate classroom sessions and is designed to teach middle school students how to say "no" to sexual involvement. Student leaders received training on January 24th & 25th.

DEFIBRILLATOR PURCHASE

Following the incident of January 3, 2006, during which a Umatilla assistant coach suffered a heart attack, Morrow County has purchased an electric defibrillator. The location of the defibrillator has been noted on maps placed in classrooms and throughout the building for assistance in case of another emergency. Fire chief, Mark Rogelstad has agreed to assist in the training of Riverside staff.

TEACHERS RECOGNIZED

Riverside staff members, Ron Prindle, Mark Jones, Robin Graff, Donna Barton and Mark Rouska were recognized during a staff meeting for their immediate response during the incident on January 3rd, performing life-saving measures and taking steps to calm and disperse the crowd.

STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

On Monday, February 6th, student council advisor, Jake Lemmon accompanied the Leadership Class to the Oregon Association of Student Councils winter regional conference held at the LDS church in Hermiston. About 90 students from Riverside, Hermiston High School and Pendleton High School participated in the conference. Guest speaker, Norm Hull, spoke to students about the importance of including everyone and representing all groups in the school environment.

Students who received a 3.0 GPA or higher or who raised their GPA by .5 points from last semester received an invitation to attend the 2006 Central Washington Leadership Workshop on February 8th. Students who chose to attend the workshop were asked to pay half the cost, or \$7, to demonstrate their commitment to the concept. Riverside plans to send between 100 and 120 students. The featured speaker will be Sam Glenn who is recognized as one of America's favorite youth motivators and humorists. He is known for his "awesome and unforgettable" presentations and for leaving students "with a message and experience that makes a life changing difference."

Windy River Elementary

January 29th marked the end of the first semester of the school year which seems to be flying by. I would like share some exciting facts from our second nine weeks:

- ❖ 85% of our students attended the citizenship movie. These students had no office referrals and less than 3 tardies for the entire nine weeks.
- ❖ 56 5th graders achieved a 3:00 or better gpa.
- ❖ 33 6th graders achieved a 3:00 or better gpa.
- ❖ 75 students met their AR goal and attended a special Root beer Float party.

Great work is being done by our teachers and students at Windy River.

Other highlights include:

- ❖ Our Knowledge Master Team competed in the yearly competition; a picture and article appeared in the North Morrow County Times.
- ❖ We celebrated our January Students of the Month, they can be found in the Times as well.
- ❖ We have started into our second round of state testing. This session we will give a 5th grade science test, a writing assessment, and the second round of TESA math and reading tests. Our DART coordinator Jennifer Cox is doing a great job coordinating our testing schedule.
- ❖ Our Site Council will begin planning the installation of the sign board that will be funded by the grant we received from the Cycle Oregon Group.
- ❖ We are also pleased share the news that Wilcox Furniture is donating a couch and love seat set to be placed in our library to establish a reading area.
- ❖ Our 6th grade students will participate in a S.T.A.R.S. Program in cooperation with selected students from RJSH.

Of course the biggest excitement is the upcoming building project that is slated to begin soon. We are looking forward to watching as the changes to our school take shape.

Sam Boardman Elementary

The months are flying by at SBE!! We are now in our most productive academic months of the school year. With that in mind we are trying to minimize distractions and interruptions during the day so teachers and students can focus on the academics for their particular grade level.

In doing so we are not without cool experiences and activities. SBE will be having our Learning Fair on the 16th of February. This event is an opportunity for students and teachers to display some of the neat projects that they do throughout the year. Each teacher sets up a table and they put lots of different kid work they have saved this year. This has 2 benefits. First, kids get to show off their excellent work to Mom and Dad. Second, other teachers and students get to see neat work from other classrooms (and they can steal the idea). We also have our Valentine's Day parties on the 14th. Pink and Red abound in the hallways and love is on everyone's mind. (ok, it's really the candy on everyone's mind) As always we have our student of the month assembly at the end of this month. Speaking of; here are January students of the month.

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

ACADEMICS

Leobardo Almonte
Ivan Torres
Marvin Calvillo
Yonatan Flores
Luis Navarro
Natalie Melendez
Leslie Zuniga
Daniel Rodriguez
Bianca Gutierrez
Mathilda Goodeve
Sam Davenport
Miguel Acscencio
Alfredo Alvarez
Armando Aparicio
Winnie VanDaele
Alejandra Caldera
Janet Castaneda
Jario Garcia
Abel Rodelo
Victoria Landeros
Joah Mossman
Zachary Ferguson

RESPECT

Alonso Cambero
Cesar Agripino
Perla Gutierrez
Juan M. Torres
Maria Sanchez
Vanessa Calvillo
Juan Villegas
Jose Peralta
Veronica Rodriguez
Cruz Jim
Rickey Sanchez
Robert Peralta
Taylor Herrera
Jessica Calvillo
Jacob Papineau
Katherine Wiese
Jasmine Reynosa
Jose Avila
Jennifer Flores
Samantha Zapa
Emmanuel Murillo
Keara Chikalla

RESPONSIBILITY

Crystal Marquez
Stephanie Lopez
Tania Mendoza
Morgan Wilson
Larissa Steinlicht
Wyatt Neal
Michelle Calvillo
Denise Martinez
Jared Snyder
Bryan Altamirano
Jessica Maya
Gabrielle Ganvoa
Maydi Barrera
Laura Avila
Winter Mitts
Humberto Lopez
Nancy Llamas
Aristotle Rockwell
Shaylee Dipo
Neira Rodriguez
Maria Rodriguez
Alicia Calvillo

SAFETY

Connor Wood
Rocio Martinez
Perla Martinez
Marielena Lopez
Trevor Heiple
Jose Olguin
Juan Landeros
Blas Zapata
Natasha Lester
Ruben Villa
Shellie Munoz
Jasmine Puerta
Yuriel Sosa
Viviana Garay
Eric Ramos
Evan White
Carlos Lopez
Alejandro Campos
Cassidy Braun
Ana Barajas
Jonathan Mendoza
Isaccias Cervantes

Looking forward to seeing you at Sam Boardman on the 13th,

Morrow Education Center

The second semester brings with it a renewed focus at Morrow Education Center. Students have really started to focus on completing their current school work in hopes of regaining lost credits before the end of the school year.

We are currently serving 73 students, 43 of which are Morrow County students. Forrest and I are working diligently to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students here at MEC. We are also pleased to report that our students have started the state writing assessment testing and some even seem to be enjoying the challenge that comes along with it. The results of these tests will give us a sturdy 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.

Special Education

This is another month that is going to go by quickly. We are working with our students on writing assessment and focusing on skills to help them perform at a higher level. I have also started the process for the completion of our special education improvement plan. As you know, we did a file review of our students earlier this year to self determine areas that needed improvement. I am now reviewing those findings to see what our strengths and weaknesses are for the state report.

I will be meeting with Georgie Todd, special education director from the Umatilla School District, this week to explore the possibility of our districts developing a sever needs room to serve our older students when it becomes inappropriate for them to be in the IES classroom. The high school at Umatilla currently has a room that is equipped for those older students. I will keep in contact with Mr. Burrows and Mr. Smith on our progress. This Friday, all of the special education teachers will be attending a 2006 IDEA Summit meeting in Hermiston for the day. The conference will cover such topics as budget implications of IDEA, transition services for secondary children, behavior crisis plans and the new plan for the identification of special education teachers for next year which is titled "Response to Intervention" (RIT). This method would involve classroom teachers tracking progress on students with learning problems instead of identifying students solely on their discrepancy between cognitive ability and academic achievement. The Hungerford Law Firm will also be present that day to discuss recent OARs and case law relating to IDEA. It is a great opportunity for our teachers to receive this training just a few minutes away instead of driving to the valley. The cost for the registration is only ten dollars per teacher with meals included. I appreciate the ESD's efforts to bring ODE and the Hungerfords to our area.

ELL Program

This month the director has taken his direction using the State audit information and making direct plans for next year's district ELL programs in Morrow County school sites.

This has brought me to meet first with district administration which invested in the ELL director stronger authority to manage the ELL program in each school site, by observing and evaluating ELL teachers, and doing the evaluations for ELL instructional aids in the following 2006/2007 school year. Due to changes that must be made, the program will be closer monitored by the ELL director to ensure that all school's ELL program comply exactly with federal and state regulations, and the uses of personnel time and teaching is applied with more focus on English Language Development for ELL student needs.

The director has met or will meet with site principals to clearly establish, ELL personnel, curriculum, scheduling, and English Language Development in each of their school programs. Principals have been cooperative and professionally responsive to new changes and adaptations.

As well, the director has met with parents at Irrigon Elementary School and at Sam Boardman Elementary school. He has also met with the local Parent-Teacher Organization of S.B.E. to participate in their meeting.

All the ELL site coordinators participated in a training by the State for the new English Language Proficiency testing. We received training as to administer the new state test to the students who will have to take it this year. Along the lines of staff development, we continue our staff training of SIOP methods. The director visited four school sites teaching the other school staff about SIOP methods. I was quite impressed how all schools have embraced this method of instruction with effort, intensity and great fun.

As a result of the audit, the district must make a single digit score of a 1 to 5 in our School Master data inputting. I have taken a formula from the LAS test publishers and given it to our ELL site coordinators and they will complete the changes on each ELL student. Then we'll have to change last year's data and resubmit it to ODE for further compliances. Another data change is the program type of ELL education that we give at each school. This is easily done in my office, and it is being done with gradually as well.

The ODE was to send us their official report of Findings, Recommendations, and Commendations. It has not come as of yet. Knowing what they told us already has given me knowledge of what they want changed.