

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **January 2010**

#### **AC. Houghton Elementary**

##### **Afterschool Program/Oaks Preparation Update**

A continuing two part goal that we are working on this year is the installation of a second computer lab by reallocating computers within the building and organizing our After School programming with the Study Island math and reading software to ensure that all students receive the maximum possible preparation for third-grade state assessment. We have realigned our reading blocks so that we have a little over an hour at the end of the day for third-grade Study Island time. With only one computer lab, we did not have enough time and space to keep ongoing lab use at the same time we needed to do Oaks assessment or the Map assessment for grades K. through 2. Now we will be able to run both programs simultaneously with the two labs. The same programming and lab use will be able to expand during our After School program.

All of the information above is the process of making adequate facilities available to coordinate the educational use of technology. What we will be adding to this is an alignment of Study Island practice exercises and student deficits identified by Oaks assessment. We also are aligning practice sessions with the problems which are like those of the Saxon math curriculum, which is newly adopted this year.

Finally, we are organizing our instructional sessions to be identical to the testing protocols that we have to follow during the regular Oaks assessment. If we can train our kids to be showing their work all the time, then during the real Oaks testing sessions, when we can't prompt them to do their work on paper, they are likely to work out the problems on paper automatically, which can significantly affect their success. These practice sessions will also have the adults to help students understand the math that they are doing.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

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 2009 has ended, and that the year 2010 has arrived. Our enrollment as of today is 197 students; this is up from my December report as we have just recently re-enrolled three students at HES. Our current attendance percentage for the year is 94.71% this unfortunately is again down from last month due to the inclement weather and families leaving for early vacations the week prior to winter break. 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 at HES on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. It was a wonderful concert and we have had several parents comment on how much they liked the concert format this year. We were also treated to a performance of "Oliver" by the Hampstead Players on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009 which students enjoyed it immensely.

The HES Geography Bee will be held in the gym on Wednesday, January 6th at 1:00pm.

Here are a couple of other important upcoming events for your calendars; January 14<sup>th</sup> is the end of the first semester, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be observed on January 18<sup>th</sup> this year. There will be no school on this day, but “Freaky Friday” (the make up school day) will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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**

- Heppner High School was awarded the Bronze Award by US News and Report magazine for being a high performing school. This is the second year in a row that we have been awarded such an award by the magazine. There were only 31 high schools mentioned in Oregon and we were one of them. Congrats to my staff and students for all of their hard work.
- Winter sports are going well and back in full swing of games and practice. There were several events over the winter break where our basketball teams faired very well going undefeated across the board.
- We are spending some time using the computer to work on test prompts in writing this month. The state has gone to an on-line version of testing writing and we are working on preparing our students for this in their writing classes.
- As several of you may know, Tom Mafera our Forrest Service Ranger is leaving us for a new position in Bend. I spent some time visiting with him before the break concerning keeping our Career Camp intact. He has assured me that his staff including the forest supervisor is committed to keeping this opportunity open for our students.
- Senior Service Auction night is this Friday night the 8<sup>th</sup> of January at the basketball games vs. Union. This money goes towards Project Graduation, our drug and alcohol free after grad party for our kids. So if you need some work done at home or business- this is a great opportunity to buy some help☺.
- End of the semester is coming quickly on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Our staff is working extra hard to get students to make up incompletes in their classes. We will have some numbers in a couple of weeks of what our progress looks like.
- Outdoor Club has spent several days in trips around the region skiing over the last month. They have traveled to Mt. Anthony, Spout Springs, and Blue Wood. Mr. Fowler should be thanked and commended for his efforts in taking students to these places. His club numbers have reached all time highs and it has become a great alternative activity on the weekend for many of our students.
- FFA Greenhand Initiation went well with Mrs. Dickenson inducting 17 new freshman members to her club. There was a great presentation of their National Convention trip and it was fun to watch our officers preside over a meeting and celebration the way they did.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

1. ESL Title III Family Night at IES: We had about 50 parents and students attending our ESL Title III Family Night at our school on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Santillan our ESL teacher and Mrs. Schnieder-Lepe prepared an ESL pamphlet explaining our program; we provided a free pizza dinner and a movie after. Next semester they have more things planned to get parents involved and informed about our school programs.

2. Irrigon Elementary School was honored to have Ellen Hendergart be nominated to be recognized as Irrigon's Educator of the Year. Ellen Hendergart is our librarian, ASB leader, fund raiser, and all around school cheer leader. We recognize her efforts for the AR reading program which have made our school better. Employees like Mrs. Hendergart go way beyond our job description.
3. Second IES Olympics: on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December we experienced our IES Olympics. We had 8 different events; the whole school participated in the opening ceremony and the events. Many parents came and either helped or observed. It was sponsored by Ms. Osterlund's sixth grade class. They put a lot of time and energy to do this. The events had the use of math in measuring and numbers. It was a school success.

### **Irrigon High School**

#### **GEAR-UP**

Through our GEAR-UP grant, we were able to send three teachers and our counselor to a two day training in Portland to better understand poverty and to gain tools for making a difference. They will go back to Portland later this year to receive additional training as a poverty coach. As a result, they will be trained to conduct "Poverty 101" sessions as well as "Communicating and Working More Effectively" sessions for staff. Coaches can serve as local experts for breaking poverty barriers and improving outcomes. They are trained to conduct Poverty Competency Assessments, help organizations and communities to develop one-year action plans, and assist with follow-up on those action plans.

#### **BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL, & BE SAFE**

We have continued to work with our leadership class on our school's theme for the year: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. After several meetings thus far, students have been able to define what these three items look like in different parts of the school. To that end, we have put up posters in those areas describing expectations. We have also set up review activities and discussions to be held during advisory classes over the next week emphasizing these expectations.

#### **STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

At the start of the school year we have started our student of the month program. Each month three students were chosen by staff who exemplified that month's particular theme. Our outstanding students thus far include:

##### **September – Most Respectful**

Erica Goodwin  
Molly Creason  
Orayda Campos

##### **October – Most Responsible**

Ashli Roberts  
Francisco Nunez  
Cheyenne McKenney

##### **November – Kindest**

Katy DeVore  
Jessica Working  
Hernan Vera

##### **December – Safest**

Alaura Liddell  
Marissa Brundage  
Shellsey Zamora

### **Riverside High School**

**TSA Donates Toys**

Riverside High School had 17 students compete at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> TSA (Technology Student Association) Competition, held at Blue Mountain Community College. RHS's TSA Advisors are Robin Graff and Cynthia Kuchenbecker. The competition had four categories that students competed. Structural Engineering: Chris Benson, Chase Simpson, Matt Hyder, Harley Orcutt, Briton Hansen, Fernando Castenada, Arrow Corpus, Trevor Graff, Chuy Alba, and Tanner Wightman. Flight Endurance competitors were James Town, Harley Orcutt, Trevor Graff. Manufacturing Prototype competitors were James Town, Trevor Graff, Harley Orcutt, Chris Benson, Briton Hansen, Fernando Castenada. Promotional Graphics competitors were Justin Dieter, Tessa McLaughlin, Cheyenne Kennedy, and Caitlin Hearn.

In Promotional Graphics students pre-designed and created posters using Adobe InDesign. Students were then interviewed by a panel of judges about their design process, knowledge of their graphic design program, and knowledge of the principles of graphic design. Riverside's Cheyenne Kennedy won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this event.

The Manufacturing Prototype team designed and manufactured 20 duck pull toys. Following the competition, all teams exchanged toys which would be donated back to the communities represented at the competition. The RHS Chapter donated their collection of wooden toys to the Banner Bank Christmas Campaign. These toys were given away as Christmas presents to needy families in the community. Members of the TSA club that built the toys were: Chris Benson, Chase Simpson, Matt Hyder, Ricky Trim, Harley Orcutt, Briton Hansen, Fernando Castenada, Arrow Corpus, Trevor Graff, Chuy Alba, Omar Murillo, James Town, and Tanner Wightman.

### **College Entrance Exams: SAT/ACT**

Riverside High school has already broken its record number of students taking college entrance exams. After the November test date, we have 15 students who took either the SAT or ACT. This number already doubles the number of test takers in 2008. According to the OUS statistics, Riverside High School only had 6 seniors take the SAT or ACT in 2008. This data only lends optimism to think that Riverside will have a higher percentage of students pursuing post secondary education after graduation in June 2010.

### **Financial Aid Night**

It's financial aid crunch time all around the post secondary education world! Here at Riverside we are preparing our students with a night of crucial financial aid information. Riverside High School will be hosting a FAFSA/Financial Aid night for our seniors and their parents. This night has been scheduled for February 10, 2010. Co-hosting will be representatives from Western Oregon University who will be providing not only the Financial Aid Information, but also refreshments. We will have bilingual representatives as well as some of our own faculty helping out.

### **PASS Program Pilot**

Riverside strives to provide each student with the opportunity to be successful academically. Therefore, we have piloted the PASS program, which allows students who are behind in credits, due to English as a Second Language, to catch up with curriculum in the form of packets. We started the program with three seniors and currently 2 of the 3 are now on track to graduate because they were able to retrieve the deficient credit. The program is great and beneficial, but expensive. With all the budget cuts, there are not enough funds for this program to continue. Miss Torres, our counselor, has written a grant to offset the costs of the curriculum packets and we will hear back by the end of January.

## Sam Boardman Elementary

### ***Students of the Month for December:***

	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Kinder</b>	Arelly Cambero Kevin Navarro Xochitl Ramos Isabella Miller Fernando Rodriguez	Elvis Medrano Roselyn Caldera Miriam Landeros Yazeli Lomas Joe Reagan	Cassandra Calvillo Kamron Drury Alexis Sanchez Makaila Lantis Carlos Magana	Clarissa Sanchez Lisete Cisneros Lorena Lopez Chloe Winker Hilary Payne	<b>Mrs. Bigham</b> 96%
<b>1st Grade</b>	Gerardo Lopez Dezirae Klaviter Ramon Montes Humberto Sanchez	Gavin Cates Evelin Guardado Jose Napoles Jacob Murguia	Alyssa Luna Eduardo Afanador Gavin Wade Haliee Pratt	Jocelyn Lezama Jack Curtis Aldo Murguia Taylor Schneider	<b>Mrs. Fletcher</b> 93%
<b>2nd Grade</b>	Johana Sepulveda Alexis Villegas Ezequiel Ramos	Brandon Madrigal Stephanie Chavez Jasmine Gomez	Sarah Calvillo Jazmin Barrett Karina Mendoza	Eric Medrano Julian Jimenez Neftali Pacheco	<b>Mrs. Files</b> 92%
<b>3rd Grade</b>	Scout Reagan Allan Gutierrez David Araiza Kardrian Gonzalez	Ricardo Ramos Fatima Diaz David Ghising Nadalie Papineau	Jessica Rodriguez Maria Gonzalez Gerry Ruiz Emily Diaz	Adelfo Sanchez Karrizima Luna Yoanna Lopez Alexis Cambero	<b>Mrs. Raible</b> 98%



**Enrollment:** 311 **Attendance:** The average attendance for December was 88.06%.

Our **Winter Concert** was well attended. The students sang magnificently...it has truly become a holiday tradition for Boardman.

Students raised 25,250 pennies during our **Holiday Penny Drive**. Every single last penny went towards purchasing gifts for four children from our very own Boardman community. Gift items included tops, jeans, socks, gloves, hats, and a toy for all four children.

**Site Council** members took a "New Year" look at our school-wide plan to ensure that we are maintaining our focus on our school goals. We have met all of our professional development goals and teachers are continuing their work on Common Formative Assessments during their weekly PLC/Data Team time. We look forward to the winter round of assessments to celebrate the effectiveness of our new approaches for academic improvement.

Site Council revisited our Parent Survey results and celebrated high ratings in most areas. A follow-up survey will be sent to parents of students who ride the bus to better understand concerns for bus safety.

School committees now report to the Site Council. The **Safety** committee will soon release a "School-to-Home Safety" brochure for parents. The **Student Positive Behavior** committee added several activities to highlight our Students of the Month. They also promote reading through AR parties and look forward to the new songs students will create with Buck & Elizabeth. The songs certainly add to our positive school climate. The **Staff**

**Activities/Sunshine** committee simplified our Staff Christmas Party with an after school get together in the staff room. The **Parent** Committee celebrated a huge break-through in helping

to create a PTO for our school. Both an English and a Spanish speaking parent was recruited from each classroom.

**PTO:** 16 parents attended the last PTO meeting. They hosted a holiday gift bag and bake sale making over \$350.00. A great kick-off!

**After-School Program update:** Of the 48 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students currently eligible for benchmark support, 7 have not attended, 6 had sporadic attendance, and 35 attend regularly. Those not attending were re-invited and the 35 attending regularly were recognized with certificates. After our second round of OAKS, some students will not be required to attend our After-School Program. Students still in need of support will also be invited to Friday School which starts February 5<sup>th</sup>. Depending on space, teachers will make recommendations for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in both programs.

**English Language Development** continues to be a focus for our school. Eight teachers took opportunity of the three-day institute, Systematic ELD. Our SIOP facilitators report that Systematic ELD has enhanced their ability to create effective language objectives for all students. With two new students from Burma we have yet another opportunity to learn about effective language development and embrace diversity.

Wendy Appleton was awarded a certificate recognizing her participation in the "Take a Veteran to School Day" by the History Channel. She certainly is an outstanding example of teaching U.S. history through musical performances.

**Buck and Elizabeth's Evening Concert** is at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. This concert is guaranteed musical fun!

## Windy River Elementary

### 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.

### December Students of the Month Assembly



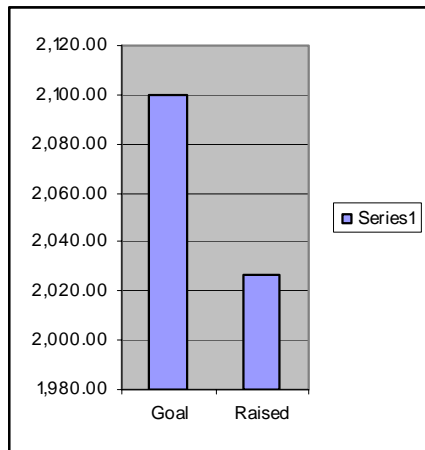
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Theme - Self Discipline</b>
Beagle	Elizet Sanchez	Eloy Hernandez	Lilian Melendez
Boor	Bryan Altamirano	Ruben Lopez	Giovanni Hernandez
Browne	Anisha Ghising	Ivan Escobedo	Mirna Daltoso
Foster	Yonatan Flores	Malyssa Smith	Ivonne Navarro
Wainwright	Edgar Rodriguez	Vanessa Calvillo	Gabby Alba
Dames	Fabian Meza	Andy Melendez	Ruby Barrera
Keefer	Belinda Lomas	Adolfo Bedolla	Shelby Collins
Prindle	Yoselin Ayuso	Ricardo Navarro	Isaias Cervantes
Strebin	Jose Agripino	Yolanda Lopez	Juliana Guzman

### Holiday Bazaar

Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> we held a Holiday Bazaar with proceeds going to our Playground equipment. A Huge “Thank you” to all the vendors, community members and staff who participated by donating time and goodies, renting tables, purchasing products and just stopping by to give encouragement. Thank you!

### Playground Fundraiser Update

As most of you know, Windy River has been raising money to put in playground equipment. Our first piece will be a swing set. The goal is \$2,100.00 and we are nearly there.



### Geography Bee

Windy River is gearing up for the National Geography Bee. We have narrowed our finalist down to the top ten. The final competition round will be Jan. 13 in the gym and the following students will be participating in it:

Daniel Pacheco  
Jordan Mashos  
Lacey Mashos  
Sergio Navarro  
Abram Hernandez  
Caleb Thomas  
Wayne Killion  
Ariana Corpus  
Rory Barresse  
Shandon Sanders-Johnson.