

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **February 2010**

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

##### **Irrigon Children's Park**

Construction will soon start on the Irrigon Children's Park in the current city park by the fire station. This park was put together by community agency and private organizations coordinated through the City of Irrigon. Primary funding came from a State Parks local community grant and other local matching funds. The students of ACH had a big part in the design work in that there was a process to gather student ideas for components of the park. This included elements of a design contest that the designers used to professionally plan the park.

##### **McTeacher Night Cometh**

The staff of AC Houghton will again participate partnering with the McDonald's of Hermiston in a fund-raising night, for ACH. There will be a two-hour period, 5-7 PM, that our staff will be filling many of the service positions within the restaurant. The profit from those two hours goes to ACH after they deduct all of the labor and materials cost. We will have a big campaign for our students and families to turn out. The past two times we have done this have generated almost \$300 per hour of involvement. The staff members who participate will be on a committee that decide on what to do with the money for a school project. With the funding from last year, we purchased in class DVD players to use for educational media within the cla

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

February has arrived and along with it a lot of pink, red and white bulletin boards now adorn the halls of HES. Our enrollment as of today remains at 197 students which is the same as my last report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2009/2010 school year is 94.8%, this is up slightly from last month and we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

January was full of many exciting events at HES; among the highlights was the "Basketball Reading" party which took place on January 28, 2010 from 3:30pm-9:00pm. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ended on January 14<sup>th</sup> and we awarded 124 HES Students with Honor Cards at an assembly on January 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the honor card students we also gave out award certificates to 21 students who maintained perfect attendance for the entire first semester. We would like to extend A BIG THANKS to John Gould at Les Schwab Tire Center for partnering with us to reward HES perfect attendance students for their "Pride in Performance".

President's Day will be observed on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and there will be no school on that day, but "Freaky Friday" (the make up school day) will be held on Friday, February 20th.

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.

Have a great month!

## **Heppner High School**

- Winter sports are doing very well right now. Our girls and boys basketball are in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the conference with three games to go before the district tournament. Our wrestling team is also doing very well actually winning multiple dual team matches with other schools and we look like we may be a top contender in the district as a team as well- this is truly amazing considering it is just our fourth year of a program!
- We have targeted a handful of sophomore students to take the writing exam on the computer. The testing window opens in April, so I will keep you posted how this works and the level in which the kids perform as we learn this new way of assessing writing.
- I could not wait to get our number of Incompletes at semester to compare to last years Ds and Fs at 1<sup>st</sup> semester- and I really wanted to look at the improvement we made as a school with the same kids from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to semester this year with getting our students to passing marks of Cs or better. So here it is- some great numbers that will increase I am sure over the next couple of weeks working with students that need to reassess or turn something in that they were behind in for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester- but here are the preliminary numbers.

Last years 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ds and Fs 90 Ds or Fs and 56 students earned these 90 marks

This year's 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Incompletes 73 semester Incompletes and 42 students earning these marks- this is 17 more passing grades and 14 more students marking proficiency from a year ago

Here is the real improvement that illustrates progress with the same kids this year!!!!

Incompletes during quarter one this year 161 quarter incompletes with 103 kids with one or more incomplete at quarter

Incompletes during semester one of this year 73 semester incompletes with 42 students with one or more incomplete at the quarter

Wow! That is an improvement of 61 students getting their work done and showing proficiency from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to 1<sup>st</sup> semester, and we shaved 88 incompletes off that list from quarter 1 till now. This is a 55% decrease in the number of incompletes from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to 1<sup>st</sup> semester and a 59% increase in the number of students earning passing marks from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to the end of semester 1.

Congrats to our entire staff!!! I am so proud of these numbers and the work we as a staff have put together- I cannot wait to look at our OAKS scores through the second window. I am betting there is a correlation between what is happening in the classroom and our scores!

On the heels of our successful strides with proficiency, we made an incredible trip as a staff to Scappoose High School to look at the proficiency model and structure they have put in place- now this being their fourth year of implementation.

We took the trip on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and left the high school at 5:30am and drove to Scappoose and sat in classrooms for three hours that were specific to what our teachers wanted to watch. This was followed by a debriefing and sharing of materials over lunch with their staff and Principal. Then we all jumped on the bus and traveled home together discussing what we had observed and learned arriving back in Heppner at about 5:30pm that evening.

This trip was significant for two reasons- one, it was a chance for us to PLC for 10 hours on the road and discuss proficiency both before and after our experience- and two, it was a chance to reaffirm the GREAT things our school and district are doing with student achievement and teacher engagement!

Overall, the trip was worthwhile to say the least. We were able to see some good teaching and structure, and some good things that reaffirmed the path we are on with proficiency. I want to commend my staff for the commitment to the proficiency model! They spent multiple extra hours outside their contract time to reflect as teachers, and as a staff! That in itself is amazing and our school board needs to aware of the serious commitment that HHS' staff has made with proficiency.

- On a another note- I wanted to report that due to our commitment to the proficiency model as a school, HHS has been invited to participate in a grant opportunity called "Investing in Innovation" which is a federal grant that could really help our school with such things as personalized coaching, PLC cohorts, collection and reflection of design data, stipends for participation, and release time to work on classroom design. This grant will be submitted in part with a partnership between the Business Education Compact and Western Oregon University as well as a few hand selected school districts across the state. The grant will be submitted this spring and we will keep our fingers crossed and see where it lands in the near months. This is an exciting opportunity if the grant is funded. Our district and school could gain so much from a professional learning community that will focus on data review and systems implementation. We will keep you posted☺.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

1. Irrigon Elementary School Migrant Parent meeting. We had our first Migrant parent meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> with Yadira Gonzales the ESD Migrant director. We had at least 10 parents attend. Parents were informed on the Migrant program, the formation of a Parent Advisory Committee and a Parent Conference being held in Hermiston in March. Hispanic parents here in IES are getting involved.
2. Good Behavior Movie- At IES we reward student good behavior. We tell students at the beginning of the year that if they do not get any referrals for the entire semester they will enjoy a good movie with their friends. This semester 175 students were able to attend. We have a safe school. We teach good behavior to our students with our counselor. Almost every day in our announcements I announce the importance of positive social behaviors in school and at home. The staff and I have a student behavior plan of discipline, and it has been working for us these last two years.
3. Second Quarter Awards Assembly- On January 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrated our second awards assembly. We had so many parents and family visiting that one class had to sit on the gym floor. It was nice to see how many children received awards for academics and good social behavior. We are still going strong focusing on Reading, Writing and Math. This semester we will safely emphasize perfect attendance with our flu season almost over.

4. AR Reading Going Big- This last quarter we had the highest percentage of students reaching their AR reading goal of 100% or more. 176 students last quarter met this goal and of the 24 others they did more than half of their reading goal. The staff was amazed and very happy. IES was given free tickets to the Portland Trail Blazers games for doing their AR reading program, and every student who met 100% of their goal was given a free ticket to a Blazers game. Yet many students could not go because of family time and costs. So with ASB support, we are taking every child who met last quarter's AR goal to a Tri-City American Hockey game on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>. It's our way of rewarding them for a job well done.
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> OAKS Tests- The last week of January we started our second round of OAKS tests. We're confident, excited and expect the children to do very well. Good teaching is happening in every classroom. We are a busy little school. I love seeing children show what they know.

### **Irrigon High School**

Near the end of January and during the first week of February, we were able to hold two different assemblies courtesy of the Morrow County Community Foundation. First, Obo Addey and Okropong shared their African ancestry through music and dance as well as explaining the various traditional musical instruments and drums they were playing. During the course of their performance, they had several dozen students and staff out dancing...sort of. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their performance and were disappointed it ended (even though it went longer than scheduled)! The second event, which was only for the MS, was entitled 'ZooZoo' performed by the Imago Mask Theater. This was an excellent culture experience for everyone and again a special thanks to the Morrow County Community Foundation.

With a tremendous amount of help from the Knights Pride Booster Club, we have finally reached the point where we were able to break ground on our new concession and bathroom facility. The new facility will be located about where the concessions trailer sits during the fall sports season. We hope to have it far enough along by this fall to be able to utilize some or all of it. I will keep you up to date on our progress.

On Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are attending the annual career showcase in Pendleton. They always return excited and anxious to explore new career choices. Teachers will follow up with students in advisory about these careers and help them with additional research.

Earlier this month we held an ELL information meeting for parents. We had seven families show up for the event. During this hour long meeting, Mrs. Santillan, Mr. Chavez, and I discussed in detail the ELL program and the ELPA test. We also discussed how OAKS scores relate to the new graduation requirements.

On February 24, we will be having our second Red Cross Blood drive from 1 to 6 pm. We hope to beat our fall record by getting 40 units of blood, so if you are in the neighborhood please stop by and donate.

With the help of Ms. Lehmann, we have recently already added pep club to our current list which includes drama, art, and Key Club. We are in the process of surveying

students on what additional clubs they would like to see here. I hope to be able to add a few more in the near future to the list.

In the next two weeks, I will be taking a small group of teachers to Riverside HS and to Nyssa HS. The purpose of this trip is to provide teachers the chance to view and discuss best practices employed by teachers outside of our area in schools with similar demographics and to develop ideas that we can incorporate into our school/classrooms to further student education. At each site, we will be observing and meeting with several teachers, the administration, and students.

### **Riverside High School**

#### **TESTING UPDATE**

- February 8 – 11, 2010: Writing
- February 16 – 25, 2010: Math – 2<sup>nd</sup> time
- March 1-11, 2010: Reading
- March 15 – 18, 2010: Science

#### **RHS MUSIC**

The Riverside music department had a successful winter concert December 3<sup>rd</sup>, a week earlier than normal because of the hectic schedule here at Riverside. The choir performed the mini-musical “Christmas Time is Here” with solos from departing seniors Gabby Cox, Andrea Orozco and Evelyn Garcia as well as rising stars from the sophomore class, Mercaide Damitz and Nereida Navarro. The band continues to amaze their instructor with their willingness to play and perform. The hit of the evening was their performance of a medley of Christmas carols called “The Spirit of Christmas”. We will miss the two seniors in the group Atrayu Corpus and Jason Hendricks. The band is currently performing at home basketball games and look forward to attending the annual Tri-County Festival.

#### **MINI-CHEER CAMP**

Students from Sam Boardman Elementary and Windy River Elementary participated in the bi-annual Mini-Cheer Camp hosted by the Riverside HS Cheerleaders the week of January 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. During camp, the RHS cheerleaders taught camp participants Riverside cheers and a dance routine. The 30 mini-cheer participants performed at the RHS girl’s varsity basketball game during half-time on January 29<sup>th</sup> and did a great job!

#### **JR HIGH NUTRITION PROGRAM**

We are in our second year of working with Mrs. Joy Pritchard and the Oregon State University Extension Service’s Oregon Family Nutrition Program. OFNP works to educate and equip Oregonians to live healthy and active lives through nutrition education. Funded through the USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program, OFNP partners with schools that are 50% Free and Reduced Lunch and agencies that are 50% Food Stamp Eligible to deliver interactive lessons on food selection, preparation, and safety through fun, hands-on activities. Through this once-a-week program our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are learning that making better food choices and staying physically active help them grow and develop and have the energy they need to learn and play. They are also learning that staying physically fit helps them maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of serious diseases like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Some of the messages that our students have heard so far are “Breakfast

Boosts Brain Power”, “Make Half Your Grains Whole”, “Vary Your Veggies”, “Calcium Builds Strong Bones and Teeth”, and “Focus on Fruits.” The students report that they are having fun preparing and tasting new foods and learning how to eat healthier.

### KEY CLUB NEWS

- Key Club has been collecting funds to be submitted to the Kiwanis International Foundation for Haiti Relief, to date we have collected \$127.00.
- We are currently planning to send 8 students to District Convention over Spring Break in Seattle, WA.
- New officers have been elected; they are attending trainings and will be installed in May.

### Sam Boardman Elementary

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

	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 debuted their new **Buck & Elizabeth** songs at our all-school assembly. The new songs include “Rock in the USA”, “All Kinds of Pets”, “Story Book Characters”, “I like Games”, “Saving the Planet”, and the new hit single, “**We Don’t Want Bullies at Our School**”. This instant hit will be incorporated in Buck & Elizabeth shows all over the northwest. The evening concert was enjoyed by many! Students performed for

their parents, Buck & Elizabeth featured their puppets, and the evening performance was concluding with parents and students dancing to the "Boot-Scoot-Boogie".

**Site Council** noted the comments on our recently distributed 2008-2009 SBE State Report Card giving credit to the increase in number of students meeting or exceeding their benchmarks in both reading and math; the smaller than State average class sizes; and the modest improvement in student attendance.

Site Council members reviewed the results from our **bus survey**, considered each comment and came up with some great ideas.



**PLC/Data Team** time continues to support our school-wide improvement efforts! Second grade teachers were ecstatic to see the results of their common formative writing assessments. "We are good at our job, we know we make a difference, but we don't always see it!"

Results indicated that this PLC/Data Team exceeded their expectations in two of their three writing SMART goals.

Each month **community volunteers** present information to our kindergarten students. Recently they have learned about bus safety from MidCo Bus Company and fire safety from the Boardman Fire Department. Mayor Chet Phillips will be our guest speaker in February.

**PTO** will have their first ever Family Movie Night this Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. Admission is free but students must be accompanied by an adult. PTO will be selling concessions as well as promoting their Valentine Card sale. Students, teachers, parents can preorder a valentine card with either a heart shaped sucker or candy-kiss rose. Valentines will be delivered to the classroom. PTO parents are also busy preparing for a spring carnival make-over. Together we are making a difference at SBE  
**After-School Program update:** Our second round of OAKS is showing that our After-School Program is helping students reach their benchmarks! Students who meet their benchmark will be dismissed from Friday School. Students still needing support will continue with After-School and also be invited to Friday School. Friday School will start right after the winter assessments are completed.

**Wendy Appleton was recognized by Oregon Music Educators Association with award for "Excellence in Elementary Music Education"**. Mrs. Appleton is an outstanding candidate for this award! Letters of support gave her credit in outstanding music education, meeting the needs of students, community involvement, service, patriotism and advocacy by teachers, administrators, City Councilmen and the North Morrow Community Foundation. SBE and WRE hosted a social in her honor.



## **Windy River Elementary**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Party**

Friday, February 20, 2:30-3:15ish

Fourth graders invited parents in for a Science Parent Party this month!

They worked together on the following concepts:

1. Coal is an energy resource that is mined from the earth
2. Coal is a nonrenewable resource
3. Some places have more coal than others.
4. Some places have coal that is easier to mine than others.
5. Coal on the surface is easier to mine than coal that is underground.
6. Returning the earth to a natural form after removing coal is difficult.

To do this, parents and students were given two different types of chocolate chip cookies...one softish, one more crisp. The drill they used to mine the coal was a paper clip. There was a chart to record individual as well as class results. There were many comments as to the difficulty of mining! They also noticed how the earth was changed by the mining process, as well as how difficult it would be to return the earth to the natural form, and if this could actually be accomplished.

This activity was very engaging for both parents and students, and the complete activity will overrun into next week with final calculations and discussions taking place on Monday and/or Tuesday. This activity accompanies our studies of rock cycle, economics, and environmental issues.

### **Geography Bee**

Every year WRE does a geography bee. Students first try to compete in their classrooms, then those students practice with Mrs. Procter-Reece before school and a lunch recess. We then have a assembly where the top ten compete against each other. The winner of this group will then go on to compete against the state level.

**The top ten Geography Bee winners** are: Daniel Pacheco, Jordan Mashos, Lacey Mashos, Sergio Navarro, Abram Hernandez, Caleb Thomas, Wayne killion, Ariana Corpus, Rory Barresse, Shandon Sanders-Johnson.

**The top Geography Bee winner** is: Ariana Corpus

### **Knowledge Master Open**

WRE ended up second place in the state of Oregon and we only missed beating Sherwood Elementary by two measly points!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We will get them in the spring.



### **Obo Addy**



Obo Addy, an African drummer brought with him an abundance of energy in the exciting sounds of African and other modern mixes of American and African music. WRE students were mesmerized by the performance; it was an eye-opening, rejuvenating and happy event for all. Obo also spent two days with the sixth grade teaching them rhythm using African drums. Obo Addy currently teaches music at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He travels throughout the country conducting teaching residencies and performing both solo and with his performing group.

### **Penny Drive**



#### **WRE SHOWS COMPASSION FOR HAITI:**

Student Council has gotten together and would like WRE to do there part in showing support for the people of Haiti. Starting Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and running through Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a coin drive, all proceeds will be donated to the HAITI Relief. The TEAM (and the student representative of the classes if it's a grade level team) with the least amount of points at the end of the 2 week drive will have to KISS A PIG in front of the entire school at our February Student of the Month assembly.

### **Pizza Party**

Windy River has their annual cookie dough fundraiser for the fall and Mr. Keefer's class sold the most cookie dough so their class received a pizza party.

### **Students of the Month**



<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Theme - Citizenship/Patriotism</b>
Beagle	Eloy Hernandez	Jordan Mashos	Juana Martinez
Boor	Vizta Sifford	Katie Gilbert	Jason Navarro
Browne	Lacey Mashos	Dixita Ghising	Marvin Calvillo
Foster	Abigail Hernandez	Kaylee Wade	Lisa Finley
Wainwright	Brandon Strickland	Natalie Melendez	Daniel Miranda
Dames	Manuel Herrera	Neira Rodriguez	Eric Pacheco

Keefer	Sergio Farias	Morgan Winchester	David Rodriguez
Prindle	Luz Ibarra	Jesse Hibbits	Yoselin Ayuso
Strebin	Juliana Guzman	Sergio Navarro	Ariana Corpus