

Principal & Director Reports

June 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

Writing in Olympiad

The third annual writing Olympia and closing ceremonies took place at ACH 6/2. Ribbons, bronze, gold, and silver medals were awarded to students for their writing achievement levels. This was part of our annual awards assembly, complete with the fanfare of the closing ceremonies. We present very nice medals to our students. Our writing achievement this year bumped another three points up to 83% of the students meeting or nearly meeting writing benchmarks at the fourth grade.

Accelerated Reader Celebration

On the last day of school, we will have the ACH version of Deal or No Deal. Students have worked hard earning Accelerated Reader comprehension points during the last semester. They will qualify for prizes during the celebration and my wonderful staff has created an opportunity for the principal to get involved in some diabolical mayhem for the entertainment purposes of the students. They are always very creative.

ACH Summer School

ACH will run summer school for the Irrigon area students with grades kindergarten-sixth grade. We expect approximately 125 students, migrant and benchmark studies to participate in this program. This program has been very effective at eliminating summer drop in achievement levels as compared to nonparticipating students.

ACH School Improvement Plan

We have completed our draft plan for school improvement for the 0809 school year. The writing team of Jill Wright, Brenda Kittleson and I put together this project after reviewing state assessment data and surveys for the 0708 school year. Most of our goal effort will be ongoing, recognizing the gains made with the Saxon math and expanding this program into our fourth grade. Reading continues to be strong and we will continue to push our process writing.

Heppner Elementary School

It is hard to believe that June has already arrived and that the last day of the 2007-2008 school year is only three days away. I guess the old saying is true, "time flies when you're having fun". Our end of the year enrollment for HES is currently at 193 students which is down one from my May report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2007/2008 school year is currently 96.04%. This is slightly up again from last month and can be attributed to the "Be At School, Be A Winner" contest which began February 19th. Any HES student with perfect attendance from February 19th through June 5th will be entered into a drawing for great prizes to be given away at our end of the year assembly on June 5th. As of today we have about 50 students still in the running for an award and as always we continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School. HES also finished the final round of TESA/OAKS Testing on May 22nd and I am happy to report that preliminary reports indicate that most of our students met or exceeded the benchmarks for their grade level.

May was full of many exciting events and field trips which took place at HES, with the highlights being the “Spring Musical Program” which was held on May 27th and the HES “Field Day and BBQ” that was held on May 30th. Both of these programs were amazing, and the students of HES were delighted with their opportunity to be a part of such spectacular events. Our 32 sixth grade students also had their High School Orientation on May 28th, and I believe it was a worthwhile and eye opening experience for everyone. The HES Student Council held a tree planting ceremony this morning to plant three new trees to replace the old cottonwood trees that had to be removed this past winter. With money which they had raised during the school year, they purchased the new trees and dedicated them to Heppner Elementary School.

I would like to end this months report by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and for your continued commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District. Have a great summer!

Heppner High School

- Mrs. Dickenson and her FFA cohorts held the 2nd Annual FFA Awards Banquet this month. It was very well attended and Mrs. Dickenson had it very organized.
- Our new ASB Officers have been elected for next year. They are as follows-
President- Sherilyn Peck
Vice-President- Emily Thompson
Secretary- Sarah Ballard
Treasurer- Maggie Armato
Assistant Treasurer- Lane Wright
Publicity Director- Grant Smith
Business Manager- Kaylee Helfrecht
- We held our annual GOAL Celebration with all of our seniors doing very well with their presentation- using a cross section of community members, students, and staff.
- Our students made their annual trek to the Tri-County Band festival where they participated and competed in an array of activities.
- Kristen from the Forrest Service brought a group of inter-agency personnel in to discuss their Career Camp with our junior class students. She and her team stopped by all three schools and put on a presentation, looking to gain interest. I have been talking with Kristen and her boss about changing the dates in the fall starting it on a Saturday and going through Wednesday instead of Wednesday through Saturday. This will enable more kids to apply due to late week conflicts with other extra-curricular activities. Sounds like it will be a go for next year and we are looking forward to this opportunity for all Morrow County School District students.
- Our annual Shop Skills and Technology Student Association competition was held at BMCC this month. HHS was well represented at this event and it was fun to see the success of so many that participated.
- Our spring play, Pillow Talk, a comedy- was a good one involving many students. Our drama program works hard on their spring production and it showed as they put on three performances.
- I have held numerous meetings with parents concerning our drug and alcohol free after graduation party for seniors. Our parents and myself have worked very hard on pulling this event off, and it should be great fun. It runs from 7pm until 5am.

- Our 2nd Annual Mustang Mop Up was held on May 1st. It was a huge hit again where our students accomplished more than 57 civic service learning projects. There was a nice article in the paper covering the event and our students worked very hard in making the day a success.
- Please view the photos attached.





Irrigon Elementary School
5th Grade Watershed Day:

On May 1st all our fifth graders went to the watershed area in Hermiston. There the ESD set up teachers to teach about many things relating to outdoor science. Students enjoyed the outdoor seminars with hands-on experience. It definitely was worth our time!

Outdoor School:

From May 5-8 we had four days of Outdoor school in three feet of snow. The students enjoyed seminars of outdoor experiences while having snowball fights. We worked and had fun. Plus we had great food to eat. Rest was minimum, but we managed with only one minor injury. Next year I will have experience and more help with planning and activities.

Fifth/ Sixth Grade Concert:

On May 20 we celebrated our Spring 5th/6th grade band concert at IES. We had over 125 spectators attend and the children played very well. Our local IES Parent – Teacher Organization provided refreshments and everyone had a great time. Mr. Jeff Searles, our band teacher has done a wonderful job as our music teacher. Next year he will be full time at Irrigon High School. We appreciate all that he has done for our students at IES.

IES Sports Expo:

On May 28 we completed the first IES Sports Expo. The purpose of the Sports Expo was to promote family/ school involvement, generate physical activity between family and friends. We had community representation from the Irrigon Wrestling program, the football program, the Oregon State University Nutrition program, the school P.E. coach doing a basketball shot contest, and our Title I teacher provided a nice brochure for parents explaining our Title programs at IES. All in all, we had a fun time and provided information about the school.

IES Awards Assembly:

Last month many children received award certificates for reaching their Reading and Math Benchmark scores. Teachers also gave out special awards to students who were notable in their character for attributes that their teachers admired. The Mayor of Irrigon, Mr. James Ray, handed out 8 skateboard awards for student who wrote essays about a piece of property in the city of Irrigon owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. Students have done very well. We hope to continue this success in the future.

Irrigon High School**Graduation**

The second annual graduation at Irrigon Jr. Sr. High School took place on Friday, May 30th. 49 seniors graduated and collectively earned \$295,946 in scholarships to date. State Representative Greg Smith was the guest speaker along with Sr. Class President, Davis Gordanier, Valedictorian Elise Ross and Salutatorian Laura Montes. The seniors were also presented a ceremonial American flag that will be flown on special occasions. This flag has been flown in Balad Air Base in Iraq in times of war. It was presented by the Maynard family to Irrigon Jr. Sr. High School. The seniors then left for an all night bowling event in Hermiston and then on Monday left for three days at the beach to celebrate their graduation.

2008-2009 ASB Elections

Congratulations to the newly elected ASB office, Kayly Abercrombie, Dustin Osborne, Jennifer Abercrombie, Breana Tolar, Levi Branson, and Logan Taylor.

Special Thank You to the Board

On behalf of the staff at Irrigon Junior Senior High School, I would like to thank the school board for all of their continued support. At times in the past five years of transition it has been difficult to “see the forest through all of the trees”. As we reflect back on what we had five years ago compared to now we understand that this could not have happened without your support. We have continued to have the support of the District Office and School Board. We have seen the support monetarily as well as by your actions. We have seen our facilities upgraded and our staff grow. We have added programs and opportunities for the students of Irrigon. The three greatest areas of growth have been the sports facilities upgrades, the addition of the PTE program, and the continued support through development of policies.

PTE program and facilities

- The new building has been in full use for one entire school year. Portions of the building have been in use for 2 ½ years now. The number of students benefiting from the program continues to grow. The evidence of this is seen again and again as our students go out and compete in regional and state competitions. They are gaining valuable skills for scholarship opportunities as well as job training.

Facilities projects:

- The numerous sports facilities upgrades were accomplished by community volunteers, the Irrigon Booster Club, and especially the School Board. The monetary contributions and support with the acquisition of grants and staff support. Whether it be the perimeter fencing, upgraded gym lighting, building of the soccer field, or the contributions towards the field lighting projects. None of these could have been accomplished without the strong support of the school board.

Riverside High School

CLASS OF 2008

On May 5th and 6th, staff and community members rated seniors on their exit interview presentations, a graduation requirement designed to demonstrate that the students were ready for the world of work.

Riverside will graduate sixty seniors on June 1st. Twenty three students, or 38% of the class, have passed their CIM; sixteen seniors, or 27%, graduate with a 3.5 GPA or above; twelve students, or 20%, are National Honor Society Members; and sixteen students, or 27% will receive an Honors Diploma.

Sixteen seniors had Perfect Attendance for one or more years. One year: Morgan Cowan, Patricia Madrigal, Bianka Munoz, Kenna Purcell, Leticia Rodriguez, Tamra Tovey, Vickie Town, Navid Zelaya. Two years: Issac Beagle, Beth Dirksen, Samantha Pedro. Three years: Caitlin Costello, Daniela Harrison. Three students, Amanda Kennedy, Jordan Mittelsdorf and Kayla Sullivan maintained Perfect Attendance throughout all four years of high school.

Thirteen seniors received the OSAA Scholar Award for earning a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA while earning a varsity letter in an OSAA sanctioned sport or activity—Daniel Hansen, Jordan Mittelsdorf, Caitlin Costello, Tamra Tovey, Yvonne Torres, Samantha Pedro, Bryce Doherty, Bianka Munoz, Kenna Purcell, Amanda Kennedy, Amy Grider, Issac Beagle and Patricia Cox.

Daniel Hansen, the school's valedictorian with a GPA of 4.0, received the Principal's Leadership Award.. This award goes to a senior who has excelled in academics, school service, community

service and who serves as a role model to his peers. The recipient must also demonstrate integrity, motivation, initiative and leadership qualities.

NHS INDUCTION

On May 14th the National Honor Society held its second annual Dessert for the Initiation of new members and the Installation of new officers. The guest speaker was retired SBE principal Susan Tolar.

NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

On May 19, Riverside High School honored over 100 students in grades 9-12 for academic excellence in all subject areas and for perfect attendance. Seniors who received their Certificate of Initial Mastery and members of National Honor Society all received special cords to wear at graduation.

MR. RHS

The annual Mr. RHS Pageant was held on May 24th. Two sophomore and two junior boys competed for the title. They were coached by a group of junior girls. Senior Calen Morelli performed awesome magic tricks while the judges' scores were tabulated. The winner, who had performed a Hawaiian hula dance was Tanner Wightman.

The proceeds of \$103 from the Mr. RHS Pageant were donated to a Special Needs Sporting Organization For Kids under the direction of John Guillan from Hermiston.

RHS CHOIR BRINGS HOME TROPHY

Riverside High School Choir students attended the Music in the Parks Festival at Silverwood Theme Park on May 17th and brought home a second place trophy.

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD WINNER

Riverside custodian, Tom Coffelt, received the 2008 Crystal Apple Award on May 14th. Tom was nominated for his excellent workmanship and unselfish service.

Windy River Elementary

Outdoor School

The sixth grade classes had a great time at Outdoor School. Throughout the week students participated in classes that revolved around the outdoors; learning about wilderness survival and first aid, wildlife, trees, water, the rock cycle, and much more. The weather was nice for a couple of days but we had a day and a half of rain making for a muddy camp. When asked what the best part of Outdoor School was, students answered with a resounding "CAMPFIRE!"



May Students of the Month

May	Academics	Academics	Theme - Respect
Beagle	Catherine Groce	Joe Amaral	Jesus Zuniga
Boor	Alonso Nieto	Tammie Meyers	Juan Torres
Browne	Janet Lomas	Elijah Conlon	Luis Claustro
Chapman	Zoey Gomez	Sergio Navarro	Ryan Ibarra
Cox	Brodie Davis	Rene Ramos	Jesus Pacheco
Dames	Humberto Lopez	America Ayuso	Jeny Mendoza
Gaede	Dixie Gonzalez	Aaron Muth	Stephanie Madrigal
Keefer	Lizeth Gayton	Julissa Sanchez	Silvia Gonzalez
Strebin	Jose Garay	Eric Ramos	Carlos A. Lopez



100% Classroom Attendance Winners

Classroom Attendance Award Winners for the Month of May:

- May 5th-May 8th: Mrs. Cox with 99%
- May 12-May 15th: Mrs. Cox with 98%
- May 19th-May 22nd: Mrs. Chapman with 97%
- May 27th-May 30th: Mrs. Chapman with 99%

Monthly Attendance Award Winner for May

Mrs. Chapman's class with an average of 96%.**Great Job!!**

WRE average attendance for the month of May:

94.25%

Perfect Attendance Winners for May:

4th Grade: 40 Students

5th Grade: 36 Students

6th Grade: 49 Students

AR Skate/Slip n Slide Party

On May 21st 69 students attended a skating party at George's Skate Center in Hermiston in celebration of meeting their AR Reading goal. Students who reached their goal three out of four quarters were rewarded with an afternoon of fun and skating for their hard work. On May 28th students who meet their 4th quarter AR goal attended a slip-n-slide root beer float party for the afternoon. Students work very hard all year long on their reading goals, taking tests and trying to achieve an 85% average all together. We love to see them grow and the AR program is a wonderful way for students to see their growth on each test, each quarter and end of the year. All students who meet all 4 quarters of their goals will receive a certificate at the end of the year awards assembly the last day of school.

Pool Day

On Thursday, May 22 Windy River went to the Pendleton Aquatic Center. This was a school wide activity and all the students and staff got to enjoy the overcast sky and breezy, windy conditions. The students didn't care and had a great time splashing and swimming in the pool while the staff stayed warm and dry watching from the sidelines. We did have a few brave staff that went swimming though!

6th Grade Visit to RHS

On Thursday, May 29, 2008, Windy River Elementary 6th grade students were afforded the opportunity to tour Riverside Junior/Senior High School in the capable hands of the Leadership Class in preparation for their upcoming seventh grade school year in the fall. Numerous questions about interaction with the high school students as well as questions about lockers, shop, and lunch were answered by the vice-principal Donna Barton and counselor GAnn Thomas. Of particular concern were questions about class schedules, changes to schedules, seventh and eighth grade sports opportunities, and failing core subjects.

5th Grade Overnight Field Trip to the Fossil Beds

Mr. Keefer, Mrs. Browne, Mrs. Sanchez, and Mr. Jones took fifty-three 5th graders from Windy River to the John Day Fossil Beds May 29th and 30, 2008. The bus was loaded up and left for the Clarno Unit around 9 AM. (Only one student in the back got car sick). We took a hike around the cliffs and rock formations in that unit. The students were able to look with their eyes and learn how to learn with out touching. It drizzled a little, but we enjoyed the scenery and ate lunch. We travelled to Fossil High School in Fossil, Oregon. There we investigated the history of the land and the changing landscape. Due to the wet spring, the Fossil Beds were closed to digging. However, the superintendant of Fossil gave us permission to dig in an area that had fossils recently dug up, and the kids enjoyed looking for fossils. We then loaded up and travelled to the Painted Hills and looked at the scenery and the students wrote Diamante Poems about what they saw. After a long day we headed to Dayville to sleep in the ever famous haunted gym. Mrs. Browne said she heard strange noises in the night but Mr. Keefer said it was kids crying from homesick and some kids talking in their sleep. Anyway, haunted schools and strange noises make's for a better story. Cow bell awakening and off we go to the Blue Basin and take a hike around that area. Students see fossils in the ground and learn about how the runoff water is not a normal clear color. We then tour the museum, eat lunch and head home. The trip went well overall. The kids were exposed to regions they would never see. The students were able to learn what it means to

respect nature, see how the world evolves, and learn how to dig to understand the world over millions of years ago. The students were able to keep their fossils and share them with others. In a nutshell the students had a good time and we only had two students throw up on the trip. Students were able to learn that Paleontologists are finding mammal fossils, so where are all the human fossils? Mrs. Browne and Mr. Keefer would like to thank Morrow County School District for allowing our students to experience this wonderful adventure. We would also like to thank Mr. Jones AKA (bus driver) for driving the horse trailer with the gear. We are striving to make this trip more interesting and more adventurous in the years to come.

End of the Year BBQ

We will have our traditional end of the year BBQ for students, parents and staff on Tuesday, June 3rd. Everyone looks forward to it and we have many parents who come and eat lunch with their children that day.

End of the Year Photo

The end of the year photo will be on Wednesday, June 4th and it is when we get all our students and staff together and take a picture of them. We try to take it from the front of the school and it is interesting to try to get everyone to look at the camera at the same time! We have been doing this since Windy River opened its doors and the students enjoy looking at them from the past years. This is one tradition that we hope to continue.

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for April

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Jordy Mendoza Samantha Nova Andrea Olguin	Roberto Calixto Cesilia Garcia Erick Zamora	Gunnar Livingston Aiyana Guerrero Cristian Rea	Zenia Pena Brian Franco Eric Medrano	Ms. Eckman 96%
K/1st	Angel Torres Austin Aune Kelly Ashe	Emmanuel Barrera Junior Ayala Kloe McAllister	Isabella Garvoa Lisette Sanchez Julian Jimenez	Nadale Papineau Blake Davis Trustin Winn	Mrs. Wilson 94%
1st Grade	Estrella Davila Francisco Chavez Jessica Rodriguez	Lilly Davila Christian Murguia Adolfo Martinez	Tony Rivera Vanessa Chavez Dakota Durfey	Tiffany Akers Stephany DubryKadrian Turner	Mrs. Harjo 95%
2nd Grade	Kaleb Caudron Zuleyma Medel Luis Gonzalez Maite Nova	Yoselin Ayuso Aramis Corpus Skylar Wightman Hector Ponce	Lisa Finley Lizeth Zuniga Vivian Garay Ana Barajas	Ulises Calvillo Jesse Hibbits Angelica Perez Marcalina Reymundo	Mr. McClenahan 95%
3rd Grade	Alex Velasquez David Rodriguez Jordyn Schaible Nick Salinas	Kassidy McCullough Sadie Hasbell David Sommerville Eon Castillo	Marino Pena Edgar Barrera Josue Calvillo Emily Sepulveda	Rubi Salazar Cecila Garcia Roberto Hernandez Joseph Muniz	Mrs. Raible 98%

OAKS/Writing/ELPA Assessments: Preliminary reports in reading, math, writing and language development show progress and overall scores up from last year. Off grade MAPS confirm growth across the grade levels.

School Wide Planning: Site council completed the Schoolwide Compliance Checklist review for the year, including topics such as: Parent Involvement Policy, Calendar of Events for Parent Involvement, Teacher-Student-Parent Compact and SBE's student discipline plan. Parent surveys and student attendance were also discussed. Site Council will recruit

teachers to participate in the COSA sponsored Professional Learning Community training offered next January.



American Dream Third grade students gave two **outstanding performances!** The audience was mesmerized with this musical presentation. Historic tributes were made through first person narratives and lyrics.

End of the Year Activities:

OMSI – Wild Weather presentation
AR Roller Skating – for students completing at least three quarter goals
3rd Gr. The Dalles – Oregon Trail Museum
Swim Trips – water safety then pool trips
SBE Choir presented for HES
Student Council visits RHS’s Council (pictured here)



Celebrating Retirees: SBE staff honored these long time dedicated ladies with a brunch, cards, gifts, laughs and tears.



Lola Davidson can adjust to any and is very efficient. **Kathy Hyder** is outstanding head cook who enjoys the benefit of a smooth running kitchen her staff. **Shirley Donovan** goes above and beyond. All three are friendly and welcoming. They will be missed by students and staff.
Mary Gressley Grow We are grateful Mary’s professional contribution to the program. The fine program model we today is because of dedicated professionals like her. Thank you
Please Join Us: You are invited to annual **Community BBQ** on



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Mary!
our

Thursday, June 5th. Serving begins at 11:00.

Morrow Education Center

As we wrap up the school year at MEC it is once again a pleasure to report the happenings of our program. Thursday night, in front of a full house we watched 32 graduates receive their diploma's and begin the next journey in their lives. Dave and I are often asked to describe success in our program and I think we both would agree that we had 32 individual definitions of success stand before us Thursday night in the Irrigon Elementary gym. Our male student of the year has applied to ITT Technical Institute, we have one headed for culinary school in Portland, numerous graduates who will be attending beauty school, one who will be working as an apprentice to become a tattoo artist, and a number of them who will be shipping off to boot camp in the fall. In many respects these young men and women have already succeeded. They have overcome outstanding odds and have reached with great strength and pride to accomplish their goals. We wish them all the best of luck!

At the end of the day we served 255 students and 1 bull snake throughout the school year—190 Morrow County students and 65 Umatilla students. We will end the year with 99 students enrolled. Recently, I sent an email out to all district staff who played a role in building the success of this program—within the email I spoke of remembering to “Thank” the passer. Coming from a basketball background it is easiest for me describe in basketball terminology. Often the athletes who obtain the recognition are those who score the most points in a single contest or over the course of a season. Yet, lost in the shuffle of competition is the “passer”—the person who was willing to give up his or her opportunity for the lime light in order to pass the ball to someone who may have a better chance to score and win the game. The passer is really the hero here! John Wooden, the famous UCLA basketball coach used to make every person who received a pass from a teammate in a scoring opportunity, show his teammate respect by pointing at him after a great pass which led to a basket. Dave and I would like to take a moment to point at the district staff and our adjoining communities who have been great passers over the year. They have set these kids up to be in great scoring position.

Dave and I have enjoyed the past year in the classroom here at the Morrow Education Center, and have welcomed the daily challenges that go along with serving this population of students. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of the Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.