

# Principal & Director Reports

December 2009

## AC. Houghton Elementary

**ACH elementary earns Strong rating for our school report card (by the old rules) again from the State of Oregon.**

ACH, recently received notice from the state of Oregon that we had missed being declared an exceptional school by only two points. Parents are receiving a report card in the mail that shows that we got 88 points from all of the rating categories where 90 points equals exceptional school status. The interesting quirk is that the Legislature changed from five categories of performance, which included the strong, to only three categories, exceptional, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory. Clearly, going to three categories does not allow recognition of schools that are doing a very good job and the recognition they deserve. We are very proud of our students, staff and parents who work together to achieve good things for our students. We are all going to keep up the good work.

## **Ski program Information out to Parents**

During the week of November 17, we held meetings at Irrigon Elementary, Windy River Elementary, Riverside High School, and Irrigon High School to Distribute Information about the 2010 Morrow County Ski Program. For the past 15 years we have run a program for skiing and snowboarding at the Spout Springs Ski Area. Fourth graders and up can ski without a parent participation. On November 23, we held a meeting in the ACH cafeteria for the purpose of program registration and information distribution to parents and snowboarders/skiers. The program will be for Saturdays in January/February beginning after Christmas vacation. They will run consecutively from the first Saturday we are back after vacation through February 6, skipping the weekend containing Martin Luther King's birthday celebration. The schools above have registration information for interested students and parents.

## Heppner Elementary School

It is a privilege to once again report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that November has ended and December is already here. Our enrollment as of today is 195 students and our attendance percentage for the year is 94.1%. While the attendance percentage is lower than usual at this point in the year, a lot of the absences can be attributed to illnesses and the extra precautions being taken due to the H1N1 recommendations that have been distributed this year. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff and I are proud to announce that **116** HES Students recently earned Honor Cards for the first quarter of this school year. Each student had to maintain positive grades, behavior, and citizenship to be eligible and they received their certificates at an assembly on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to the local businesses who support the Honor Card program, as HES Students are able to receive special rewards from several participating businesses around town by showing their Honor Cards! We also had **40** students with perfect attendance for the first quarter of this school year. The first round of OAKS testing is complete and our results indicate another strong showing by HES Students.

There are a couple of important upcoming events for your calendars. The HES Music Students are teaming up with the HHS students and will be presenting the winter musical "December Around The World" on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 starting at 6:00pm in the HES Gymnasium. The HES "Title Family Game Night" is scheduled for Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30pm in the HES Cafeteria. Please feel free to come join us for snacks and enjoy a fun filled evening playing family favorite board games. I would like to end this months report by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School and for your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

### **Heppner High School**

- Our fall drama program It's a Wonderful Life has taken place and it was a hit with three community performances as well as a student body performance. There were over 20 participants and by all accounts the play was a large success packing out the stage seating every night.
- Our Project Graduation planning is off and running with senior water ordered and it will be here right after the first of the year. Paradise water out of Kennewick is the company that is making the custom labels and bottling the product.
- HHS' annual Veterans Day Celebration was incredible. Our local Veterans visited classrooms in the morning and the program and free lunch was a huge success. We had the most Veterans attend to date and it was enjoyable to all who participated.
- Our Senior Financial Aid/Scholarship night was well attended with over 40 parents. Our Aspire volunteer, Marsha Kemp has met with most of the seniors in aiding them to find scholarships and Eastern Oregon University did a nice job presenting material that is useful to both parents and students.
- Winter sports are off and running with high numbers involved in both basketball and wrestling. Our wrestling program has nearly 20 high school participants and basketball has 36 and 30.
- Here is some data that shows improvement at Heppner High School. I started looking at some 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade data to try and pinpoint our proficiency progress and holy cow- it became very clear that we are on the right track to success! Take in mind when looking at this, that we only have 225 students. We are pumped to say the least!

Last Year's Students with one or more D or F at end of Quarter 1 = 176 kids

This Year's Students with one or more Incompletes at end of Quarter 1 = 103 kids

Last Year's end of Quarter 1 (number of Ds or Fs) = 243 Ds or Fs

This Year's end of Quarter 1 (number of Incompletes) = 161 Incompletes

This information is exciting! We have 73 more kids making grades with Cs or above than we did at this time last year- with a net gain of 82 less Ds or Fs!!!!

- Our communities Christmas Light Parade was great with 5 floats entered from our school. This is another example of integration and involvement with the community and HHS.
- Our H1N1 Flu Clinic was completed on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. I believe we were the last school to get the clinic. We vaccinated nearly 2/3 of our student body.

- All students at HHS have completed their first round of OAKS testing in both reading and math. We are excited to see what the next two rounds will bring, but our 1<sup>st</sup> round results look good.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**IES Conferences and Book Fair-** On November 5, 6 we had our parent-teacher conferences, and had about 95% parent attendance to parent-teacher conferences. Parents were informed of the progress and OAKS scores of their child. At the same time, we had our library book fair and raised about \$1500 for more library books. We push reading lots of books with our kids in the AR program. Our Reading scores are getting better.

**Teacher Bob Carson-** Mr. Carson is back teaching in his classroom. He was not able to be in class at the beginning of the school year, but now he is much better. His fourth grade class is going very well. Students, parents and the staff here at IES are very happy to have him back with us, and he is feeling great.

**First Quarter Assembly Awards at IES-** On November 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our first awards assembly. Each teacher gave an award recognition for being notable in some way, and for the school mottoes of being Respectable, Reliable and Responsible. Other awards were given for the Art Contest, ESL, Title programs, P.E., Music, and Fund Raising efforts. We held back on Perfect Attendance awards due the flu season which we all know about.

**Sealants and Shots-** This month at IES we had the Morrow County Health Department sponsor the Tooth Sealant Program and the H1N1 vaccines at the same time. It was busy here at IES, but we were taking care of good health business for our student. About half of our student population got inoculated against the H1N1 Flu virus and about 60 had their teeth sealed to minimize tooth decay. Please give a big thanks to our health department.

### **ESL**

**New ESL District Plan-** The new ESL District Plan was modified reviewed and sent to ODE. It reflects the good academic programs and the interventions we are doing presently in Morrow County School District. My belief is that we will be able to make more progress and possibly make the AMAO's which includes AYP in every school.

**ESL Progress-** The district is focused on ESL teaching. We are faithful to our ESL curriculum. Many teachers are taking district provided classes on the Focused Approach. The ESL teachers are using the formative assessments called the ADEPT test encouraged by the State. The recent scores from our 08-09 AMAO reports have us focused in certain schools to make our instruction and interventions more precise as to giving specific ESL students more time of instruction. This will be our finest year yet.

### **Irrigon High School**

We had a strong turn out at our student led conferences at the end of the first quarter. We changed our location and format by having it in the gymnasium instead of the cafeteria as well as actually scheduling conferences. We were able to schedule about 150 parents with another 15-20 parents showing up at the door. All in all, it was well received by both parents and staff.

Our school wide field trip to different college visitations was huge success. Despite the long day, students learned a lot and were excited about the different possibilities. There were a lot of

good conversations about what it takes to get to college. This powerful event for students is made possible through our Gear-Up program and is something we hope to sustain long after our grant runs out in five years.

We have now completed our first round of OAKS testing and are currently working with teachers to analyze our results from our fall round of testing to find both successes and areas that are in need of improvement. Our numbers from this testing window are on par with where they were at this time last year. At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level we had 36% meet/exceed in mathematics, 43% in reading, and 35% in science. At the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level we were at 23%, 41%, and 33% respectively.

We held a school wide assembly last month recognizing our outstanding AR readers in the middle school as well as the entire honor roll students from first quarter. Before it was over, we had more people out on the gym floor than up in the bleachers. Each student received a certificate and a coupon for a free McDonald's ice cream. This was a great experience for everyone and felt more like a pep assembly with all of the excitement.

On Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the annual Irrigon Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony. Senior Ivan Estrada was recognized as student of the year. He is a three sport athlete whose 3.9 will serve him well as he pursues a career in marine biology next year. Ivan is a co-creator of our 'Weekly Knightly Knews' program and is the founder of our Key Club last year. Virgil Hausinger also received recognition as Irrigon's Safety Person of the Year. Congratulations to both!

## **Riverside High School**

### **STATE REPORT CARD**

The Riverside Junior Senior High School administration takes great pride in recognizing Riverside staff, students and parents for the valuable contributions made to Riverside Junior Senior High School during the 2008-2009 school year. The efforts were recognized by the State of Oregon and the Oregon Report Card. Students have been working hard to be proficient of the state standard and curriculum. The staff has aligned the curriculum to the standards and uses best practice teaching techniques to deliver the curriculum.

### **SAVING LIVES BY GABRIEL COX**

Even with all the people afraid of needles, Riverside High School's National Honor Society was able to put on a successful blood drive. Everyone was prepared to save a life on November 16th, as they filed in with an appointment or as a walk-in to the Boardman Senior Center.

"One pint of blood can save up to three lives," says Lisa Gallegos of the Red Cross. "Besides that, you get a mini-physical and you get to find out your blood type," says Shane Fritz, NHS advisor. "For a successful donation to happen, people need to eat regular healthy meals and drink lots of water, more than they usually do, the day before and the day of the drive as well as after the donation. Foods rich in iron are necessary, and nothing beats Cream of Wheat cereal or Raisin Bran."

NHS members helped schedule donors in advance, set up for and cleaned up after the drive, helped to sign them in, escorted the donors, and manned the canteen. Their hard work paid off with 41 successful donations that day.

One of the Red Cross employees called in sick that morning, so they were short-handed. "That resulted in a definite slow-down that was annoying but couldn't be helped. Optimally, a donation should take under an hour," says Fritz.

NHS would like to thank the donors for coming in; without them, the drive wouldn't be possible, and fewer lives would be saved.

### TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

New Promethean Board and ActivInspire program consistently being used in the classroom. Mrs. Cortez is utilizing this new technology for every lesson; ranging from Integrated 1 through AP Calculus. Every objective, lesson and in class assignment is done with the assistance of the Promethean Board. The program allows us to use different fonts, colors, shapes to help students recognize important terms, symbols in math. The class set of "clickers" helps with in class assignments and students are very motivated with the immediate feedback and data collection that is available with the program.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

The Riverside Drama Club will be present "It's A Wonderful Life" in the Richard L. Bateman Auditorium December 4,5,11 & 12, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. The RHS winter concert is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Richard L. Bateman Auditorium at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

### CONFERENCES

Second quarter progress parent/teacher conferences are Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 3:30 – 7:30 pm.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Key Club and Youth Advisory Council helped serve dinner at the first annual Boardman Community Thanksgiving dinner. Approximately 200 people were served dinner.

### Sam Boardman Elementary

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

	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Kinder</b>	Ivan Rodriguez Tyler Schneider Kevin Navarro Damian Garcia Siloe Barragan	Abel Chopin Brock Barret Octavio Estrella Daisy Torres Wyatt Wilson	Trinidad Mendoza Charlie Smith Makaila Lantis Giovanni Salas Anai Madrigal	Abraham Zapata Ivan Rodriguez Lisete Cisneros Juan Rodriguez Dayana Sepulveda	<b>Mrs. Christy</b> 88%
<b>1st Grade</b>	Hunter Leighton Paola Carrillo Yahir Colin Carlos Conchas	Hannah Payne Marco Landeros Ricky Davila Erick Zamora	Jose Ruiz-Nino Kennisyn Wilkins Jose Puerta Pablo Claustro	Jennifer Vazquez Ashanti Brister Will Keefer	<b>Mrs. Wilson</b> 95%
<b>2nd Grade</b>	Isabella Ganvoa Bianca Avalos Cesilia Garcia	Roberto Calixto Anthony Flores Jacob Hibbits	Zoey Gilbert Juan Frausto Eli Killion	Abel Estrada Christian Dominguez Jose Daniel Rodriguez	<b>Mrs. Files</b> 88%
<b>3rd Grade</b>	Estrella Daltoso Brenda Flores Jaqueline Amaya Juan Torres	Ana Navarro Nadia MendozaJanet Landeros Abraham Cervantes	Anthony Rodelo Viviana Garay Mario Madrigal Brandon Juarez	Lizbet Madrigal Monica Virelas- Garcia Ricardo Ramos Gisselle Rodriguez	<b>Mrs. Raible</b> 91%



**Enrollment:** 313 **Attendance:** The average attendance for November was 86.73%. We had a better-than-expected turn out for **parent conferences**. Parents were given our school survey on a clip board to fill out. Some completed them as they waited, some after their conference, and others completed their survey as they let their children shop at the Book Fair. We had over 150 surveys completed and experienced our best Book Fair yet! Parents are involved and students are reading! Does it get any better than that?

Sam Boardman hosted the first **H1N1 influenza school-based clinic** in our area. All SBE students were given the opportunity to be immunized. The clinic was also open to community preschool children, pregnant women and people with underlying health conditions. 186 people were able to take advantage of the immunizations.

Students in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade took advantage of a **FREE** dental screening offered by the School Dental Sealant Program. In May a team of dentists will return to SBE to “SEAL in a SMILE” with **FREE dental sealants**. A wonderful opportunity to prevent cavities before they get started!

Students and staff were privileged to honor over 25 veterans for **Veterans Day**. Student council members served as ushers and represented the school by giving each of our veterans thank you cards made by the students. It was indeed a special day for us! Many of the veterans were able to have lunch with the students and spend time in the classrooms.

**Citizenship and Patriotism:** Citizenship requires doing our share for our community and our country. Being a good citizen means caring about the good of society and participating actively to make things better. Students at SBE are collecting cans for the local food bank. By bringing in their pennies to purchase items for families less fortunate, they learn that the little things add up.

Teachers embraced a local family that lost their house to fire by bringing in loads of items. The school distributed 200 copies (100 English/100 Spanish) of the book, “Helping Your Child become a Responsible Citizen” to parents. Together we **do** make a better community!

Even with our **Harvest Feast** being postponed due to the power outage, we had an



outstanding turnout! 581 people enjoyed



the great meal, the outstanding service by community leaders, and their conversations with students, family, friends, teaching staff and community members.

**New After-School Program:** All third grade students needing additional practice and support to help them meet their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade benchmarks were invited to our new After School Program. Teachers consider students' individual needs and make use of computer programs such as PLATO, Study Island, and Read Naturally as well as AR time and tutorial support to give students their best support. We are excited about the potential impact for our students!

**Site Council and the Parent Club** actively recruited two parents from each classroom (one English speaking and one Spanish speaking) to serve on a new parent council version of Parent Club. This week's meeting will focus on finalizing the activities and projects they would like to accomplish this year.

Mark your calendar! **Buck and Elizabeth's Evening Concert** is on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> in the gymnasium. Students will be debuting their new songs. This concert is guaranteed fun for everyone!

### Windy River Elementary

#### Reading Day and Scholastic Bookfair



Windy River had their first book fair for the year, starting on Nov. 3 and it ended on Nov. 12. We had a link for the book fair to preview the selection on our WRE website and also had a reading day on November 6th to kick off the start of the week. This was an all day event for students and we invited parents to come read and have lunch with their children. This was a great opportunity for parents to come and check out what we had for sale at our book fair and it turned out to be our best book fair for WRE!

#### Chess Club

WRE has started a chess club and they meet every Monday afterschool in the library. So far we have about 20 students playing chess. I would like to thank Sean Ferguson, a student at Riverside, for volunteering his time to help WRE students.

#### Student of the Month



NOVEMBER	Academics	Academics	Theme - Caring
Beagle	Elizet Sanchez	Shandon Sanders	Sinahi Torres
Boor	Brianne Bishop	Samantha Cabrera	William Simmons
Browne	Abram Hernandez	Jenny Rodriguez	David Sommerville
Foster	Gustavo Amaya	Jose Mendoza	Nahomy Claustro
Wainwright	Dania Zavala	Jonathan Lopez	Judit Castaneda
Dames	Emily Kirby	Neira Rodriguez	Manual Herrera
Keefer	Taylor Hamby	Sadie Hasbell	Sergio Farias
Prindle	Abigail Bozarth	Daniel Rodriguez	Katia Garay
Strebin	Maribel Lopez	Felipe Olvera	Ethan Ellison

### **WRE Fundraiser**

Here at Windy River Elementary we just completed our Fall Fundraiser. Our students sold Cookie Dough for the third year in a row, and it seems to do well for us.

Our Top Seller will receive an Acer Notebook. Second prize a \$50.00 Visa Gift Card, Third prize a \$25.00 Visa Gift card and Top Selling Classroom a Pizza Party. Our cookie dough will be in and sent home just in time for Winter Break and prizes will be awarded at our Student of the Month assembly on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Los Lobos Presidential National Honor Society**

Nine Students were inducted into membership of the Los Lobos Presidential Honor Society in a ceremony held at the school on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The nine students were: Kevin Madrigal, Misael Madrigal, Ruby Barrera, Aramis Corpus, Ivonne Navarro, Giovanna Hernandez, Emily Sepulveda, Wayne Killion, and Jordan Mashos.

To be eligible for membership considerations, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50. Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character. Members of Windy River's fourth, fifth, and sixth grades were evaluated and selected by the Faculty Council consisting of six members of the faculty chosen by the principal.

Leadership is based on the student's participation in two or more community or school activities, or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have been active in three or more service projects in the school and community. Citizenship is measured by the student's participation in civic-related organizations and/or activities. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty.



