

Principal & Director Reports

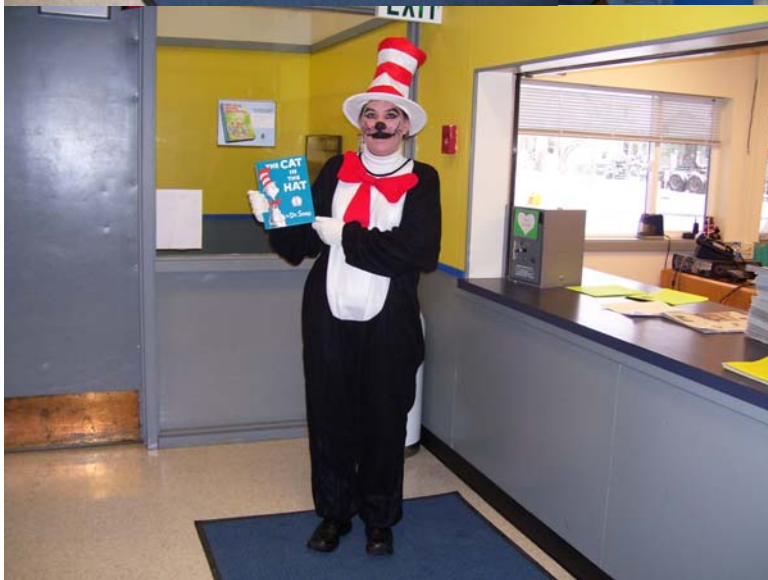
March 2007

A.C. Houghton Elementary

- Third and fourth grade classes sent in their writing samples to be scored. Fourth grade goes to state scoring someplace in the state for our benchmark school report card assessment and third-grade goes to the ESD for local scoring. The students and staff put so much work and preparation into this that it looks like they are sending their firstborn to be evaluated. The development of good writers over their years in school is truly a birth process. Each year students emerge with better abilities to communicate in writing which will have tremendous positive impacts in their lives and careers. We were very fortunate in our writing samples scored last year. We hope to at least duplicate what we did last year.
- On Wednesday, March 7 we had a demonstration in front of ACH of the technology potential for school security and for improving educational opportunities. Local agencies were involved demonstrating our school security camera system and its effectiveness of being able to observe unwanted intruders around and in our school. We also demonstrated the use of increased technology on our school buses for the purpose of tracking school bus routes through the use of GPS and improving bus safety with the use of real-time cameras in wireless Internet areas. We also demonstrated the possibility of wireless laptop use for field trips having students accessing wildlife web sites while down by the Umatilla Wildlife Refuge.
- The new community reader board at ACH is now up. We have still to install the wiring which we hope to complete by the end of the week. When it is up and in operation it will provide tremendous communication for local agencies and organizations to the community of Irrigon.
- We are into our second round of our Tesa benchmark tests. We are having some challenges with the stability of the state software. We will use the results of these tests to organize for final intensive preparation for our last assessments in May.

Heppner Elementary School

HES teachers sponsored a Community Reading Night in the gym in honor of the 50 yr anniversary of Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat." We had the Cat running around our building all day reading to kids. About 50 students and 20 parents showed up for the reading night. Mrs. Allen memorized the book Horton Hatches the Egg and recited it to the kids. For lunch that day the cooks served up Green Eggs and Ham. I might add that they were very popular.



If you did not get loved for Valentines Day then you must not have been at HES. The kids had a ball with all the activities planned for that day. It is amazing how creative kids can be with a heart.



Mr. Fox and Mr. Van Liew have been working very hard to put up the retaining wall on the lower elementary playground field. There will be additional work to get the field up and going in the next few weeks so that it may be ready for upcoming sports. The Cycle Oregon grant did not come through for this project so as it looks right now the old wall will be there for a while longer until additional funding can be found or saved up. I am still hoping to have the field nice so that the Heppner Chamber of Commerce can sponsor a summer music concert in the field.



HES 5/6 students are traveling to WRE for a writing festival. I know the teachers are excited about this. I am sure there is more information in Thad's report.

Heppner High school FFA is providing a petting zoo for the students at HES on March 8th at the fair grounds. The kids will have a chance to touch the animals and get a lesson on each animal from a high school student.

Heppner High School

- Our greenhouse is up and running and we are planning on selling some plants this spring to people that want them.
- Still working on School Improvement plan- looking at it with Site Council.
- Our bullying committee is continuing to meet and deal with kids that are being disruptive or bullying- have taken measures in dealing with kids during pass time and lunch- especially the Jr. High students.

- Have worked it out building a partnership to get some work done with several people that have equipment on our grounds.
- TSA Tech students are doing a great job of building our storage building on the track. Our community work day is to happen on Friday the 16th.
- Working on our budgets for next year and collecting request sheets from teachers, etc. to put this together.
- Winter sports have completed and we are off and running with spring sports.
- Our spring play production is Radium Girls and will be presented in April.
- Our TAG kids are making a trip to Seattle and our TAG Science kids are gone on a trip to the coast and OHSU.
- Working on Graduation and all spring time things that come up with this.
- We celebrated National FFA week during the week of the 5th. Our FFA group put on dress up days, held activities that included things to do during our Activity Period, Donkey Basketball on the 9th and a dance in the barn as well on Friday night.
- FBLA sent some students to a competition in LaGrande and several qualified themselves to the state competition.
- Several teachers are incorporating quite a bit of technology in the classroom. These two links may be of interest that Mrs. Marquardt and Mr. Palmer put together for their classes. <http://jasonpalmer.umesd.net> and <http://www.geocities.com/heppnercyberfair/CyberFair2007/>

Irrigon Elementary School

Parent Club: As of February 28th, IES has an established Parent Club. They established By-Laws and elected officers; President: Brian Snyder, Vice President: Maria Romero, Secretary: Michelle Luna, and Treasurer: April Linnell. The group will meet again on March 20th and hope to begin the process of planning projects and fund-raising to support the students at IES. Students who come to meetings with their parents get to enjoy Open Gym time supervised by volunteer high school students.

Bully Survey: Staff has developed an Action Plan based on survey results. The plan includes: Showing the movie, “Pay It Forward” with discussion time following, creating classroom connections between 5th and 6th grade classes, teaching and enforcing hallway expectations, and using “Second Steps” curriculum in all classes. These actions will help our students develop positive, helpful relationships with each other and diminish bullying behaviors.

Artist in Education: Thanks to North Morrow Arts Council, all IES students were able to learn cartooning techniques from cartoonist Bill Friday. All students met with Mr. Friday for one hour each day and learned to draw dragons, dolphins, and other cartoon characters. Mr. Friday also attended the Parent Club meeting and shared simple cartooning techniques with parents. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the time Mr. Friday spent with them and were sad for the two weeks to end.

Traveling Lantern Theater: Another big THANK YOU to North Morrow Arts Council for providing funding for the theater group to come to IES. The group, consisting of two actors named Greg, put on the show “Sherlock Holmes” with the assistance of our very own Kyle Blurton who they selected to play Dr. Watson. The production was outstanding and both actors were able to spend extra time with Miss Osterlund’s sixth grade students who are in the process of writing their own play based on Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*. It was a real treat to have them visit our school.

TESA: We have started our second round of State testing. All of our students know their important numbers and how many points of improvement we expect them to achieve. So far, the schedule is running smoothly and kids are trying hard.

Student Body Assembly: Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Thursday, February 15th. The following students were recognized by their classroom teacher:

Responsible

Karina Lomas, Leah Amell, Jessica Nava,
Jesse Carteras, Jordan Johnston, Andy Aguilera, Weston Pomeroy, Betsy Guadarrama

Respectful

Ryan Perrin, Kymberlee Bailey, Ted DuBry, Jenifer Gonzalez, Marcos Rosales,
Courtney Hubbard, Eric Vera, Sergio Cruz

Reliable

Ralph Garza, Gaby Villarreal, Hannah Meyers, Cheyenne Garrett, Alicia Martin,
Monica Longoria, Brittany Lesperance, Pedro Resendiz

Irrigon High School

2/15 Donkey Basketball was a tremendous success. Teams of staff, students, firemen and booster club representatives all participated. Sophomores earned about \$1500

2/24 Our 3rd annual Winter Formal was very successful. This was put on by the sophomore class.

3/22 Spring Concert is scheduled.

Perimeter fencing is done except for two front sections

Baseball and softball homerun fences are being built—paid for by Booster Club.

Softball dugouts are being built and paid for by Booster Club.

Writing tests are complete

Prom planning continues—Location, location, location

4/3 Graduation Meeting @ 7:00 AM

Girl's basketball Coach interviews were held 3/7/07

New custodians are in place: Head Custodian Lloyd Bowman from WRE, Custodian David Chavez

Winter Sports dessert was held in new format 3/6/07—Many positive comments about the new format.

4/11 Band festival

WR121 4 I.H.S. students taking BMCC course
ED 100, ED 280 10 HIS students BMCC Credit

4/14 Skate park dedication

4/16&17 Senior ICE Interviews 4-6:00 PM Need committee members

4/23 Best of I.H.S. 6-7:30. This event will showcase the arts and elective programs. Students will be performing and displaying their work. The groups will include the Art program, Drama program, Spanish classes, Shop classes, Music program, and the Computer classes.

Completed a successful wrestling season. The high school team had three members qualify for state. Mitch Freeman competed, Rosario Rios placed 2nd, and Frankie Torres was the champion. The junior high team also wrapped up their season and two members qualified for the middle school state tournament. The middle school team also received the sportsmanship trophy at The Dalles wrestling invitational.

Riverside High School

THIRD QUARTER PROGRESS CONFERENCES

Riverside will hold Parent-Teacher conferences for the third quarter progress reports on Thursday, March 8th. In an effort to inform and encourage parents to attend, Advisors will contact the parents of each of his/her Advisees to remind them of conferences. Conferences will be held in Arena Format. ESL and Migrant Programs will be reviewed with parents as well as the School Improvement Plan in both Spanish and English. Parents will also be encouraged to complete the district's online Parent Survey in an order to assess educational needs and safety concerns.

DRUG TESTING POLICY REVIEWED

School rules and specific expectations by individual coaches were reviewed with parents at the Spring Sports Parent/Coaches meeting on February 26th. Along with the usual policy reviews, parents were informed of the implementation of the Morrow County Drug Testing Policy in our first public meeting of the subject. Mark Jones reviewed the process with parents and asked for questions. We researched the questions that were brought up at that meeting. We used the district office, Heppner and Irrigon administrators to find answers to these questions and will report our findings to parents during conferences and will proceed as planned with the Drug Testing Policy next year.

8TH GRADE CAREER SHOWCASE

On February 14th Riverside 8th grade students had the opportunity to travel to the Pendleton Convention Center for the annual Career Showcase. While there students were introduced to Mr. Rick Griffin, a motivational speaker who talked to them about allowing their "light to shine through." He encouraged them to follow their hearts and dreams and emphasized that there was nothing in life that could stop their progress but themselves. Following the speaker the students were able to spend an

hour on the Convention Center floor exploring the variety of booths that were set up for them. Riverside was part of a diverse group of students that numbered over 335 middle school students.

When the students returned they were very enthusiastic about exploring different job areas that interested them. Besides fulfilling Oregon Law by providing career education opportunities that can be included in their educational plan and profile, this event allowed Riverside students to see that there are a multitude of careers and job related activities out there to fit their unique personalities. Mr. Grimes' Social Studies class discussed different aspects of the job world for the two week period leading up to the Showcase. The interviews were tied to jobs that the students had read about before hand and were used to further their knowledge and understanding of the area of interest. Ms. Brown's Language Arts class took the student interviews and turned them into a writing assignment that will be used as career education work samples to be included in the student portfolios. All in all our 8th grade students represented Riverside Jr./Sr. High School well and made everyone associated with this event proud. Without a doubt, we can look for great things to come from these students in the future.

RIVERSIDE WINTER SPORTS RECAP

Riverside had a very successful winter sport season. Five Riverside wrestlers competed at the state tournament. Junior wrestler, Daniel Hansen won both the league and a state championship.

The Riverside Varsity Boys Basketball team finished a strong 3rd only losing to the eventual state champion. Senior, Eric Yoder, was selected to the all tournament team, while Anthony Calvillo and Robert Turner were first team all league. Riverside High School came home from the 3A state tournament with the sportsmanship trophy for 3A boys. This was truly a combined effort of our team, the coach and our fans. Our pep band and cheerleaders did a great job at the state tourney also.

Though the girls basketball team had a hard time finding a win, they did finish in the top ten for Dairy Farmers Academic team in 3A girls.

The junior high girls basketball teams had a winning season and the junior high wrestlers are sending 5 to the state tournament. Brigham Hansen won his weight class and will be leading us to the tournament next week.

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

CITIZEN

7th Grade— Briton Hansen

8th Grade— Cindy McLaughlin

Frosh— Evelyn Garcia

Soph— Diana Calvillo

Jr— Daniela Harrison

Sr— Josh Parker

ACADEMIC

7th Grade— Araceli Sanchez

8th Grade— Whitley Reece

Frosh— Chase Simpson

Soph— Alfredo Alvarez

Jr— Berenice Morales

Sr— Joe Wedding

Windy River Elementary

February was a good month for staff and students at Windy River. Here are some of the highlights:

Our learning fair was held on the 22nd of February, we had a great turn out and the parents enjoyed themselves. We also had a chili haystack feed and a book fair for families to take part in. The displays

that the students and teachers made for our parents were excellent. One of the more popular displays of the evening was the student generated power point projects. It was a good evening for all who attended.

We held our student of the Month assembly on the 28th of the month with students receiving academic awards and good character awards for Respect.

You can see our students of the month in upcoming Morrow Times issue.

The most excitement event we have will happen on the 8th of March. Windy River is hosting the 5 and 6 grades from Heppner and Irrigon as we put on the Windy River Writing Festival. Author Rick Steber will give a presentation about writing and his life as a writer along with stories. The students will also rotate through special writing lessons from our own Teachers. We have very busy planning as this project; that is headed by Anna Browne. We are looking forward to great day of learning and fun.

Other events and happenings can be viewed on our Windy River website.

Sam Boardman Elementary

The month of February came and went in a flash and we are on to great things in March. TESA will be in full swing starting on the 12th. We are looking forward to the results. I believe that the raise in cut scores will not affect SBE's students very much at all.

Here are our February students of the month.

ACADEMICS	RESPONSIBILITY	RESPECT	SAFETY	
Cari Barton	Jonathan Lopez	America Ayuso	Nicolas Garza	3-Prindle
Lizzette Martinez	Angelic Perez	Jose Sanchez	Brandon Madrigal	K-1 Wilson
Nestor Ramirez	Jose Sanchez	Anthony Flores	Daisey Sanchez	K-Christy
Markus Smith	Paige Esterbloom	Kristen Frederickson	Gabby Alba	3-Jeppeson
Ivonne Navarro	Dustin Maddox	Laura Avila	Yoselin Ayuso	1-Harjo
Anthony Rodelo	Jena McCullough	Emma Finley	Estrella Daltoso	K-Ogden
Shelby Collins	Laura Afanador	Jorge Garcia	Jared Snyder	2-Hernandez
Wyatt Edens	Jessenia Hernandez	Victoria Landeros	Alicia Calvillo	1-Milton
Gabrielle Hicks	Ana Navarro	Eric Medrano	Riley Twidwell	K-Creazon
Nadalie Papineau	Miseal Madrigal	Yonatan Flores	Jose Rodriguez	K-1-Files
Karina Llamas	Neira Rodriguez	Aramis Corpus	Silvestre Vasquez	1-Harrison
Grace Wheeler	Esmeralda Fregoso	Vanessa Chavez	Gabriel Harper	K-Bigham
				2-
Aristotle Rockwell	David Rodriguez	Noah Shorter	Daniel Pacheco	McClennehan
Yaneri Calvillo	Akadia Sasser	William Simmons	Ricardo Mendoza	2-Campbell
Jose Olguin	Alexis Mendoza	Katie Wiese	Carmen Puerta	3-Bankston
	Kassidy			
Veronica Rodriguez	McCullough	Ahtziri Trujillo	Kassadie Harrison	2-Kennedy
Aileen Velasco	Kathy Cardenas	Arturo Flores	Natalie Melendez	3-Raile

I would also like to thank every member of our classified staff!! Without those individuals SBE would not be the great place that it is for staff, students or parents.

ELL Program

2nd Teacher Observations and Final Evaluations

All ELL teachers have been observed and given their final evaluations. All ELL teachers are doing well, and English instruction is focused to State Reading, and the ELPA tests.

AMAO District Improvement Plan

On the 5th and 6th of February, a team of ELL teachers and I went to the ESD to get training from the ESL State Director Carmen West in order to make an improvement plan to achieve our AMAO, (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives) as mandated in NCLB. We have finished a plan which is now in group review and then to be sent to the district administration and then to the Oregon Department of Education ELL director.

Family Education Nights

Our first two Family Education Nights were a hit! Irrigon Elementary School had about 50 people in attendance with parents, students and volunteer staff. Sam Boardman Elementary had about 30 in attendance. It is exciting to see parents who want to become U.S. Citizens and learn to speak English. Our Migrant Education partners are sending us extra adult support in both locations. Truly, family education is happening. Visit our evening programs Tuesdays in Irrigon, and Thursdays in Boardman.

Evaluations of ESL Secondary Curriculum

The three secondary ELL teachers and I have evaluated several curriculums presented to us by the ODE curriculum caravan, and we have decided on Visions published by Thomson/ Heinle. In a narrative submitted to me, our teachers say, "After reviewing the options available to us, we find the Visions series best serves our needs. It is laid out in a logical progression which systematically teaches grammar, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills." I agree with them, one hundred percent.

Parent Action Committee (PAC)

It has been our goal to get maximal parent involvement with all parents especially our Spanish speaking parents. Many times their limitation of English does not provide the avenue for parents to interact with other parents if the conversation is in English. To help remedy this situation, I have discovered already in our school system the parent support group thru Migrant Education Title IC. This group is called the PAC for Parent Action Committee. With district support and help with the ESD, I have started our first PAC group in Boardman. According to the Umatilla / Morrow ESD, this parent group has guidelines and by-laws to adhere to. They will be our Spanish speaking parent group that will represent parents whose children are in our Title IC and Title III district programs. On February 26 at SBE we had 12 parents in attendance to their first meeting. A president, Paulo Lopez, was appointed. Next was Nubia Romero vice-pres., Emelda Dominguez, tres., Marina Frias, Paula Lopez, Nancy Esparza, and Gumaro Conchas members.

Migrant Education Student Focus

In our Title I-C program with the consortium with the ESD, we have been working with Carol Gray to focus on giving services to every identified migrant student with a classification of "High Priority

Needs” student. We have allocated funds from the ESD to hire temporary instructional aids who will give academic support to every identified migrant student in our schools. This also prepares us for future audits in Title 1-C.

ELL Director and the Boardman Administrative Change

Change is good. That’s my new saying. A wise and calibrated move has been made. We don’t know the future. And as humans there is always some uncertainty and hesitancy with any change. I have determined with intrepidity of heart and faith to work with my utmost capability for the success of these changes. This change may be the most important decision that has ever been made.

Morrow Education Center

We begin the month of March with 88 students enrolled at MEC, 49 of which are Morrow County students. Second semester is in full swing and students seem to be enjoying the second semester schedule at MEC. Due to popular demand we have continued our weight training class in the afternoons along with Plato instruction in the MEC computer lab. We just completed the state writing assessment testing last week, and we are looking forward to see how the MEC students tested in this area.

The staff here at Morrow Education Center continues to place great emphasis on the goals set forth by the board, as well as the development of self-determination and self-advocacy skills needed to make a successful transition from high school to adult life. One of our many goals continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all students to thrive in. We appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.