

Principal & Director Reports

March 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

East Oregon Symphony

Today, 3/3-the fourth grade will be going on there annual trip to Pendleton for a concert given by the East Oregon Symphony. This is one of our annual field trips. This is done at the fourth grade level and is part of expanding experiences for students as they get older.

Carnival Month Change

The annual ACH Carnival will be held on April 10. This is a time and month change from mid-March to schedule around activities and other school involvement.

Grade Level Meetings

During the course of the year, we have three types of grade level meetings that rotate from month to month. In a typical month, the first meeting of the month will contain our Open Forum meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss topics for problem solving for general staff issues. During the balance of the month, we will have at least two other grade level planning meetings to coordinate work done on our three basic skills, math, reading, and writing. These three curriculums are tightly coordinated with scope and sequence plans. The grade levels will track from lesson to lesson progress in reading which results in students changing groups appropriately based on their advancement, or they will track benchmark completion in math and writing. The general focus of curriculum has got to be completion of benchmark teaching by mid-May when state assessments occur in the third and fourth grade. For kindergarten through second grade the benchmark focus is the balance of the school year.

Benchmark Testing

We are currently in the reading phase of midyear benchmark testing. This will be followed by a math for grades three and four. Following this testing, we will be holding conferences with the parents of students not yet passing for enrollment in our benchmark preparation classes which are part of our After-School Program. This year we are going to increase the student/parent accountability part of this by having a written notice or agreement for student participation or a parent's signoff recognizing that they are declining this extra assistance to reach benchmark passing status.

Heppner Elementary School

It is once again a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. March has arrived and as of today our enrollment at HES is 190 students which is down one from my February report. Our current attendance percentage for the 2007/2008 school year is 95.6%. This is up from last month and could be attributed to a new challenge/theme "Be At School, Be A Winner" 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 always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

February was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, with the highlight being the “Smart Hearts Health Fair” that was held on Valentine’s Day. This awesome event was a great success and I would like to say **Thank You** to all of you who were involved with this spectacular educational event. I have received many positive remarks from some of the families who attended and it appeared that everyone who did attend really enjoyed family time together during this evening.

Get out your dancing shoes for “Steppin’ Out With The Family”! On March 7th the HES PTC is hosting a dinner and dance for families and friends of HES from 6-9pm at the HES Gym. If you would like more information about this exciting event please contact Brandi Sweeney at 676-9128. The end of the third quarter is just around the corner, with March 20th being the last day of this quarter. Spring Break for students will begin on Friday, March 21st and school will resume on Monday, March 31st.

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.

Heppner High School

- We held National FFA Week in our school this month. Mrs. Dickenson did a great job organizing activities to promote the FFA during activity period. Kids did things like bob for apples, be in a clothes relay, and spit sunflower seeds in the form of a contest- was fun and very well attended.
- We held a meeting with interested parties to discuss starting a FFA Alumni Association here locally. There were many people that favored this idea and Mrs. Dickenson has set up another meeting to discuss this further on March 19th @ 7:00pm in the AG classroom.
- Both our boys and girls basketball teams made it this year to the state playoffs with our girls placing 6th at the tournament in Pendleton and our boys losing in a tough fight to Lakeview in the sub-tourney. Our girls were also recognized by winning the sportsmanship trophy at the state tournament.
- Josie Miller has been slated as a FFA State Degree recipient. She did us proud and is the first one in since the program has been resurrected! Congrats to Josie.
- Troy Morgan- our new head wrestling coach has worked hard in getting his staff and Colt wrestling going this winter. They are just finishing up with that program and they nearly have 30 little kids involved. Fun stuff to say the least!
- The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an Irish Smoker amateur boxing event in the gym at HHS on March 14th at 8:30pm. They have filled out a facility use form and have liability insurance as well. The Heppner Day Care will be hosting concessions as a benefit for their organization as well.
- Our Drama tryouts were this month and the drama club is working hard on this springs presentation of Pillow Talk- a comedy. Presentations will be April 23rd, 7pm- April 25th, 7pm- April 26th, 7pm- and April 27th, 1pm.
- Our webpage has been updated completely this month and Erika Lassiter, our ESD webmaster is working on teacher pages.
- We sent a group of students to the Science Bowl (an area wide science competition) in Tri-Cities on February 23rd. Our kids did very well and Mr. Palmer coached the team.

- Our regional Jr. High wrestling tournament was held and we had three wrestlers qualify for the state tournament at Wilsonville High School on Saturday, the 8th of March.
- Our 8th grade career fair was held in Pendleton and we took our entire class this year. There were many booths and opportunities for kids to experience. The ESD does a great job hosting this event and organizing it as well.

Irrigon Elementary School

Evaluations- Evaluations are almost complete and I am proud to say we have very good people working for Morrow County School District at Irrigon Elementary School. I am honored and thankful to be their building principal.

IES Title I Audit- IES went thru the Title I audit as did most of our school in Morrow County and I feel that we had a good report along with the district. At the end of our interview I want to thank Ms. Laura Rowe our Title teacher who did an excellent job with the Oregon Department Title auditors. I feel we left as new acquaintances and old friends.

Family Movie Night- On February 8th the Parent Teacher Organization held their second fund raiser by showing the movie “Evan Almighty”. We almost had 50 people attend and we served a nice meal, beverages and snacks. It was a good event where families came and enjoyed the evening. The PTO made about \$150 for the school.

Teacher Grant Awards- Two teachers from IES won \$500 each from the Washington Group to do science projects in their rooms. Mr. Fred Long (6th grade teacher), and Mrs. Rachel Luke (5th grade teacher) both won a \$500 dollar grant check to do the science projects in their classrooms. Great job and congratulations!

Irrigon High School

Science Grants

Charlene Baker and Heather Miller were recipient of the Washington Group Science Grants. Charlene is planning on using her money to do a green house activity with her life skills students. Heather is going to use her grant money to provide more hands on activities for her Advance Biology students. This is the third year in a row that IJSHS staff have been awarded these grants and wonderful opportunities are provided as a result.

Wrestlers

Irrigon High School sent six wrestlers Tucker Amos, Giles Ellet, Frankie Gallegos, Mitch Freeman, Wil Erickson, and Rosario Resendiz-Rios to the state tournament in Salem and two of them, Frankie Gallegos and Rosario Resendiz-Rios placed second overall in their weight divisions. Irrigon has progressively improved in overall numbers in the program and placings at districts and state tournaments. Mr. Erich Harjo and Mr. Eric Keller work with these wrestlers and deserve a lot of credit for the end result.

Spring Sports

Spring sports are off and running. This year Irrigon will be providing Track and Field, Baseball, Softball and Tennis at the High School level and Track and Field at the Junior High level. We hope to improve upon the success of last year and are even hoping that we have a JV team for baseball.

Drama Production

Once again the students are working on a spring drama performance. This year they will be producing "Ash Girl" a comedy for all ages. Heather Miller, Lisa Constantine and Cody Booth are working with these students so that they are ready for their performances in the middle of May. They will be performing it at the Irrigon Marina Park this year.

Baseball and Softball Field Improvements

Thanks to the donation of soil from the Port of Morrow we have redone the baseball and softball infields. Baseball was able to remove some of the sod to give the field a more professional feel. The clay filled soil was needed to make the improvements because of the sandy soil that is currently there.

Bowling Trip

The Irrigon Junior Senior High School Site Council came up with an incentive/recognition for those students grades 7-10 for their improvement on the State tests. All students that met their RIT growth or State Standards were taken to Hermiston to bowl a few games. The students were excited and this was a fabulous day for both students and chaperones.

Testing Second Round / Writing Tests

Now that the second round of testing is done we are able to really evaluate where we are and where we need to go in the remaining months of school. Tests scores improved...especially among those students that are in the Extension Classes. State Writing tests are also completed and from the students responses to how they felt we should have positive responses from their evaluations.

Classified Appreciation Week

This coming week Lisa Constantine has volunteered to lead the activities to show our classified workers how much we appreciate them. From cards, breakfast, potluck to even teachers covering the aides bus duties, we hope that we are able to show them how much we appreciate them.

Booster Club Auction

On March 8th the Irrigon Knights Booster Club Annual Auction will be taking place here at the High School. The Booster Club has planned a delicious dinner and has collected many different items to be auctioned off. This group provides support, both physical and financial, to all of our groups and activities here at IJSHS and so we hope that this auction is even more successful than last year.

Riverside High School

RIVERSIDE PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Riverside held its Third Quarter Progress Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, February 21st from 3:30-7:30. Riverside holds four conferences per year at the mid-quarter point. Our goal is to identify areas in which the student may be struggling or in need parental encouragement early in the grading period so that adjustments may be made before permanent grades have been posted.

MATH STATE TEST PREP

Students in grades 7, 8 & 10 are invited to Riverside on Friday, April 4th, May 2nd and May 9th from 9:00-12:00 to receive tutoring in preparation for the upcoming state math.

HOMEWORK-MAKE UP

All other students not scheduled to take the state math test, are welcome to come in April 4th and May 2nd between 9:00-12:00 to work on missing assignments.

MATH TEACHER RECEIVES HONORS

Math Teacher, Veronica Cortez has received the Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) Area Recognition Award for her leadership and service in the mathematics education community. Mrs. Cortez has been instrumental in the Morrow County School District in helping to implement a strong CIM math program. Her efforts have helped to greatly improve Riverside's CIM scores. She has spent long hours building an integrated program that targets students' areas of need. Mrs. Cortez is always willing to go "above and beyond." She is greatly appreciated by her co-workers.

CHEERLEADERS RECEIVE ACADEMIC AWARD

Riverside Varsity Cheerleaders, Caitlin Costello, Berenice Chavez, Jessica Donovan, Evelyn Garcia, KaLynn McKee and Justine Parker, placed in the Dairy Farmers of Oregon Winter Academic All-State Top Ten.

SENIOR TRACKING

Riverside feels it is imperative to keep parents informed concerning senior grades; progress towards graduation; deadlines; college, vocational school, and military opportunities; SAT and ACT testing windows; the FAFSA; and scholarship opportunities. In order to do that, information is available by mail and on line. The Riverside Web Site has a **Senior Resource** venue that parents and students can utilize which presents them valuable information on current deadlines. There is also a Senior Handbook that relates information about the whole senior year's experiences, How to Choose a College/Vocational School: what to do, and what to expect; and How to Avoid Being Scammed by Fake Scholarship Programs. Parents receive several mailings concerning deadlines and senior progress and obligations, as well. Monthly Scholarship News Letter information is distributed through the Language Arts and Senior Social Studies classes to every senior, and the listing is available on the web. Parents receive letters concerning their senior being on track for graduation through out the year, so there are no surprises in May if a senior does not make graduation.

STARS

RHS students will participate in a STARS training on March 6th and 7th. STARS stands for Students Today Aren't Ready For Sex. The high school students will then be mentors for the 6th graders at WRE, once a week for five weeks, after spring break. This program is designed to help convince students that they are not ready to be sexually active yet. Riverside will be providing nine mentors for the program.

LEADERSHIP FIELD TRIP

In January the Riverside HS leadership class took a field trip to the Port of Morrow and the Pacific Northwest Motorsports Park office. Billie Jean Morris the PNW Motorsports park director of marketing provided information to the students concerning plans for the park, timelines, research, and most importantly employment opportunities that will be available. Billie Jean was agreeable to any other students visiting and also wanted to let us know that they would soon have a race car simulator. At this time it is being checked out by professional drivers but should be here within 6 months or so for people to try.



Windy River Elementary

Learning Fair

Learning Fair was held on February 21st. Each classroom had a station set up for parents and other visitors to view at their leisure. We sold Walking Tacos in the cafeteria with the help of some RHS students. In the Library we had our Book Fair going as well. The event was a success.



February Students of the Month

FEBRUARY

Academics

Academics

Theme - Honesty/ Integrity

Beagle

Aaron Dodge

James Carlson-Hart

Joe Amaral

Boor

Bianca Rodriguez

Audrey Guenther

Vanessa Olvera

Browne

Sam L. Gilbert

Adrian Harrison

Sandra Flores

Chapman	Yolanda Lopez	Kimberly Ortega	Vanessa Calvillo
Cox	Cristina Calvillo	Leslie Zuniga	Karla Llamas
Dames	Lillian Melendez	Maria Virelas - Garcia	Natividad Garcia
Gaede	Elizet Sanchez	Juliana Guzman	Felipe Olvera
Keefer	Cassidy Braun	Yvette Barrera	Zack Irons
Strebin	Michell Gonzalez	Juan Villegas	Samantha Hernandez



100% Classroom Attendance Winners

Classroom Attendance Award Winners for the Month of February:

Feb 4-7 Mrs. Browne's 5th grade class with 97%
 Feb 11-14 Mrs. Strebin's 6th grade class with 99%
 Feb 19-22 Mrs. Strebin's 6th grade class with 97%
 Feb 25-28 Mrs. Strebin's 6th grade class with 99 %

Monthly Attendance Award Winner for February

Mrs. Strebin's 6th grade class (great job!)

Perfect Attendance Winners for February:

4th Grade: 34 Students
5th Grade: 29 Students
6th Grade: 42 Students

4-H

We had a 4-H representative come to our school and explain to our students what the program was about. 4-H is a youth education program for boys and girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. In Oregon, 4-H is part of the Oregon State University Extension Service. Each county has an Extension office which administers the 4-H program. Members may choose from some 80 different projects offered statewide, or they may develop their own projects with the assistance of an adult volunteer leader. Just *some* of the project areas include: **Animal Science, Horticulture, Expressive Arts, Home Economics and Leadership.** Sign up slips were sent home with students.

Traveling Lantern

Traveling Lantern has been educating and entertaining children nationwide for the past 20 years. Their mission is to bring great stories to children, to draw them into an active theater experience, to

excite their minds and to tickle their imaginations. Their style is interactive. They use children in their shows, and encourage active audience participation (like cheering the hero, booing the villain, warning of danger, creating sound effects, etc.). **This year performance was on Wednesday, February 26th and they performed the play: The Industrious Mr. Franklin.**



4th Grade News:

Students in the 4th grade have recently been learning about Oregon and the Oregon Trail. Better than that, they actually walked on the Oregon Trail! Our classes traveled to Whitman Mission recently and learned about the cultural differences between the Cayuse Native Americans and the settlers. These differences led to a horrific massacre. Also, we are beginning the state assessments for Math and Reading to see how much we have gained over the past few months. The 4th grades are also looking forward to a field trip in May to Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, an interpretive center for the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes in Pendleton, Oregon.

Los Lobos Honor Society:

On February 28 the spring Presidential Los Lobos Honor Society inductees are: Avika Sharman, Teneisha Peterson, Dixie Gonzalez, Kristen Frederickson, Stephanie Madrigal, Ariana Corpus, Wayne Killion and Ryan Ibarra. Congratulations to all of you for the hard work and sacrifices to attain commitment to service, citizenship, moral character, leadership and academic excellence.



Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month...February

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Desirea Muth Aiyana Guerrero Eli Killion	Arrik Russell Eliana Esparza Luz Lopez	Destiny Aldrich Kannon Wilkins Juan Fraustro	Gunnar Livingston Samantha Nova Ulyses Lopez	97% CREASON
K/1st	Nadie Papineau Nestor Ramirez Emily Diaz	Neftali Pacheco Edwin Pacheco Trustin Winn	Angel Torres Lainey Rogers Serafin Roque	Briana Torres Lisette Sanchez Rose Jurcich	95% FILES
1st Grade	Vanessa Chavez Allan Gutierrez Stephanie Gonzalez	Karen Cambero Jenna McCullough Alondra Caldera	Zac McDonough Nicholas Richardson Esmeralda Fregoso	Sylvia Johnson Trevor Peterson Ricardo Ramos	97% MILTON
2nd Grade	Sonia Medina Dustin Maddox Gustavo Amaya Lisa Finley	Marcalina Reymundo Malysa Smith Zachary Ferguson Courtnei Trowbridge	Daniel Rodriguez-Pena Jessenia Hernandez Daniel Eubanks Nahomy Claustro	Lizzette Martinez Abigail Bozarth Anthony Ramirez Ricardo Navarro	95% CAMPBEL
3rd Grade	Ethan Akers Gavin Baker Emily Sepulveda Noe Madrigal	Angel Zuniga Ricardo Mendoza Eon Castillo Jason Navarro	Yessica Gonzalez Laura Lopez Adolfo Bedolla Rubi Salazar	Shelby Collins Bianca Gutierrez Ahtziri Trujillo Diana Esparza	97% RAIBLE

Student of the Month Assembly:

Our Student of the Month assemblies have developed into quite a hit with 47 parents attending this month! The choir sang, AR tug-of-war encouraged independent reading, and Site Council students presented a skit to teach bully awareness. The awards slide show with student pictures and narratives celebrated excellence and pride. School spirit was high as everyone sang two student created songs in closing. FUN!



Accelerated Reader: Independent reading is gaining momentum! SBE students have read **2531** books this quarter and a total of **8052** books this year!

Computer assessments:

TESA/OAKS (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) and writing assessments for 3rd grade were completed this week. MAPS (Measurements of Academic Proficiency Skills) for K-2 were also completed this week. The new data will guide our instructional focus and provide direction for remediation. ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessments) starts on Monday.

Professional Development:

Once upon a roofless February morning, teachers from SBE and WRE gathered at SBE's newly refurbished library to learn more about Power Standards. Teachers participated in a process to identify math standards that students would need for school, in life, and on state

tests. Grade level teachers between schools were able to compare standards to identify gaps and overlaps.

Safety and Crisis Preparedness:

SBE's Safety Committee focuses on day-to-day safety. They are alert to issues of an immediate nature and respond by recommending repairs, purchases or making announcements to the staff. The Crisis Preparedness Committee focuses on readiness for potential events ranging from hazardous spills to bomb threats. Classroom Emergency Flip Charts give ready reference to procedures. The Crisis Preparedness Committee reviews the procedures and provides staff training. As recommended by these committees, radios were recently purchased for all classrooms.

Family Fun in Education:

A first time event worth repeating! It was great to students and parents enjoying time together exploring, talking, and participating in reading activities, art projects, science experiments and more. Our staff and professionals from the community put together many exciting and topical sessions. Put a Rainbow on Your Plate was a popular session offering families nutritional nachos



while playing Fruit and Vegetable Bingo.



see

Magic moments included one student unable to shake the fact that their parent missed an AR question, "I can believe they missed that question!" Thank you SBE staff, Boardman Police, MidCo Bus, SMART, Morrow County Library, Head Start, Migrant Education and OSU Extension Service.

Classified Appreciation Week:

A week of Cowboy Celebrations to appreciate our classified staff! They impact learning at Sam Boardman Elementary...making a great place for students and teachers!



Morrow Education Center

It's a pleasure to report the recent happening at Morrow Education Center. The numbers at MEC continue to grow with a recent influx of new students from Umatilla School District. We currently have 101 students enrolled in the program and are consistently seeing between 65 and 70 per day. Of the students enrolled the break down per community goes as follows; Boardman (29), Irrigon (34), Heppner (6), and Umatilla (28).

As we begin to welcome spring at Morrow Education Center, we are also thrilled to welcome some new exciting opportunities for our students. We have recently partnered with CAPCO and their "Offender Grant" to link students with tutoring opportunities. I am thrilled to share with the board that we now have Sonja Silva a student majoring in Education at Blue Mountain Community College providing two hours of tutoring to six of our students after school, once a week. Ms. Silva is providing assistance with the development of writing, reading, and math skills.

In addition to our partnership with CAPCO, we also continue to strengthen our relationship with Morrow County's Juvenile Probation Department. Laura Aviles has begun a "Career Cruising" course with our 21 graduating seniors. Each week she working to link our seniors with employment opportunities including career assessments, job shadowing opportunities, mock interviews, and resume development. In addition to the employment piece she will also be taking students through a post secondary education search including—scholarship/grant options, college budgeting, and completion of the FAFSA application.

The staff 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 school to adult life including—making appropriate choices, considering options, and communicating choices to others. Best of wishes to you all in February!