

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **November 2006**

#### **A.C. Houghton Elementary**

##### **Attendance Improvement**

One of our two major efforts this year has been to continue a pattern of attendance improvement, having just sneaked into the strong attendance range at 94% average daily attendance for the purposes of our School Report Card. We're offering special incentives for weekly perfect attendance, which is five minutes of extra recess on Thursdays and our PE teacher, Raul Alvarado, has secured the donation of some bicycles from Wal-Mart which we are giving away as a door prize at the end of the semester. Students with perfect attendance will get 10 tickets, one-day absent- six tickets, and two days absent- three tickets. All of this has had a positive effect on our average daily attendance.

The attendance rate for first-quarter of 0506 was 94.06%

The attendance rate for first-quarter of this year was 96.25 %

We're very proud of all of the effort that everybody has made to make this improvement and we hope to continue it throughout the year. Good attendance is one of the leading factors of facts instructional improvement.

##### **Intramurals Programming Expanding**

Our new PE teacher, Raul Alvarado, has been instrumental in the expansion of our intramural program to a daily occurrence. We have had intramurals in the past years using as much time as I could squeeze out among my other activities. Raul has been able to take this to a daily occurrence and integrate the intramurals football skills into his regular instructional program. The first intramural session was for flag football and the next one, which we are beginning now, is soccer.

##### **Writing Improvement**

We are continuing our efforts to increase the number of scoreable (gradable) writing samples. Second, third and fourth-grade teachers are training their students, appropriate for their grade level, in a sequential writing process which takes the student ideas through a series of steps to a finished product which is their best effort. We have high hopes to continue our improvement with state writing assessment.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students worked very hard to write and publish Haunted House stories that could be read to Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. The classes then got together and had a reading party. School is definitely fun at HES.



- Mrs. Rill, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Gibbs, and Mrs. Osmin all worked hard with their classes to have students build and learn about rockets. After much anticipation and many hours of tedious gluing and painting the students got to launch the rockets from the football field. We had many parents and other spectators watching to see how high the rockets would go. I went to bed that night dreaming of 5,4,3,2,1...





- Chess Club is back up in full swing and Mrs. Elguezabal has almost 70 students signed up to participate along with many parents. This is an annual activity that the students look forward to. I would encourage board members to stop by HES on Mondays after school and see the smiling faces.
- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had an amazing turnout. The parents of Heppner students believe in the teachers and our educational program. This is demonstrated by the continued support for activities that involve children. I want to thank the teachers of Heppner Elementary for maintaining positive smiles through two long evenings of conferences. I would also like to thank the Heppner Parent-Teacher Club for providing dinner both evenings for the staff.

## **Heppner High School**

- Our school drama performance (Grease) was a huge hit- we have sold out seven performances.
- Slab poured and track shed will be going up.
- End of the first quarter has come and gone along with successful parent-teacher conferences.
- Our AG Advisory board has been selected and is put in place.
- Our bleacher project is finished and they are installed- a \$53,000 dollar project that many people have donated too.
- Our first testing window is upon us and our test scores are again very high in math in the Jr. High and our CIM level scores are encouraging as well. We are just starting the Language Arts testing.
- The ASB and Mr. Fowler's Tech Class is working on new school signs for both entries into our campus.
- Our bullying committee has again met with Mr. Thompson this month and we are working on school safety.
- Our volleyball program had a successful season making it to the state playoffs and losing in the first round.
- Our football team again won every league game and has not lost a conference game in eight seasons- Kudos to our kids, coaches, and community support.
- Our Veteran's Day Celebration is in place and looking forward to have Veterans talk in classes along with our student body. We will also say thank you by feeding them and hosting a community assembly in our gym.
- We have finished working on curriculum alignment for our Integrated Math classes across the district. This has given direction for our teachers along with targeting how best to get many of our sophomores up to benchmark.
- Have confirmed Milton Creagh to come to Morrow County in Jan. He will visit all three high schools and talk to our students about drugs, alcohol, negative influence- etc. Absolutely one of the most powerful speakers I have ever heard- Excitement would be an understatement!!!! His website is <http://www.miltoncreagh.com> if you would like to look at what he has to offer.
- Here are a couple of pictures of the Senior class throwing water balloons at me after winning the Homecoming Activities.



### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**Student Led Conference:** We held our Student Led conferences on Thursday and Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. All classes had 90% attendance and are working to reschedule all students and parents who have not participated yet. We are working toward 100% .

**Accelerated Reading:** This quarter was by far our best quarter ever! 91% of our students met their reading goal for quarter 1. Of those who did not meet, all were above 70%. We are very proud of the intense reading that is happening at IES.

**Book Fair:** In conjunction with our conference, Ellen Hendergart – Library Technician held the Scholastic book fair. We have had a wonderful turn out and proceeds will be used to purchase books for our library.

**Good Behavior Movie:** We held our first quarter good behavior movie. Students watched *Over the Hedge* in our very own IES movie theater (cafeteria transformation). 80% of our students qualified to attend the movie.

**After School Club:** With the new quarter, we change our Thursday activities. Students who attend Tuesday and Wednesday and work hard may attend Thursday's enrichment activities. This quarter, students will select from calligraphy, school newspaper, art, and Pickle Ball for their Thursday activity.

**TESA:** Our first round of testing started last week. Fifth grade students will be tested in reading, math, social studies, and science. Sixth grade students will take the math and reading portions of the test.

## **Irrigon High School**

We just finished a very exciting and successful Spirit/Homecoming Week. Events included macho VB, Powder Puff FB, Community Bonfire, FB Game with Homecoming Court including introducing former IHS Comets, special assemblies and JH and HS dances. Students, staff, Booster Club members and community members were very involved and very excited about the first IHS Spirit/Homecoming week. Thank you to all who volunteered to make it a great week.

We also just finished our first round of state testing. Staff spent the Tues night in-service time reviewing and dissecting test scores. They then met in departments to plan for future student focus.

Seven of the twelve students taking Calculus are from IHS.

Seventeen IHS students volunteered at ACH to help with their Halloween Family Fun Night. The supervisor raved about their behavior and efforts.

We formed a committee to plan for grounds/field improvements for 06-07 school year and summer 07.

We redesigned our JH reading program to offer a better chance for success and focus.

We have also begun graduation planning—diplomas, diploma covers, caps/gowns, senior gift, stage rental, etc.

Seniors have offered a gift of \$500 towards the remaining light pole for the FB field. They have asked the Booster Club to match their gift.

We had one FB player nominated for the Shrine game.

Four students went to Baker City for Honor Band/Choir with our band teacher on Monday and Tuesday.

ASB officers went to Hockey Game in TriCities Sat night and then left for Seaside Leadership Conference Sunday morning. I enjoyed being with them at the hockey game and their advisors, Mr and Mrs Davis, said they were terrific in Seaside.

Site Council is going to review Emergency Plan.

I spoke at the Chamber Luncheon on Wed 11/8.

Except for my speech, it was a very good month!

## **Riverside High School**

### **Senior/Parent Information —**

Approximately 30 parents and students attended the Riverside Senior Parent Night. Mrs. Thomas passed out and discussed the senior timeline, FAFSA information and scholarship information. There will be a monthly listing of scholarships available to seniors and parents. This information, as well as the senior handbook and SAT/ACT testing information is currently available through Mrs. Thomas. The deadline for students to sign up for the December SAT test was November 1<sup>st</sup>. Seniors should be visiting colleges, applying for scholarships, signing up for the SAT or ACT test during November.

### **Riverside Job Shadow Day—**

Riverside Job Shadow Day, under the direction of Career/Work Experience Advisor, Donna Barton proved to be a huge success. Students shadowed in Boardman, Hermiston and as far away as Tri-Cities. They experienced careers in areas as diverse as television, hair styling, orthodontics, and sales clerk. Students represented Riverside in a very positive way. The employers who had

participated in previous years appreciated the changes that Mrs. Thomas implemented as part of the senior project. They noticed a difference in the questions the students asked and the fact that they made contact with the employers in a timelier manner.

### **Fall Sports Awards—**

Jr. High Fall Sports Awards were handed out on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> during an in-school assembly.

Sr. High Fall Sports Awards will be presented in the evening Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We are proud to report that the Girls Volleyball team was in the top 10 in the Dairy Farmers All-Academic Team and will receive pins on that night.

### **National Honor Society Activities—**

NHS sponsored an “Are you tough enough to wear pink?” Day at Riverside on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Due to excellent publicity, approximately two-thirds of the students and staff wore pink that day. Ribbons were available for those who wanted to support the cause but did not own any pink. A few students went all out, designing special outfits. The day was planned to raise Breast Cancer Awareness among students and staff and hopefully prompted some dialogue between mothers and daughters. Another purpose of the day was to honor the survivors of breast cancer who work and live among us.

NHS is sponsoring a community blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Boardman Senior Center. A large number of first-time donors, adults as well as youth, will be there to donate a pint. Returning donors are also important to the success of the drive. NHS did not meet the quota set for the last two drives it held, but this year’s group is more enthusiastic and has been very active in recruiting donors. They are to be commended. The theme is Civil War, so that donors may choose to credit their donation to the Oregon State University Beavers or to the University of Oregon Ducks. It is hoped that this will make the drive more fun for all participating. Donors are encouraged to sport the colors of their favorite school if they so choose.

### **Music at Riverside—**

We have had a smooth start in the music department and are looking forward to an exciting year here in Boardman.

Already we have had opportunity to travel to Pendleton, Oregon (October 4<sup>th</sup>) to participate in a woodwind clinic put on by world class bassoonist Julie Feves. We had 14 participants attend from Riverside. I am pleased to say I would not hesitate to take those 14 students on another trip. Riverside was honorably represented at the event.

We have nominated students for the annual Honor Band/Choir Festival (November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>) this year held in Baker Oregon; nine have been nominated and we await the final decision on who will actually be able to participate. We will travel to the annual Tri-County Band festivals. The High School festival will be hosted this year by Riverside; the Junior High by Irrigon. This keeps our travel time for those festivals to a minimum.

Things continue to happen in the music department and we look forward the annual trip to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow Idaho as well as performing locally at assisted living centers and nursing homes.

### **Windy River Elementary**

- Our students held their fundraising activity for the year, our 3 classes brought in over 9 thousand dollars. We will realize 45% of this total to add to SB funds. As a result of this effort I will be wearing a Wolf suit the day before Thanksgiving break.
- We also held Red Ribbon Week Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. Students and teachers decorated classroom doors with anti-drug slogans, each day the students dressed up in fun costumes that went with the theme of the day.
- We celebrated our October student of the Month Assembly (See our students of the month in North Morrow Times). We also sent out invitations to the parents to each child that was to receive an award. We had over 40 parents at our assembly. We have added a drawing for the students that have had perfect attendance and are recognizing the students that score the most 100 % on their AR tests.
- Our after school programs are well established and we are seeing more students handing in assignments on time. Ms. Sanchez is doing a great job working with parents and students to help them use these programs effectively.
- Of course our Halloween parties were held with great success.
- We have started our first round of TESA testing. With the addition of our new lap top lab we will be able to test more students per day. This will make it easier to keep the students excited about what they are doing.
- We have finished our first parent-teacher of the year with great success. We handed out our school report card to every parent that attended. We also shared how to use our school website to access their child's assignments and grades on a weekly basis with each parent. I was extremely pleased with the professionalism of my staff as they met with our parents.

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

October was a month packed with events. We had our first round of TESA testing as well as our first choir performance. Both went very well.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students took the long version of TESA this month. The long test gives us the strand breakdown we need to focus instruction in the areas that students are weakest. I will be meeting with teachers to go over their plans for instruction in the areas of reading and math.

Our choir performed at our student of the month assembly. Mrs. Appleton had those 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in top form. Thank you to all the parents that made it out for the performance.

The month ended with a bang! We celebrated Red Ribbon week which is our anti-drug campaign. Miss Maribel Torres, or counselor, headed up the week's activities with input from our student council. We had dress up days, door decorating contests and essay contests. Our students had some great attire that week!



SBE also finished up our fundraiser. We raised over \$4500 for our school!! As a result of the students meeting their money goal for the fund raiser, I dressed up as a Buccaneer and served lunch. The students got a kick out of it! This money will go toward funding assemblies, activities and our now famous AR parties. Speaking of AR parties, over 150 students met their AR goal and attended another wonderful production put on by Mrs. Anne Orcutt. The kids decorated cupcakes and played games as a reward for great reading in the first quarter.

Here are our students of the month:

ACADEMICS	RESPONSIBILITY	RESPECT	SAFETY	TEACHER
Christopher Stanger	Zulema Gayton	Nestor Ramirez	Jose Sanchez	K-Christy
Izael Zurita	Kimberly Ortega	Aaron Campos	Vanessa Calvillo	3-Bankston
Davis Araiza	Sylvia Johnson	Aurora Garcia	Jason Lester	K-Bigham
Alejandra Caldera	Kelly McLaughlin	Stephanie Madrigal	Casey Muir	3-Jeppenson
Brianne Bishop	Marvin Calvillo	Alex Campos	Donovan Carmack	2-McClenahan
Neira Rodriguez	Jesse Hibbits	Jessica Calvillo	Oscar Lopez	1-Harrison
Chance Frederickson	Rose Jurich	Lizeth Zuniga	Kevin Madrigal	K/1 Wilson
Abigail Hernandez	Briana Torres	Jose Rodriguez	Lisa Finley	K/1 Files
Ricardo Rosales	Gavin Baker	Roberto Hernandez	Laura Afanador	2-Hernandez
Dakota Durfey	Brenda Flores	Veronica Alvarez	Fransisco Chavez	K-Creason
Marino Pena	Minerva Pena	Francisco Gutierrez	Perla Martinez	2-Kennedy
Belinda Lomas	Ricardo Mendoza	Osiel Madrigal	Phillip McDonough	2-Campbell
Kathy Cardenas	Lillian Melendez	Aileen Velasco	Sergio Navarro	3-Raible
Estrelle Daltoso	Scout Reagan	Kaitlyn Fisher	Brendy Avalos	K-Ogden
Luis Olvera	Ivonne Navarro	Cruz Jarrett	Odalys Ibarra	1-Harjo
Emily Taylor	Samantha Zapata	Malysa Smith	Wyatt Edens	1-Milton
Ariana Corpus	Mayra Hernandez	Juana Martinez	Diana Calvillo	3-Prindle

### **ELL Program**

This month has been consumed with teacher pre-observations, observations and post-observations of ELL teachers' performance, parent meetings, staff development meetings, and other school related issues.

A new responsibility added to the ELL director is to do the administrative teacher observations of ELL teachers across the district. This gives the director authority to evaluate ELL teacher's teaching performance and the assurance that we are teaching English Language Development to our ELL students.

The director has been involved many evenings with parent meetings through out the district. Together with the superintendent, they visited Riverside High School on Open House night to meet parents and to inform parents of district program activities. Also, we met parent groups at AC Houghton and participated in the parent reading night there.

The ELL director also met with parents at SBE Parent Teacher Organization to help support the district and parents in programs that bring both concerns together. On Thursday evenings at SBE the director

is leading a Family Education Night which had four components of U.S. Citizenship classes, ESL classes, computer support classes for children of parents who attend the first two classes, and a small child care/ literature class for younger children. All of which is supported by staff volunteers. A parent group of Irrigon came and visited. They would like to have a similar program set up in Irrigon in the up coming season.

ELL staff continues to receive training in English Language Development with the Focused Approach training offered at the ESD. About 10 of our ESL teachers from Morrow County went to such trainings at the beginning of the month.

We are taking the necessary attention to bring our scores in TESA testing up in all grades that are being tested. My concern now is the results of our AMAO's Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives. This is given to us by No Child Left Behind. Here we have three areas that we have to accomplish in order to pass our AMAO's. The three areas are defined as such:

1. That 85% of our ELL students move from one level of English proficiency to the next level.
2. That 20% of our ELL students exit the program at the end of the year.
3. That our district's ELL students make the AYP Annual Yearly Progress by having at least 50% pass the English Language Arts and the Math State tests assessments in our district.

With many of the changes we had to make last year after our State ELL audit, we are set with new challenges to make these State and Federal reports and goals. We have great pride in our accomplishments in the lower elementary programs of our schools, and we believe, with our rising scores in the secondary programs, that we will be able to meet these reports and show the strength of our programs.

### **Morrow Education Center**

Once again, it is a privilege to report the recent happenings of the Morrow Education Center. Forrest and I continue to recruit students who haven't been attending regularly here at the Morrow Education Center. Our current enrollment is 74 students, 40 of which are Morrow County School District students. We have been extremely busy gearing up for the TESA testing, and updating grades for parent/teacher conferences as the first quarter recently came to an end. We continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to both the parents and students of the Morrow Education Center. The MEC students have been working hard and are responding well to the academic, attendance, and behavioral expectations we have placed upon them.

The MEC Staff and I have enjoyed the past month here at Morrow Education Center, and continue to welcome the daily challenges that go along with serving the MEC students. Our goal continues to be, serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing a safe and effective learning environment for all to thrive in. We truly appreciate your support of this program, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

