

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **December 2006**

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

**Christmas Programs**-ACH will have Christmas programs on the following schedule:

12/12-grades 2/3

12/14-grades pre-k-1

12/19-grade 4

#### **After-School Program**

We have recently completed a study of the effectiveness of our After-School programming. We compared 13 students who had maintained an attendance/enrollment level of 70% from the beginning of the third-grade to the beginning of the fourth grade, with 13 randomly selected students who had not attended the After-school Program at all. Students who had not attended the after-school program gained an average of 8.6 State benchmark points which was about 123% of the normal seven .growth for the year. The same group gained seven Rit points which was the normal reading growth for the year. The students who had been part of the After-School Program gained an average of 10.15 ..increase in math which was 145% of normal and 8.15 in reading which was 117% of normal growth.

The curriculum for this program is Accelerated Reader comprehension building for the reading half and Math Pop-up basic facts building for the math part. Two 30 minute sessions are tightly organized by a group of six adults who work with our kids each day. Those students maintaining exceptional attendance have a special 30 minute PE activity on Thursdays as a continual incentive to be part of the program. Program attendance has averaged in the 47-53 range.

On behalf of the ACH students and staff, we hope everybody has a great holiday season.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

Mrs. Rill attended the text book caravan for the language arts adoption and felt that there are some promising options. The HES staff is anxious to see what is available and start digging into them.

Mr. Thompson attended a city council meeting to bring an awareness of the problems with the lower field walkway and retaining wall. The city was amazed to see the drain pipe dumping onto the playground. The city and HES are looking at options to try and make the area usable and presentable for kids. This may be a long term project, but the end result will be worth it.

The HES staff had fun one evening putting up lights on Main Street.

HES teachers attended training on video streaming. This seems to be the up and coming thing for showing video's to kids. There are some real advantages to this technology, but we need the ability to show it in all our classrooms. It is always good to have wish lists.

Mr. Thompson attended a meeting with many city, public, and private entities about the reconstruction of Court St. This preliminary meeting was good to get everyone talking about needs and issues. Mr. Thompson brought up the concept of redirecting traffic to a location near the tennis courts and closing off Stansbury completely. This was met with favor by ODOT and many people have the same safety

concerns with a road running through the middle of a school campus. ODOT stated that it would be easier to connect Elder to the highway than reconstructing the entrance at Stansbury. The city also had positive comments and is willing to looking at how to make this a reality.

The HES student council decorated a float for the Heppner light parade and had fun time singing the school fight song. Mr. Thompson was a little disappointed that the kids would not share their hot chocolate with him. ☺

The Hampstead Players came to HES on 12/5 to present two plays. One was performed for the students at 1:00 and then the Parent Teacher Club sponsored a second performance at 7:00 PM. This is a fun group because they bring the audience into the play to help.

The K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms are singing songs this month for the residents of Willow Creek Assisted Living. There is not much more fun than to watch little kids sing.

### **Heppner High School**

- Track shed is going up and kids are putting together trusses for the project.
- Working on progress reports and getting them sent out this week.
- Have been working with our bullying committee and setting up consequences to our program based on our documentation.
- The Greenhouse is almost ready for heat and Beth and her kids have been working with Pendleton Electric and the Grain Growers setting up everything to finish the project.
- I held a staff meeting on school safety concerning our lockdown procedures, etc. and then practiced it the next day. It went over very well with only a couple of places we need to adjust our procedures.
- Our new Special Ed teacher has been working extremely hard to get our IEP's done and up to meeting the states dates of having them done. We have held a large number of IEPs this month our teachers have been amazingly supportive.
- Each class had a float in the annual Light Parade this year and was a big hit.
- Our ASB donated a basket and tree to the Chamber's auction to benefit hospice.
- Winter sports have started and all is positive to this point.
- I worked with the Morrow County Fair Board and helped submit the Cycle Oregon grant application on their behalf for the multi-purpose building at the fairgrounds.
- Sent our AD to testify to the OSAA board on number qualifications for private schools and some of the lack of accountability there seems to be.
- Screening applicants for a two hour food service employee.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

**Good Behavior Movie:** We celebrated excellent student behavior during the first nine weeks of school by inviting all students who did not receive an office referral to attend a movie in the IES movie theater (cafeteria transformation). The student council made all arrangements for the movie and sold concessions. 109 of our students enjoyed the movie.

**Geography Bee:** All students are participating in the Geography Bee preliminary test. Finalists will be determined and will face off at our assembly on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**TESA Testing:** All IES students are in the process of completing the first round of State testing. Testing will be finished before Winter Break. Each student knows the important numbers that we are looking for them to accomplish: Fifth grade – 215 RIT and Sixth grade – 219 RIT.

**Holiday Program:** December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, IES gymnasium. Fifth and sixth grade bands and choir will be performing.

**Student Body Assembly:** Our monthly Student Body assembly was held Wednesday, November 22nd. The following students were recognized by their classroom teacher:

### Responsible

Antonio Sanchez, Emilie McKenney, Ryan Perrin, Kayla Mougeot, Jenni Fernandez, Andrew Bevington, Jenifer Gonzalez, Kasandra Kaneaster

### Respectful

Rafael Salas-Garcia, Melina Gomez, Courtney Hubbard, Hannah O'Neal, Kaitlynn Linnell, Osvaldo Aguilar, Samantha Thompkins, Jordan Johnston

### Reliable

Monica Longoria, Dustin Rule, Andy Zavala, Ted Dubry, Jordan Connell, Cole Snyder, Marcus Shelton, Marcos Rosales

### Irrigon High School

Upcoming events

Site Council 3:30 Dec 4

Midterm Dec 7

Inservice SIOPT Trng Dec 8

SB Mtg Dec 11 @ 7:00

Christmas Concert Dec14 @ 7:00

Field/Grounds Mtg Dec 20 @ 5:00

CEC Dec 20 @ 7:00

Winter sport dessert was Nov 14.

Met with community members to begin mapping out priorities for grounds and facilities. Wade Smith came up and walked fence line with us and is developing an RFP for fencing.

Chris has introduced new program called Main Street to deal with students receiving F's in class.

Basketball and wrestling have begun

Pep band Up and playing at games. We won our first two varsity basketball games!

Cheerleaders all have full uniforms.

Have begun graduation discussions—Diplomas, diploma covers, cap and gown colors, medals, etc

First IHS Class of 2007 Senior Motto is "Together we have experienced life, separately we will pursue our dreams, and forever our memories will remain."

Kim Hollis received Outstanding Student of the Year Chamber dinner.

Amanda Pomeroy received award for Citizenship paper—Veteran's Affairs--\$200.00

OSU and SOU made presentations to our students.

Leadership students doing "Coats for Kids."

Busy with ICE and Scholarships at the senior level.  
PSAT scores due this week and then we will review.

Seniors beginning to be accepted at colleges:  
Josie Francis WSU  
Kim Hollis Portland State

We also received a new local scholarship for \$2000. We are currently working with the donor on the criteria.

Merry Christmas to all!

### **Riverside High School**

#### **PROGRESS REPORTS & PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Second Quarter Progress Reports were mailed out the week of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY TUTORING**

Riverside teachers will again be available to assist students on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is an excellent opportunity for students to receive individual assistance. We hope that parents will review their student's report card with them and encourage them to use this time to receive the additional help that is being made available during this time.

#### **RIVERSIDE'S NO "F" POLICY**

Beginning third quarter, Riverside will be implementing a new policy to assist and encourage students with an "F" in one or more classes to improve their grades. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, all students who received an "F" during 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter will be required to attend a special study period during their lunch.

Junior high students receiving an "F" will report to the auditorium during their lunch with homework or an AR book. High school students receiving an "F" will also be required to report to the auditorium during their lunch with homework or an AR book and will not be allowed to leave campus.

Grades will be re-checked every two weeks. Students who have improved their grades will be excused from the special study period. However, if their grades drop below a "D" at any time during the subsequent two week checks, they will be required to return to the special study periods.

In addition, any junior high student with an "F" in a core class at the semester will be required to attend after school remediation during 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.

#### **SENIOR NEWS**

The library now has SAT preparation CD's available for high school student to check out. There are eight different subject areas of study. Those interested in enhancing their scores on the SAT exam can check out these materials from the library

#### **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

##### **CITIZEN**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Yareli Olguin  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Juana Gaytan  
Frosh—Andrea Orozco  
Soph—Ofelia Cisneros  
Jr—Katie Kinney  
Sr—Clay Callow

##### **ACADEMIC**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Yareli Olguin  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Alejandra Mendoza  
Frosh—Andrea Orozco  
Soph—Brittney McCullough  
Jr—Tamra Tovey  
Sr—Zac Thompson

### **Windy River Elementary**

## Sam Boardman Elementary

This is a great time of year at SBE! We are working on several great projects for the month of December.

Our choir, the Sam Boardman Singers, is performing at the tree lighting ceremony on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Our concert is on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 our holiday feast is on the 14<sup>th</sup>, just to name a few events.

Our attendance has been a major focus because we took a 1% dip last year overall. I am happy to report that our attendance is at 94.7% as of December 4<sup>th</sup>. We will try to keep the number over 94% and shoot for 96%.

With the cold weather with us we have started our annual coat drive. We have had several coats donated and money given to SBE for coats, gloves and hats. I am happy to say that we have given over 10 coats away with more available. A special thanks to Miss Torres, our counselor, for getting coats to students that need them.

We had our student of the month assembly and we are trying to keep our AR momentum going. Mr. Cates, our PE teacher, and I raced students with remote controlled cars for extra recess time. Our theme this quarter is 'Race to the AR party'. Mr. Cates and I each were 1-1 so the student body earned 10 extra minutes of recess this Thursday. We also awarded our November students of the month and they are:

ACADEMICS	RESPECT	RESPONSIBILITY	SAFETY	Teacher
Sidney Barthalow	Jacob Hibbits	Brandon Juarez	Gisselle Rodriguez	K-Creaseon
Lilliana Davilla	Karrizima Luna	Alex Longoria	Tiffany Akers	K-Ogden
Javier Hall	Vanessa Chavez	Esmeralda Fregoso	Ezequiel Ramos	K-Bigham
Marcelo Rea	Judit Castaneda	Briselda Navarro	Tyler Hancock	3-Jeppeson
Katia Garay-Rojo	Joselin Ayuso	Sterling Bither	Armando Aparicio	1-Harjo
Aramis Corpus	Oscar Lopez	Ammon Byers	Savannah Turner	1-Harrison
David Duenas	Stephany Dubry	Destanee Bataglia	Zac McDonough	K-Christy 2-
Ivan Escobedo	Rosalba Olvera	Kynzee Axtell	Edgar Barrera	Hernandez
Ricardo Navarro	Zuleyma Medel	Joshua Matthews-M	Stephanie Morales	K-Wilson
Noel Lopez	Kaylyn Morgan	Josue Calvillo	Harley Turner	2-Kennedy
Isaias Cervantes	Ashley Price	Madison Wilson	Marielena Lopez	K-1 Files
Jario Garcia	Kristen Dipo	Donovan Carmack	Denisse Carrillo	2-McClenn
Tanner Collier	Juliana Guzman	Natalie Melendez	Jessenia Gonzalez	3-Raible
Mayra Hernandez	Eloy Hernandez	Diana Calvillo	Mayra Hernandez	3-Prindle
Gabrielle Miller	Belinda Lomas	Eon Castillo	Katie Gilbert	2-Campbell
Maria Olguin	Rene Morales	Naty Garcia	Gema Juarez	3-Bankston
Emily Taylor	Malysa Smith	Samantha Zapata	Wyatt Edens	1-Milton

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a blessed new year.

## **ELL Program**

This month I finished doing the observation and post observations with all ELL teachers in the district. I witnessed lots of good teaching and emerging teaching within our schools. My hope is to see our district report cards in each school reflect the fact that now every identified ELL student is now getting more English instruction with teachers across our district.

I have finished my first round of ELL teacher observation and I am resolved to maintain the best ESL team of teachers in the State of Oregon. Our teachers went to the last training at the ESD with Jacquie Johnson and a team of ESL teachers in the region who are finishing the training of giving ELD by Susan Dutro. By these trainings our teachers are gaining a better approach on teaching ELD to students.

Also last month, a team of ESL teachers from the district attended the ELL Curriculum Caravan at the Pendleton Convention Center. We evaluated several ESL curriculums as the publishers gave short presentations. Each person submitted to me their choices for curriculum, and I have asked publishers to send us samples of their curriculums. Later in January, our ESL teachers will meet for half a day and review the materials and choose specific curriculums to teach across the school district.

For parent meetings, the ESL program invited Ninfa Murrillo the Director of Multicultural Programs from Linfield College and her and another colleague delivered an informational meeting to about 25 parents at Sam Boardman Elementary in how to get your child prepared to go to college. They also informed parents about financial aid and the process to apply for scholarships, grants, and loans. Parents asked that they return and help them in the process of applying for FASFA, making applications for grants and scholarships.

The ELL director also met with Jason Wood of B.M.C.C. in order to support a joint effort in the Family Education Night at Sam Boardman Elementary. Our plan is to start a Family Education Night also in Irrigon in February 2007. We are meeting with citizens of Irrigon in order to plan our course of action to get ESL, U.S. Citizenship, school age child education, and younger child literacy also at Irrigon. This is to show compliance that the district has support activity towards parent and family education.

## **Morrow Education Center**

Happy Holidays,

The first snow of the season brought with it a jubilant enthusiasm for the holidays at Morrow Education Center. Students have really started to focus on completing their current school work in anticipation of Christmas break, and the rapidly approaching end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

I would like to start with a heartfelt and sincere "Thank You" to the board for the "Pursuit of Excellence Award" presented to The MEC Staff at last month's board meeting. The staff and I have displayed it proudly where all can see, and it has been a daily reminder of how important our work at MEC is to the students we serve.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Forrest McKinnis, who was recently selected as the "Educator of the Year" and presented with the award at the Irrigon Chamber Banquet. He is truly deserving of the award and we are privileged to have him teaching at MEC.

We are currently serving 72 students at MEC, 42 of which are Morrow County students. We are also pleased to report that our students have nearly completed their first round of TESA exams. While scores are below grade level for some students, they've been given a sturdy pre-assessment to build upon for future testing. We continue to place students in subject matter and provide support for the areas in which they are deficient.

Overall, the program has been running smoothly and our staff continues to be dedicated towards student-centered achievement. Each day we are blessed to see the learning process take place. Meeting our student's interests as academic learners continues to assure that we are working towards our goal of serving the students of Morrow Education Center and providing them with a safe and effective learning environment.

From all of us at MEC, we would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.