

## **Principal & Director Reports**

### **January 2011**

#### **AC. Houghton Elementary**

1. The 17th season for the Morrow County Ski and Board Program will begin on January 8. We will continue to ski at the Spout Springs Ski Area above Weston in the Blue Mountains. The program is open to all Morrow County students and families. We will be going four times, January 8, 15, 29 and February 5. Mid-Columbia Bus Company provides a reduced rate for transportation that is paid through donations from local businesses. Skiers pay all of their own expenses but they get 35% rate reductions as a ski group. This makes this lifelong sport as affordable as you can get it for the 25-30 participants that we expect for this year.
2. Preparations continue for the second round of Oaks Testing for this school year for our third grade. Almost all students who did not pass the first round have been participating in our After-school Program with special focus on their deficit skills. We also focus on test taking skills in the computer lab testing environment. We expect to make second round reading passage gains and a few gains also in the math passage area with the new increased benchmark levels in math. We will report in March our current percentage passage status focused on the end-year possibilities.
3. At the end of January, we will have our Second Good Behavior Reward student craft activity sponsored by our parent group and coordinated by Amy Mueller. Students qualify for this activity by having no disciplinary actions taken of any kind during the last six weeks. Mrs. Mueller recruits 15-17 parents to work with students in activity centers using recyclable materials for crafts that we have been saving for the last several months. Believe me, these materials add up quickly as we are a recycling school and all we needed to do is direct some of our supply to the activity.

#### **Heppner Elementary School**

It is a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. Winter Break seemed to fly by and it is hard to believe that 2010 has ended, and that the year 2011 has arrived. Our enrollment as of today is 185 students; this is up from my December report as we just recently enrolled two new students at HES. Our current attendance percentage for the year is a stellar 96.9%, as compared to 94.7% at this time last year. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

December was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, among the highlights was the "Winter Music Concert" directed by Mrs. Michelle Stone and Mr. Joe Lindsay which was held at HES on the evening of Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. It was another great concert and many thanks to Mrs. Stone and Mr. Lindsay for their continued efforts with the music programs in Heppner. The HES Student Council and Band Students also decorated a float and participated in the light parade on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The HES Staff coordinated a HEROES dinner fund raiser and also ran the concessions during the December 10<sup>th</sup> basketball games at HHS. With great volunteer help and support we were able to raise nearly \$800.00 towards the continued success of the HEROES Reading Program at HES.

The HES Geography Bee will be held in the HES gym on Thursday, January 6th at 1:00pm. Here are a couple of other important upcoming events for your calendars; January 12<sup>th</sup> is the end of the semester, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be observed on January 17<sup>th</sup> this year. There will be no school on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but “Freaky Friday” (the make up school day) will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**District Maintenance Update:** In addition to the HES Report - I would also like to report that there were no major issues on the maintenance front during winter break. We did have a couple of minor heating related issues at the DO and ACH but they were fixed in a timely fashion. There was also some minor warranty related work by Simplex to the elevator at RHS and I am happy to report that the elevator is now fully operational.

I would like to end this 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**

- Our open tutorial list for the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup> is 41 students. We have seen a big decrease in the number of students that have grades below a C. Students are being more responsible with earning passing marks, and as a staff that has been exciting. We seem to have about the right amount of tutorial time for students to earn passing marks where students have contact time with our teachers to make up failed assessments or work. In a proficiency model- this has been our largest hurdle and our school has been able to overcome this through scheduling and by committing to what we are doing school wide. We cannot wait to see where we are at semester with passing grades when comparing past years and semesters.
- Our Knowledge Bowl competitions are still happening and HHS students are doing very well competing with schools in our local bi-county region.
- Our winter sports seasons are off to a good start and the number of participants are high. Our wrestling team placed 1<sup>st</sup> within the small school division at the Oregon Trail Muilenburg Tournament, and our boy's basketball team has only lost two games to date.
- Now is the time we are buckling down and really staying focused on instruction over the next three months. It is our goal to get all students over the top with learning curriculum. I am excited to see what is in store for our students and school over the spring with test scores.
- Umatilla came and visited our school spending time in classes for the entire day with our staff and students. They brought an administrator, a counselor, and five teachers to take a look at the proficiency model and how we manage proficiency. They were very impressed and are making a move to become a proficiency model school next year. It was a good visit and they have asked our school to become a district resource for proficiency.

- Sarah Simpson from the ESD will be here on Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of January to teach our staff about reading work samples and the essential skills of the new diploma. A scored passing reading work sample can take the place of passing the OAKS reading test in order to graduate. The work sample option is as tough as passing the test for most students, but it may help with a couple of students in our school that cannot seem to get over the hump with passing the OAKS test by assessing their skills in a different manner.
- John Edmunston and I wrote a Wildhorse Foundation grant for our drama department. We were awarded \$3,540.00 for new sound equipment which includes new speakers, sound board, stage monitors, and a powered snake. This will be a great addition to our school program and for our students.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

1. Irrigon Elementary School Pond- Last month our district leadership and my building's grounds staff met with Mr. Paul Danielson, a specialist in geology, to review his hydrological study of the water levels at IES. He gave us a detailed plan of the Irrigon Elementary ground water levels and its drainage design. With this plan, we have a better understanding of where we have water, how deep it is, and suggestions as to eliminating the problem of standing water in front of our gym and in the back field. We will work with maintenance to implement the fix..
2. IES Math Olympics- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, we did our 3<sup>rd</sup> IES Math Olympics. We started out with an assembly of the history of the Olympics in Greece. Then we broke up into groups of mixed grades with teachers. There are five events-competitions which use measuring, time, and other things related to math. At the end of the events the school comes back to the gym for the final closing events. Parents were invited and came. It was fun; it was math.
3. Irrigon Elementary School Winter Concert- We had about 500 people in attendance. It went well. Even I was surprised. Mrs. Mardquadt, our music teacher, had some help from teachers, especially Ms. Hodgdon our fourth grade teacher. The children sang better than ever. I was surprised and pleased.
4. Canned Food Drive- IES students held their community canned food drive and IES student collected 382 cans of food to give to needy families in our community. This teaches students to care for others and to do something to help.

### **ESL Program**

1. AMAO- (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives) The school district and each school received last month the AMAO report from the State. Under the rules of NCLB, schools with ESL students have to show three areas of improvement. There are three AMAO's that we have to meet. First, students need to pass from one level of English Proficiency to the next higher; this is AMAO #1. Our district last year scored 45.65%. We needed to have 50%. We did not make AMAO #1.

AMAO #2 is about ESL students exiting our program into mainstream classes, or no more ESL. There are two parts, A and B. Part A is the total ESL population of our district. We had to have 14% meet this objective; we had 16.5%. We met this second objective. Part B is the ESL populations, who have been in our ESL program five years or more, and have exited the ESL program. The goal was 22%; we got 23.77%. We met this goal. AMAO #3 is tied to our AYP

State report card. We had to have all our schools make AYP. Seven out of eight made AYP; one did not. Thus the district did not make AMAO #3.

Our schools are doing better every year. We are still focusing and teaching what kids need to know.

The bar is being raised every year. For the 2010-2011 school year AMAO #1 will be raised to 55%. AMAO #2 A will be 15.5%, and #2 B will be raised to 24%. AMAO #3 will stay the same, which is, making the State AYP for all schools in the district. By NCLB rules, ESL parents will be notified by letter how the district scored and their child's school scored. Included will be what we are doing in each school to remedy the school's instructional program to get ESL students to meet the conditions of making the AMAO requirements.

I have given this information to administration; next the ESL teacher-coordinators from each school will be given this information and the plans to make our present AMAO's in every domain. We will work harder and smarter to get all things aligned, and make our AMAO's and our State AYP.

### **Irrigon High School**

Our staff is really looking forward to the extra day at the semester provided by the January calendar change at the secondary level. On Friday, staff will be given time to work on a variety of items including cross-curricular planning with colleagues, developing formative assessment, reviewing data to better develop student specific intervention strategies, etc.

We continue to make strides in the area of discipline. Our PBIS team met in December and reviewed our progress. We have shown a 32% decline in the number of referrals compared to last year at this time. This is in large part due to the work of our PBIS team, a consistent and appropriate staff response to problem behaviors, and the development our discipline matrix. Staff should also be commended on their concerted efforts to be even more positive and proactive about student expectations.

Congratulations to Molly Creason who was recognized as the Outstanding Student of the Year at the December Irrigon Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. She is a senior who has maintained a rigorous class schedule while upholding a 3.75 GPA and is actively involved in a variety of activities, most notably music, drama, and FFA. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work done by the National Honor Society and History club who assisted in setting up, serving, and cleaning up at the chamber banquet. There was a lot of positive feedback from members of the community.

### **Morrow Education Center**

## **Riverside High School**

### JUNIOR HIGH FALL CELEBRATION

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Riverside Junior High held their first Fall Celebration. The celebration honored a variety of things. The main focus was to honor students and benchmark passing. After the awards were presented, a movie and popcorn were enjoyed by all. The plan is to have two more celebrations later this year after each round of testing. Honor roll students and other academic achievements were also presented at the night of celebration.

### MUSIC AT RHS 2010-2011

Football season has come and gone so the outside pep band season is done for the year. We are looking forward to playing for the basketball games as they are inside where it is warm.

The winter concert went off without a hitch in spite of some conflict in scheduling. We are putting the concert performances back to back with conferences to eliminate conflicts with other RHS activities. The formula seems to be working.

Winter is the time for great strides to be made in music. We have many performances (basketball games) as well as the annual Tri-County Festivals. This year the High School Band Festival is in John Day on April 6<sup>th</sup> with Jr. Hi in Heppner on April 29<sup>th</sup>. A much needed Tri-County Choir Festival was added last year and we hope to be able to participate this year. It is tentatively scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at Echo High School.

We are learning as well as having fun.

Richard J. Drake  
Riverside Music

### FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

It's financial aid crunch time all around the post secondary education world! Here at Riverside we are preparing our students with a night of crucial financial aid information. Riverside High School will be hosting a FAFSA/Financial Aid Night for our seniors and their parents. This night is scheduled for February 9, 2011. Co-hosting will be representatives from Western Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, and Southern Oregon University who will be providing not only the Financial Aid Information, but also refreshments. We will have bilingual representatives as well as some of our own faculty helping. We are extending an invitation to our neighbors, Irrigon High School and Heppner High School students and parents.

### PASS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HELP STUDENTS GRADUATE

At Riverside, we strive to provide each student with the opportunity to be successful academically. Therefore, we piloted the PASS program last year. This program allows students who are behind in credits, due to English as a Second Language, to catch up with curriculum in the form of packets. We started the program with three seniors last year and currently have 9

seniors in the program. Thanks to the generous contributions of the ELL program, we are able to continue to fund this effort.

**Sam Boardman Elementary School**

***Students of the Month for December:***

	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>K-Team</b>	Juan Rodriguez Jaxon Rogers Yitsel Mendoza Abraham Zapata	Alexis Ramirez Bryan Napoles Jesus Morado Jose Morales	Tony Villegas Emilio Trujillo Zane Kennedy Eloy Ramos	Tomas Mendoza Emilio Medel Cynthia Gonzalez Sandra Gomez	<b>Mr. McClenehan</b> 84%
<b>Team 1</b>	Greg Ramero Jakob Harris Tyler Schneider Bernardo Marquez	Miriam Landeros Xochitl Ramos Abel Chopin Ivan Rodriguez	Jesus Resindez Noe Ruiz Ivan Franco Edward Salazar	Estela Castro Lilly Richardson Karyme Lopez Heidi Gomez	<b>Mrs. Harrison</b> 95%
<b>Team 2</b>	Carlos Mejia Joe Reagan Carlos Conchas Susan Newton	Lucero Medel Kevin Navarro Omar Castillo Marta Barajas	Jocelyn Lezama Angela Barragan Ricky Davila Taylor Schneider	Maria Marquez Hilary Payne Hannah Payne Hunter Dyer	<b>Mrs. Wilson</b> 97%
<b>Team 3</b>	Fernando Ortega Elizabeth Andrade Jocelyn Rodriguez	Delmy Barrera Cesila Garcia Jessica Rodriguez	Neri Munoz Francia Rodriguez Julian Jimenez	Sarah Calvillo Serafin Roque Angel Torres	<b>Mrs. Bankston</b> 97%



**Enrollment:** 308      **Attendance:** Average attendance for December was 92.05%  
December's Student of the Month Assembly was a celebration of student achievement, community involvement and a holiday sing-a-long.

S.B.E. students performed magnificently at one of our best attended winter concerts ever. It was fun to announce that Mrs. Appleton was getting married over the holiday break, and when we returned in 2011, her new name would be Mrs. Andrews.

Student Council sponsored a canned food drive, and to encourage students to bring in canned food, they gave students an ornament for each can. Our tree was a daily reminder and celebration of community involvement. Several classes took opportunity to write



holiday greetings to hospitals and retirement homes, as well as service men and women. Our Sunshine Committee hosted a Staff Christmas Party for families complete with ham dinner and photos with Santa. It was fun to relax and enjoy time together. Chelsie Bonifer is our new Special Education assistant. She comes to us with a degree in Spanish and a minor in German. Chelsie teaches Zumba, Latin dance and exercise in the evenings for BMCC. Ms. Bonifer has traveled to many countries. We look forward to learning from her about language, dance and culture. Friday School starts January 7<sup>th</sup> and has two objectives: 1) with the new benchmark standard of 212 in math, almost all third grader students qualify for Friday School. The focus will be mini-lessons that pre-teach concepts typically taught in the spring, 2) 18 second grade students were identified as needing English language development as well as support in math. Their Friday School focus will be math vocabulary and concepts. Our After School program continues to provide reinforcement and practice opportunities for third grade students in basic math skills, reading fluency, and test-taking practice. PLCs are up and ready for the New Year! Teams look forward to analyzing their data from semester scores, and the great learning opportunities for students in January and February.

**Windy River Elementary**

*Parent Teacher Conferences*

*We had an extremely large turn out for WRE. The mid-term conferences were held in the gym and parents were able to move from teacher to teacher very easily. Students benefit a great deal when we communicate with each other about their progress and well being.*

**December Students of the Month Assembly**



<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Theme - Self Discipline</b>
Beagle	Mirna Daltoso	Marvin Calvillo	Scarlett Reagan
Boor	Yoselin Ayuso	Lisa Finley	Alicia Calvillo
Browne	Ricardo Navarro	Andy Melendez	Angelic Perez
Cornelius	Jennifer Rodriguez	Sadie Hasbell	Jeremiah Rodriguez
Gaede	Daisy Sanchez		Nadia Mendoza
Kefer	Arlene Garcia	Luis Olvera	Hector Ponce
LaFramboise	Emma Finley	Alexis Cambero	Nestor Ramirez
Prindle	Stephanie Gonzalez	Jose Rodriguez	Grace Wheeler
Strebin	Laura Afanador	Noel Lopez	Donovan Carmack

## Geography Bee

Windy River is gearing up for the National Geography Bee. We have narrowed our finalist down to the top ten. The final competition round will be Jan. 13 in the gym and the following students will be participating in it:

Lacey Mashos, Caleb Thomas, Gabrielle Miller, Brianne Bishop, Abrahm Hernandez, Katie Gilbert, Jorge Garcis, Shantel Davis, Sterling Bither, and Kirsten Taylor

## Winter Program

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, WRE held its Winter Program and the program was a great success. The gym was packed full of family and friends. This year's concert went off without a hitch. Each grade performed different genres of music for their parents and friends. The students had fun singing and the parents seemed to enjoy the concert. Overall, the mixed ethnicity of our school was well represented through music. The support of the music program at Windy River was shown by a standing room only audience.

## Ashley Lamm

Ashley Lamm, a doctoral student in chemistry from the University of Oregon taught science lessons to WRE 4<sup>th</sup> graders using Foss Science Kits. The first week Ashley taught the lessons and the teacher observed, the second week the teacher taught the lesson and Ashley observed. Ashley will be back the end of January to work with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.