

# Principal & Director Reports

## April 2011

### AC. Houghton Elementary

#### Heppner Elementary School

It is time again to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. April has arrived and our enrollment at HES is 187 students as of today. Our current attendance percentage for the 2010/2011 school year is 96.2%. Through the end of the third quarter we still have 29 students in the running for perfect attendance for the year. As always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

March was full of many exciting events which took place at HES and we are looking forward to the PTC-HES Family Dance this Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. This family event has been a great success the past couple of years and the theme this year is a "Sock Hop Dance". The HES Chess Mates also celebrated their final day on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and fun was had by all who attended and participated in Chess Club this year.

The third quarter ended on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and we held conferences at HES on March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Honor Card Assembly for the third quarter will be held in the HES gym at 2:00pm on April, 7<sup>th</sup>. Another upcoming event is the MCSD district-wide Math Contest being held on the evening of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Irrigon High School.

With the second round of OAKS testing complete, HES students once again showed positive RIT growth and good results on the OAKS Tests.

**District Maintenance Update:** In addition to the HES Report - I would also like to report Maintenance issues for the past month. The major heating related issue at the DO has been resolved and the final inspections of the new steam boiler are completed. Apollo has recently completed the spring check for the cooling side of all of our buildings HVAC systems. Jan and I have completed the 2011-2012 maintenance budget and we are currently working with head custodians to complete projects that were planned for this school year.

I would like to end this months report by again thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and for your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District.

#### Heppner High School

- Heppner High School has signed on with being a pilot site for the Eastern Promise. We will be working and planning with the other six high schools from around Eastern Oregon in developing college level curriculum so we can offer college credit for some of our classes through proficiency. For some, this means being able to offer an Associates degree within the walls of a Heppner High school and at the very least, some form of college credit for most. Our staff is excited about this opportunity☺.
- Parent Teacher Conferences came and went this week with below than average numbers of parents attending. We have advertised and sent notices, but we do not seem to get the numbers of parents in the building that we used to in past years. Our staff is coming up

with a communication plan in conjunction with our site council to address this issue for next year.

- Our FFA students continue to shine around the state. Brett Harrison and Devin Robinson earned and were awarded 7 of the 8 state wide FFA scholarships that they applied for totaling over \$20,000.
- Future Business Leaders of America students are going to the state competition in Portland on the 7th of April. We have 9 students that qualified at the regional event that will be attending the state competition. They are Ashley Hanson, Kellie Nelson, Taylor Gould, Daisy Victorio, Gabby Sanchez, Drew Brannon, Bryce Fowler, Jacob Moore, and Austin Roberts.
- BMCC is hosting another round of Conversational Spanish for credit every Thursday for spring quarter here at the high school. Quite a few residents are taking advantage of that class here in South Morrow County.
- Tri-County Band Festival will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> in John Day. We are taking our entire band to this great event. Mr. Lindsay has prepared his band students to shine as they have an opportunity to be in the spotlight amongst other students from the region.
- Our first annual small school invite high school math contest is on the 14<sup>th</sup> this month. It will start in the morning at 9am and go till 1pm. Mr. Morgan has organized it and is should be a great event encompassing such schools as Elgin, Dufur, Echo, Ione, Weston-McEwen, Cove, Imbler, and Sherman County. It should be a great event and fill the void of not having a high school math contest in the past. Students will have lunch and there will be both individual and team awards.
- Inland Northwest Musicians will have a free concert here at the high school on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the cafeteria and stage.
- Mr. Flaherty is taking his Government students down to Salem on the 20<sup>th</sup> to meet with state legislators. He has an entire two day field trip scheduled where his students will be meeting with legislators on state government, the budget, and the bill process.
- Mark Thompson will again be in the building meeting with students in grades 7-10 about cyber bullying and harassment law. With our newly adopted policies- he will share the law that supports our policy and discuss some vignettes that apply to the real world.
- District FFA Shop Skills and TSA competitions will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month at BMCC. 25% of our student body is involved with this annual event where students from the bi-county region come together to compete.
- GOAL portfolio assessments will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April from 6pm till 8pm. We are looking for some volunteers from our school board that would like to be involved with this process. Great opportunity to see first hand some of the accomplishments of our students☺. Please let me know if you are interested.
- Spring Pirate Island Drama performances will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm on the HHS stage. Reserve tickets can be purchased at the school office or Sweet Productions down town.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

1. Battle of the Books- On March 3<sup>rd</sup> we had the final contest for the Battle of the Books. The team that won was called, The Book Knights. They battled the A Team and it was an exciting match to see these kids answer questions from the stack of books each team had to read. There were about ten teams, and about 60 students were in various teams altogether.
2. OMSI Reactoblast- On March 7<sup>th</sup> we invited OMSI to send a scientist to do a school assembly about compounds, chemical and chemical reactions. We covered it with a small grant which Mrs. Luke won and a small amount of ASB funds. It was exiting,

educational and entertaining to learn some science and to have our kids exposed to science in another method.

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Awards Assembly and Spring Parent Conferences- We celebrated our third quarter with: grade class awards, SPED and Title class awards, ESL class awards, Art awards, Counselor awards, Music/Technology awards, AR reading awards, PE Gatoraid awards, and Prefect Attendance awards, and Bal-A-Vis-X awards. We had a great show of parents and patrons. Our last Awards assembly will include all of the above with even greater prizes for students' achievements in Math, Reading and Writing.
4. OAKS Second Round Results- After our second round of OAKS tests, IES is at these results:
  - a. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading 76% meeting or exceeding
  - b. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 43% meeting or exceeding
  - c. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading 54% meeting or exceeding
  - d. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 14% meeting or exceeding
  - e. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading 70% meeting or exceeding
  - f. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 38% meeting or exceeding

We still have one more round of OAKS tests in the end of April and the beginning of May. We have ramped up our After School program focusing on students just below the benchmarks.

### **Irrigon High School**

Earlier this month we had our second group of staff members attend the DuFour conference in Portland to increase their knowledge about the effectiveness of professional learning communities (PLC). The DuFour's are considered by most to be one of the premier experts in PLCs. These PLC meetings are a vital part of our staff's continued commitment to student learning. Through these meetings, our staff is able to discuss the essential elements of PLC's: What do we want students to learn, how will we know they've learned it, and what do we do when they don't?

In addition to participating in both scheduled and optional district-wide PLCs, our staff members meet monthly in building-level PLC teams to discuss Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. As a result of those meetings, our staff members are beginning to develop more effective lessons, assessments, and interventions.

Each year as part of our GEAR-UP program, we have been able to send each class on college visitations. This month we are sending our 7<sup>th</sup> grade to Eastern Oregon University while our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be travelling to Perry Technical Institute. These trips have proven to be invaluable as they provide students a first-hand view of college life, the types of programs available to them, and how they can start preparing now for their future. As always, parents have also been invited to attend with their student. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip is part of a program produced by NELA called I'm Going to College which teaches our kids the vocabulary and concepts related to college readiness at an early age.

We are in the early stages of facilitating a college savings program for our 9<sup>th</sup> grade and younger students. The program is called MESA (Matched Education Savings Account) and is a part of our GEAR-UP program. The program is needs-based and 18 slots are available this upcoming year to our freshmen. Students can save each month for college and for each dollar they deposit, an additional \$5 is placed in a parallel account

for their college expenses up to \$8000. There is still a lot of work to be done, but we are excited about this opportunity for our students!

Because of the pressing need for our students to have essential skills in Reading, Math, and Writing, we have notified the parents of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders and the parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders at IES that we are developing a JH accountability program similar to the one in place at Riverside. The program will provide opportunities for students who have fallen behind to catch up and build their skills so that they are better equipped to be successful in high school.

### **Morrow Education Center**

Well, as another month passes, more students arrive. We are nearing our cutoff point of accepting new students into our program, but continue to see the steady inflow of students. However, with more students come more opportunities for us to help students in need. With Fawny Vernon (Blue Mountain Community College representative) helping our graduating seniors and graduates of next year realize their dreams/aspirations, we have found a new way to help the students realize they can succeed. Ms. Vernon is helping our students strive towards their goals, fill out FASFA forms and apply for scholarships. This has been a huge boost to our program and is allowing for more time for Mrs. Connell and myself to focus on their transcripts and focusing on the work they need to complete their credits.

In the field of Special Education we have now acquired a new Special Education teacher, Gena Wade who is working half time and is now assisting our students on IEP's at our program. This is a huge addition to our program and only strengthens our ability to reach all students in all areas that come through our doors. Additionally, we are looking for an ELL Assistant to fill the recently vacated position Mayra Colin held at our program and are screening applicants currently.

Students continue to attend, complete more work and strive to succeed.

### **Riverside High School**

#### KEY CLUB

Key Club of Riverside sent five members to the District Convention at SeaTac in Seattle over spring break. There were four incoming officers who received training during this event, and one member was installed as the new Lt. Governor of Division 80 of the Pacific Northwest District. Mayra Prado, Lt Governor, has scheduled a Divisional Council Meeting for April 8, 2011, in Hermiston to start planning for joint activities among area Key Clubs. Another annual event Key Club members have been invited to help with is set up the Tillicum Club Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday. Installation of incoming officers of the Key Club of Riverside will be April 28, 2011, at the Port of Morrow. To continue the partnership we have formed with the Boardman Senior Center, members will serve breakfast the first Saturday of the month at the Boardman Senior Center.

#### FIRST AID & CPR

Boardman/Irrigon EMT's have been teaching 60 Riverside students First Aid and CPR. Upon completion of this course the student will be First Aid/SPR certified. The course is taught for three reasons. First, the students will be able to give care for family, friends, and other victims. Second, the student will demonstrate safety training, which is needed for their senior project. Third and final reason the students

are given the opportunity to take the course is to give them a skill to put on their resume when applying for jobs. Riverside thanks the EMT's for providing this opportunity for our students.

### OAKS MATH TUTORING

There will be Friday opportunities for Jr. High Students that have not met their OAKS Math RIT score to receive tutoring to help them achieve the math RIT score needed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

- Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> – 9 to 12
- Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> – 9 to 12
- Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9 to 12
- Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> – 9 to 12
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – 9 to 12

Students that pass their math OAKS test and/or show RIT growth improvement will be given the opportunity of replacing any summer math remediation class that has been assigned. The next OAKS testing session will be in May. Please encourage your Junior High student(s) to take advantage of this opportunity. It not only will help them on their OAKS math test, but it will also strengthen their math skills and help them in their current math classes.

### MAKE A WISH PROGRAM

Three years ago, Youth Advisory Council, began the MAKE A WISH PROGRAM at Riverside Jr/Sr High School. The program provides all students the privilege of making a wish for a friend, themselves, or a staff member. All the wishes are kept confidential. Youth Advisory Council asked local business for donations or discounts. We received a lot of business and community support. We were able to grant many of the wishes, and all of them were meaningful and helpful. The program was once again a success. Youth Advisory Council, the students and staff of Riverside Jr/Sr High School were very pleased with the response.

### RIVERSIDE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Riverside Jr/Sr High School is pleased to announce, Robert Elizondo as Principal for the 2011-2012 school year. Robert is currently Principal on Special Assignment at Chiawana High School in Pasco, Washington. Mr. Elizondo is bilingual and has eight years of administrative experience. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Central Washington University, his Masters in Education, and his Administrative Certificate from Heritage University, Toppenish, Washington.

### Sam Boardman Elementary School

## **SAM BOARDMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

April 5, 2011

### ***Students of the Month for March:***

	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>K Tea m</b>	Halie Orcutt Nicholas Koertje Abril Rosales Juan Rodriguez	Diego Villegas Dayanara Lopez Carlos Rocha Elisabet Calvillo	Samantha Fulsang Emalei Hendron Shaylee Hocker Cathy Ruiz	Leslie Lopez Jose Morales Clarissa Sanchez Alexis Ramirez	<b>Ms. Smith</b> 95%
<b>Tea m 1</b>	Benny Sanchez Tehya Rivera Erika Rodriguez Layla Castillo	Zuriel Martinez Estela Castro Gabriela Avila Jasmin Lopez	Brock Barrett Leonardo Rodriguez Greg Romero Isabella Gonzalez	Arely Cambero Ivan Rodriguez Ali Zapata Martha Calvillo	<b>Mrs. Harrison</b> 94%
<b>Tea m 2</b>	Hailey Daltoso Isabella Mastriona Hailee Pratt Delia Hernandez	Isabella Miller Cynthia Diaz Salvador Garcia Nate Harrison	Yahir Colin Jennifer Vazquez Will Keefer Austin Matheney	Damian Garcia Lisbet Martinez David Madrigal Lupita Silva	<b>Mrs. Files</b> 96%

Team m 3	Alexis Navarro Kelly Ashe Flint Hodge	Angel Torres Brandon Madrigal Megan Gilbertson	Brian Franco Eric Medrano Neftali Pacheco	Zoey Gilbert Anddy Matir Jorge De La Torre	Mr. Jeppeson 95%
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**Enrollment:** 318      **Attendance:** Average attendance for February was 94.54%

**AR third quarter goal celebration!** 300 students reached their reading goal and passed 6,194 book tests for third quarter. So far this year students have read 15, 123 books! It was a great party to the theme of Magic Tree House chapter books. Students learned and explored dinosaurs in the library, and conducted an archeological dig for dinosaur bones using chocolate chip cookies.



Students had fun playing limbo as if they were on an Hawaiian beach. They played ‘stay out of the lava’ obstacle course, which was quite an adventure!

They then traveled to China and formed a great dragon parade with two spectacular dragons.



The snack was a cool, ice cream treat. Thank you students, teaching staff, JOBS volunteers, parent volunteers, high school helpers and Anne Orcutt! **It was FUN!**

SBE would like to extend our thank you to the **US Bank and OMSI** for bringing the all-school assembly, “**Science Circus**”, to Sam Boardman. A master juggler demonstrated balance,



centripetal force and gravity. Students were able to make the connection with our school intervention, Bal-A-Viz-X. It was by far one of the most popular assemblies we have had! **Parent Teacher Conferences** were well attended this spring. Parents were encouraged to complete our school survey for Site Council. Friday School and After School programs were presented to those students needing additional support to meet their benchmarks. Many of SBE's teachers completed the district sponsored, three-day institute, "Focused Approach: Systematic ELD" learning more about **English language development**. Because of our student demographics, it is crucial that all teachers at Sam Boardman have a solid understanding of how to support English language development. PTO is sponsoring a **community yard sale** on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-1:00. Community members can rent a table to sell their own items at this event, and the PTO will be selling many donated items. Concessions for shoppers. Mark your calendars! **Carnival will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>** to the theme of Cinco de Mayo. Our **Spring Concert** will be May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

**Windy River Elementary**  
**March Students of the Month**

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Theme - Courage</b>
Beagle	Eon Castillo	Scarlett Reagan	Daniel Cornelius
Boor	Ivonne Navarro	Emily Kirby	Isaias Cervantes
Browne	Madison Kitchen	Luz Ibarra	Durga Chapagai
Cornelius	Ruben Villa	Kevin Bravo	Kassadie Harrison
Gaede	Brendy Avalos		Debora Ruiz
Keefer	Maydi Barrera	Sterling Bither	Marielena Lopez
LaFramboise	Aidan Barresse	Estrella Daltoso	Seth Thomas
Prindle	Zulema Gaytan	Francisco Chavez	Janet Landeros
Strebin	Noe Madrigal	Irma Martinez	AJ Rockwell

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Party**

Science and Engineering was the focus of our March parent party. Using string, balloons, a straw, and a cargo carrier made out of a milk carton, students designed and tested a rocket balloon. The cargo was 10 paper clips. The goal was to find the best design that would carry the cargo the furthest. Students found that the larger the balloon (more air), the further their rocket traveled in distance. Some other changes that were tried were different kinds of strings, where slick fishing line created the least amount of friction, making the rocket travel further. It was an excellent experience that provided the students and parents with practice in Designing and Engineering, a new component of the new Science standards.

**WRE Family Math Night**

Family Math Night at Windy River Elementary, held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, was a success. The evening started with a free hamburger/chips/pop dinner for the first 100 people to attend. All but a few of the burgers were devoured. Students and their parents/guardians then stopped by tables all employing math skills: Straw Rockets and Statistics/Probability; Probability and Statistics Games; Checkbook Writing and Reconciliation; Tangrams; Estimation; and Graphing, to name a few. Games involving math concepts were given out by each table as prizes throughout the

evening including Monopoly, Phase 10 and Chess. Teachers are excited to do this again next year with plans on how to make it even better.

## OMSI Assembly

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Windy River Elementary was visited by Rhys of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry with his program of “Golly-ology.” Students were attentive for the entire hour’s program with topics of inertia, gravity, balance, centripetal force, archaeology, chemistry and mathematics while Rhys and occasional students participated in juggling routines. If it weren’t for gravity, we wouldn’t be able to juggle!

## Kiss- Pig

Windy River Elementary held its second annual “Kiss the Pig” fundraiser this past month of March. The fundraiser is a school wide COIN WARS competition that is split up into our 3 grade level teams, a specialist and office team, classified team, and a team that consisted of a single player, WRE principal, Mr. Jones. The competition is based on a positive penny point system where each penny is worth 1 point and silver coins and dollar bills are worth negative points, based on the value of the coin/bill. The object of the game is to have your own team bucket on the plus side and the team who you wish to see kiss the pig on the negative side.

Students and staff joined together to not only have a fun and friendly competition, but to also help raise money to be used towards the set up of our new playground equipment. And the best part? Getting to watch our very own principal, Mr. Jones, kiss both a life size pig (5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. Keefer “dressed to impress” in a pink pig costume) and a real squealing pig; which was also shown affection by our student body president, Ricardo Rosales and a volunteer smoocher 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mr. Beagle.

## WRE Spelling Contest

Top spellers from Windy River Elementary competed last week to qualify for the District Spelling Contest. The following students came out on top:

### Division I

1. Jared Miller – Grade 4
2. Rosy Jurcich – Grade 4
3. Ivonne Navarro – Grade 5

### Division II

1. Caleb Thomas
2. Gabrielle Miller
3. Mirna Daltoso



The top speller from each division will move on to the Umatilla Morrow County Spelling Contest to be held at BMCC on May 9, 2011 where they will compete against other students in Morrow County. The district winner will then receive a first place plaque and qualify to compete at the State Spelling Contest to be held in Salem during the State Fair.

#### **Knowledge Master Open**

Sixteen fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from Windy River Elementary represented their school in the Knowledge Master Open academic competition on January 19, 2011. They competed against thousands of students in the U.S. and several foreign lands. The teams faced their computer to answer 100 challenging questions in the event, which earned them points for the speed and accuracy of their answers. The team placed first against other schools in Oregon and 47<sup>th</sup> out of 250 schools nationwide according to Mrs. Proctor-Reece, TAG Coordinator.

This contest is designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement, the Knowledge Master Open runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The competition is presented twice each school year by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado software publisher. The next competition is March 17, 2011