

Principal & Director Reports

May 2009

AC. Houghton Elementary

Rock Wall: The ACH Parent Group and our student body have combined to finance the construction of a lateral rock climbing wall in our gym. This wall will be painted as a rock bluff scene and it will allow an entire PE class to participate in the climbing activity at once. Anticipation is great as construction proceeds. We are trying to hurry to get it completed within the next couple of weeks so that current third and fourth graders, who did a lot of the fundraising, can use it before they move on to Irrigon Elementary.

Bear Day/Night: May 14 will see annual Bear Day and Night activities. Students have been reading and earning points with comprehension tests to earn the right to participate in the activities, crafts, good food, and the annual running in the hall. Staff participate in this heavily on a voluntary basis and several staff get to sleep on the gym floor overnight. Local businesses in Hermiston donate prizes that we give out at the end of each event.

Spring Testing: The spring Oaks testing is underway. We will use these results to plan for summer school attendance and for curriculum organization for next year.

Spring Concerts: Spring concerts are as follows:

Pre-K.-grade one-5/12 grade 2-4-5/19

Heppner Elementary School

It is a privilege to report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that May is already here, our enrollment at HES is 189 students which is the same as it was for the April report. Our current attendance percentage for the year is 95.6% this is up slightly from last month and as always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School. HES recently started the third round of OAKS testing and I am happy to report that most of our students have met or exceeded the benchmarks for their grade level. We will continue working hard to get the few remaining HES students over the benchmark hump during this third and final round of testing.

April was full of many exciting events which took place at HES, with the highlight being the "Honor Card Assembly" which was held on April 16th where 68 HES students received Honor Cards and Certificates for the third quarter. Honor Cards are given to students that maintain positive grades, behavior and attendance during each quarter of the school year. HES students performed very well at the district sponsored math contest held at RHS on April 16th. We also held our Kindergarten Roundup on April 21st and pre-enrolled 32 Kindergarten students for next year. This was a pleasant surprise compared to this years KG class which consists of 22 students. Kolby Currin won his 4th grade class a free field trip to "Ag Fest" in Salem on April 24th as the winner of an essay contest sponsored by Ag Fest.

With the fourth quarter well under way we are rapidly approaching the end of the school year. Our 28 sixth grade students headed for the hills this week for Tupper Outdoor School. Other noteworthy events which will be taking place in the next few weeks include; Monday, May 25th Memorial Day - No School, Thursday, May 28th - Spring Concert, Thursday, June 4th - HES

Field Day and BBQ, Tuesday, June 9th – HES Awards Night, and Wednesday, June 10th is our last day of school.

I would like to end this 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

- Our spring sports are doing well finishing up their seasons and preparing for district and state competitions. It looks like we have a great chance at being district baseball champions, district girls and boys golf champions, and no doubt we will have many district champions in track.
- Our spring school play- A Broadway Review was a hit with many of our student body showing their skills and talents over 5 performances. It was well attended and was a success.
- We took 38 students to the Pendleton Army National Guard Aviation Open House two weeks ago. It was a great time where our students learned about aviation, what the National Guard is involved with in the state of Oregon and across the US, technology, job opportunities, and aviation mechanics. It was an amazing trip where our students using night vision goggles, and watched helicopters fly equipment and use a water bucket. The show also included four sky divers that jumped out of a helicopter at over 6,000 feet. It was enjoyed by all and received positively by all students that attended.
- Our FFA group attended CDE days in Corvallis again this spring. It was a fun time for our students to compete in several events and see a large scale Ag show and career fair.
- Our GOAL interviews went without a hitch. All of our students did well and this process included over 20 community members that volunteered. It was fun and exciting to hear the presentations of our students and what HHS has helped them prepare for.
- We received our preliminary writing scores back from the state for grades 7 and 10. The word to describe our progress with writing is, AMAZING! We had 27 of our 28 students in the 7th grade conditionally meet, meet, or exceed on meeting the standard. In the 10th grade, 34 out of 36 students conditionally met, met, or exceeded with meeting the standard. Truly, these results are unprecedented and reason to celebrate at HHS. Our double dipping in writing, efforts with cross curriculum intervention, and giving students multiple opportunities to be graded on the rubric- has paid off. YAHOO!
- Our third testing window is fast approaching us, and we are making a huge push to get those last remaining students over the top in math, and reading. I will give you an update on our progress and percentages from HHS in June.
- We are finishing up with giving AP exams to our students. This week we will have that part of our AP program accomplished. Below are the numbers of students we have in our AP classes and how many are taking the test is in parentheses. AP Biology- 24, (2), AP Calculus- 16, (2), AP Chemistry- 25, (0), AP Language Composition- 28, (9), AP Government- 18, (5).
- Dave Fowler and I took a trip down to look at Scappoose HS and their proficiency model that they are using in their school. It was an amazing trip that has got the ball rolling with how to implement the 8 period day at HHS using a proficiency

model. My staff and I are excited about moving this direction and will be developing and working on skill sets that are packaged for all of our students to meet proficiency standards via performance assessments.

Irrigon Elementary School

Outdoor School- The last week of April we went with Windy River Elementary School to have Outdoor School together. It was a wonderful experience to have done this together. The students got along great. The staff worked well together. It snowed, but we all adjusted and had a good week of fun, work and friendship.

5th Grade OAKS Tests- While the sixth grade was gone, the 5th grade concentrated on taking the OAKS tests. We exceeded last years 5th grade tests in both Reading and Math!! We're pumped! In Math we got 69% passing the OAKS tests, and in Reading we got 77% passing the OAKS tests. We're very happy.

The Tempest- Ms. Osturlund's class presented the play, "The Tempest". It's a Shakespearian play. They did a lot of work to prepare the scenes, the costumes and memorizing their parts. Kudos to Ms. Osterlund, for getting kids excited to re-creating this drama.

WRE Writing Fest- We attended the Writing Fest at Windy River Elementary. All the 5th and 6th graders all across the district came and went to classes about writing. Everyone behaved. Students learned lots more about writing from our guest author and our very own teachers.

4th Grade Transition- We are making plans and preparations to add on the 4th grade to our building next year. We are excited, working hard and ready to meet the new challenge.

Oregon Scratch-It- Last month Ms. Rowe and I went to Hamley's in Pendleton to scratch out the winnings of \$1594 dollars for our school program next year. We are on a roll here at IES and I hope it never stops!

Irrigon High School

AP Classes

All eleven students in our AP Spanish class took the test. In addition to the typical test-type questions, students were required them to listen to various passages and prepare a written response. They were also asked to participate in a conversation in which they would alternate recording their responses on the computer with listening to a CD. All in all, it was an interesting test to proctor. In our AP Language Arts class half (twelve) took the English Literature and Composition test. The AP United States History exam was taken by eight out of ten students. In all, we had twenty five students taking AP exams with six of them taking two. Unfortunately, we will not know the results until July.

I.C.E.

Our seniors have been working hard to put their finishing touches on their ICE projects. This is their culminating experience in which they share what they have accomplished thus far in their lives both in and out of school as well as how these decisions have prepared them for their future careers and educational choices. Their presentations will be on Tuesday May 12th and Wednesday May 13th.

Knight Klean-Up Day

We held our annual Knight Klean-Up day on April 30th. We had seventeen advisory groups out in the community doing a variety of jobs assisting the elderly, parks and recreation, ACH, and the city of Irrigon. There was one lady who was so impressed that she came to the school to brag about how wonderful a job our students did cleaning up her yard. I had another gentlemen drop off a thank you letter yesterday to the students that helped him. This was a great experience for all of our students and gives them the opportunity to give something back to their community. I would like to offer a special thanks to our Key Club for coordinating all of the activities that day.

Knight of Excellence

On May 18th at 7pm we will be hosting our annual academic awards ceremony. We will also have our junior high and high school National Honor Society inductions that evening. Postcards were sent out earlier this week specifically inviting parents of students who are to be recognized. Thank you to the Knights Pride Booster Club for providing dessert for the occasion.

Riverside High School

CONFERENCES

The final conferences of the year (4th quarter) will be held Thursday, May 7th, from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

WALK FOR DIABETES!

By: Berenice Chavez, Mecha Club President

The Mecha Club of Riverside High School is hosting a Diabetes Marathon May 2nd at the Marina Park, between 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. Pre- registration will be at 8:30 A.M.

Minimum donations are \$2.00 per person or \$6.00 per family.

Community members who are unable or too busy to walk are welcome to sponsor any RHS student with a \$2.00 minimum donation.

The aim of the walk is to promote awareness of diabetes. "It's growing at a somewhat alarming rate" says Mrs. Cortez, Mecha Club advisor. It was Cortez who came up with the idea, but Mecha members were excited about doing something good for the community. Eating healthy foods, staying fit and exercise are key ways to prevent diabetes.

Monies raised will benefit the American Diabetes Association. We can earn up to 15% of these monies for this community to buy school medical supplies and/or P.E equipment. "In a time of budget crunches, that's exciting," said Cortez.

AP TESTING

AP Calculus - 3 enrolled/3 taking the test

AP English Literature and Composition – 15 enrolled/2 taking the test

AP Language and Composition – 18 enrolled/1 taking the test

AP World History – 14 enrolled/ none taking the test

AP Spanish Literature – 8 enrolled/4 taking the test

AGENDA COVER CONTEST

ASB is sponsoring an Agenda Cover Contest. Any Riverside students wishing to participate must submit their design on 5 by 8-inch paper by 3:15 on April 30th. Students can submit multiple entries. We are looking for separate cover designs for junior high and high school. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners.

WRITING FESTIVAL

On May 2, three students from Riverside attended the annual Oregon Writing Festival at Portland State University. Katelyn Taylor, Cristina Martinez, and Jessica Ford were joined by thirteen other students from

around the district along with hundreds of students from across the state. At the festival, students shared writing samples they had written, learned and practiced new writing techniques taught by teachers and writing professionals, and attended presentations by famous authors. The weekend started with Morrow County students engaging in hands-on history and science lessons at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). The students stayed Friday night on the USS Blueback, the last diesel submarine built for the United States Navy, on loan to OMSI by the Navy. During their time at OMSI, the students took an extended tour of the Blueback, participated in science activities led by the OMSI staff, enjoyed a planetarium show, and camped overnight on the submarine.

RHS SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

This summer Riverside teacher William Pullen along with seniors Vicky Hernandez, Viviana Colin and Mayra Barrera will participate in a summer symposium sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities. The annual symposium has participants study an issue or theme from several academic and social areas. This year's theme, "The Pursuit of Happiness" will have students exploring happiness in several small-group breakout sessions over two days in the areas such as biology, art, United States history, philosophy, and relationships. The symposium will take place at Portland State University August 2-4. This is the first time that students outside the Portland area have been invited to participate. All expenses for the students are to be paid by a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

Windy River Elementary

April Students of the Month

April	Academics	Academics	Theme - Fairness
Beagle	Briana Snyder	Abel Rodelo	Shellie Munoz
Boor	Natalie Melendez	Shandon Sanders	Valerie Colin
Browne	Luis Hernandez	Rory Barresse	Ulises Herrera
Chapman	Dixitka Ghising	Anisha Ghising	Perla Martinez
Cox	Emily Medina	Briana Melendez	Silvia Gonzales
Dames	Anthony Kernal-Yonally	Angel Zuniga	Matlida Goodeve
Gaede	Donovan Carmack	Osiel Madrigal	Ahtziri Trujillo
Keefer	Edith Velasco	Jeny Mendoza	Edgar Rodriguez
Strebin	Karen Cortez	Karl Elliot	Elijah Conlon
Prindle	Jason Navarro	Kynzee Axtell	Diana Esparza



Writing Festival

On Thursday, April 2nd, Morrow County students had the opportunity to meet with Oregon author, Eric Kimmel, at the third annual Windy River Writing Festival. In addition to 4th- 5th grade students from WRE, 5th and 6th grade students from Irrigon and Heppner Elementary were also in attendance. This year's festival included Mr. Kimmel, an author from Portland who has published more than 90 books. Mr. Kimmel was a dynamic and exciting speaker, who motivated students about writing and telling stories. The theme for the day was "Stories from Around the World." In addition to a session with the artist, students participated in writing workshop style classes with teachers from WRE, IES and HES. All in all, the day was a huge success and students thoroughly enjoyed writing and meeting up with new friends from across the district. The author hopes that we will invite him back for a similar day in the future.

Math Contest

Twenty-one Windy River Math students competed against other Morrow County students from grades fourth, fifth, and sixth at the annual District Math Contest on April 16 at Riverside High School. Tag Coordinator, Theresa Proctor-Reece coordinated the event along with the help of other district coordinators. Windy River Elementary student, Rory Barresse brought home the first place plaque at the fifth grade level and almost every Windy River student that competed was in the top ten and came home with a ribbon for their accomplishments.

Oregon Lottery Scratch-It

On April 15, 2009, ELL teacher, Theresa Proctor-Reece and Title I teacher, Cara Osmin represented Windy River Elementary in the Oregon Scratch It 4 Schools lottery scratch off. They were assisted by two KUMA radio station employees to scratch off a total of \$1458. WRE hopes to use the money for computer technology that will allow more monitors to be hooked up in the classrooms to one computer. With only five minutes to scratch as many tickets as they could, it was an exciting event.

Learning Fair

Windy River Elementary's Learning Fair was a spectacular celebration for all of our students and their hard work. The annual event was held April 23, 2009 from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. Learning projects from each classroom were arranged in a panoramic fashion around the gym. All curriculums were well represented. This year our school has made a priority to improve our student's writing scores and this was evident in all of the various displays of children's writing from poetry to book design. Science included owl pellets. Students dissected a pellet and were surprised to find the bones of the creatures the owl had eaten over time. A project about Native Americans was displayed where students wrote about a particular group of Indians and made a model of their home using natural materials. Learning can be fun and without a doubt, it was when viewing this event.

Outdoor School

WRE and IES attended outdoor school together. We had a great time. Each day was devoted to a theme. Monday was Wilderness Survival Day, Tuesday was Forest Ecology Day, Wednesday was Watershed Day and Thursday was go home day. We all had a great time in the 5 ½ inches of snow.

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for March:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Jack Curtis Vicente Zuniga Aldo Murguia Jose Puerta	Moises Lopez Francisco Barajas Ramon Montes Nate Harrison	Cooper Szasz Edgar Murguia Vanessa Rodríguez Lucero Medel	Hope Harwood Chantal Lemus Jennifer Vazquez Lupita Silva	Mrs. Creason 94%
1 st Grade	Brian Franco Aaliyah Calderon Kenneth Twidwell Johana Sepulveda	Eli Killion Vanesa Sanchez Erick Zamora Julian Jimenez	Eric Medrano Jason Daltoso Brandon Madrigal Destanee Bataglia	Bianca Avalos Roberto Calixto Jasmine Garcia Jocelyn Rodriguez	Mrs. Harrison 96%
2 nd Grade	Emiy Diaz Brenda Flores Andrew Vestal Sidney Bartholow	Ricardo Ramos Emma Finley Isaiah Aguilar Anthony Rodelo	Janet Landeros Stephanie Gonzalez José Rodríguez Ana Navarro	Maria Gonzalez Dakota Durfey Lizbet Madrigal David Araiza	Mrs. Drake 96%
3 rd Grade	Anthony Ramirez Misael Madrigal Viviana Garay	Vicky Landeros Neira Rodriguez Hector Ponce	Aramis Corpus Abby Hernandez Fabian Meza	Zach Ferguson Abigail Bozarth Asher Padilla	Mrs. Raible 95%

Enrollment: 314 **Attendance:** Average attendance for March was 93.58%

Student of the Month assembly celebrated SBE's top spellers: Grace Wheeler (2nd grade) and Marcalina Reymondo (3rd grade). Students read AR books for a chance to vote for the teacher to get a pie in the face. Anne Orcutt and Michael Cates won the competition. 2410 books were read in third quarter and 12,611 so far this year.



Friday School: With one Friday remaining 89% have been able to take advantage of this learning opportunity.

Assessments: Spring assessments are under way and we look forward to celebrating academic growth as students and staff have worked very hard to meet Oregon's rigorous academic challenges.

Site Council updated progress on our school-wide goals. We reviewed comments from the ELL State Monitoring visit, parent surveys, and reports from staff attending workshops. We set a date for a special work session to plan parent involvement activities for next year. OAKS and MAPS results will give us the information we need to finalize our school wide plan.

Family Reading Night: Parents enjoyed reading with their children and I had a great time too! 40 participants listened to stories read by Kevin Harper and Nancy McElhaney. Each student was able to select a book to take home.



Carnival: Our families and community enjoyed a night at S.B.E.'s carnival playing games, winning prizes, and visiting with friends. The evening concluded with raffle prizes and revealing the silent auction. Thanks to the contributions from community, parents, teachers and high school workers, this event will be able to sponsor student activities next year.



Cinco de Mayo writing contest. SBE students submitted historical essays. Contest winners are: (left to right)



Ms.

Kennedy's 2nd Grade: 1st Place- Anthony Carrillo, 2ndPlace-Veronica Alvarez, and 3rd Place -Grace Wheeler

Ms. Harjo's 1st Grade: 1st Place-Isabella Ganvoa, 2nd Place-Kannon Wilkins and 3rd Place-Cristian Rea.



Certified week: We are appreciating our teachers with a week of special treats to the theme of "It's a Jungle Out There"... Breakfast, lunch, balloons, cake and more!