

# Principal & Director Reports

November 2008

## A.C. Houghton Elementary

### Veterans Day Program

ACH will host Irrigon area veterans at a Veterans Day recognition assembly 11/5 at 2:30 PM. Music will be provided by the IHS choir and also ACH third and fourth grade groups. We will have a special flag ceremony and various veterans sharing their military career recollections with our student body. This will be a very special time.

### Oaks Testing

Our fourth grade is done with their fall assessment. Third start of the year results are up dramatically in comparison with last year's fourth graders. We hope we duplicate these results with our third grade that is now about 25% of the way through the assessment in math and reading. More later.

### Family Reading Night

We held our first Family Reading Night of the year in October. Attendance was 80 students, parents and staff. This activity continues to grow.

### Family Movie Night

We held our Second Family Movie Night. We are committed to doing this eight months out of the nine month school year. The movie activity is free for parents and staff groupings sell refreshments has a small fundraiser at a modest cost. The attendance for October was 105.

## Heppner Elementary School

It is a privilege to once again report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that October has come and gone, and that November is already upon us. With the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter we are busy getting ready for parent teacher conferences this week. Our enrollment as of today is 184 students and our attendance percentage for the month of October was 96.8%. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The Heppner Elementary Parent Teacher Club recently held the annual school carnival and earned over \$1000.00 to help support curriculum and projects at our school. HES Students also recently raised over 1730 lbs. of canned food to help the Heppner Neighborhood Center and families in need. I am told that this was more than had been raised in the last several years. We are also very excited for the upcoming Mac Bledsoe visit to the Heppner Community which will happen this week. He will be meeting with parents on Tuesday evening at HES and will hold an assembly Wednesday afternoon at HHS for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Mac Bledsoe is the father for former NFL Quarterback Drew Bledsoe and is a motivational speaker who focuses on family and parenting values.

I would like to end this months report by 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 school play (Romeo and Winifred- romantic comedy) dates will be on November 11, at 7:00pm, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, the 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, and the 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm. We have 29 students involved in this years fall production.
- I am continuing to discuss the 236 requirement with students and parents with the graduation requirements. I am working on getting a whole spread up on our website concerning our 236 committee and the work they have done. This will be accomplished this month.
- Mr. Flaherty's AP Government class held a debate that was moderated by myself in front of all Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in the gym. Each group (three groups) had to develop a name for their party, a platform, and what they stood for. Each Presidential candidate was asked a combination of questions that were about the economy, foreign policy, housing and credit markets, homeland security, and taxation. The students did a very good job debating and it was entertaining to say the least. They were very well schooled on the issues and were able to discuss their solutions as a party. We then held student body voting to display who had won the debate. We filmed the event, if you would like to view it, please let me know.
- I met with several teachers in the core area this month concerning formative assessment. We sat down and discussed ways and methods of how to assess content based on the standards and how it lines up within their lessons. It was extremely helpful for the math teacher I met with and I have plans to continue these discussions with other teachers as well.
- Career Camp held at Tupper was amazing! Mr. Bensen and I went up for the day on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>. They were burning slash piles and learning about fire ecology the whole time we were there. This is a great learning environment for these kids and they gained some tremendous opportunities to see fire in a real lab setting.
- We held a MAPS assessment web conference with our elementary school teachers and high school teachers. We are targeting our SPED kids with MAP testing to show academic growth.
- I sat down with Jeanie Collins and we laid out a plan for intervention for our freshman students that are coming in on Fridays for help. Jeanie is compiling some convention/grammar/and contextual work for our Friday ZAP teachers to use for interventions.

## Irrigon Elementary School

Irrigon Elementary School is a busy place for 120 enrolled students. Here are a few things that have kept us busy this month:

1. **PBS Positive Behavior Supports:** We have three words that model what we are about they are: be Respectful, be Responsible and be Reliable. We award students with Proud Crowd certificates, Popcorn vouchers, character awards, and for Perfect Attendance for being and behaving at Irrigon Elementary School. Our counselor is going from class to class teaching about bullying and how students can deal with others bullying them or how to be kind to others. Positive behavior must be taught, modeled by the adults and recognized when students behave in the way they are expected. IES wants to be a very positive place to be.

2. **OAKS Training and Testing:** This month IES staff went through the training provided by our building DART person, Angel Younger. Later on this month, we started our first round of OAKS testing in Math, Reading and Science. Our scores are better than the first tests last year. Our goal is to keep the scores rising every year. We now have two testing labs as a result of rearranging our building computers. The testing went smooth and faster. We feel very good about what we are seeing. We know the importance of every child meeting the State benchmark tests.
3. **Friday School:** We have begun on seven specific Fridays having an intensive standards driven program for students who did not meet last year's benchmark test in Math, Reading and Writing. This Friday School program picks up students at home and provides intensive instruction in Math, Reading and Writing. We hope to see results improve.
4. **Red Ribbon Week:** On October 27-30 we had Red Ribbon Week. This is where we speak out about saying, "No!" to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Students wrote essays, they made posters, and they had class contests in who wore the most amount of Red that week. The winning classes got extra time for recess. Awards were given to the two best essays, and awards were given to the best posters made. We believe that children need to be taught to say no to drugs, and feel good about who they are in living a life free from drugs.
5. **Perfect Attendance:** This quarter we will give away two new bicycles to two randomly selected students with perfect attendance. This helps motivate students to come to school everyday and learn. Every quarter we will continue to do the same and increase our school's report card in the area of school attendance.

### **Irrigon High School**

It is hard to believe that October has come and gone already. We ended the month with an extremely hectic homecoming week. On Monday we had hall decorations and the Red Cross blood drive that saw 38 pints of blood donated. Tuesday night we had a good crowd at our Macho Volleyball games. The previously unbeaten (and unproven) staff team eventually lost to the juniors in the finals. Thursday we had a noise parade through town which ended at the athletic field where we supported our soccer team in their final match of the year. They ended up losing to Umatilla 3-2 in the last two minutes of the game. Afterwards, we had our annual bonfire with the Knights Pride Booster Club providing hot chocolate and cookies for everyone. On Friday at the start of the homecoming game, we unveiled our new Knights mascot.

On Thursday of homecoming week during our pep assembly, I presented a 'Knights Statue' to the student body on behalf of the Class of 2008. This drew thunderous applause from everyone before students broke into a spontaneous chant of 'IHS, IHS, IHS, ...' which lasted for several minutes. This was the biggest show of enthusiasm and school pride that I have seen in a very long time.



We are currently in the middle of our first round of OAKS testing. We have had numerous conversations with students reiterating the importance of the test as well as the implications the test results have especially with the class of 2012. Teachers have also done a good job preparing students with test taking strategies and meeting individually with students to set personal RIT goals. In conversations with the middle school teachers, overall scores have been good in both mathematics and reading. The high school testing will begin the first week of November.

The staff spent the month working on their SIOP portfolios. Teachers worked in teams of two or three observing one another and being observed as part of the district's fourth year of SIOP implementation. The SIOP program continues to be a valuable tool and provides a good starting point to talk about good instruction. We have also begun to have regular meetings focusing on both vertical and horizontal alignment of curriculum based on power standards. We also continue to discuss common formative assessment.

The facilities at IJSHS continue to be improved and developed. After receiving a \$2000 fee waiver from the City of Irrigon, we were able to have a meter and water line connected so that we are now able to have potable water at the athletic complex. Eventually this water line will be connected to a permanent facility. The Knights Pride Booster Club was able to purchase an almost new gym floor covering from a school in Beaverton – special thanks to Luna Trucking who graciously transported it to us. Our booster club with help from the Bank of Eastern Oregon has also purchased a new scorer's table for our gymnasium. All of these purchases have been part of our five year plan which was developed last year.

### **Riverside High School** **HIGH SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

Riverside has a high school population of 249 students. 89 high school students maintained perfect attendance for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. This means they did not miss 1 class period and had 2 or less tardies for the entire 9 weeks. Riverside staff appreciates these students commitment.

### **KEY CLUB**

Riverside Key Club has started the 2008-9 school year, rolling ahead with helping plan and execute, with the Boardman Chamber, the Boardman Fun Run for the Fourth of July. We joined Kiwanis members at the Senior Center for the August Pancake Breakfast.

Members of Key Club who attended the Tri-Cities Rally at Camp Kiwanis were: Ashley Anderson, Evelyn Garcia, Juana Gaytan, Amanda McKnight, Liz Montoya, Sasha Richardson, Tim Thomason and James Town. Members learned spirit chants, ice-breakers and attended officer training and the Key Club Division 80 meeting.

Key Club was pleased to welcome Brad Henning to RHS September 23, 2008. After hearing him at District Convention 2008 at SeaTac, Mr. Henning gave two assemblies, one for high school students and the other for junior high students about teen relationships.

### **MECHA CLUB**

MeCha club is currently developing a walkathon in Boardman to raise awareness for Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes. November is National Diabetes Awareness month and it is expected that the walkathon will be held in November. The MeCha Club will be responsible for the event. The program that MeCha will be a part of is designed by the American Diabetes Association and is known as the **School Walk for Diabetes** (SWFD). It is a K-12 educational fund-raising program that teaches students the benefits of healthy living, community service and school spirit while raising money for the American Diabetes Association.

Through SWFD, we have the ability to improve the health of our school and community:

1. **Earn** up to 15 percent back for school medical supplies and PE equipment.
2. **Educate** our school and community about Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes.
3. **Promote** continued healthy living and activity through thank you gifts.
4. **Raise** money to support the mission of the American Diabetes Association -- to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.
5. **Give** students an opportunity to show their school spirit.

### **EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES**

Riverside Jr/Sr High staff believes education for our students constitutes the keys for future success in the real world. We spend many hours preparing students for life past high school, such as: jobs, the military, vocational school, and college. As a result we are building our college prep program slowly. Riverside began with AP Calculus in 2003. We added two AP classes in 2007: *AP English Literature & Composition* and *AP English Language & Composition*. We added *AP World History* and *AP Spanish Literature* in 2008. We encourage juniors and seniors to take these classes to prepare themselves for higher education. We received the second year of a Grant for \$10,000 from the AP Programs at College Board to fund the continuation of these classes and training for the teachers. Our budget is in, and it has been accepted.

We have also recently applied for a \$25,000 inspiration grant from College Board. The grant would be used to continue growth in our college prep programs. We would develop Pre-AP classes (i.e. English, Social Studies, Science) for our sophomores and freshmen and increase our Vertical Team capabilities. The additional funding would allow us to increase the number of students in AP classes and pre-AP classes, increase the number of staff trained to teach such classes, afford release time, and procure books and materials to support our staff in teaching these classes. This grant would mean a great deal. As educators, we plant the seeds, dreams, and hopes for a better life in each of our students; this grant would enable us to give our students the tools they will need to succeed in college and the real world. Our primary goal is assisting students in growth towards their goals. Further development of our AP program would enhance student success as they pursue higher education and better futures.

### **Windy River Elementary**

#### **Reading and Literature Power Standards**

WRE and SBE worked together on developing K-6 power standards. The next step for WRE is developing a scope and sequence.

#### **Reading Day**

Students will be joined with their families on WRE's 1<sup>st</sup> annual Reading Day, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Students, along with their families, will enjoy a variety of reading activities. There will be a read-aloud by our own Morrow County Administrators, Mr. Burrows, Mrs. Danielson and Mr. Jones, as they share their favorite childhood book, and a visit to the Safari book fair in the library. We appreciate how several businesses have donated materials for students to earn reading awards and free books throughout the day. Flyers have been distributed to local business to try to increase parent participation and awareness. Reading is a necessity and we hope at WRE to instill in our students the value and pleasure that can come with successful readers. The day will conclude with a special assembly to recognize the efforts of students who went above and beyond during the day with their reading achievement. Parents, trek on down to WRE to join your child for the day and "hang out and read!"

### **Book Fair**

The Safari book fair will be November 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. New features added to this WRE's book fair that have not been done before include a classroom wish list for donations to be made for teacher's classroom libraries, change collected to be donated to a scholastic organization such as Toys for tots, daily specials, family reading day, flyers in local business, our own website with hours and specials for parents and students to view, and a teacher's choice board. WRE's own students performed a skit to build excitement for the event at the SOM assembly in October. Students partook in a coloring contest to win a free book from the book fair, students also heard from various others promoted during the fair. The goal of the book fair is \$1800.00. Lastly, there has been tremendous effort from the staff to add excitement through bulletin boards, decorations, displays and various activities to try to receive a grant from scholastic. The amounts range from \$500 to \$2,000 scholarships where items can be purchased in the form of books or other teacher's resources for the school's library. It has been a lot of hard work, and the efforts of all the staff have really helped boost the excitement of WRE students.

### **Red Ribbon Week**

The week of October 27-30<sup>th</sup>, Windy River Elementary students participated in Red Ribbon Week. The theme for the week was, "I elect to be drug free," with a theme around election events and voting to be drug free. The purpose of this week is to teach about drug prevention and promote healthy living activities. There were classroom lessons about the negative effects of drugs. Students participated in daily dress up contests to initiate class and school spirit about being drug free. Dress up days included; red, white and blue day, pajama day, sports day. On Wednesday, the entire school participated in a soccer contest to represent our school wide commitment to healthy living activities and things students can choose to do instead of drugs. All in all, the week was a success with lots of student and staff participation.

### **OAKS Testing**

Most of last month was dedicated to testing with one week off for Red Ribbon Week. WRE should finish the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Team Meetings**

WRE PLCs are up and running and they meet every Wednesday morning or lunch time.

### **Book Club**

The book for this year is, "A Framework for Understanding Poverty", by Ruby Payne. This book teaches the hidden rules of the economic classes, especially those that live in poverty and that despite the obstacles poverty can create in all types of interaction, there are specific strategies for overcoming them.

## Students of the Month for October

Teacher	Academics	Academics	Theme - Perseverance
Beagle	Paige Bither	Jennifer Conway	Luis Claustro
Boor	Alexis Mendoza	Zoey Gomez	Stephen Groce
Browne	Vanessa Calvillo	America Ayuso	Sinahi Torres
Chapman	Giovanni Hernandez	Kirsten Taylor	Adolfo Bedolla
Cox	Lizbeth Gaytan	Antonio Murguia	Cassidy Braun
Dames	Abram Hernandez	Vizta Sifford	Alejandro Campos
Gaede	Ricardo Rosales	Sadie Hasbell	Jose Avila
Keefer	Ryan Hahn	Mayra Hernandez	Aaron Campos
Prindle	Bryan Altamirano	Kassidy McCullough	Dominic Valenzuela
Strebin	Hans Rockwell	Miguel Ascencio	Estefani Diaz

## Fourth Grade Parent Party

Fourth Graders at WRE hosted their second Parent Party on Thursday, October 23, from 2:30-3:30. Many more parents attended this party... word must be spreading! Teachers were able to share a website which has several activities to support their students in the area of spelling. Students demonstrated a few items on this site. Teachers may use this site, entering current spelling words which are incorporated into the site's activities. When students log in, from school or home, they utilize the current spelling list! Students have fun while learning and practicing at a pace which is comfortable to them. Spelling tests can also be completed on this site, should the teacher choose to do so. Tests are corrected on line and reports prepared for printing and record keeping.

Snacks were provided...yogurt and juice, and then Spelling Bees were held in each classroom.

As hectic as these parties can be, parents, teachers, and students all enjoy them. The benefits of interacting under these relaxed settings are numerous.

The parties get better with each month, as students present more. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to 'show off' for their parents, and all of us have fun just visiting a bit!

What will November's Parent Party theme be???? Whatever it is, it will be fun!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Sam Boardman Elementary

### **Students of the Month for September**

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Cooper Szasz Wyatt Duke Hayden Bigham Maria Marquez	Ricky Davila Vicente Zuniga James Tiboni Hailee Pratt	Tyler Pearson Edgar Murguia Karen Frausto Jose Puerta	Moises Lopez Bobby Garcia Jaylene Altamirano Marco Barrera	Mrs. Christy 92%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Megan Gilbertson Ezequiel Ramos Sierra Villegas Gunnar Livingston	Neftali Pacheco Destiny Aldrich Jose Mendoza Fernando Ortega	Angel Torres Isabella Ganvoa Marytza Prado Natalie Wade	Stephanie Chaves Ethan Harper Juan Frausto Lilian Solis	Mrs. Harrison 96%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Alondra Caldera Estrella Daltoso Vanessa Chavez Grace Wheeler	Gerry Ruiz Josh Matthews Carlos Olguin Seth Thomas	Karen Cambero Rose Jurcich Anthony Rodelo Alexis Cambero	Brandon Juarez Adolfo Martinez Zachery McDonough Tiffany Akers	Ms. Kennedy 96%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ricardo Navarro	Kaylee Wade	Isaias Cervantes	Jessica Calvillo	Mrs.



<b>Grade</b>	Caleb Caudron Sonia Medina	Laura Avila Abby Hernandez	Jose Luis Perez Cody McCullough	Marielena Lopez Jesse Hibbitts	<b>Raible</b> 97%
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**Enrollment:** 307.

**Attendance:** Average attendance for October was 93.15%

**Student of the Month and Playground Dedication**



Eight years and a dream came true with two large pieces of playground equipment at SBE. Parents, students and teaching staff were present at the dedication by Tina Livingston, PTO president. A plaque will give credit to Good Shepherd Hospital, RDO, Pendleton Grain Growers and the PTO. Students at SBE will benefit socially and physically for years to come due to this community effort.

**Site Council** finalized our school wide plan which focuses on academics, professional learning communities and communication with family and community. The results from the parent communication survey revealed how many of our parents read the North Morrow Times, and depend on

our fliers for school information.

**Red Ribbon Week and Harvest Parties:** Sonia Sanchez and the Student Council coordinated our efforts in a weeklong celebration that focused on educating students about the dangers of drugs. Each day had a theme and classroom presentation to learn how to say “No” to drugs and the benefits of living healthy, drug-free lives. The contest to promote involvement was won by Mrs. Harrison’s class. Many parents joined us for the concluding costume day and Harvest Parties.

**Student Council** members for this year are Sonia Medina, Misael Madrigal, Maydi Barrera, Ethan Akers, Jose Peralta, and Samantha Zapata.



**Parent Teacher Conferences** will be Thursday, November 6 from 4:00-8:00 pm; Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-12:00 am; and Monday from 4:00-8:00 pm. Our parent survey will help guide school improvement.

**Professional Development:** Teachers selected their Power Standards for Language Arts and began the process of mapping lessons and common assessments for the school year.

**OAKS Assessments** are 98% complete for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in both reading and math. Initial scores show 4% more students meeting or exceeding the reading benchmark this fall as compared to last fall. And 7% more students meeting or exceeding the benchmark in math.

SBE and WRE pay tribute with a **Veterans Assembly** on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Please join us in the SBE gymnasium for this memorable event.

### **Morrow Education Center**

No report this month