

# Principal & Director Reports

## September 2010

### AC. Houghton Elementary

- **Family Movie Night**-the first night of our annual family activities will be next Friday, 9/10. Family Movie Night will present the Marmaduke movie for families free of charge with refreshments available at a small cost. Grade levels sign-up for these activities to raise a few classroom dollars. We averaged approximately 60 people coming to these activities through the year with some nights as high as 130 lowering to 35-40 in the late spring.
- **ACH Open House**-Open House will be the evening of September 21 at 7 PM. for grades K-3. Parents will receive information regarding school activities and program and our community shelter in place program and they will be able to visit classrooms. Parent group will be sponsoring ice cream sundaes as a welcome back special activity.
- **New safety playground**-we are just about completed with the installation of 5000 ft.<sup>2</sup> of new 4 inch rubberized playground that was funded through the school district. This replaced the 15-year-old worn-out playground pavers that had become unsafe and worn-out overtime. This will be a tremendous increase in safety for our primary kids and the climbing and swinging apparatus they protect.
- **2000 1011 Bobcat Program**-our Afterschool Program will begin September 13 with third-graders. Students are invited for participation in this program if they are behind in their program to reach grade level benchmarks. A majority of this third- grade group was participating as second graders and we are using additional Map assessment data to create the background for participation.
- **Curriculum focus for 1011**- the curriculum focus for this year is in the area of writing. Our math and reading programs continue to produce excellent results with our third-grade Oaks assessment. Our writing results were also pretty good with 60% passing benchmark and an additional 36% and nearly passing. It's still lower performance though then what is occurring in math and reading. We will be increasing the amount of assessment and precision teaching in writing and also increasing formal writing sample assessment at each grade level.

### Heppner Elementary School

It is our second week back to school and we are off and running here at Heppner Elementary. Our current enrollment appears to be about 184 students which is down from the end of last year. As always we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff enjoyed preparing and gearing up for the start of the 2010-2011 school year. We had a very focused and productive in-service week planning and preparing for another rigorous and fruitful year at HES with school wide achievement and writing improvement at the top of our priority list.

Here are some September dates of interest for HES:

- September 7, 2010 - HES PTC Mtg. @ 5:30pm.
- September 10, 2010 - Picture day at HES.
- September 11, 2010 - Friday School Day.

- September 13, 2010 - MCSD Board Meeting @ HHS 7pm.
- September 14, 2010 - HES Site Council Mtg. @ 4:30pm.
- September 29, 2010 - HES Open House 6-7pm.

I would like to end 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 building looks great coming out of the summer and want to say kudos to Mike Doherty, Teresa Parret, and Kelly Fox for the job they did while students and staff were on vacation.
- Our in-service time was great. Our staff is off and running implementing year two using the proficiency model. Teachers are excited about the improvements we have made as a staff to address consistency and communication.
- We have held our first week of Proficiency Open Tutorial where students that are involved in extra-curricular activities can get individual tutorial help from specific teachers until 4pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. This is required by all athletes and our entire staff has given up prep time to meet with students to reassess or redo something they are struggling with.
- Fall sports are up and running- with both volleyball and football having already played- it looks as if this fall is going to be another positive experience for our kids and our community. Our numbers are high in both programs with 46 out for football and 31 out for volleyball.
- Our enrollment is about the same as last year. We have 20 exchange students from all over the world attending our school. This will be the fourth year in a row we have used ICES as our main service agency in placing students. All of our students are year round placements and have homes in our community. For more information concerning ICES you can look at their website at <http://www.ices-services.org> or visit with me concerning the direction we are going at HHS with exchange student organization.
- Our high school was awarded for the third year in a row a bronze award from US News and World Report as a great high school. Currently, HHS is the only school in Eastern Oregon that has been awarded this honor for three consecutive years.
- We have two new staff members in the building to start the year. Ms. Kristine Martin is our new counselor and Mr. Jeremy Rosenbalm is our new Junior High math instructor and High School business teacher. We are excited about them being part of our team and look forward to watching what they add to our school and community.
- Homecoming is September 17<sup>th</sup> this year with tons of activities surrounding this annual event. Our website has updates for you to follow if you are interested in tracking functions.
- Open House is September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6pm till 8pm. There will also be a yearbook signing that night. Please drop by and visit with students and staff if you are available to do so.
- We are looking ahead to a great school year. Please drop by for a cup of coffee and say hello☺.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

1. Vision-August began with a new vision in my mind that this year will be our best year yet at Irrigon Elementary School. I'm excited. This is my fourth year as building principal and my 8<sup>th</sup> year as ESL director, and we're challenged to do even more.
2. IES New Teachers- IES has three new teachers set in place. Joni Hawthorne is our new Special Education teacher. She has experience, humor and a good work ethic. Angela Dames from Windy River has been coming in this month to set up her 6<sup>th</sup> grade room. She is smart, well trained and enrolled in an administrative program. Franca Drake comes to us from Sam Boardman Elementary. She is happy and dedicated to her work.
3. Bikes for Books- the Masonic Lodge of Umatilla has donated us two bikes for kids who keep up on the reading program. Mr. Tory Fisher bought IES two bikes and the helmets for our kids who have perfect attendance, and who have 100% of their AR reading goal completed this quarter. A Big Thanks to the Masonic Lodge of Umatilla!
4. IES and the District Wide In-service- Irrigon Elementary School hosted the MCSD district in-service. Thanks to Grace Sandlin and Jose Deloera we got the building ready for the big event.
5. PLC Team Leaders Training- On the last Friday of the month three of my staff and me attended the 2010 August Institute in Pendleton. We are moving ahead with the district direction in improving our PLC time. Last year, the same group went to a PLC Dufour Conference in Portland. It helped set the pace of where we are going for improved instruction.
6. First Day of School- The first day of school went well. There were some adjustment, but for the most part it went by quickly. Our enrollment is up at 220. More students have come, and we're adjusting as they come.

### **Irrigon High School**

Our school year is off to a great start! Students and staff are excited and eager to be back. A special thanks to the Knights Pride Booster Club for providing a welcome back gift for everyone. This year we are happy to welcome two new staff members. Ricky Fay takes over for us in the social studies department while Matt Wells takes over in the business/social studies department. We are also pleased to welcome Tim Beatty back from a very short retirement. He will be filling in this year for Heather Miller.

We are continuing to offer AP classes this year and are excited to be able to bring back AP Spanish Language in addition to our AP US History and AP Literature and Composition offerings. For the second year in a row, we were able to send one of our AP teachers to a week-long training in August. This helps give them a necessary head start as they prepare for the rigor associated with an AP class. We also continue to show improvement in students earning college credit by having eight students qualify this year.

Through the use of our Gear-Up funds we were able to host two day long camps this year in an effort to ease the transition of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders to our building and to prepare our 9<sup>th</sup> graders for high school. Students enjoyed a variety of games and activities but were also given instruction on how to deal with stress, getting organized, trouble shooting school, and how to get involved. Thank you to the numerous student leaders and staff members who hosted these programs. Ms. Miller, who serves as our Gear-Up coordinator, deserves special recognition for efforts to plan and organize these events. For the second year in a row, Ms. Miller also took several middle school students to Western Oregon University for a two day leadership camp.



9<sup>th</sup> Grade Fly-Up



7<sup>th</sup> Grade Fly-Up

### **Riverside High School**

**Opening Day Plan-**Students will first attend a welcoming assembly, and then divide into their homerooms. In homerooms, the students will be going over the student management book, having class meetings and reviewing their advisor folders. Student will go through an abbreviated schedule, touching base with all their teachers on the first day with class periods of about twenty-five minutes each.

### **Junior High Accountability Report 2009-2010-**

**Opportunity to Learn-** The philosophy is based on finding ways to remove obstacles for students so that all students can be successful. Committee to be formed to discuss before school after school, and lunch time learning opportunities for students that need it.

### **Fly up contract-**

We began offering contracts to students that had been working on their summer packets during our June and August session and were most likely not going to make it by the time the school year started.

We offered contracts to students that had already been retained the year prior and were subject to begin retained a second time.

Students that also displayed high attendance or commitment to finishing their packets were also invited.

The contract stipulates that the student will complete all summer school work they have yet to complete for the 2009-2010 school year before the first semester is over.

The student will be given the opportunity to learn each day after school and on most Fridays during the first semester.

A student who has 2 or more unexcused absences and/or does not complete their work will be referred to attend Morrow Education Center.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

- 27 STUDENTS FAILED 75 CORE CLASSES
- 17 Completed REMEDIATION- (20)
- 3 Contract to move up- Must complete packet
- 4 Retained, 1 of the 4 transferred to MEC
- 3 Moved

Contracts- Opportunity to Learn Concept-Learning is the constant

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- 40 STUDENTS FAILED 98 CORE CLASSES
- 28 Completed REMEDIATION- (34)
- 6 Contract to move up- Must complete packet
- 3 Retained
- 3 Moved

**RHS Open House**-Riverside Open House will occur on Tuesday, October 5th combined with 1<sup>st</sup> quarter conferences. Parents will be able to visit with teachers in their classrooms as well as see what students have accomplished so far this year. There will be a BBQ available from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for students, parents and staff. National Honor Society will provide translation services, tours and assist with the BBQ. We will also have representatives from Columbia River Community Health Services, CSEPP and the Outreach Office present.

**Friday Plan**-This year we will have the school open every Friday for students to work on homework in the Library or in the PLATO/Study Island Labs. Riverside teachers are going to be in the building one Friday every 9-weeks for extra support of students academic needs.

**Site Council**-The RJSHS Site council is currently holding elections. The council will be working on School Goals and the 2010-2011 School Improvement plan. They will use the district goals established by the School Board and Administrators as a guide.

**Key Club**-The Riverside Key Club joined with the Boardman Chamber of Commerce during the Fourth of July to sponsor the Thunder 5k Run/Walk /10k Run in the morning. During the afternoon students from Riverside supervised the Jumping castle in the Marina Park. Boardman Foods asked Key Club to help with their summer celebration at the Boardman Marina. Key Club provided activities for the younger members of the employee families.

**National Honor Society**-Beginning in October, National Honor Society will be conducting their annual fundraiser to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

## AP

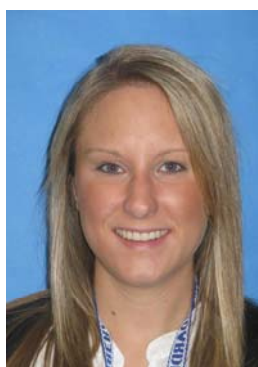
It's a great time to be a student at Riverside High School! Our Advancement Placement Program has over 30 students enrolled. This year we have 30 students in AP English Literature. In May 2010 we had 6 students take the AP English Lit and Comp and we are thrilled to share that Brigham Hansen qualified and is currently enrolled in AP English Literature Composition. As always, we continue to provide Advanced Placement opportunities for our students.

## SAT PREP

It is our goal this year to have more students taking SAT and PSAT tests in order to not only be prepared for them but to be prepared for college admission. One of our AP teachers, Mr. Pullen, will be providing SAT preparation. This preparation will use materials such as question analysis, practice testing, video and other materials in order to familiarize and guide students to a successful test score. SAT prep is scheduled to be conducted on the two Fridays prior to each SAT session. This way students may feel more prepared and less stressed when it comes to test day. In 2010 we had 35 seniors take the SAT and 10 seniors take the ACT.

## Sam Boardman Elementary School

I was very proud of our progress with school improvement in 2009-2010. We saw great results for our students because of our PLCs, best practices and most of all...**our dedicated staff!** We are definitely headed in the right direction! Our motto for 2010-2011 will be "**Stay the course...full speed ahead!**"!



Joining us this year is **Ashley Smith** teaching kindergarten. She was born and raised in the Hermiston area and earned her teaching degree at Western. Ms. Smith will complete her ESOL endorsement this winter. She was the assistant director for the Boys and Girls Club for Marion and Polk Counties. Her primary role was parent involvement. She loves kindergarten and looks forward to working with the K-Team (PLC) at SBE.

**Robert Gruber** is our new physical education instructor. He comes from the Portland area and is very excited to be in rural Boardman as he loves the outdoors. Mr. Gruber has a degree in exercise and sports science, as well as a Master's degree in physical education. Mr. Gruber just returned

from a year-long deployment in Iraq and is an active Oregon National Guardsman.

Kindergarten teachers opened their classrooms from 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> for **Meet the Teacher Night**. Parents and students could see the classroom and meet the teacher. What a great way for parents' questions and concerns to be addressed personally.

Students' First Day went very well! Each student received a school **communication folder**. These durable homework folders will go home each night and provide a place for parent and teacher communication. Monday is the day reserved for school-wide publications.

We have already completed student placement screenings for reading and English language development. Skill groups start this week.

Please join us next **Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> for our Open House**. We will begin with introductions in the gym at 6:00pm, followed by short classroom visits, and conclude with our ice cream social in the cafeteria.



## Windy River Elementary

### New Staff Members

I would like to welcome four new people to my staff this year. First, I would welcome our new 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Kelli LaFramboise to WRE. This is her first year teaching and she will be replacing Angela Dames who transferred to IES. Second, I would like to welcome our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Jennifer Cornelius. Jennifer is also a new teacher and she will be replacing Stacey Wainwright who is now our reading specialist at WRE. We also have two new cooks. Our head cook, Bonnie Matlack transferred from SBE. Our assistant cook, Mary Holmquist is new to the district

### Open House

WRE open house was on Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30. We had a great turnout and parents seem to enjoy seeing their students classrooms and meet all the staff.

### Soaring In To The New Year

Wind River Elementary School is truly "Soaring into the New Year" flying high with great effort, hard work and determination. The beginning of the school year brought Jerry Cummins and his Spirit of Walla Walla hot air balloon to share with the students and faculty. It was amazing to see this 88 foot high balloon emerge from a small cargo trailer. Jerry, the Balloon Meister, was eager to share his enthusiasm with the students, being a retired teacher himself. All WRE

students were able to file past the balloon and look into the basket, as well as look up into the envelope, or balloon itself. It was awesome. Windy River Elementary plans to indeed keep soaring throughout the 2010-2011 school year!



### **Jump Start**

The goal of the JUMPSTART Summer School was designed to provide a program that is academic, recreational, and safe' for those students who did not meet OAKS benchmarks. The program was designed for 150 students, with the extra students coming from those who marginally meet the benchmark. Students had the opportunity to attend JUMPSTART for 14 days.

Students who attended (which reached 74 students at the height of attendance) received concentrated learning in the areas of reading and math. PE was provided daily, as was computer time. The students also received nutritional instruction once a week, culminating in the creation of healthful snacks which they could also make at home

JUMPSTART staff consisted of four classroom teachers, one PE teacher, a computer tech, one administrator, two cooks, and two classroom assistants.

The students were observed to be attentive and learning. As the class sizes were small, the students received more individualized attention from the teachers. The focus of the teaching and learning was on the two lowest standard in Reading and Math which were not met by students. Novel studies (ie: How to Eat Fired Worms), incorporation of science and writing (ie: whales, oceans), and even a field trip to the grocery store to work on fractions and decimals (6<sup>th</sup> grades) are just a few of the numerous and enticing activities which occurred during JUMPSTART.

WalMart generously donated funds which allowed WRE to give each student a celebratory gift...a pencil, an eraser, and a notebook....on their last day. Students were heard to be appreciative of these. As one students expressed to a teacher, "I'm so glad I got these. Mom said she didn't have any money to get my supplies. Now I have something to start school with!"

JUMPSTART was small, but successful in many ways.

...Students enjoyed themselves.

...Teachers worked to make learning enjoyable and fun.

...A variety of activities kept students motivated while addressing different learning needs and styles.

...Benchmark standards were the focus of all teachers and learners.

...Respectful interactions abounded here.

Students were excited that they were here to get a JUMPSTART on the new school year. They were thrilled that they would be **ahead** in their learning, as many have long experienced a sense of being behind the rest.

...An administrator from another building observed the cohesive structure of JUMPSTART.

... JUMPSTART staff worked to have students learning at all times, with an eye on those standards.

...Teachers were given information about each student as to the strands in which they were lowest. This information was given prior to the commencement of JUMPSTART, resulting in teachers being able to plan ahead and being ready for the students from the very first day (as opposed to having to screen during the first day or two).