

Principal & Director Reports

December 2008

A.C. Houghton Elementary

New Santa: For the last 14 years, yours truly has been the Santa Clause of the school for our programs and for our Family Skating activity Monday in December. That has been enjoyable, but it also has made those events rather hectic for my operation and participation. The new Mr. and Mrs. Santa for our events at school our will be Stan and Linda Anderson. They are the new caretakers at the Irrigon Marina Park. They have been doing this for many years and Stan has a great white natural beard and he doesn't need any prosthetics for the costume, where I always was sporting a nice pillow ponch.

236 Parent Meetings: Starting next week, I will be meeting with the parents of all the students who are not in line to pass their state benchmark testing by the end of our testing in May. The purpose of the meeting will be to go over our district plan to accelerate student learning with research-based extended time curriculum efforts, both in our After School program and through our Summer Program. If all possible students are added to program, this will amount to 25-30 additional students over the next 2-3 weeks. We will stay in this program mode through mid-February and the completion of midyear testing and then we will reorganize based on those results for a final push for benchmark testing passage by the end of May. Fourth grade is really strong at this time in both reading and math, and third grade shows strength in reading, and about the same in math as last year's group.

Irrigon Youth Sports Complex Progress: Over the last several years, we have been participating in the building of the Irrigon Youth Sports Complex here in Irrigon. The last piece of this will be the completion in the next couple months of our snack bar /restrooms/Little League storage building which many of you have probably seen northeast of the ACH school grounds. This 60 foot wide gazebo will be quite beneficial to the Little League complex and program and also it will be available for community outside Park events. In the spring, we will have a significant complex opening event involving State Park officials and we will be inviting the governor. It would be excellent if the School Board could be heavily represented because it was the district donation of property that leveraged our eligibility for the huge grant that we received.

Annual Fundraiser Success: We are just completing the annual fundraiser for ACH for our student body budget and activities. This year's activity was phenomenal in that we have raised twice our normal profit margin, which is amazing with the economic times.

Heppner Elementary School

It is a privilege to once again report the recent happenings of Heppner Elementary School. It is hard to believe that November has ended and December is already here. Our enrollment as of today is 187 students and our attendance percentage for the year is 96.2%. We will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff and I are proud to announce that **80** HES Students recently earned Honor Cards for the first quarter of this school year. Each student had to maintain positive grades, attendance, behavior, and citizenship to be eligible and they received their certificates at an assembly on November 14th. Many thanks to the local businesses who support the Honor

Card program, as HES Students are able to receive special rewards from 10 participating businesses around town by showing their Honor Cards! We also had 78 students with perfect attendance for the first quarter of this school year. The first round of TESA/OAKS testing is completed, and preliminary results indicate another strong showing by HES Students.

There are a couple of important upcoming events for your calendars; The HES Music Students are teaming up with the HHS students and will be presenting “A Winter Musical Extravaganza” on Tuesday, December 16th, 2008 starting at 6:00pm in the HES Gymnasium. The HES “Title Family Movie Night” is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th, 2008 at 6:30pm in the HES Library. Please feel free to come join us for snacks and enjoy a great family movie. I would like to end this months 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.

Have a great month and enjoy the Holidays!

Heppner High School

- We are moving ahead with our MAP assessment plan with our Special Education students. Our staff is excited and looking forward to getting some baseline data on these kids that will show what we need to focus on with our instruction to help close the achievement gap with these students. We will be testing this month for the first time using this assessment tool.
- Our entire staff has worked through their PLC group time to form folder lessons in reading, math, and writing to use as interventions on Fridays. These lessons are focused on the standards for each level, and organized to where we can track which ones the students complete. This is a major part of the 236 committee work being put to action at Heppner High School and we are excited to use them. The first ones will be utilized on the 5th of this month with students. We are also shifting gears with who comes to intervention Friday ZAP as well. The students that are not on benchmark are getting intervention time as well. This is part of our 236 plan regardless of what grade (s) they have.
- Our Veterans Day Celebration was a huge success on November 12th. We had 67 Veterans take part in the festivities. There were nearly 25 community Veterans that shared their experiences in seven different groups to students in the morning. This has been a valuable part of what this day is to our students and our community. Also, we had a special presentation during the assembly where we recognized Bob DeSpain with an honorary Morrow County School District diploma for missing out on graduation by serving his country in WWII. This was as moving of a moment as I have had surrounding our Veterans Day celebration. It definitely was a feel good story and presentation for our whole community.
- We held our first Positive Behavior Support or PBS day for students that met the criteria of having Cs or higher in all of their classes, 2 or less absences for the quarter, and no office referrals for the quarter. We had 175 kids involved in this activity. There were games in the gym and movies were shown the last couple of hours of one day to celebrate our student’s success. Hopefully this will prompt an increase in our attendance and a decrease in behavior issues. It seems to be growing legs as our office referrals were down the first quarter when compared to last years first quarter by nearly 20% and our attendance is starting to move in the right direction as well. Kudos to our counselor, Dave Norton for his efforts with this and engaging students in positive interactions that are making a difference.

- Mr. Lindsay took a whole load of students to honor band and choir at the end of November. This program has taken off very well with its leadership and the success that is representing our school through student talent is being recognized by everyone.
- We sent 9 students to HES to a Bal-a-vis-x workshop that was put on by Mrs. Haguewood and the ESD. 8 of these students will be working with elementary students as part of their leadership appointments, whereas one junior high student will work with other junior high students at the high school.
- Chess Mates after school program has started for elementary and high school students. We are encouraging high school students to plug in and work with these elementary students as mentors- to date we have between 5 and 8 students that attend every Monday at the elementary school. After the elementary students are done with their chess time, the high school students play a game in preparation for the high school competition that is held at the same time as the district and state elementary school competitions.

Irrigon Elementary School

Clubs and Activities- Last month IES started to have club and special activities meeting on Thursdays. The activities we started are: Fishing Club, Chess Club and the Game board/Computer games.

Student Led Conferences- This month we held student led conferences. Most of our parents came and met with teachers and discussed their child's grades. I met with specific parents and teachers to discuss concerns about kids who were very behind and were a concern to us. Parents know that we are serious about their child's education and that we must hold parents and child accountable for their progress. We held a silent basket auction held by the Parent Teacher Organization and they raised over \$300 for the school.

Student Awards Assembly- Student here at IES received positive recognitions and awards for perfect attendance, good behavior, and exemplary character. The ASB gave away two new bicycles, class parties, and other fun things to students who earned these awards.

Volunteer Program IES- This month we had two volunteer programs come and meet at IES to recruit senior volunteers. The directors from the Grand Parent Foster program and RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program met at IES on November 13 to discuss how to be a volunteer at Irrigon School. Two people made commitments to help our schools. These volunteers are a valued part of our program here in IES.

Focused Approach- in the ESL program, another principal, and four high school staff and me attended a three-day seminar training by Susan Dutro. This is a program that helps staff focus on teaching high levels of academic English to ESL students. We have just finished the last day of training and now we are going to create a plan to implement what we have learned.

Irrigon High School

During the first few months of school we have been averaging about 329 students. Our enrollment will dip slightly during December and January as some of our students leave for Mexico. So far we have had five leave and are expecting about six more to leave before winter break.

We had a strong turn out at our student led conferences at the end of the first quarter. There were a total of 187 students (57%) who brought their parents to the conference. Mr. Searles advisory class won a pizza party for having the highest percentage (100) of parents attending the conferences.

We have now completed our first round of OAKS testing and are currently working with teachers to analyze our results from our fall round of testing to find both successes and areas that are in need of improvement. Currently, twelve additional juniors and seniors made benchmark in reading or mathematics. Nine more upperclassmen made benchmark in science as well. A large number of students made at least four points of RIT growth: 87 in reading and 80 in mathematics.

Earlier this fall the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District held their annual conservation poster contest entitled "Water for Life." This year's theme emphasized the importance of healthy watersheds and what we do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and the condition of our other natural resources. Jessica Munoz (9th) placed first and received a "Water is Life" t-shirt. Her poster then competed in the Oregon Association of Conservation District (OACD) contest this month and placed 1st there as well. She received a \$25 savings bond from OACD and will compete on the National level in February, 2009. Kevin Feyder (9th) placed second at the district level and received a t-shirt as well.

With November being somewhat of a down time, relatively speaking, the flurry of activities has begun to pick back up. Our winter sports seasons are off and running with numerous games going on beginning the first day of this month. Overall, we have had a strong turn out for the season. Additionally, the ASB class is currently sponsoring a can food drive with a root beer float party for the winning junior high class and an extended lunch for the winning high school class. Finally, our music department will be hosting their annual winter concert on Monday December 15th at 7:00 pm.

Riverside High School

CONFERENCES

Riverside will hold 2nd Quarter Progress Conferences Monday, December 15, 2008 from 3:30 - 7:30 pm. Parents will have the opportunity to visit with teachers in the commons. We hope to see many parents there.

FRIDAY SCHOOL

Riverside will host Friday School from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for students who are failing, behind in a class, have projects to work on, need extra time for AP classes or labs on the following dates; December 5th, December 12th, January 9th, January 30th, February 6th. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize this opportunity and attend. The Library and PLATO Lab will also be open.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Riverside National Honor Society raised \$191.25 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in October and in November held their annual Red Cross Blood Drive. They exceeded their goal of 54 pints by taking in 58, one unit of which was a double red cell donation and had twenty first time

donors. Leadership held a 3 week canned food drive with the canned foods going to the local food bank for baskets.

EDUCATIONAL TRIP – WASHINGTON D.C.

The streets of our nation's Capital are bustling with a new energy at the start of a new era in our history. Regardless of political leanings, Americans came out in record numbers and practiced their constitutional right to vote in this historic election. There is no better time to experience Washington D. C. and be a part of history. Mrs. Shane Fritz will lead a group of students in grades 7-12 from Boardman on a life changing experience in our nation's Capital June 23-27, 2009. The itinerary will include visits to the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials, the Smithsonian Institute and more. Mrs. Fritz will coordinate the trip with WorldStrides, the nation's oldest and largest provider of student educational travel.

JOB SHADOW

Riverside Jr/Sr High School 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. All seniors as part of their Senior Project participated in a Job Shadow/Career Day October 15, 2008 sponsored by Riverside and the Boardman Chamber of Commerce. Participation in the job shadow is one method of meeting the career education goals set by the Oregon Department of Education. Students learned many details about the career they shadowed. They learned the department/job expectations for the career and how they relate to the business as a whole. They were informed of the necessary education and training required to perform the job. They had to answer questions in a brief interview, and each senior received an evaluation from the business owner concerning the Job Shadow experience and how each would stack up as an employee for that employer. All seniors seemed to have had an excellent time and many expressed the desire for a second Job Shadow later in the year.

Windy River Elementary

5th Grade Writing Workshop

The 5th grade team from Windy River consisting of Rhonda Boor, Anna Brown, and Paul Keefer attended a conference to learn strategies to help them to better understand the 6 traits and to apply scoring appropriately.

The main focus of the seminar was to 1: Use children's literature to teach, show, and model the 6 traits of writing. 2: To understand that 6 trait writing is not another way of teaching writing but a lens to help teachers look at writing papers. This process will allow teachers to find the traits that are weak with their students and to develop them to become stronger writers.

4th Grade Parent Party

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving welcomed parents into the 4th grade classrooms for a Parent Party. This party gave parents some ideas about what we are doing to help students speak and write in complete sentences. Teachers reviewed the contents for a sentence, with students helping to identify nouns, verbs, subjects, and predicates. Parents were encouraged to have students speak in complete sentences at home, especially when they were asked about what happened at school that day.

There were snacks for the parties, always a great treat, and relaxing to visit while eating. The students demonstrated various ideas about what makes up a sentence, what word groupings do NOT make a sentence, and why.

As we at WRE are also working a great deal on Four Square Writing, this was an excellent opportunity for students and parents to work on a 4 sq. writing project. The topic was “I am thankful for many things”.

The rough draft was worked on, and students worked on finalizing their writing the next day...one day prior to Thanksgiving.

Reading Day and Scholastic Bookfair



Our first book fair this year started on Nov. 4. It ended on Nov. 12. We had a link for the book fair to preview the selection on our WRE website. We also had a reading day November 6th during the first week of the fair. This was an all day event for students and we had a parent lunch on this day also. This was a great opportunity to come and check out what we had for sale at our book fair. This turned out to be our best book fair for WRE!

Student of the Month



NOVEMBER

Academics		Academics	Theme - Caring
	Bianca	Gabriella	
Beagle	Rodriguez	Mendoza	Paige Bither
Boor	Andrea Madrigal	Alonso Cambero	Judit Castaneda
	Kristen		
Browne	Frederickson	Elizet Sanchez	Kelly McLaughlin
Chapman	Scarlett Reagan	Josue Calvillo	William Simmons
Cox	Marissa Pratt	Eduardo Murguia	Vanessa Olvera
		Phillip	
Dames	Gavin Harper	McDonough	Katelyn Bass
Gaede	Tania Mendoza		Noel Lopez
Keefer	Jeny Mendoza	Aileen Velasco	Juliana Guzman
Prindle	Noe Madrigal	Ruben Lopez	Dominic Valenzuela
Strebin	Laura Ponce	Adrian Harrison	Joan Cardenas

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for November:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Hope Harwood Alyssa Luna Heidi Chavez Juan Reyna	Gabriel Morales Aldo Murguia Francisco Barajas Deena Lopez	Angela Barragan Ramon Montes Liberty Jacquez Will Keefer	Able Chopin Belen Ponce Jocelyn Rodriguez- Lezama Lucero Medel	Mrs. Christy 93%
1 st Grade	Andy Martir Donovan Huffman Brian Franco Kannon Wilkins	Blake Davis Jocelyn Rodriguez Jacqueline Amaya Karina Mendoza	Cesilia Garcia Destanee Bataglia Itzel Ramirez Roberto Calixto	Erick Zamora Johana Sepulveda Aurora Garcia Aaliyah Calderon	Mrs. Harrison 96%
2 nd Grade	Anthony Carrillo-Cortez Brandon Harris Chance Frederickson Trevor Peterson	Zerek Baker Lizbet Madrigal Adelfo Sanchez Nicholas Richardson	Sabreena Metcalf Jose Sanchez Emma Finley Mario Madrigal	Odalys Ibarra Jose Rodriguez Jessica Rodriguez David Araiza	Ms. Drake 96%
3 rd Grade	Manuel Herrera Jessenia Hernandez Ulises Calvillo	Yoselin Ayuso Zuleyma Medel Ana Barajas	Luz Ibarra Abigail Bozarth Daniel Rodriguez	Luis Olvera Neira Rodriguez Lisa Finley	Mr. Jeppeson 97%

Enrollment: 310.

Attendance: Average attendance for November was **93.40%**



Veterans Day Assembly: Our combined WRE/SBE assembly honored Veterans from each branch of the service. The colors were presented and students sang songs. Mrs. Appleton told a brief history of D-Day and the significance of November 11th; and each veteran received a student-created card appreciating their contribution to our great nation.

Site Council reviewed the “236 Plan for Success”, student attendance, parent participation and communication. The Site Council is investigating the cost of weekly folders and would like to consider a weekly parent information flier, rather than our monthly Buccaneer.

Read Naturally: Rose Sebastian has taken on the challenge of a before school reading intervention using the “Read Naturally” program. Second and third grade students who are below benchmark report to the computer lab after breakfast and before recess each morning. They read a curriculum-based passage at their reading level for a “cold reading” fluency score. After practicing the passage each morning, they complete their week with a “hot reading” fluency score. We are noticing comprehension improvement and students gaining confidence with these multiple readings.

Accelerated Reading: Anne Orcutt has done it again! Students are excited about reading independently! They are reading for carnival tickets for the “Carnival of Fun” AR Party in January. Chapter books are a hit as they earn extra tickets.

Professional Development: SBE teachers attended the all District SIOP Inservice at Irrigon Jr/Sr High and completed the process of developing MCSD Power Standards for Language Arts. Grade level teachers are working together to map these standards across the school year and identify common assessments.



Community Harvest Feast: We enjoyed serving the community with this record breaking feast. Our new cooks, Darlene Snyder and Bonnie Matlack, superbly handled the task of preparing 735 meals! Pictured here (left to right) are: community volunteer Karen Pettigrew, City Manager; retiring Karen Brace, education assistant; Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, ELL teacher; and Betsy Heath food service.



Please join us for our holiday concert, "**Sing and Celebrate**" on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 pm in the SBE

Gymnasium.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and the best to you and yours this coming New Year!

