

# **Principal & Director Reports**

**October 2007**

## **A.C. Houghton Elementary**

### **Family Skate Night-**

**We the first session the first week of October with initial attendance of 90 students had family participating. About one half of our participants go on a school bus from ACH paying two dollars apiece for the bus ride. I supervise this activity and have done so for the past 14 years. A majority of participants come as families. All of this has become a regular monthly family activity, kindergarten through high school, for our community.**

### **After School Program-**

**The ACH After-School Program began October 1. Our initial membership is 52 students in second, third and fourth grade. Students have 30 minutes of Accelerated Reader, which is a comprehension building program and 30 minutes of our math Pop-Up program , which is a math facts skill building curriculum. Past participants have been very successful in achieving higher benchmark test gains during the school year than nonparticipating students.**

### **Math Program-**

**We're doing some piloting of Saxon Math in the second and third grade. Recent state testing has shown weaker entering third graders as a result of our current kindergarten-second-grade math programming. Saxon is a research based math direct instruction program. We hope to find our initial third-grade math assessment for this fall higher than last year's as a result of initiation of Saxon math last year in the second grade. We will Report our results at a later time.**

## **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 is already here, but the cold mornings and change in temperature are a good sign that fall has arrived. Our enrollment as of today is 189 students and our attendance percentage for the month of September was 97%. Rest assured that we will continue to promote the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.**

**The HES Staff and I enjoyed our open house the night of Monday, September 24th if the smiles on our students and parents faces were any indicator I would say it was a huge success. The HES mascot has a name as a result of the voting that took place the night of open house, Congratulations to Mrs. Gibbs' 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for coming up with the winning name SPIRIT! Heppner Elementary had several students participate in the Missoula Children's Theatre Performance of the "Little Mermaid" which took place on Saturday, September 29th and they all did a fine job of performing.**

**We are currently in the process of a canned food drive to help the Heppner Neighborhood Center, stay tuned for an update on how many pounds of food are collected and which class**

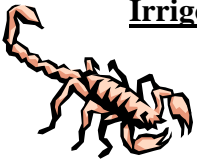
collected the most. I would like to end by thanking each of you for your support of Heppner Elementary School, and your commitment to all students of the Morrow County School District. Have a great month!



### **Heppner High School**

- School is going well with many things going on with sports, FFA, Homecoming, Missoula Children's Theatre, etc
- Our second time around with a National SIOP Speaker turned out to be a great time. Our presenter was great and we took the next step as a staff with SIOP principals.
- We hosted Missoula Children's Theatre last week at the HS. There were about 40 students both elementary and secondary aged kids involved. It turned out to be a big hit. Kudos to the Friends of the Library, Sally Walker for organizing, Cycle Oregon, and Adopt-A-Teacher for helping bring this venue to town.
- I have started writing a series of newspaper articles on Advanced Placement and rigor in the classroom. The first will be out the week of Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and is titled "Get with the Program".
- Our Wildhorse grant digital projectors and document cameras should be here anytime.

- Our FFA chapter is working very hard raising money to go to National FFA Convention during the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>. Beth has a ton of things to expose the kids to while they are away.
- Homecoming will be during the week of October 1<sup>st</sup> and we have a slate full of activities prepared for our students again. Mud Tug-a-War will be highlighted on Wednesday along with the bon fire that night as well. There is an advanced level of school spirit in our building this year. I have not yet experienced this level of school spirit in the four years I have been here. Should be a great week.
- We have both of our ASB student councils working on multiple projects around the school and doing some service learning activities in the near future with our leadership class.
- Our new \$16,000 football scoreboard is here and we have gotten it put in place. Kudos to Jay Coil and the whole crew at Columbia Basin Electric for helping us get this accomplished.



### Irrigon Elementary School

*From the Principal's Office.... Mr. Chavez*

Irrigon Elementary School is still the happiest place in Irrigon! When I was a young man, I read a book called, Happiness is a Choice. I recommend it to anyone. And we choose to work towards being happy here at Irrigon Elementary School! Everything has started and going. From ASB to ZPD's every program in the school has started off at an exciting pace!

#### **NEW ASB OFFICERS**

Eighteen students gave speeches in front of the entire school. They were running for positions of class president, vice-president, secretary/ treasurer. The students who did not win the officer status were still selected by each class to be a representative for their classroom. The students are:

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade ASB Officers:**

President – Adrian Romero

V. President – Isabel Orozco

Secretary/Treasure – Kendra Howard

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade ASB Officers:**

President – Gracie Rangel

V. President – Karen Gonzalez

Secretary/Treasure – Jasmine Anaya

#### **5th Grade Class Representatives:**

Matias Mendoza  
Kaylene Wheeler  
Morgan Haselbusch  
Dalton Hoffman  
Alisha Sorensen  
Lisa Stanger

**6th Grade Class Representatives:**

Zack Burnett  
Eric Summerville  
Ashli Roberts  
Devin Stout  
Jordan Connell  
Logan Sanders

GREAT JOB!!! YOU'RE THE LEADERS

*New Program at IES*

The Oregon State University Extension Service is starting a new program in Morrow County School District called the Oregon Nutrition Education Program. Their goal is to teach children of all school ages good health with nutrition and healthy physical activities. Mrs. Jenny Chavez, the principal's wife, is the new teacher for the program, and she'll start teaching her curriculum at IES this month.

*New Stuff at IES*

**Leadership Team** (principal's cabinet)

**Family Education Nights** (ESL, citizenship) Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m.

**Scorpion Night** (like ACH's Bear night) Oct. 25

**IES Skateboard Writing Contest** (motivate kids to write more)

## **Irrigon High School**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip**

On September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 37 Seventh graders traveled to Portland on an overnight fieldtrip to experience science first hand. Each student had to have nearly perfect attendance, no failing grades, and no discipline referrals to attend OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science & Industry). They were able to participate in many hands on science experiences as well as observe real human bodies! The Body Worlds<sup>3</sup> is a traveling exhibit where the students were able to see preserved human bodies and what our internal organs REALLY look like. Then they were housed at a middle school where they were involved in more science related workshops and experiences from taking vital signs to learning about pathogens! On the way home they hiked up Multnomah Falls and fed the giant sturgeon and trout at Bonneville Dam. The overwhelming comment by the busload of students was, "this is the best fieldtrip I have EVER been on!" To know that this was not just about science but the students were also able to visit Portland State University and explore a college campus as well made this trip a memorable one for students and staff as well. The students were chaperoned by their 7<sup>th</sup> grade advisors. This was a great opportunity for the staff and students. The trip was successful in many ways. It helped transition from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. With the incentive of the trip looming, 7<sup>th</sup> grade attendance and discipline has been much improved over years past. The other way that this was very successful was that much of the trip was paid for by a "Science in the City" grant. The grant paid for the student's meals, much of the transportation cost, and entry into all of the exhibits and Omni-Max movie.

### **College Visitations**

One of the items that we discussed as a staff at the start of the year was that every time students left campus on a trip or conference that every effort would be made to visit a college campus or vocation training venue.

Over the past two weeks two groups of students have left the campus for science field trips. Each group will be visiting Portland State University. The 37 7<sup>th</sup> graders went on tours guided by their advisors. The Advanced Biology group will be given a tour by one of our 2007 graduates, Kimberly Hollis, on their trip to a campus. We will have sent 65 of our students to a college campus as the first month comes to an end.

### **Open House**

At Irrigon Junior Senior High School, we held our Open House on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Knights Pride Booster Club prepared a taco feed which many people took advantage of. The night included a short presentation by me about increased rigor and high expectations in the classroom. It was followed by a series of parent meetings. The parent meetings included a Senior Parent meeting, ELL parent meeting, Booster Club presentation, Athletic Department and clubs presentation, and Extended Options meeting. Following the parent meetings parents met with teachers by department. Each department was available to answer questions about curriculum, class placement, and any other questions the parents may have had. The night was well attended and the feedback from parents was positive.

### **Lighting Project**

The football lighting project is well underway. We have over 900 ft. of conduit pipe in the ground ready to go. Umatilla Electric Co-op has donated their time and equipment to the cause by setting us up with a new transformer to help power the lights. The Irrigon Jr/Sr High School Booster Club has also been instrumental by getting donations and volunteers to help with, not only the conduit pipe, but by getting the scoreboard up and ready as well. We are currently trying to find a viable way to set the footings for the lights themselves. It is still our goal to play our last home football game this season under the lights.

### **Staff Trainings**

Since the start of school we have been able to have two significant staff trainings. The first took place September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Language Arts department presented to the staff how to score writing and speaking samples using the state rubrics. Each staff member, including electives, in every class students will be required to do writing or speaking sample each quarter. The staff also worked with the Language Arts department to develop building norms when it comes to writing. Throughout September and into October the entire staff will work with their students on conventions and organization. The power in this is that students will hear the same message about writing throughout the day and throughout the year.

The staff has also been able to be a part of two days of SIOP training already this year. The staff has been writing reflections about the in-services and the feedback has been almost entirely positive.

### **Focused on Attendance**

Through the first month of the school year IJSHS's average attendance has increased. There has been a focused attempt at increasing student attendance. This includes personal phone calls on each absence. It also includes increased incentives for students who have great attendance. The average attendance is up nearly 2% from the same time last year (95.33% 2007; 93.54% 2006). The total number of absences is down by 95 from this time last year (244.5 2007; 339 2006). Last year in week 4 we averaged 27.5 absences per day. This year in week 4 we averaged 12 fewer absences per day with 15.25 average.

As a building we have set the goal of 93%. This would be up from the percentages we had 91.4% 2005-2006 and 91.5 2006-2007.

### **Riverside High School**

#### **RIVERSIDE CONFERENCES & OPEN HOUSE**

Riverside will hold 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Progress Conferences and host Open House on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30 p.m. The RHS Key Club will treat parents to an Old-Fashioned Barbecue from 5:00-7:00. Parents will have the opportunity to visit teachers in their classrooms, with NHS students serving as guides. A variety of activities and informational stations are planned for the evening including:

- ❖ Student Accountability & F Policy
- ❖ Discipline & Student Management
- ❖ Morrow County School District Drug Testing Policy
- ❖ English Language Learners
- ❖ Honors Diploma
- ❖ Senior Information—Jostens
- ❖ College Information—Financing & FAFSA
- ❖ Accessing student information through the RHS Website
- ❖ School Improvement Plan
- ❖ Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse
- ❖ Parent Survey
- ❖ Community Pep Band Participation
- ❖ TAG & AP Class Information
- ❖ Booster Club

#### **NEW RHS HOMEPAGE**

Please check out the new RHS Homepage at [rhs.morrow.k12.or.us](http://rhs.morrow.k12.or.us). We think you will find it more informative and easier to use. You can check your student's progress by simply clicking on the side button labeled

"Grades". You can also see the most up-to-date Riverside schedule by clicking on the button labeled "Calendar". Our goal is to keep parents informed and involved with their student's education.

### **HOMEcomings 2007**

Homecoming 2007 at Riverside falls early this year. Homecoming Week will be October 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Wall decorating will take place on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Each school day starting on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a short assembly planned by students to raise spirit. On Wednesday evening the traditional Bonfire Rally will take place. This traditionally includes the Powder-puff Football finals as well as class competitions including the tug-o'-war. On Friday afternoon classes will decorate floats for the Spirit Parade. It will take place shortly before the varsity football game which begins at 7:00. The court will be introduced at halftime, at which time the queen and king will be crowned. This year, the Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

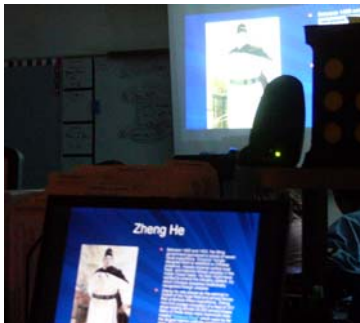
### **MORROW COUNTY ADOPTS NEW LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOKS**

Morrow County School District has adopted for its secondary students two new language arts textbooks: *Springboard*, a College Board publication and *Write Source*, a grade level conventions handbook and guide to successful writing.

On Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, Riverside High school hosted a workshop presented by Mark Hansen of *Write Source*. Besides leading the district instructors through the new text, he also revealed a **website for parents interested in helping their child/children with their writing skills** [www.greatsource.com/iwrite/](http://www.greatsource.com/iwrite/). This website, produced by *Write Source*, is a **free service for the patrons** of our district. Please take time to look this over. Parents and students will find a wide variety of information such as how to **write expository/ narrative/ persuasive essays, writing to get the perfect job, writing contests** to enter, and SAT preparation.

### **TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Riverside teachers take advantage of the technology available to them in the classroom. Below are some examples of that use. Science teacher, Rebecca Renfro uses ELMO with her Physical Science class; Language Arts teacher, Kathy Simonis uses the Document Projector in her LA class; and Tim Beatty makes use of forensic technology in solving "crimes" through his Forensic Science class, producing a whole new generation of CSI agents.



### **Windy River Elementary**

This month has been a very busy month at WRE.

### **Open House:**

WRE had open house on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We used the open format. Parents could move from classroom to classroom.

### **Student Council Elections:**

I would like to congratulate the following students:

PRESIDENT- Sami Hernandez VICE-PRESIDENT- Jlynn Keefer  
SECRETARY/TREASURER- Jasmine Reynosa

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Maria Sanchez, Clarissa Mendoza, Gavino Barrera

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Adrian Harrison, Brianna Snyder, Audry Guenther

4<sup>th</sup> Kristen Frederickson, Edgar Rodríguez, Edith Velasco

**Site Council Elections:**

I would like to welcome and congratulate the following teachers and parents to Site Council:

Parents- Sylvia Barrera, Carmen Velasco

Teachers- Sonia Sanchez, Carolyn Rhinhart

**WRE Leadership meeting** (WRE Education Foundation)

The purpose of this team is to find direction and set priorities for WRE. After looking at the culture of Windy River, the team found that currently WRE is “floating” and needs direction. The group noticed that not all the teachers are pointing or heading in the same direction. This includes curriculum to grading. The basic philosophy of this team is: Every teacher needs to be heading to the same place, creating a school that allows for maximum student learning.

The group decided on two “quick wins” for motivation. The first win is to align the WRE writing curriculum using Judith Gould. She is nationally known for the Four Square technique in improving writhing skills in students K-8. The second win is to align the science curriculum as next year science will be part of the state benchmarks.

**Student of the Month assembly:**

Students were selected by academic performance and responsibility in the classroom. The class winners for academics are: Lorena Montes, Ramiro Madrigal, Karla Jimenez, Larissa Steinlicht, Hans Rockwell, Brian Mendoza, Winter Mitts, Margarita Calvillo, Miguel Ascencio Ramirez, Gabrielle Ganvoa, Megan Hearn, Sierra Kohler, Judith Castaneda, Humberto Lopez, Maribel Lopez, Dixie Gonzales, Ariana Corpus and Ryan Ibarra

The class winners for responsibility are: Eduardo Avila, Avika Sharma, Shellie Munoz, Eliseo Fregoso, Tylor Collier, Bianca Ramirez, Jenny Mendoza, Alonso Cambero and Kelly McLaughlin

**WRE Book Club - Staff Development** (“Results Now”)

Each Monday building teachers and I meet from 3:45 to 4:15pm with teachers able to leave at anytime. This staff development is totally voluntary with the majority of staff participating. We are reading the book Results Now . We started with 3 chapters to read and discuss per week. Teachers wanted more in depth discussion of each chapter. We are now working on one chapter per week. What a powerful tool when working with teachers for school improvement!



### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

**Reading Instruction:** Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessments are complete. Reading Mastery small group instruction at each students' skill level is underway!



Scouts, Family Learning Night, CSSEP, PTO and Site Council. The Parent Teacher Organization provided free ice cream sundaes in the cafeteria.

### **Celebrating Independent Reading:**

Independent reading is encouraged by Anne Orcutt through our AR (Accelerated Reading) program. Students receiving 100% on their AR test are put into a drawing for a special Buccaneer Lunch.

**Open House:** A great turn out! We opened with an introduction/information assembly in the gymnasium. Students and parents toured their classrooms. Displays in the foyer included: Boy Scouts, Girl



**Flag Day Celebrated:** Mrs. Appleton celebrated Flag Day with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders by making a giant flag on our playground. Once the playground flag was completed, students sang The Star Spangled Banner around the school flagpole.

**Student Council:** Student council and officers have been selected. They assisted with picture day and are making plans for Red Ribbon Week.

**Committees and Councils up and running!** Safety Committee selected playground as their focus. Site Council created a teacher-student-parent compact and reviewed the parent involvement policy.

**Phase II – Fire Restoration Orders:** The ESD and Schools Specialty will help facilitate our second round of furniture, curriculum and supply orders. Staff survey

indicates we are at about 75% with replacements. Cooper Construction will be on site next week to complete touch-up and loose ends.

### **ELL Program**

September 7- Meet with the ESD Consortium and Charlie Benitez the Oregon Migrant State director to settle our new Migrant regional director Yadira Gonzalez. Now we move forward in our new direction with her at the helm.

September 17, the ESL Site Coordinators send out the Ten Day Letter to parents whose students are newly entered into the district's ELL program.

Morrow County has 478 ELL students in our ESL program.

September 17 & 25 the Family Education Night program is planned and organized with Mrs. Laura Torres it's director in combination with Blue Mountain Community College. It is to start October at Boardman and Irrigon.

September 19- ESL Director's meeting at the ESD discuss, coming programs in the regional consortium.

September 20- ESL director travels to ODE in Salem to the ELL director's meeting with Carmen West the ESL State Director.

Throughout the month there is much communication to ELL teachers and coordinators about our district's new ESL curriculum and more curriculums needed.

Sept 25- ESL Site Coordinators' meeting at IES was to discuss the different things pertaining to School Master, curriculum, ELPA testing, accurate record keeping and future State audits.

### **Morrow Education Center**

Wow! What a difference a few weeks make. Upon last report I had projected a limited number of students enrolled in our program, however I missed the mark completely. We currently have 60 students enrolled in the program (37 Morrow County & 23 Umatilla students). My hat goes off to our wonderful staff for making the chaos of the first couple weeks run as smoothly as I can remember in the past few years. Students are working diligently at making up credits and sneaking up on progress towards bettering their attendance records. In an attempt to better serve our students and improve attendance in our program we have begun weekly home visits in the afternoon for all students who have failed to attend for 3 or more days. While the concept is still in its early stages of development we have seen a marked improvement in overall attendance—including a day where 95% of the student body was in attendance.

Mr. Melville and I recently hosted a “Parent Orientation” for all students and parents to attend as an informative session of the expectations inherited by our program. Much to my surprise we had approximately 45 parents attend. The questions ranged from the attendance requirements, to curriculum, to helpful strategies that will lead to student success. The orientation was so well received we plan on hosting a second meeting at the change of semester.

*In the hopper*

Again, the staff at MEC has been amazing and have bought into the idea “it takes a village”. Our goal is to build a program focusing on creativity and hard work in academics. With this in mind we have a few things on the horizon that I am excited about; beginning with the introduction of a TESA/OAKS math test preparation course for all students. Our hope is to provide a three week crash course—as a review—for students to brush up on their skills as well as learn something new.

We are also exploring our ability to offer a “Food Handlers” course for all our students as a means to better prepare them for life outside of school.

As always we welcome the unique challenges as they come through our doors this school year and will continue to work towards building a successful educational environment that harbors student understanding and achievement. We are truly excited about the 2007-2008 school year.