

Principal & Director Reports

October 2009

AC. Houghton Elementary New Leadership Activities at ACH

We are starting two new special-purpose teams in our third grade to teach kids leadership activities and responsibilities this year. With the loss of the fourth grade to IES, we are not doing our past traditional Student Body officers and Student Council. These two groups are the following:

Recycle Team

Student Council had the previous responsibilities of collecting the white paper recycling from each classroom that we collect each week. The paper collection boxes have recycle signs on them in each of the classrooms in our building. The members participating will wear special buttons, showing them as part of the team. They will circulate through the school on Thursday mornings emptying and consolidating the classroom collection boxes. Once a week, on a regular trip to Hermiston, we recycle the white paper at the Sanitary Disposal transfer station. When up to full speed typically we will recycle about the equivalent of 2-3 cases of paper a week that otherwise would be thrown into our dumpster.

Playground Assist Team

The Playground Assist Team will put three third graders a.m. and p.m. on the kindergarten-second grade playground. These students will be on three separate areas on the playground, the blacktop area, the red top area, and the grass field area. Their purpose will be to play with other kids, help students start activities where possible, and talk to kids who are not making productive choices about what might be better choices. We are training our team members not to intervene like little boxes, but to ask key questions as to whether the current activities or choices being made are helpful or not helpful to the kids on the playground or to themselves.

Heppner Elementary School

It is hard to believe that October is already here, but the cold mornings and frost the last couple of days are a sure sign that fall has arrived. Our enrollment numbers are up this year as we currently have 197 students enrolled at HES and our attendance percentage for the month of September was 97.05%. 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 Tuesday, September 22nd 2009. Based on the smiles of our students and parents during the evening, I would say it was a huge success. The HES Student Council elections were held on Thursday, October 1st and I am happy to report that all of the HES students who were running for office ran clean campaigns and gave outstanding speeches. The HES student council members for the 2009/2010 school year are; President–*Ryan Smith*, Vice President–*Sydney Qualls*, Secretary–*Jessica Kempken*, Treasurer–*Logan Grieb*, Publicity Director–*Caitlynn Bailey*, and the 4th Grade Representatives are–*Coby Dougherty & Kacie Gray*.

I am also pleased to report that with the continued help and support of Adopt-a-Teacher we are able to continue the HEROES Reading program at HES again this year. We are also 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 we collect.

I would like to end this 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!

Heppner High School

- FFA Leadership camp was held at camp Elkanah over the past weekend. The students did very well bringing home a blue banner (only one awarded amongst teams) for working together to solve problems. As our FFA program ages, it is clear that they are getting what they need from their teacher/coach to be successful. Drop by the AG classroom and look at all of the banners that students have earned in the past three years. It is unbelievable the level of success they are having!
- Mr. Norton is taking the seniors to a career fair in Hermiston this week. There will be area representatives from local corporations and small businesses to discuss local employment options for students interested in staying and living in the region.
- Tillers Folley blue grass group will perform this week for our student body and have an evening concert for community members on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30pm.
- Our football team is rolling being undefeated again this year. We are in the middle of an amazing run not losing a league contest going on 10 years. HHS has the state record in this department and the number is at 69 games in a row. An amazing record to say the least. The Oregonian came and spent the week and Friday night filming a documentary that will be placed on the Oregonian website starting this week. Great job to our coaches and players!
- For the past several years, I have tried to bring Drivers Education back to Heppner with no luck. I am proud to say, this year- we have found a licensed instructor in Theresa VanDoorn and there will be classes offered starting this month. The administration of the program is handled through the Union-Baker ESD.
- Our fall drama program is taking shape as our student/actors are working very hard in preparing for It's a Wonderful Life. Their first performance will be on November 30th.
- We have started our PLC/Data team meetings. Our first order of business was to find the weeds in the classrooms that impede student achievement. We will work on improvement of instruction through focusing our efforts on instruction while using data to help make decisions of change.
- Homecoming week came and went. It was a fun week for all of our students and both our football and volleyball teams won their games. Our students competed hard and participated at a record level. There were no losers- for our school is full of spirit and camaraderie.
- Our AP numbers are as follows- AP Calculus, 11, AP Biology, 17, AP Government, 20 and AP English Literature, 32. We are not offering AP Chemistry this year.

- Forrest Service Career Camp applications have been collected and the planning has begun. Heppner High School turned in 14 applications this year and interviews are planned for this week. Hopefully, we can fill the camp this year and our senior participants learn some valuable lessons through this process. I want to give our Forrest Service partners (Tom and Kristen) a big THANK YOU for their efforts!
- Our Booster Club Auction is this Saturday the 10th at 6pm. Hope to see you there- no doubt, this a community wide event that will be fun!

Irrigon Elementary School

1. **H1N1 Flu Preparations:** Here at IES we have had the ESD put the flu preparations from many areas into our school web site. Now parents can see the things we want them to know in case we have an outbreak of the flu which is going around. As of yet, we have been keeping very clean and safe to prevent major sickness. Our attendance is good and we hope to stay that way. For now we are washing hands, disinfecting, and sending kids home who feel sick.
2. **Volunteers at IES:** This year I want to thank the Ed Karls who is in his fourth year of volunteering his time at IES. He served his country for 30 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and now he still serves his country at Irrigon Elementary. He reads with students who need help, and he does math with students who are struggling. He helps out in recess duty and with the After School program. Both he and his wife Pat, who volunteers at ACH, are great people in our schools at Irrigon.
3. **First Fund Raiser at IES:** On September 8th, we held our first fund raising assembly. The children raised about \$3500 for their first try. This will help us in field trips, special educational needs and incentives in writing contests and in AR reading awards. We hope to raise more for end of the year trips which will cost much more. The economic times have shown some difficulty in this endeavor.
4. **IES Open House:** We had over 75 parents show up to our Open House on the 10th of September. Invited to this event were: Irrigon PTO, Oregon State Nutrition program, CSEEP, Army Depot, Irrigon Volley Ball league, Morrow County Health Dept., and Irrigon ASB. Parents met teachers, visited rooms, mingled and had a nice dinner fundraiser by the PTO. It was a success for parent/community involvement.
5. **After School Program:** on September 14th we started our After School program with 5 staff persons helping. We have about 45 children who must attend or who want to attend. Here we are concentrating on Writing and Math. Kids who did not meet a benchmark test last year must attend. A serious focus of staff, curriculum and time is given to help children meet benchmark scores this year.
6. **Come Visit Our School:** I extend a warm invitation to school board members to come visit our school. Lunch is on me, and you can see the good things happening at IES. We love kids, work hard, and like what we do. It would be an honor to have you visit and see your decisions in the life of Irrigon Elementary School.

Irrigon High School

Our open house was held on September 14th. The evening started with a brief description regarding the direction we are headed as a school with our Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe program. Afterwards, we had a series of parent meetings regarding our ELL program, GEAR-UP, Extended Options, Knights Pride Booster Club, a Bruce Brown video about the role of the parent in athletics, and a senior parent meeting where we distributed senior handbooks designed to help them navigate their last year. The handbook lets them know what to expect along the way and important dates. There was also time available for parents to meet staff and

ask specific questions regarding curriculum, class placement, and expectations. Thanks to the Knight Pride Booster Club for providing desserts for everyone.

Our Gear-Up team has hit the ground running this year. On September 24th, we held a middle school career fair. Students spent the morning rotating between eight guest speakers. We had speakers representing surveying, equine science, emergency management, medical services, photography, veterinarian science, law enforcement, and forensics. Students spent the afternoon writing a reflection paper, thank you notes, and enjoying a presentation by Blue Mountain Wildlife. A special thanks to Ms. Constantine of our Gear-Up team who spearheaded the project for us. Other projects include a college fair in Hermiston this month and school wide college visitations in November.

Shaindel Beers, a BMCC English Teacher, will be here to visit with our students on Wednesday, Oct. 7th. She will be speaking to two different classes in the afternoon and then will meet with anyone who is interested at 3:00 in the library. Ms. Beers' will read from her recently published book of poetry, *A Brief History of Time*, which came out this summer and has been well received by critics.

We held our first staff in-service last Friday. Amy Ditton spent the morning discussing with our staff the concept of peer coaching and how it might look in our school. This was right in line with what we have been encouraging staff to do in terms of getting out and observing each other. We hope to utilize much of what she presented as we prepare for our next Friday in-service regarding PLC groups. Matt followed up in the afternoon reviewing student behavior and de-escalation strategies.

Our leadership class is taking on a new project this year. Their endeavor is entitled 'Knighly News' which is a news video of our daily announcements, but also includes weather updates and interviews. The show airs every Thursday during advisory. This production is enormously popular with students and staff glued to the televisions for the 5-7 minute broadcasts.

We are currently in the middle of our Homecoming festivities this week. Some of the activities this year include a car push, macho volleyball, car bash, noise parade, powder puff football, and bonfire. The king and queen will be crowned at halftime of the football game on Friday. The dance will be held on Saturday.

Riverside High School

TESTING

We are getting ready to start testing next week. Special Ed got their MAPPS done these past two weeks and OAKS Science will begin Monday, followed by Reading and then Math for 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th graders.

SCHOLARSHIP/SENIOR INFORMATION

Riverside High School students and parents have immediate access to most upcoming scholarships. The website is updated by our counselor weekly. In addition any relevant senior information including colleges and SAT/ACT test information is posted on our home page at <http://rhs.morrow.k12.or.us/> under Senior Information. The feedback from parents has been that they appreciate the immediate access to all the information for their students.

CAREER/COLLEGE FAIR

We will be taking over 70 juniors and senior to a career fair on Wednesday October 7, 2009 at the Hermiston Community Center where there will be professionals representing over 50 careers. In addition, Hermiston High School is hosting a college fair that same night on Wednesday October 7, 2009 from 6pm

to 8pm. Most of the Oregon and Washington colleges and universities will be represented. Our students will have the opportunity to ask questions of prospective careers and learn more about prospective institutions for post-secondary education.

FOREST SERVICE

Riverside High school continues to provide opportunities for students in a variety of areas. The Forest Service representatives interviewed 15 of our seniors for their Fire and Fuels Camp on Tuesday October 6. The representatives were very impressed by our students and are looking forward to having them participate in their camp. The difficulty, they said, would be choosing only 20 from the 30 applicants. The camp will be Saturday October 17 to Wednesday October 21.

KEY CLUB

The Riverside Key Club started out the 2009-10 year during the summer with the Boardman 4th of July Celebration. They completed a fundraising project in September. This event was cleaning up a yard for a community member. The all girl crew of 9 members spent a little less than three hours to get the job finished.

Key Club members were invited to train for a possible flu shot clinic in Morrow County. This one hour training covered the types of assistance needed during shot clinics and medical emergency situations within Morrow County.

Key Club preformed their annual School Service Project by preparing and serving the Open House barbeque October 6, 2009. Over 250 hamburgers and hotdogs were served from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. They are looking forward to celebrating Key Club Week the first week of November.

RHS Key Club ~ Fundraising Project
Yard clean up ~ before & after



Windy River Elementary

Office Max – A Day Made Better

Alicia Strebin was the recipient of “A Day Made Better” by Office Max. Mrs. Strebin will receive \$1018.49 in school supplies.

Student Council Elections

Elections were held September 28th. The class officers are: President, Wayne Killion; Vice President, AJ Rockwell; and Secretary, Stephanie Madrigal.

Team Meetings

WRE PLC's are up and running. They meet every Wednesday morning.

Sprit Award

On the Fridays we have school, WRE has a sprit day with a theme. Last month Mrs. Strebin's class won the WRE Spirit Award.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

WRE had its first parent/teacher conference on October 1st. Last year, WRE decided to have conferences at the mid-term rather than at the quarter. We did this for two reasons: The first reason is to keep parents informed before students start falling behind. A lot of parents liked the mid-term conferences rather than the quarter conferences.

The second reason is to have our parents in our building more often.

Student of the Month Assembly

SEPTEMBER	Academics	Academics	Theme - Responsibility
Beagle	Edith Velasco	Ryan Ibarra	Eloy Hernandez
Boor	Katie Gilbert	Gabrielle Miller	Emily Sepulveda
Browne	Caleb Thomas	Lacey Mashos	Jenny Rodriguez
Foster	Aramis Corpus	Riley Johns	Lizeth Zuniga
Wainwright	Wayne Killion	Stephanie Madrigal	Andrea Madrigal
Dames	Fabian Meza	Quincy Castillo	Kevin Madrigal
Keefer	Kassidy McCullough	Eon Castillo	Wyatt Hurley
Prindle	Jessica Calvillo	Misael Madrigal	Daniel Rodriguez
Strebin	Dixie Gonzalez	Rory Barresse	Saul Fernandez

Fourth Grade Parent Party

WRE's 4th graders hosted their first PARENT PARTY of this school year. Those parents able to attend were given a tutorial about accessing their child's grades online. This, of course, will allow parents to get such information whenever they wish! Crisp apples were enjoyed, as was a magic math activity! Students performed, with their parents' help, a trick with a balloon and addition. Comments heard included, "Wow! How'd you do that?", and "How did you know the answer before I even told you the numbers I was thinking?" A great little trick! You'll need to ask one of the 4th graders to perform it for you!!!!

PARENT PARTIES will be held each month (except the short month of December), with different themes each month. Students present various activities, such as reading of poetry or presentations of research projects, to name just a couple.

Elementary All State Honor Choir

The following students have been nominated for the honor choir:

Stephanie Madrigal, Yolanda Lopez, Emily Sepulveda, Yaniva Garcia and Hannah Mossman.

Each year Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) sponsors All State performing groups for the State Music conference. One of those groups is the Elementary Honor choir.

Students nominated for this choir must be in the 5th or 6th grades and be outstanding music students – not just the best at their school, but among the best in the state. Not only are these students excellent musicians, but they are also good citizens.

Nominations close on Oct 9th and final selections will be announced on Nov 2nd. Once students are selected, music will be mailed to us and the students will begin practicing for the event. The

conference at which they will sing is held Jan 15th-17th in Eugene. Students will travel to Eugene, practice all day Friday and then perform for the conference on Saturday, Jan 16.

Sam Boardman Elementary

Students of the Month for March:

	Academics	Respect	Responsibility	Safety	Attendance
Kinder	Myles Harper Tehya Rivera Moisha Sheoships Benancio Sanchez Roselyn Caldera	Keilah Mossman Jasmin Lopez Mariela Mendoza Layla Castillo Christopher Kent	Anai Madrigal Estela Castro Joe Reagan Anayeli Ibarra Lelila Cambero	Hunter Dyer Edward Salazar Sam Hughes Italia Rodriguez Fiona Berry	Mr. McClenehan 98%
1st Grade	America Pacheco Cinthia Diaz Nate Harrison Gavin Cates	Hailee Pratt Karen Frausto Lisbet Martinez Lupita Silva	Wendy Sanchez Azpen De Los Santos Cooper Szasz Samantha Rea	Bobby Garcia Liberty Jacquez Belen Ponce Ezra Padilla	Mrs. Fletcher 97%
2nd Grade	Ulyses Lopez Natalie Wood Sandra Garcia	Abraham Silva Anddy Martir- Hernandez Francia Rodriguez	Juan Frausto Gunnar Livingston Arrik Russell	Nyssandra Muniz Kelly Ashe Destanee Battaglia	Mrs. Files 97%
3rd Grade	Grace Wheeler Micah Mossman Jared Miller Ethan Harper	Lilly Davila Lane Hurley Stephanie Gonzalez Jenna McCullough	Karen Cambero Jose A. Rodriguez Emma Finley Francisco Chavez	Lainey Rogers Odalys Ibarra Johua Matthews Brendy Flores	Mr. Jeppeson 97%

Enrollment: 320 **Attendance:** Average attendance for March was 94.96%
 Students, staff and parents enjoyed our first **Student of the Month Assembly!** We kicked off the new year with singing, AR competitions and celebrating **Students Being Excellent!** The attendance trophy competition was tough this month with winning classes coming in at 97% and 98% attendance.



This year's **Site Council** members are Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Rose Sebastian, Carol Wilson, Debra Kennedy, Kim Finley, Anne Orcutt, Carmen Diaz and Dawn Dyer. Our parent representative is Julia Rodgers. At our first meeting we reviewed our school wide plan and celebrated much progress with our professional development goal. School Board members are always welcome to our open Site Council meetings. Our next meeting will be held October 19th at 4:00 in the library.

SBE's Flag Day Assembly honored the birth of "The Star-Spangled Banner". In preparation third grade students recreated the 30 x 42 foot flag replica that flew over Fort McHenry. At the



assembly Mrs. Appleton retold the exciting tale of Francis Scott Key, the man who wrote the National anthem. After the historic retelling students, along with State Representative Greg Smith and Boardman Mayor Chet Phillips, enthusiastically sang the anthem with their hands over their hearts.

Open House had another great turn out this year! Parents joined us for introductions in the gym where they were congratulated for their involvement, thanked for their levy support and reassured with our precautions and information about the H1N1 virus. Students and parents toured their classrooms and concluded with an ice cream social in the cafeteria. Parents learned more about activities for their children and community resources through the many displays in the foyer.

Professional Development: Teachers from SBE and WRE participated in two full-day trainings to learn more about creating common formative assessments and using data to ensure students make progress toward grade level Power Standards. Teachers also participated in a day dedicated to our District's Best Practices Staff Development Plan. They learned more about peer coaching with time devoted to lesson preparation