



Teacher's Aide Reona Trimble gets Head Start classroom in shape before classes start on September 12.

WSE becoming exemplary program

by Jane Westergaard-Nimocks

After many years of dedication to the achievement of an effective school program for children of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Warm Springs Elementary is well on its way to becoming an exemplary program.

In 1984, Warm Springs Elementary began to experience some significant advances in its school program. The selection of the *Distar* reading program in the primary grades resulted in impressive improvement in the students' abilities to decode words and principles. Teachers were determined to discover strategies to produce similar results in other curriculum areas. They went to work and by 1985, through informal discussions, experience and training, they began to implement programs to increase student involvement in each lesson.

As students participated more directly in instructional activities, their motivation and performance improved. However, school improvement and professional development activities were limited to individual or grade level efforts—a focused,

cooperative effort to improve school performance was still missing from the involvement formula.

Effective Practices in Indian Education, a school improvement process developed by the Indian Education Department of the Northwest Regional Laboratory, brought favorable results in this area. The program established a process for school improvement that facilitated communication between staff and created a common focus for improvement efforts.

After six months of training, common instructional goals and accompanying objectives, instructional activities and evaluation procedures were developed. The school's initial goal was "reducing incomplete assignments by 50 percent." By May 1986 the combined efforts of staff and students resulted in a 61 percent reduction!

Effective Practices is successful

Effective Practices in Indian Education is now in its third year at Warm Springs Elementary and continues to be effective. School-wide improvement efforts and successes include:

- * Between 1985-87, teachers learned new instructional techniques—*Math their way*. A wide array of strategies for applying math operations in problem solving situations, and school-wide "math fairs" were introduced.

- * Focusing science instruction on the scientific method led to individual class efforts to develop science projects which were then shared with parents and the community at a school science fair.

- * The Indian Cultural Curriculum Development Committee was established to develop instructional activities to integrate Indian culture, history, government and tradition into the existing curriculum.

- * A new Media Center Advisory Committee has assisted in redesigning the media program to include more upper grade in-depth study of research techniques, increased student use of the Media Center and a school-wide reading incentive program.

- * Classroom teachers, specialists, counselors, teaching assistants and the principal have developed a number of proactive measures. This included the *Warm Springs Elementary Self-Managers Program*, a school-wide program to encourage responsible behavior and to teach children additional social skills to help them achieve their goal or "working in harmony with others and nature."

- * Students work in cooperative learning teams to solve a variety of problems. As an example, cross-grade tutoring increased the primary children's opportunity to read and listen to stories.

Test scores keep moving up

Warm Springs students are showing upward progress in their performance. The *1986-87 Final Evaluation and Project Performance Report* for the Title IV-A program showed that, on the average, student test scores at Warm Springs are placing in the middle third of students in the nation. Test scores have continued to maintain an upward trend in achievement tests over the past nine years, moving from 23 percent in 1976 to 45 percent in 1987.

In addition, an informal comparison of elementary Indian students at Warm Springs Elementary with Indian children at other elementary schools in the district and at three other public reservation schools in the region was conducted in the spring of 1985. Survey results

student scores in reading, math and language exceed those of the other reservation schools and math scores exceed those of other elementary schools in the region. Although students from schools outside the district are not a representative sample, they are generally comparable schools which can provide a basis for gauging the achievements of Warm Springs students.

New challenges for school

Warm Springs Elementary has clearly used effective schools research to create a school community where staff, students and community view the development of their school with pride and confidence.

Next year's focus will be on expanding staff expertise in teaching higher-order thinking skills in all areas of the curriculum. The same *Effective Practices in Indian Education* process will be applied in this effort. However, supplemental funding from a \$20,000 HB 2020 School Improvement and Professional Development Program grant will allow the staff to plan for additional training and curriculum development activities to further enhance the school improvement process.

In addition, Warm Springs Elementary has been selected as the site for the Oregon Department of Education's science education project to implement the *Science Common Curriculum*, a concept/process-based method of science instruction. This will be a new challenge for the Warm Springs staff but, as in all their other school improvement efforts, they are sure to meet it with enthusiasm.

Article is taken from *Focus*, the Oregon School Boards Association Quarterly Journal, Summer 1988.

What's for lunch at W.S. Elementary

Monday, September 12: Chicken, hashbrown patties, vegetable stix and fruit

Tuesday, September 13: Chef salad, peanut butter sandwich, pear slices and August birthday cake.

Wednesday, September 14: French bread pizza, carrot stix, seasoned peas, golden banana and chocolate milk.

Thursday, September 15: Tacos, Spanish rice, wheat rolls and butter and canteloupe wedges.

Friday, September 16: Tuna noodle casserole, fresh vegetable medley, green beans and sweet rolls.

Monday, September 19: Weiner wraps, french fries, celery stix and sliced peaches.

Tuesday, September 20: Italian spaghetti, tossed salad, French bread and butter and whipped Jello.

Wednesday, September 21: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, popeye salad, rolls and butter and fruit.

Thursday, September 21: Ham and cheese sandwich, tater gems, french rolls and cookies.

Friday, September 22: Beef enchiladas in cheese sauce, seasoned corn, cornmeal rolls and melon wedges.

Monday, September 26: Canadian bacon pan pizza, herbed rice, green beans and peach and pear slices.

Tuesday, September 27: Beef burritos, vegetable salad, rolls and

butter and fresh fruit.

Wednesday, September 28: Cheesy lasagna, crisp garden salad, french rolls and butter and September birthday cake.

Thursday, September 29: Taco salad bowls, cheesy bun and fruited Jello.

Friday, September 30: Cook's Choice!

All meals, unless otherwise noted, are served with milk.

Warm Springs Elementary Calendar

- September 13 August birthday lunch
- September 19 Book fair
- September 20 Open house, 7:30 p.m.
- September 23 Powwow
- September 28 Sept. birthday lunch

Welcome to the new school year

by Jane Westergaard-Nimocks

It is again my pleasure to welcome the community to the beginning of another Warm Springs Elementary school year and to extend an invitation for each of you to come and visit the school. I hope that you can share my joy in watching the children of Warm Springs learn new and exciting skills that will enable us all to: **THINK SMART, BE CREATIVE, AND WORK IN HARMONY WITH OTHERS AND NATURE.**

Ms. Nancy Wright, Ms. Sharon Perkins and Ms. Marilyn McBride are additions to the teaching staff this year. Ms. Wright will be teaching the fourth graders and sharing her 21 years of experience in elementary education. Besides her background as a classroom teacher, including one year as a sixth grade teacher at Buff Elementary, she has taught for several years in the Redmond Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. Currently she is an evaluator of mathematics text books for the Oregon State Text-

book Commission and is providing a series of workshops on elementary mathematics for a school district in the State of Washington.

For the past two years, Ms. Perkins has been a fourth grade teacher at Metolius Elementary. Her dynamic approach to classroom instruction led her to seek additional training in the teaching of elementary science. Towards this end, she became a member of a team of instructors, including Warm Springs Elementary's Harry Phillips, who received advanced training in the concept/process based method of science instruction. Her interest and expertise in this area will be very valuable as WSE has been selected as the model elementary site for the State of Oregon in developing elementary science curriculum. We feel fortunate to have her as a fourth grade classroom teacher here at Warm Springs.

The third very skilled and expert addition to our teaching staff is Ms. Marilyn McBride, an Educa-

tional Resource Center instructor. Her career in special education began with training in teaching hearing impaired children that led to her mastery of sign language. Her professional interest in better serving a greater number of children led her to developing skills in teaching children with a wide variety of handicapped conditions. The advanced training that Ms. McBride received combined with a natural empathy for children with problems will allow us to continue to provide an exemplary special education program for handicapped children.

Returning to the staff, after a year of educational leave, are Jeff and Linda Henry. They will be teaching kindergarten this year with fresh, new ideas and the same dedication and love they have always had for the Warm Springs students.

On behalf of the entire staff of Warm Springs Elementary, welcome to the 1988-89 school year.



Madras Jr. High Title IV counselor Phyllis Griffith speaks to students during back to school workshop sponsored by the Warm Springs Community Center. Griffith encouraged students to be themselves and to be proud of who they are.

From Jefferson County School District 509-J...

Meal benefits guidelines announced

Jefferson County School District 509-J recently announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children whose parents are unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program. Each school and the office of Jefferson County School District 509-J has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The accompanying household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving food stamps or AFDC must list the child's name, their food stamp or AFDC case number and the signature and name of an adult household member. Households not receiving food stamps or AFDC must list: names of all household members, social security numbers of all adult household members or a statement that the household member does not possess one, total household income and the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

Under the provision of the free and reduced-price policy, school officials will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to the hearing official identified for a hearing on the decision: Stan Dmytryk, 1355 Buff Street, Madras, Oregon, 97741 or call 475-6192.

Households that list a food stamp or AFDC case number must report when the household no longer receives these benefits. Other households approved for benefits are required to report increases in household income of over \$50 per

month or \$600 per year and decreases in household size. Also, if a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown.

In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for school meal benefits. If a household wishes to apply for benefits for foster children living with them, the household should contact the school for more information.

The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used only for purposes of determining eligibility and verifying data.

Free			
Family Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$7,501	\$ 626	\$145
2	10,049	838	194
3	12,597	1,050	243
4	15,145	1,263	292
5	17,693	1,475	341
6	20,241	1,687	390
7	22,789	1,900	439
8	25,337	2,112	488
For each additional family member add +2,548			
		+213	+49
Reduced			
Family Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$10,675	\$ 890	\$ 206
2	14,301	1,192	276
3	17,927	1,494	345
4	21,553	1,797	415
5	25,179	2,099	485
6	28,805	2,401	554
7	32,431	2,703	624
8	36,057	3,005	694
For each additional family member add +3,626			
		+303	+70



Marilyn McBride



Sharon Perkins



Nancy Wright