

Third year begins positively for Ione School District

By the Ione Journalism Club

The first day of school saw 12 new students enrolled at Ione Community School along with 2-1/2 new teachers. Four exchange students have also made their way to Ione for the 2005-2006 school year.

Kevin Campbell joins the Ione staff from Unity to teach middle school and high school sciences along with a new high school elective science class. The research science class will explore different areas of science such as astronomy, ecology, environmental science and oceanography through the building of large class projects. They will tackle a salt-water aquarium first.

Another new face at ICS is that of Ione alum, Brandi (Ball) Orem, who is teaching the 2/3 grade class. Orem has taught for several years in the Morrow County School District and has taken on the Lady Cardinal Volleyball head coach position as well.

Finally, Ione is happy to have Tom Shear on staff full time. Tom is teaching art to grades 1-12 along with another new high school elective, horticulture, and three shop classes. The horticulture class will take advantage of the new greenhouse and Ione Community Garden sights for their class projects.

The elementary classes have been reconfigured and the 4/5 grade students are now receiving instruction from three teachers. Michelle Stone focuses on reading, writing and language arts in the morning and then heads off to teach music in the afternoon. Karen Holland steps in and focuses on social studies, health and science after teaching a morning of high school Spanish classes. Finally, Karen and Steve Schaber team teach math and physical education to finish out the day. "This is working out great and each teacher has something special to offer the 4/5 students. Karen integrates

Spanish into her instruction, which the students are picking up quickly. Michelle utilizes three uninterrupted hours in the morning for literacy instruction and having Steve assist with math and P.E. gives the students their first learning experience with a male teacher along with the opportunity for small group instruction," explains Superintendent/Principal Bryn Browning.

With the addition of new staff, high school students at Ione now have an increased selection of classes to take beyond the core curriculum. Mentioned above were research science, horticulture, and shop, however, students can also take business/publications, advanced biology, music, art, drama, physics, technology, advanced history or an online course including law and justice, creative writing, writing 121, psychology, aerospace studies, auto fundamentals and speech. "I was proud of our high school students this year when it came time to register for classes. While many seniors only needed two to three core classes to graduate and could have taken study halls, partial loads or signed up to be a teacher's assistant, all have full schedules in order to take advantage of the new classes or classes available for college credit," comments Browning. "Our new classes are interesting and able to accomplish advanced syllabuses through funding by the Ione Education Foundation and outside donations or grants."

One example is that of the business/publications class and a grant they received to purchase photography equipment in order to take, develop and market the sports' pictures and group classroom photos. Last year the class published Ione's first all color yearbook and launched the Ione Small Business Club.

In June, the Ione School Board of Directors held a goal setting session to brainstorm and identify goals for the board, district, school

and administration. "This session was very productive and successful with a lot of great ideas brought up," reflects board vice chair, Gregg Rietmann. "We have a positive board who work well together to allow our students a great school experience." Professional Staff Development on Friday in-services will now be focused rather than used for general staff meetings and classroom work time. Topics include Language Acquisition for ELL and poverty students, assistance with alignment of curriculum to state standards, using data to enhance classroom learning, cooperative teaming practices, and implementation of supplemental reading and math programs.

The next identified goal for the 2005-2006 school year includes the creation of CAMP 5, an extended learning opportunity for Ione students that will be held on Fridays. CAMP 5 will use community members to enhance subjects such as welding, home economics, graphic design, electrical engineering, personal finance, writing and art. For the elementary students, classes will include literacy activities and extended math sessions.

Another goal includes carrying out the regulations set forth in the charter to partner with the community in an educational setting. This will be done through teaching opportunities at CAMP 5, the new S.M.A.R.T. reading program for grades K-3, Read-n-Play for ages 0-5, and on-site work experience for the high school students. Teachers are also gearing up to have spotlight visits and presentations during the school day by community members and business leaders each quarter, with some being held weekly. If interested in volunteering at the Ione Community School, please contact the school office for additional information at 422-7131.

District has fewer students than expected

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concerning target class size. He said that studies have shown that student performance increases as class size decreases, if the teacher changes his teaching style away from a lecture type presentation. He also said that optimum class sizes were probably around 20 children in primary grades and 25 in the upper grades.

Burrows reported that he met with Dean Kegler and other Boardman residents to work out a solution concerning the request for \$17,000 from the district to provide additional paving for the Riverside High School track. Burrows said he was able to budget about half the cost through RHS's current budget and will budget the remainder in next year's budget.

He also reported that the Education Service District was not approved for a safety grant to partner with the school district to provide funds for a safety officer at Morrow County Schools.

Assistant Superintendent Wade Smith made a presentation, including photographs, of progress on the Riverside High School and Irrigon High School multipurpose rooms. He said that the second layer of concrete for the multipurpose room tilt-up walls is in the process of being poured for IHS.

Smith also discussed the Adequate Yearly Progress report for MCSD for the 2004-05 year. The AYP stems from the federal No Child Left Behind Act. He reported that all district schools have met the AYP. Riverside Junior/Senior High School and Irrigon Junior/Senior High School were exempt from the AYP this year because of the population changes between the schools. He added that generally, elementary school students did better than middle and high school students and Caucasian students did better than their non-white counterparts. (See story by Smith on the AYP in this issue.)

He said that state report cards on Oregon schools will be issued soon.

Smith also reported on a district-wide staff development program, which calls for a core group of teachers and administrators to learn the program and then teach it to the remaining staff. The program, Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), is designed to incorporate good teaching methods to all the staff.

The district is focusing on retaining staff, as around 15 percent of staff,

approximately 25 employees, left the district this year. A larger proportion of teachers left the north Morrow schools.

Smith also outlined feedback on the district in-service held prior to the start of school.

Also at the meeting the board adopted a new policy concerning the promotion and retention of students. According to the policy, "Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the professional staff, such exceptions are in the best education interest of the students involved. Exceptions will always be made after prior notification and explanation to the student's parents, but the final decision will rest with school authorities."

"High school students' class status (freshman, sophomore, junior senior) is determined by the number of credit hours earned. Junior high students may be required to pass core classes (language arts, math social studies, science) to advance to the next grade level."

The district has developed a junior high academic success flow chart to illustrate the progress of junior high school students. If a junior high student passes all classes, he will participate in the end-of-the-year activity and go onto the next grade. If a junior high student passes all core classes, but not all classes, he will not participate in the end of the year activity, but will go onto the next grade. If the student does not pass one to three core classes, he will attend summer school or second semester remediation. If that student passes summer school or second semester remediation, he could attend up to two remediation classes in the next grade, if needed. If that student does not pass summer school or second semester remediation, he will repeat that grade. If the student does not pass four core classes he will repeat the grade.

Junior high core classes are math, science, language arts and social studies.

In other business, the board:

-heard a report on district-wide computer technology from an ESD representative;

-approved the first reading of an early return to work policy, rescinding the current policy and replacing it with the new policy, concerning employee light

duty and return to work. Burrows said the new policy will lessen "malingering and get people back to work earlier." He said the policy was on the recommendation of SAIF, Oregon's workman's comp company.

-approved an OSEA memorandum of understanding concerning alternative ed assistants' job description/salary change. This would allow people who are not bus drivers to drive buses.

-approved the first reading of a new policy concerning vendors who provide the sale and rental of equipment to students and their parents. It establishes a more equal playing field for vendors, such as those who sell or rent band equipment to students and parents, for example.

-accepted the following resignations: Susie Stillman, part-time ACH ed assistant; Becky Sanchez, WRE English as a second language ed assistant.

-approved the following employment: Brandi Sweeney, HES special ed one-on-one assistant; Jeanne Collins, half-time temporary contract addition to existing half-time contract to meet increased student population at HHS.

-approved the following extra duty contracts: Forrest McKinnis, Morrow Education Center District Assessment Resource Team (testing) coordinator, MEC English Language Learner coordinator; Jennifer Cox, WRE DART coordinator; Jake McElligott, IES DART coordinator; Jay Rogers, RHS Talented and Gifted program coordinator; Lisa Constantine, IJSH ELL coordinator; Colleen Cunningham, ACH ELL coordinator; Laura Rowe, IES ELL coordinator; Theresa Proctor-Reece, WRE ELL coordinator; Mary Gressley Grow, SBE ELL coordinator; Ron Prindle, RHS ELL coordinator; Maryann Elguezabal, Heppner schools ELL coordinator; Robert Marshall, IJSH head football coach; Ray Davis, IJSH assistant football coach; Blaine Ganvoa, IJSH assistant volleyball coach; David Westenskow, IJSH head boys' soccer coach; Danica Harjo, IJSH head girls' soccer coach; Erich Harjo, from IJSH assistant wrestling coach to head wrestling coach; William Coltrin, IJH assistant football coach.

-received the 2005-06 classified employees' salary schedule, which includes 15 steps for head and assistant cooks, laundry, head and assistant custodians, facilities coordinators, school/family liaison and education assistants.

-heard the following announcements: Boardman CEC meeting, Sept. 20, 7 p.m., WRE; Irrigon CEC meeting, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. IES; Board work session, Sept. 22, Polycom at district office and IES; next board meeting, Oct. 10, RHS, 7 p.m.; Oregon School Boards fall regional meeting, Oct. 26, BMCC, 6 p.m.; OSBA annual convention, Nov. 11-13, Portland Marriott. A Heppner CEC meeting, scheduled for Sept. 19, was cancelled because a lack of interest in membership.

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CROP MEETING

All are invited to attend a Crop Meeting to be held Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.

at the Ione Grange Hall

Topic of discussion will be crop changes for 2006

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