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# Harrisburg School District



**March 8**  
**District Band Concert**  
**night**

**March 10**  
**Curriculum Day**

**March 13**  
**School District Board**  
**Meeting**

**March 16**  
**Middle School Staff vs**  
**Student basketball**  
**game**

**March 31**  
**3rd grade Oceans**  
**Night**

**April 6**  
**End of 3rd Quarter**

**April 7**  
**Grading Day**

**April 10**  
**District Board Meeting**

**April 20**  
**Kindergarten Round-**  
**up**

**April 21**  
**4th grade Pioneer**  
**night**

**April 25**  
**Budget Committee**  
**meets**

**May 13**  
**HES Parent Club**  
**Carnival**



*Spring*

**Volume 1, Issue 9**

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE Superintendent

Spring is just around the corner. I am ready for more sunny days with less rain, snow and ice. What an interesting winter we've had so far. I want to thank our staff members, students and families for their patience and flexibility through an unusually snowy and icy season. We missed two days because of inclement weather and we will not make up those days.

National School Counseling week was February 6—10 and I want to recognize our counselors for the tremendous impact they have in helping students realize their potential and achieve school success. Mary Ahern in her first year at the high school is making a difference. Laura Dale is our counselor at the elementary and middle school who has a huge workload. The needs of children and young adults nationwide continue to change and we must respond in the same way. These ladies bring a wealth of knowledge and a caring attitude to assist our students and families. Please join me in thanking them for the important work they do everyday.

As you probably know, an important Oregon legislative session is currently underway. You may have read or heard concerns about adequate funding for schools for the next two school years. These are real concerns. We are again preparing ourselves for the difficult conversations for possible staff reductions, and reduction in services to support our students. Each year, we work hard to maintain high character and academic standards in the face of unpredictable and inadequate funding.

Our Harrisburg School District team con-

tinues to do an amazing job working with the challenges of funding programs, managing our older facilities and doing our best to meet the ever changing needs of students. We ask that you pay attention to what's going on in the Legislature over the next several months and get involved in any way you can to ensure that education is a priority for our community.

One way to be informed is by reading the results of the Oregon Rising survey conducted last year. Learn more about education priorities shared by over 10,000 Oregonians, including many of you. Please visit the Oregon Rising web site at [www.oregon-rising.org](http://www.oregon-rising.org). Nothing has more impact on our students and their future than a high quality education.

We are beginning to build our school district budget for the 2017-18 school year. Each building principal and department supervisor is assessing their needs and will give requests to Pam Strutz our school district business manager. As we put together our school district budget, we will continue to have some unknown costs in the future to the district in terms of PERS, the impact of the minimum wage increase and facility and equipment repairs. If you would like to participate in the budget committee work we have one vacancy remaining. Contact Michele Pelkey at the district office if you are interested.

I would like to congratulate all of our winter sport's athletes and coaches for their hard work this past season. The boys basketball team ended on a good note placing 3rd in the state tournament on Saturday, March 4th. The wrestling team had two state finalists and placed fifth in state as a team.

### THANK YOU

Harrisburg School District thanks the NIKE school innovation fund for the recent \$11,748 donation. This money will allow the high school to continue expanding the AVID program with teacher training and annual membership costs.

### What is AVID?

You may have heard that Harrisburg Schools are turning to AVID. AVID is an acronym that stands for "Advanced Independent Determination". AVID's vision statement is: Proven Achievement, Lifelong Advantage. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. We understand not all students will attend college, but they must be ready for a career or training outside of high school.

Our plan is to slowly implement each year, grade by grade, until we are school district wide with AVID trained teachers. Part of the system refers to WICOR strategies. The "W" stands for writing to learn strategies. Teachers are learning research proven practices incorporating writing that will impact student learning. "I" stands for Inquiry. Teachers are learning best practices of implementing inquiry skills into each classroom. The "C" stands for collaboration. Teachers are learning strategies that assist students working together either with partners or in groups. Students are encouraged to further develop their critical thinking skills. The "O" stands for organization. Every student will have a notebook following an explicit procedure for organizing their work, assignments and assessments. The "R" stands for reading. Teachers attend critical reading training learning research proven strategies that will impact student learning. It will take us five to seven years to be fully implemented.

Our staff meetings and curriculum days include some type of WICOR strategy training. Next time, I will write about our AVID elective part of the system.