

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report December, 2022

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Blue Ridge Students Come to School Cozy:** Classes with the highest attendance average this quarter are being rewarded with a PJ day! Encouraging students to come to school has never been so fun!
- **Donuts Do the Trick:** Individual students were given a donut breakfast if they came to school on time, stayed all day, and never left early every day in November! Students also received a certificate to take home and show their families! Keep on coming to school Blue Jays!

Academic Focus:

- **Sing a New Song!:** 4th and 5th grade students performed live at Blue Ridge for the first time in several years. Families packed the house for our *Children of the World* musical performance. Even our very own Dr. Martin-Knox was on hand to hear the beautiful noise! What a great event!
- **Trauma Smart Update:** District staff gathered together for this month's Trauma Smart professional development. This month's focus was on routines and consistency. Increasing awareness that human need for things to be the same/predictable increases students' ability to feel safe and to learn the given material needed for academic success.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Blue Jay Grandparent Breakfast:** Blue Jay Grandparents and special friends came to breakfast this month to increase community involvement and have a yummy breakfast! Everyone had a fantastic time!
- **Knowing our Greater Community:** Blue Ridge students celebrated both National Latin American Heritage month, Italian American Heritage Month, and Indigenous People Month by learning about influential people who have made a positive impact on our community.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 5-9** PTA Santa's Workshop
- **December 19** PTA Winter Parties
- **December 20** Student PBIS Celebration: Cosmic Bowling

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Challenge Referrals:** Thirty-nine 2nd, 4th and 5th grade students were referred to the Challenge program from Eastwood Hills as part of this recent round of screening, the second highest number of referrals in the school district.
- **Positive News Spotlight:** Eastwood Hills was spotlighted in KCTV5 news for their partnership with Caring for Kids and the A.B. May Company as part of the Stuff The Truck event!

Academic Focus:

- **Math Curriculum Night:** Parents and students had so much fun at our Math Curriculum Night! Students enjoyed snacks while they played math games with their family members and created take-home games for continued practice at home. Six students received grand prizes from each grade level for playing at every game station and entering their name into the drawing!!
- **Fourth & Fifth Grade Music Performance:** The fourth and fifth grade students did more than "break a leg" at their music performance, Broadway Now! Mr. Adamson and his students knocked our socks off with their singing prowess and showmanship! Way to go!!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Thanksgiving:** November was a month of Thanksgiving. Students and staff contributed to our Thankful Tree in the fifth grade hallway by tracing their hand onto paper and writing a statement of thanksgiving. The Functional Skills classroom hosted an excellent traditional Thanksgiving meal with their students and Eastwood Staff, and the entire school ate together for our traditional Eastwood thanksgiving celebration.
- **VIP Breakfast:** Many students were able to bring a "Very Important Person" to breakfast to enjoy donuts, coffee and juice together. Student success is built upon a strong community and we are thankful for the important people in our students' lives!
- **Girls on the Run:** Participating Eastwood fourth and fifth grade students and their running buddies finalized their Fall Girls on the Run season with a culminating 5K run around Swope Park. Girls on the Run is so much fun!!

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 5-9** Grade level November Positive Behavior Parties
- **December 6** Score 1 for Health
- **December 6, 4:30 PM** EWH PTA Meeting
- **December 13, 6:15 PM** Second & Third Grade Music Performance
- **December 15** First Grade Field Trip to the Kauffman Stadium
- **December 15, 5:30 PM** Family Fun Night
- **December 20** All School Sing and Hat, Glove, & Book Give-Away

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Fleetridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Culver's Night:** Fleetridge PTA earned more than \$450 at our November 8th Culver's Night. PTA will use the money to support staff and students at Fleetridge
- **Trauma Smart Training:** Counselor Laura Greeson and Administrator Intern Bill Lor attended the Trauma Smart Coaching and Smart Connections Academy November 1-4. Laura and Bill will apply the skills they learned as they support and coach Fleetridge students, staff members, and families.

Academic Focus:

- **Data Review:** Fleetridge teachers participated in a fishbowl experience led by Teacher Leaders Kelly Anderson, Melissa Taylor, and Amy Robbins. The Teacher Leaders outlined the essential elements of the Data Review Team process and conducted a mock DRT session. The experience was designed to ensure there is a clear understanding of DRT expectations.
- **Grade Level Buddies:** Intermediate classrooms are paired with primary classrooms, and together they participate in one activity each month. This month, fourth graders and second graders worked together to write letters to veterans. Student pairs each decorated giant puzzle pieces that together made a giant "thank you" sign for veterans.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Grandparents'/VIP Night:** The November 17th Fleetridge Grandparents'/VIP Night was special for all who attended. Fourth grade students performed under the direction of music teacher Ryan Morrill. VIP's and their students enjoyed a cookie reception and participated in interactive activities throughout the school.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Fleetridge PTA hosted a Book Fair during the week of November 14. Students were able to purchase books, posters, and school supplies. Counselor Laura Greeson made sure every student, even those without money to shop, went home with a new book at the end of the week. Grandparents and VIP's shopped with students at the November 17th event.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 12-16** PTA Sponsored Holiday Store
- **December 14, 8:35 AM** Principal's Breakfast @FR Library
- **Tuesday, December 20, 9:00 AM** All School Sing Along @FR Gym,
- **December 20, 1:00PM** Staff Holiday Luncheon

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Chipotle Night Success:** Laurel Hills raised nearly \$120 at Chipotle Night on November 15th! Families were able to mention our school name for a portion of the evening's proceeds to benefit Laurel. We are so thankful for our staff and families that went to support our school.
- **Holiday Meal Fun:** Just before Thanksgiving break staff and students enjoyed the annual holiday meal of creamed turkey and mashed potatoes. Each year Mr. Britt picks up the tab for any adult to indulge in this yearly tradition. This year he had the pleasure of buying 43 meals! Our kitchen staff did an outstanding job as always!

Academic Focus:

- **Peer Observation Day:** On December 5th, the staff will be participating in a peer observation day in math. During the day, staff members will take turns observing and taking notes on instructional strategies related to math. This is possible through our CPL (1%) funds. We are excited for a FULL day of learning. This will be a great opportunity to collaborate with each other!
- **Universal Think Sheets:** Teachers have been diving into Trauma Smart! One way we are incorporating Trauma Smart into our everyday implementation is by creating a universal processing tool that allows teachers and students to work through problems together.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **ELA Night:** On November 10, families joined us for ELA night where they participated in Bingo for Books and Make-and-Take activities in classrooms! Families also enjoyed a snack and community time. We were thrilled to welcome so many families to school!
- **4th/5th Music Performance:** In November, fourth and fifth grade students performed a "rock and roll" medley of hits for a packed audience of friends and family. We were proud of how hard students worked to learn to sing and play their musical selections!
- **Veterans Day Celebration:** Several classes at Laurel Hills created letters and cards to share with local veterans to thank them for their service to our country. These cards and letters were delivered in coordination with Veterans Day. We received a thank you letter back expressing how appreciated the notes were. Additionally, students took time to learn more about this holiday in community building time and on morning announcements.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 15** LH Night @ Panera Bread on Chipman Road (Lee's Summit)
- **December 19, 6:00 PM** LH PTA Board Meeting
- **December 20** Winter Parties in Classrooms

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Little Blue Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Terrific Kids!**- Each month at Little Blue we celebrate a student who is representing that month's character trait. The month of November's character trait was Respectful! Teachers nominated one student from their class that represented that trait and will be getting a certificate and t-shirt!
- **Staff Shout Out-** Mrs. Kaysie Saddler and Mrs. Jennifer Missey led the Trauma Smart session for new staff in the district for the month of November and did an outstanding job! November's session focused on Routines & Rituals + Consistent Response!

Academic Focus:

- **Trauma Smart-** New teachers to the Raytown School District have been attending Trauma Smart sessions to become more trauma aware to meet the needs of not only the students and their families we serve but also their own needs.
- **Vertical Teams-** Kelly Schoolcraft and Holley Maring have been leading our ELA and Math vertical teams, respectfully, throughout the first semester. These monthly morning meetings have proven to be a great time for grade level teachers to see where their students are coming from and to see how they can help their students get to where they need to be.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Pastries with Parents-** Little Blue hosted students and their parents before school to enjoy some freshly baked Dunkin Donuts!
- **Parent Involvement Night-** On November 17th, families were invited up to Little Blue Elementary to eat some dinner, learn about Math and ELA strategies they could do at home, learn about Trauma Smart's Brain as a Car, and win prizes!
- **Scholastic Book Fair-** Miss Cox and Mrs. Gentleman ran an amazingly successful Book Fair the week before Fall break. Families had opportunities to shop with their students at Pastries with Parents and Parent Involvement Night.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 8** 2nd & 3rd Grade Performance
- **December 12** Arrowhead Stadium Tour Field Trip
- **December 19** Winter PBIS Party

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Norfleet Elementary

Celebrations:

- Thank you to Music Teacher Amanda Brown for putting together an amazing virtual Veteran's Day celebration!
- Congratulations to Art Teacher Nichole Hartnett for being nominated as a Ray of Hope Award recipient!

Academic Focus:

- November's building professional development focused on a cultural competency session with Sarah Apple and problem solving some behavior situations and procedures.
- Norfleet hosted its annual Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10. Kindergarten and 1st grade performed for the student body at the assembly and at the PTA Unit Meeting in the evening. Norfleet staff members and students use this as an avenue to show our gratitude to those service members who have served our country.
- Cerner Healthe Kids screenings took place on November 29. We appreciate these health screenings and the valuable information they provide our families.
- Norfleet recognizes students with a monthly Notable Knight raffle for students. Those students who are making positive choices consistently are placed in a raffle and then able to select prizes when their name is called. The PBS is working hard to recognize all the great things that students are doing on a daily basis!
- Trauma Smart training continues at Norfleet. In November, we focused on Routines & Rituals and Consistent Response. We learned how important those are to ourselves, as well as our students.

Parent/Community Focus:

- The Book Fair returned to Norfleet! Over \$3000 worth of books were sold that week! Even on a snowy morning, over 80 special guests joined us for Donuts with a Grown Up & Book Fair shopping on November 15.
- Norfleet hosted Family Literacy and Math night on November 17. 150 students and their families came to learn and explore reading and math activities together at home. Families enjoyed a pizza dinner, bingo for books, and shopping at the Book Fair.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 6, 6:20 PM** PTA Unit Meeting
- **December 6, 6:30 PM** 2nd- 3rd Gr. Music Performance
- **December 13, 6:00 PM** PTA Board Meeting and Papa John's Night
- **December 16** Winter Parties

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations:

- Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Williamson had their first Character Trait lunch with our September and October Respect Winners. Students got to enjoy a lunch in the library with administrators where they received a special certificate and ice cream. Responsibility is our next character trait that we are focusing on during the months of November and December.
- Monthly Buddies have started at Robinson. This is a time for primary and intermediate students to get together. This allows students across the building to build relationships, complete activities, and work on social emotional skills.
- Staff have been getting together each month outside of the school day to continue building strong relationships with each other and work on good self-care. We are making our way around different restaurants in Raytown to build relationships with the community, too!

Academic Focus:

- Staff were able to participate in two days of peer observations this past month. Staff filled out a survey on teaching and learning techniques they felt they needed to grow in and techniques they were strong in. Then, we paired teachers up with a classroom to observe. Staff then left feedback for all the great things they saw while visiting each other. This was an amazing way to get into each other's rooms and see all the great learning that is happening each day.
- As we continue working with our Trauma Smart consultant our Trauma Informed Care Team has been able to lead multiple professional development activities for our staff, as well as, get into classrooms for walkthroughs. This team is made up of support staff, counselor, social work, and teachers. Robinson is focusing on attunement and affect modulation to help lead staff and students through identifying their own emotional, feelings, and self-care needs.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Family Movie and Game Night was a success here at Robinson. We welcomed over 150 students and their families to enjoy a movie in the gym, games in the library, and a photo booth. Nachos, popcorn, soda, and candy were a huge hit for our families and supported our PTA. We loved hosting this safe and fun Friday night activity.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 8** K/1 Music Performance
- **December 8** Cookie Decorating
- **December 13** Papa John's Night
- **December 16** 2nd Qtr PBS Party
- **December 19** Winter Classroom Parties

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Trauma Smart Coaching and Smart Connections Training:**
Interventionist Eric Epps and Administrator Intern Dominique Roberson attended the Trauma Smart Coaching and Smart Connections Academy November 1-4. Eric and Dominique will apply the skills they learned to support teachers, students and families at Southwood.
- **Principal's Breakfast:** Thirty- five Southwood students were celebrated during the Principal's breakfast. Students were chosen by their teachers for various reasons such as displaying excellent character, showing growth in academics, and being role models for others.

Academic Focus:

- **Peer Observations:** Staff participated in two days of peer observations in order to learn from one another in areas of reading, math, science, community building, and classroom management. Staff filled out feedback for one another on the amazing things that they saw in each other's classrooms as well as stating one thing they wish to implement in their rooms moving forward.
- **Professional Learning Communities:** Teachers have been dedicated in their professional learning communities working to plan out lessons and meet their wildly important goals. This month, each grade level made progress on their goals and two grade levels met their goals.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Veteran's Day:** Southwood celebrated Veteran's Day by decorating the entry with special Veterans from the past and present. Students and staff sent in pictures of their service members and shared the branch of the military in which they served. Students also shared with their classes about their special veteran and learned about the importance of Veteran's Day.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 7** Math and ELA Family Involvement Night
- **December 12- 16** Penguin Patch Holiday Shop
- **December 19** Winter Classroom Parties

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Spring Valley Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Read a Thon:** SV celebrated students during our Read A Thon from October 1-November 14th. Each morning students were announced and received a prize for signing up online for the read a thon. We celebrated students with a pizza party for those who read the most minutes and a cupcake party for those who brought in the most online donations. Students were excited to share their reading fun.
- **Problem-Solving Admin Chew & Chat:** Each month SV focuses on a life skill word, then honors our students nominated by teachers and peers. We celebrated over 45 students who were honored for displaying their problem solving skills through the month of October. Admin read why each student was chosen as they enjoyed donuts and juice.
- **Staff of the Week for November:** Tiffany Strezoski, Susie Morgan and Kathy True. Each staff member worked hard to give back to our staff and students during the month. They received a front row parking spot for the week nominated and a gift from Gabbert's Goodies.

Academic Focus:

- **Professional Learning:** Teachers and admin discussed refocusing our ELA and Math Data Review Teams and made biweekly commitments to our teaching and our students. Our new practices have already given teachers more focus as they collaborate on planning and instructional strategies.
- **Small Group Instruction:** Our commitment the past year has been on small group instruction of reading and math with an emphasis on reading. Our Teacher Leader team is continuing to drive small group instruction by committing to checking for fidelity and common practices building wide of our small group instruction in reading. Our teachers have made commitments as we discuss wildly important goals which have already increased our goal of students at or above grade level criterion by 5% in November!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Book Fair & Donuts with Grownups:** We kicked off November with our Fall Book Fair and Donuts with Grownups. Both events were a great success! Families brought in just over \$5000.00 at our book fair making it our largest in over five years. Students enjoyed bringing an adult to have donuts, coffee, juice and visiting the book fair with them.
- **McDonald's Night:** Our McDonald's Night on November 14th was a hit with our families. We raised \$480 which will go towards student events and celebrations.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 6** Score 1 Health Assessments
- **December 8** 4th/5th Grade Music Performance
- **December 16** It's Snow Much Fun Quarterly Incentive
- **December 19** Classroom Winter Parties

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Monthly Academic Winners-** Each month we recognize students who have shown growth in math and/or reading by announcing their names over the intercom. From these names, four students are randomly chosen to pick prizes from Dr. Jones' office. In addition, two students are Drivers of the Month. These students use their strategies to keep themselves in the driver seat when they get upset or overwhelmed.
- **First Quarter Celebrations-** At the end of first quarter, we had Pumpkin Palooza, a celebration for students who had 0-3 referrals to leave the classroom for the first quarter. Students had a variety of activities from carnival games, pumpkin decorating, and treats. Almost 90% of our students participated!

Academic Focus:

- **Amplify Collab-** Teachers met with the District English Language Arts Coordinator, Jen Pearson, to discuss implementation of Amplify, barriers, celebrations, and planning goals. This time provides teachers with the opportunity to have vertical conversations about our new curriculum.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **United Way Fundraiser-** Students participated in a spirit week for United Way! Each day students brought in change to participate with the winning class winning a popcorn party. We raised a total of \$1,130!
- **Book Fair-** Westridge finished up its annual Fall book fair in the first week of November and it was a huge success. Students participated all week throughout the day, as well as Tuesday night.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 5-9** Winter Store
- **December 14-18** Winter Spirit Week
- **December 16** Winter Carnival
- **December 20** Staff Holiday Party

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations:

- PAT was awarded 3500 in grant money from Truman Heartland's Jelly Family Foundation Endowment for Children's Education. The money is being used to strengthen the opportunities we can provide for our families with young children.
- After reading *How to Catch a Turkey*, students built traps using marshmallows and toothpicks.

Academic Focus:

- Three year olds have been learning about families, attributes: big and small, heavy and light. They also are starting to learn about preposition words: in, on, under, over, beside, next to.
- Four year olds have been learning about community helpers and their jobs, linking quantity to numeral.

Parent/Community Focus:

- DECA Carnival- RHS DECA hosted a carnival for NT families. The students came up with fun games and great prizes. Several staff members participated in a competitive sack race.
- PAT hosted with Children's Mercy two CARE parent nights for families. Child care and meals were provided for families while parents participated in a workshop on how to improve discipline and compliance at home.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 12- 16** Gingerbread Hunt
- **December 15** Santa visits
- **December 16** Staff Party
- **December 19** Snowy Day school celebration

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations:

- Trauma Smart coaches Ann and Ebony put together a Self-Care Cart for staff members. Once a quarter, the coaches supply the cart with snacks. Each staff member got to choose a drink and a snack from the cart this quarter! As well as a Trauma Smart inspirational blurb! Trauma Smart continues to be a focus as the students commit to wishing well and looking for kindness in others and staff commit to focusing on “good for you” noticings. 3T also celebrated Veterans Day by honoring Mr. Jeffrey for his service!

Academic Focus:

- 3T classrooms have continued to focus on learning about Trees. The big questions the students investigated were “What are the parts of a tree?” and “How do trees grow and change?” During the investigation on “What are the parts of a tree?” students learned vocabulary words such as roots, trunk, and branches. At the end of the investigation each class created their own trees. The second investigation was “How do trees grow and change?”.
- Students first discussed how they have grown and changed and we applied the same concept to why trees grow. Humans and trees both need specific items to grow and change (water, healthy food, sunlight, exercise, etc). The Trees unit will continue through December with two more investigations.

Parent/Community Focus:

- The month of November was a busy time here at Three Trails as we polish our continual/rotating initiatives and introduce new ones. This month's Diversi-3T focus was “Around the World”-Native Language and Food. Each class had the opportunity to read, share, and exchange in a fun inclusive and informative way. Parents also have the opportunity to provide information that would be useful as it pertains to family practices.
- This month's Social Work home and school connection lesson was: Gun Safety. Information was shared with students on what to do if they see a gun, the difference between a real and toy gun, and the zero tolerance policy around all guns or insinuations at school. Parents were provided with the information shared and gun safety lock box resources.
- This month we also hosted a Toiletry Drive to provide baskets of goods to families in need this winter. With the support of our Caring for Kids Community Partners, Staff, and Families we are able to provide a basket to every family that indicates a need to be distributed next month.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 12-20** Spirit week
- **December 14** 3T Diversity
- **December 20** Winter classroom activities