

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

March, 2022



Blue Ridge Elementary

Celebrations:

- Jana Caudle, current District Teacher of the Year, helped Blue Jay staff teach with joy on 2-22-22! This once in a lifetime moment was a great way to engage students in math, writing, and a bit of dressing up fun! Students worked on learning objectives such as doubles, skip counting by 2's, and completed 2-step word problems! Students also engaged in ELA activities such as writing about their life 22 years from now, reading books about pairs, or learning the difference between to, too, and two! Leave it to Blue Ridge teachers to turn a special event into a teachable moment! We even incorporated music education with an all school brain break where we danced to the Cupid Shuffle as a building! **Rhythm Rockstars:** Blue Ridge Specials teachers were thinking ahead when they decided to record the 5th grade students during their drumming and rhythm unit this month. They plan to use the recording of students performing Footloose using the new drums purchased for PE to support physical learning while social distancing in school. They hope students will also be able to perform it LIVE in the spring at their end of elementary school celebration, but wanted to ensure that it was on film. They are Epic teachers!

Academic Focus:

- **Grow Awards:** Grow awards virtual assembly/Teacher Ka-hoot: The Blue Ridge promotions committee created a virtual assembly to celebrate students who have grown academically and socially this quarter! It even came with a Ka-Hoot game that showed pictures of teachers when they were little and students guessed which teachers they were! It is great to see the academic and social growth our students have made.
- **Black History Month:** Blue Ridge students celebrated Black History Month in a variety of ways using literature and social studies concepts. Morning announcements featured a variety of black medical professionals, inventors, and famous quotes by significant black people in history as an anchor for discussion in community building and ELA.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Clothing Closet Success:** Thanks to Graceway Church donations the Blue Ridge clothing closet has been providing much needed clothing to our little Blue Jays. Meeting students' basic needs, helps students feel good about themselves and gives them what they need to achieve academically.
- **Score One:** Blue Ridge welcomed back Score one for Health after two years of hiatus due to safety protocols during the pandemic! It was wonderful to see students' health needs being addressed to ensure academic success!

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 10** PBIS Walkthrough
- **March 10** Read-A-Thon
- **March 18** Lead Incentive
- **March 21-31** Trash Bag Sales

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Dr. Coleman** Congratulations to Principal Coleman for successfully defending her dissertation as part of her Doctorate of Education degree. Dr. Coleman's dissertation examined reading achievement of students meeting eligibility as high poverty in 11 different school districts across the nation implementing knowledge-building curricula.
- **Diana Scarcello** Congratulations to our Cafeteria Manager Diana Scarcello for being nominated as the EWH Support Staff Employee of the Year!! Mrs. Scarcello was nominated for her endurance managing staff shortages, food shortages, and restrictions as part of the pandemic. We are thankful for her relentless service to our students!

Academic Focus:

- **Reading Progress** Our End of Year Reading Goal at Eastwood Hills, is for at least 80% of students to have on grade level basic reading skills. We started the school year with 34% of students able to read words at grade level targets. Our ending February data shows that 59% of students have achieved this end of year goal!!!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **City Union Mission Drive** EWH students and staff collected peanut butter for the City Union Mission. The winning classroom donated a total of 578 ounces and received homemade peanut butter and chocolate and chocolate chip cookies from Dr. Coleman in recognition and appreciation!
- **Craft Club** Twenty-eight third and fourth grade students participated in the first EWH Craft Club. Students stayed after school two days a week to craft and create. Students participating in Craft Club made a keychain canvas tennis shoe for their culminating project. The students LOVED designing their own shoes!
- **ABMay Academy** Fifth grade students attended AbMay Academy in February, an annual field trip hosted by the AbMay company. Students received lessons in business operations including customer service and finance! We are so thankful for our community partners!

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 8** EWH Chipotle Night
- **March 15** PBS TFI Walkthrough
- **March 15** EWH Papa John's Day
- **March 15** Peer Observation Day
- **March 16** Reading Comprehension PD
- **March 16** Reading Vertical Team
- **March 17** Group/Personality Pictures
- **March 16** Cupcakin Truck @ EWH for Perfect 3rd Quarter Attendance
- **March 21** Girls on the Run Begins
- **March 23** Cultural Competency Vertical Team
- **March 24** Score 1 for Health
- **March 24** Curriculum Night
- **March 25** College Day

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Fletridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Principal's Breakfast/Perfect Attendance:** Congratulations to our students who were recognized for exhibiting positive character and/or present every hour, minute of every day in February. February's character trait was **Kindness**. Congratulations to our Fletridge Stars!
- **Twos Day:** Fletridge celebrated National Twosday (2-22-22) by showing spirit in a variety of ways. Students enjoy wearing tutus, tiaras, ties, twins etc. It was a blast for students and staff!

Academic Focus:

- **Black History Month-**In addition to classroom read alouds and other activities, students researched African Americans who made an impact on history. Each morning during morning announcements student leaders led a "Did You Know" series sharing interesting facts they researched.
- **DRT:** Grade levels continued collaborative conversations regarding student Math progress. Teams utilized this time to review data, SMART goals and outcomes.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Parent Teacher Conferences-** Fletridge Elementary had 92% parent involvement during our Spring Conferences. With conferences being conducted through Zoom, teachers, staff and parents did a great job of setting up times to meet about student progress!

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 8** Social Worker Appreciation Day
- **March 22** Spring and Class Pictures
- **March 23** Culver's Night
- **March 25** PBS Celebration

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Person of the Year**-Ms. Sierra Sanders, daytime custodian, was chosen as this year's Support Staff Person of the Year. Sierra was nominated by multiple team members. Her nominators mentioned her willingness to jump right in, and help anyone.
- **Student of the Month Winners**-One student from every classroom who showed kindness and compassion for the month of February was chosen to participate in our monthly Student of the Month Celebration. These students received a certificate, a string backpack, and a donut. We also took their pictures and they are displayed in our front hallway for all to see. We are so proud of these Leopards!
- **Black History Month**-Every morning over the intercom we were introduced to African Americans who made an impact on History. In addition to learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ruby Bridges, we were introduced to James McCune Smith, M.D., the first Black American to receive a medical degree and Patricia Era Bath, M.D. the first African American to complete an ophthalmology residency.
- **National School Counseling Week** - Laurel Hills celebrated National School Counseling week by highlighting and recognizing the important work of school counselors. In addition to celebrating Mrs. Kelly Sanders, we also highlighted important facts and figures related to the work of school counselors.
- **Champion of the Month-Unstoppable Heart**-Melanie Ferguson was nominated by Terri Elmore who said "Melanie is a teacher that invests her whole heart. She works with students that need her unstoppable love and expertise. She is cognitive and emotionally involved to better her students daily. Her love, kindness and compassion is off the charts."

Academic Focus:

- **2nd Quarter Academic Awards**-Four students from each classroom who showed growth in math and/or Reading were nominated by their classroom teachers. Students were acknowledged during grade level assemblies and received a certificate stating what they accomplished.
- **DRT-Math**-Teachers met with Marilyn Cannon during Grade level DRTs to collaborate and discuss progress with new math series. This month we will focus on Science.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Parent Teacher Conferences**-We had 91% of our parents/guardians participate in Spring Conferences. Teachers did a great job of connecting with their parents through Zoom, email, and phone calls.
- **Read a Thon**-Students participated in a month-long Read a Thon sponsored by the PTA where \$3,675 was raised. We had 93 students participate. The classroom that raised the most money in each grade level will be rewarded with a pizza party.
- **Bus Driver Appreciation**-The Joy Committee made books to share with each of our Bus Drivers to show how much we appreciate them.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 8, 6:00-8:00 PM** STEM in the gym at RHS

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Little Blue Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Person of the Year-** Mrs. Jennifer Missey, our behavior interventionist, was chosen as this year's support staff person of the year. She goes above and beyond for the students and staff here at Little Blue to make sure they are supported and successful!
- **Terrific Kids-** A student from each class was nominated by their classroom teacher for demonstrating the February Character Trait of Friendly!

Academic Focus:

- **Black History Month-** 5th Grade students created pieces of art honoring people who have made a positive impact on not only Raytown or Missouri but the country and world! Artwork featured Kobe Bryant, Simone Biles, and Jackie Robinson.



- **Social Emotional-** Teachers and staff at Little Blue Elementary have been working throughout the year on becoming more Trauma Smart and recently they tied Zones of Regulation with Trauma Smart to better assist students and make sure students are met where they are at both emotionally and socially.

Parent Community Focus:

- **Parent Teacher Conferences-** Little Blue Elementary had 87% parent involvement during our Spring Conferences. With conferences being conducted through Zoom, teachers, staff and parents did a great job of setting up times to meet about student progress!

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 15** Spring Picture Day

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Norfleet Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year:** Congratulations to Library Clerk Anna McIntyre, who was selected as our Support Staff Employee of the Year. She brings such creative ideas to all of her library lessons and read alouds and she is a great help to anyone in need throughout the building.
- **Twos Day:** Norfleet celebrated the short and snowy month of February with several spirit days. The culminating activity was Twos Day on 2/22/22. Students and staff creatively dressed in tutus, two of a kind, or as twins.
- **Special Recognitions:** Norfleet celebrated Mrs. Whitney during National School Counselor Week and also our bus drivers on Norfleet's Bus Driver Recognition Day last month. Mrs. Kang was nominated for the Caring for Kids Heart of a Champion School Leadership Impact Award.

Academic Focus:

- **World Read Aloud Day:** Norfleet recognized World Read Aloud Day with a virtual read aloud by author Kelly Carey. Librarian Stephanie Howell organized this memorable event for our students.
- **Black History Month:** All teachers delivered lessons on Black History Month in February. Students worked on research projects, learned African American songs and spirituals in music, and read selections about and by African Americans. We also shared information about historical, modern, and local African Americans each day on our morning announcements.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Norfleet held a food drive the week before the Super Bowl. We collected canned goods to show which team we thought would win. Our prediction was correct and Norfleet collected 367 cans! The items were donated to REAP.
- Norfleet's PTA hosted its third quarter unit meeting last month. The program featured Norfleet Counselor Amanda Whitney presenting on anxiety and parent Chelsea Medlock sharing some yoga poses to help with stress and anxiety.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 7-11** Read Across America Week
- **March 8** Social Worker Appreciation Day
- **March 14** Cerner Health Kids screenings
- **March 16** Spring and Class Pictures
- **March 22** Behavior Specialist Appreciation Day
- **March 25** Spring Parties

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Person of the Year**-Congratulations to Ms. Heggie who is our behavior interventionist who was chosen as this year's support staff person of the year. She is a trusted confidant and support for teachers and staff. She remains calm, caring and flexible in all situations and will do anything it takes to help our students be successful!
- **Character Trait Winners**-Congratulations to [these Raccoons](#) on being recognized by their teachers for demonstrating the character trait of cooperation.
- **Spread Love**-Staff had the opportunity to decorate bags and display them in the hallway. Staff then added notes, affirmations and treats to the bags during the first couple of weeks of February. This is our 4th year doing this at Robinson!
- **Bus Appreciation Week**-We celebrated our RQS bus drivers with personalized beverage bottles that were filled with candy. RO appreciates our drivers!

Academic Focus:

- **Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT team)**- Our CRT team has been meeting regularly and sharing our findings and also doing activities with staff. Recently this team led our staff through conversations on our implicit bias. Staff were given the opportunity to take various implicit association tests and have dialogue around this and how we can use this information to be even better educators.
- **Robinson Rockstars**-Every Monday, we celebrate the academic achievements of our students on the announcements. Students are nominated by their teacher for outstanding hard work or achievement and given certificates. The students contribute to our Robinson Rockstar bulletin board by adding a piece of the puzzle to our team board. All of our students are working together to uncover a mystery picture that will be revealed once all of our puzzle pieces are claimed.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **2/22/22**-PTA organized a spirit day on 2/22/22. We collected non-perishable food items for REAP on this day as well. We had TWO much fun!
- **Family Game Night and Book Fair**-Robinson is gearing up for our ELA and Math Night on Tuesday, March 15th . Activities are being planned and families will be able to take a grab and go pizza slice that evening. Additionally, they will be able to visit the Book Fair.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 14-18** Book Fair
- **March 15, 6:00-8:00 PM** ELA/Math Night
- **March 22** Papa John's Night
- **March 24, 6:00-7:00 PM** PTA Board Meeting

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Person of the Year**-Congratulations to Mrs. Roberta Scott who is our library clerk, who was chosen as this year's support staff person of the year. She is supportive, fun, an excellent reader and has great passion for our Southwood Roadrunners.
- **Love Bugs**-Southwood has been infested by bugs - **Love Bugs!** Some Southwood fun. Staff members placed love bugs with treats in staff classrooms and/or mailboxes. Once a staff member received a surprise/treat, they then paid it forward to two additional staff members. When a treat was received "You've Been Bugged" was placed outside your door.
- **Bus Appreciation Week**- Each Southwood Bus driver was given a BUNDT Cake tower, because we are "Nothing BUNDT Thankful" for our drivers.
- **Special Guest**- Cameron Tucker, a 16 year high school student who appeared on the Tamron Hall show was disciplined for cutting hair in the school bathroom. Later, he was sought out by local barbers who changed this incident into a dream of him becoming a barber. He was a guest speaker for Southwood's students and staff. Students spoke with Mr. Tucker via zoom.

Academic Focus:

- **Courageous Conversations (volunteer group)**: Our book study group is continuing to read Courageous Conversations by Glenn Singleton. The purpose of this study is to have staff be empowered to have dialogue and discussions about race and biases. Take a look at our school achievement gap and reflect as well as research to see if we use race to hinder setting high expectations for our students.
- **DRT**-All Grade Level lead teachers met this month to discuss Glos (Progress), Grow (Standard) & Nurture (How). The Glos were the items the students have already accomplished. The Grows are items to be accomplished. The Nurtures are how we get there by the end of the year.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **PTA Fundraisers**- Our monthly fundraiser Mteacher Night will be held, Wednesday, March 23, 2022. Our PTA is currently having trash bag sales until March 28, 2022.
- **Blast off into Math & ELA Night** Southwood is blasting off into our annual ELA and Math Night on Tuesday, March 10th . Activities are being planned and families will be able to take fun academic activities to go.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 7** BLAST BIKE Program
- **March 10** Health Kids Screening -
- **March 10, 6:30-8:00 PM** ELA/Math Night 6
- **March 14** Spring Pictures
- **March 15** PTA Painters Night

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Spring Valley Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year:** Spring Valley is excited to announce our fabulous secretary, Ms. Veronica Bell, as our outstanding Support Staff of the Year. Ms. Bell is our frontline worker as she greets parents, students and visitors with a smile daily. Not only does she help our families and staff on a daily basis, but she takes initiative to support our students daily with triages, special lunches, homework help and morning announcers. We are so proud to have Ms. Veronica Bell as part of our SV Family!
- **Staff of the Month:** SV staff are celebrated weekly for their hard work and dedication to our SV team. February honorees included: Kristen Lockyer, Erika VanDeVyvere and Meg Meyer.
- **Life Skill of the Month:** SV has a monthly life skill word that we discuss daily in community building. In February, our life skill focus was Courage. Students learned what courage means, wrote goals of how they would be courageous and read books with the theme of courage throughout the month. Thirty four students were selected to be celebrated during our Admin Chew & Chat with donuts, a certificate and recognition of why they were chosen.

Academic Focus:

- **Cultural Competency:** Throughout this school year, SV's Cultural Competency Team has guided discussions around our book study, [This Book is Anti Racist](#). During our book study, we collectively created a landing page where staff have added movies, series, documentaries, books and podcasts that will allow us to learn more about other cultures, individuals and groups of people. Our focus has created deeper thinking to learn our own family histories and biases that will ultimately allow us to be better educators and human beings.
- **Small Group Reading Instruction:** SV grade level teams have been intentional in our discussions of DRI instruction and we are seeing this payoff as students continue to show improvement in specific skills that will lead them to be better readers. Our data is continuing to increase despite several days off in February. We have been excited to celebrate our students each month with a shout out, certificate, pencil and goody bags from our Caring for Kids Partner, Smiles Doctors. This month we had 86 students improve their reading in 15 days of instruction!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **PTA Trash Bag Fundraiser:** Our annual trash bag fundraiser was a big hit with families this year. Our top two classrooms sold over \$1000 each and will receive a pizza party. COngrats to Ms. Thomas' 2nd grade class and Mrs. Halsey-Rogers Kindergarten class. Our top two student sellers were 1st grader, Waylon Mursaski-Peterson and 3rd grader, Tahj Ross. Each student is receiving a gift card and goodies from PTA.
- **Feelin' Groovy ELA & Math Night:** Spring Valley will be Feelin' Groovy on Thursday, March 24th as we have our first ELA & Math Night in two years. Families will be able to learn, play and take home activities from the evening.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 7** BLAST BIKE Program
- **March 24** Feelin' Groovy ELA & Math Night

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Person of the Year**-Congratulations to Lindsay Hardiman for being our Support Staff of the Year winner. Ms. Hardiman is one of our Title Reading IAs.
- **Student of the Month Winners**- Congratulations to all the winners for growth and reading in ELA, math, and Drivers of the Month!
- **Black History Month**-Thank you to our counselor, Matt Wick, for his work in recognizing those who are near and dear to us for Black History month. This year we had an emphasis to recognize those around us who matter most! You can see the daily power point [here](#).

Academic Focus:

- **DRI DRT**- Each month we meet to review progress in running records, phonics, and phonemic awareness. Teachers set specific goals of focus for the month for DRI. Students continue to make progress with over 70% of students in 5th grade running records on grade level.
- **Music**- Second grade students have been working on keeping rhythm with instruments. You can watch a video [here](#).
- **Cardio Drumming**- Coach Kisner wrote a grant to receive drumming materials for Cardio drumming activities. Students play the “drums” while incorporating movements. You can see a video of the fun [here](#).

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Pastries with Peeps**- This will be our first in person event this year with PTA. Families will come to enjoy a breakfast treat in the morning before starting today. This will be on March 24th.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 24** Pastries with Peeps

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Person of the Year:** Staff nominated Kathy Bartelli. Kathy has been an IA in every type of classroom at New Trails. She has worked for the District for over 15 years.

Academic Focus:

- Teachers participated in before school PD on data collection and systems for IEP goals. Staff divided up based on interest and shared how they take data on different types of goals. They brought their data systems and discussed ways to strengthen their data collection.
- The NT staff has met with all the essential skills teachers to plan for students going to kindergarten. The staff from buildings with classic and transitional rooms have observed and will be meeting with NT teachers next. Together they will meet using zoom to determine goals, minutes and supports for next year.
- Three year old classrooms have been learning about their senses, numbers 1-5. Four year old classrooms finished a unit on animals, and numbers 1-10. Managing emotions has been the social emotional focus for both groups. They also continue work on letters, numbers, phonemic awareness, core vocabulary and Handwriting Without Tears.
- The Interventionist and Social Worker have been doing social/emotional groups with 4 different sets of students and will finish that 6 week cohort soon and plan to do another 4 groups for 6 weeks. Each lesson focuses on skills to help children be successful.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Read Across America-** Staff and students participated in a spirit week with each day focusing on a different genre. Our Caring for Kids partners came and read to classrooms. We had 13 readers visit our rooms and share silly stories.
- **Parent teacher conferences:** NT had 99% participation and plans to get 100% by finishing up a few this week and next.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 14** Zoo Mobile visits
- **March 21-25** Spirit Week

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations:

- Justin is always pleasant and a great helper. We can always depend on him to include other kids and to show kindness to those who need a helping hand.
- Justin is always pleasant and a great helper. We can always depend on him to include other kids and to show kindness to those who need a helping hand
- Memorie is a sweet girl and so cooperative. She is fun and loving. We are glad she is a part of our classroom.
- Jordyn is one of the most helpful and kind students in our class. She is a friend to everyone, and truly embodies what it means to be part of a school family
- Murat follows directions and knows the routines at school
- Charlotte is an amazing student who is oftentimes shy. She fights through her big feelings, and is not afraid to ask for help.
- Garrett consistently follows directions from teachers, makes sure his friends are doing what they are expected to. He uses his words with friends when he gets frustrated and knows that he can walk away from a situation that he does not like. He is a picky eater, but has been trying new foods lately!
- Zaire Woodard has been an awesome student, and learned to be okay when he wasn't chosen as "The Star Student.
- Elina is a classroom leader, she follows classroom routines daily during choice time, meal time, recess, hallway and carpet. Elina is helpful in the classroom by picking up other friend messes and putting them away and reminding friends of where things go.
- Olivia is always following directions, extremely helpful and a good peer.
- Gracie is always following directions and encouraging others to do the same. She is kind to her classmates and teachers.

Academic Focus:

- All teachers at 3T read "The Skin I'm In" as their monthly focus for Celebrating Diversity-3T. Teachers read this book along with a visit with Dr. Moore as part of our Black History Month celebration.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Social Worker Ebony Sims hosted a lunch time parent training. Over 10 parents attended and were provided Trauma Smart and Conscious Discipline strategies used at 3T and how to use those strategies at home to support parenting their children.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 9** Celebrating Diversi-3T: LGBTQ