

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Blue Ridge Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **Writing Focus:** Students and teachers completed the expository writing unit despite the number of snow days in the month of February. Of the Six Traits of Writing criteria, teachers focused instruction and learning activities on ideas (staying on topic), organization (logic sequence of information), and conventions (capitalization, grammar, punctuation, and spelling). As a school, students scored between 15-25% proficient in these three areas on the cold writing prompt. By the end of the unit, 75-85% of student scored proficient on the final product.
- **Literacy Night:** On Tuesday, February 26, Blue Ridge hosted its annual Literacy Night with a Dr. Seuss theme. Parents and students had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Seuss texts in various forms with different activities. Favorites of the night were Dr. Seuss Trivia using Kahoots and making Oobleck out of cornstarch and water. Families also enjoyed breakfast for dinner with Chris Cakes catering.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **Read Across America:** Staff and students participated in a variety of activities to make reading fun through the week of February 26. Students read with flashlights in the dark on pajama day, and dressed in wacky clothing all week. Several district leaders and board members read to grade levels. Some special guests, however, were rescheduled due to the snow days. Blue Ridge students traveled to New Trails to read their favorite picture book to preschoolers. This activity is one of the favorites for our students.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 5** 4th Grade Field Trip to Jefferson City
- **March 11-15** Hunger Games
- **March 12 & 13** LEAD Incentive @ Graceway
- **March 13** Donuts with Dudes

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Eastwood Hills Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- For the month of February, Kindergarten students were working on segmenting and blending three sound words. This skill sets the foundation for not only reading but also writing. The students are excited to realize that they are readers and writers. First grade students are experiencing great progress as a result of targeted reading interventions during DRI (Differentiated Reading Instruction) time. A total of 6 students have moved into a more advanced skill level instructional group this month and teachers look forward to more growth and movement in the next month. Second graders have been learning how to subtract 2-digit numbers with shifting a 10 and have been learning about and researching famous African Americans during writing time. Eighty-eight percent of 3rd grade students scored proficient or higher on their S.M.A.R.T. goal of measuring to the nearest 1/4 inch! Fourth grade students have been working to applying Greg Tang's 6 Step Framework to solve word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division and fifth grade held student-led conferences this month allowing students the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate their learning so far this year and set goals for the rest of the semester. They presented their reflections and goals to their parents along with artifacts of their learning. It was a great success and teachers were excited to see students take ownership of their learning!

#### Parent/Community Focus

- Four Eastwood Hills fifth graders served as hosts at this year's Raytown Educational Foundation Share the Love Breakfast. It was an honor to showcase these fine young students at this special event. Two of the students were also top 100 Essay Finalists in the recent MLK essay contest! Ninety percent of families participated in Parent Teacher Conferences this month. Second grade students were able to participate in a community field trip to Union Station to see Dinosaurs Revealed and our students in Functional Skills went to a theatre production at the Coterie.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 6** EWH Book Study of Eric Jensen's [Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind](#)
- **March 12** First Grade Field Trip to Arrowhead Stadium Sports Lab
- **March 14, 6:00 p.m.** ELA Curriculum Night
- **March 15** Fourth Grade Field Trip to Coterie Theatre
- **March 26** Scholastic Book Fair Begins
- **March 28** College Day
- **March 28, 6:00 p.m.** Art Curriculum Night

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Fleetridge Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **GLA tests** - Our Fleetridge staff began preparations for the upcoming Grade-Level Assessments. Students in grades 3-5 are practicing with the released items from the ELA and Math tests. This assessment allows our students direct insight to the test structure and information. It also provides teachers the opportunity to utilize data from the assessments to determine instructional areas of strength and support.
- **Middle School Band** – The 5th graders took a field trip to learn more about the middle school band program. Students tried different instruments on for size and returned to Fleetridge excited about middle school. Mr. Rick from RMS then returned the following week to answer questions for 5th grade students.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** As a building, we are aiming for 100% attendance at our Spring Conferences. Teachers are still working hard to reach all parents whether it be in person, phone conferences, or home conferences. This is a great opportunity to share student successes, and academic and behavior growth with our families.
- **Family Math Night** - Kindergarten through fifth grade students and parents attended Family Math Night and were able to participate in new activities this year using games from the Greg Tang Family Math Night kit. All activities were things that parents and students do together. Drawings were held at the end of the evening with families choosing from a variety of prizes.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 6** PTA Meeting
- **March 7, 6:30 p.m.** 2nd & 3rd Grade Music Program
- **March 29, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Glow Dance Party

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Laurel Hills Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** The teachers at Laurel Hills enjoyed meeting with parents to discuss academic gains being made since the fall conferences. Teachers shared STAR data, MAP results, and classwork. Teachers also invited identified students to attend the Summer Learning Academy held in July. Several Summer Learning Academy registration forms have already been submitted.
- **Spring GLA Practice:** The teachers and students in grades 3-5 are working through the practice Grade Level Assessment (GLA) items in the areas of ELA, Math, and Science. Students are getting experience interacting with the assessments online in hopes to feel more confident for the spring GLA. Teachers are providing ample time for the students to practice with the online practice items.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **Math Curriculum Night:** The teachers and families participated in the Family Math Night on Tuesday, February 26th. During the evening, families visited grade level classrooms to learn and play math games. The parents left with a packet of specific grade level materials including games to play at home. Families also went to the gym to play 14 different Greg Tang math games. The Greg Tang math games are utilized in the classrooms throughout the school year. Families left with a deck of playing cards, dominos, and dice to use with the take home materials they received in the grade level classrooms.
- **Guest Readers:** Mavericks players CJ Eick and Riley Sweeney visited Laurel Hills on Monday, February 25th for Read Across America Week. The two players read books to the kindergarten and first grade students. The students, teachers, and players had a great time reading books and talking about hockey!

#### Upcoming School Events

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ● <b>March 6</b>                        | Spring Picture Day                |
| ● <b>March 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</b> | Bookmobile at Laurel Hills        |
| ● <b>March 11 - 15</b>                  | Hunger Games Food Drive for REAP  |
| ● <b>March 15</b>                       | 4th Grade Trip to Jefferson City  |
| ● <b>March 26, 6:30 p.m.</b>            | 1st & 2nd grade Music Performance |

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Little Blue Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **ELA Night/Art Fair:** We hosted our annual Math ELA/Art Fair the last week of February. We had a variety of ELA activity for families to do and take with them. All those in attendance received a free book and some won other literacy-related prizes. Mrs. Hanning displayed different Art projects students have worked on this year around our building for families to view. Our families were able to enjoy dinner together, as well. It was a HUGE success!!
  
- **Read Across America Week:** Little Blue participated in a variety of fun literacy activities during the last week of February. We had the book fair going on in the library, "Mystery Readers" visit classrooms, including retired teachers, Dr. Markley, Dr. Mixon, and Dr. Schmidli. We had spirit days every day that promoted reading. Dr. Schmidli even dressed up like The Cat in the Hat all day and ready different Dr. Seuss books to each grade!

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** As a building, we had 98% attendance at our Spring Conferences. Our goal remains 100%; we continue to try and reach every parent to share what their children have been learning at school and to show progress.
  
- **Pastries with Parents:** We hosted our annual Pastries with Parents the last week of February. Parents were able to enjoy breakfast with their children and visit the book fair. We had around 300 people attend.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 7** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to Jefferson City
- **March 12** 2nd and 3rd Grade Music Performance (make up from Snow Day)

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Norfleet Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Norfleet teachers met with parents during the annual spring conference window. It was a great week of continued relationship building and sharing student progress. We conferenced with 98% of our parents, which is up 4% over last spring.
- **GLA Practice:** Third, fourth, and fifth grade classes continued to work on practice exercises to prepare for state testing in April. This is great experience for the students to see what to expect and for the teachers to see what concepts need further instruction.
- **Procedure Practice:** With the extra short month due to conferences, a holiday, and inclement weather days, teachers have reviewed classroom procedures and expectations with students.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Math Night:** We closed out the month by hosting Family Math night. Students and parents were able to play Greg Tang games together, see artwork displayed for every child, and shop at the Book Fair. Families also enjoyed a light dinner in the cafeteria

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 5, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Unit Meeting and 4th & 5th Grade Music Program
- **March 7, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Skate Night
- **March 15** Spring Parties
- **March 26** 4th grade's field trip to Jefferson City
- **March 28-29** Dental Clinic for Students

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Robinson Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- While still continuing our instructional focuses and data teaming as it relates to our content areas, we have also been focusing on social-emotional learning with our students. We have outlined character traits that are celebrated at a Remarkable Raccoons Assembly monthly. However, this month we also participated in the Kindness Challenge. This event was facilitated by Robinson Student Leadership Club. Our school completed and tracked nearly 1600 acts of kindness. Additionally, the students enjoyed dressing up in Kindness themed attire throughout the week.
- Students have also begun a “Racking up the Raccoon Rewards” event. Raccoon Rewards are given for making good choices, following expectations or going above and beyond. Students collect these to use in the school store or to buy a raffle ticket to be included in our Friday Raccoon Raffle. When the Rewards are “used” they were typically discarded. However, we have now started an incentive to fill the Raccoon Rewards Receptacle by the end of the year. If this is done by the end of the year, an assembly will take place with identified incentives. The students are looking forward to seeing all of their good choices, behaviors and meeting expectations pay off.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- Parent Teacher Conferences-We wrapped up Parent Teacher Conferences and teachers are working diligently to connect with all families as we strive to reach our goal of 100%
- Music Program/BINGO Night-We are looking forward to our next music program (2nd and 3rd) and our Family BINGO Night. This will be held on Tuesday, March 5th from 6:00-7:30

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 5**            Music and BINGO Night
- **March 14**        4th Grade to Jefferson City

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Southwood Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Southwood teachers met with parents to celebrate their child's academic growth to this point in the school year. STAR reading and math test data was shared, and parents were provided simple reading and math strategies they can use at home to support the learning that takes place at school. 4th and 5th grade teachers shared GLA test results, and information regarding this year's GLA test was provided. Parents left their conference with a clear understanding of how to best support their child during the final months of school.
- **GLA Practice Test:** Third, fourth, and fifth graders continue to work through literacy and math practice questions as they take the online GLA practice test. Teachers will use the data collected to ensure students are prepared for the GLA test in April.
- **Data Teams:** This month teachers focused on Interactive Math Workshop and discussed ways to ensure students are working on activities that are both engaging and on their current level. Teachers also reviewed the RQS Curriculum Hub where they found games and activities they can print and use in their classrooms immediately.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **McDonald's Night:** The McDonald's on 350 Highway donated a portion of their proceeds to Southwood for this fun, family event.
- **Box Tops For Education:** Southwood students and staff members have collected hundreds of Box Tops this school year. To date, Southwood has earned \$433.
- **BookMobile:** The BookMobile visited Southwood this month. Every student chose one new book and one used book from an extensive collection of books. Southwood appreciates The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection for providing this wonderful opportunity for students.
- **Family Reading Night:** Families enjoyed all things Dr. Seuss at a special literacy event. Southwood staff members created fun displays and decorations and planned engaging literacy activities for parents to enjoy with their children.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 5, 6:00 p.m.** K/1 Music Program
- **March 11-15** Hunger Games Food Drive
- **March 13** Spring Fling Parties
- **March 15** 1st Grade Art Field Trip: Nelson-Atkins Art Gallery



# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Spring Valley Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- As Spring Valley staff prepares for the MAP GLA they had the opportunity to complete a practice GLA assessment for ELA and Math. This assessment allowed students direct insight to the test structure and information. It also provided teacher the opportunity to utilize data from assessment to determine instructional areas of strength and support. Teachers will continue to imbed a variety of instructional methods aligned to the GLA in their daily instruction practices that include, but are not limited to, exit tickets, do now, and small group center activities.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- On Tuesday, February 12, 2019, Spring Valley PTA, students, staff, and volunteers hosted their annual school wide friendship party. Students participated in creating a variety of crafts, games, while enjoying treats. This was a great event in which parent volunteers, students, and staff had the opportunity to display tokens of friendship and love, while engaging in activities with classmates.
- On Thursday, February 28, 2019, Spring Valley hosted an outstanding Math Mania curriculum night that provided games, resources, and tools for families with a focus on games and activities appropriate for home. Over 60 families were in attendance on this evening of learning and fun for all!

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 5** 4th grade to Jefferson City

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Westridge Elementary

#### Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice Assessment-** 3rd-5th grade students integrated the practice GLA into daily instruction. This allowed teachers and students to work on model GLA questions aligned to content previously learned in class. Teachers took the time to use this resource as a teaching tool to not only expose students to question structure and rigor, but also practice the technological skills needed on the GLA.
- **DRT Refinement-** Data Team Leaders worked together to refine the DRT process and agenda to increase time on instructional strategies and planning. Although there have only been two cycles since making the changes, there is an evident improvement in communication and time spent on evidence and instructional strategies.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- **Read Across America-** The last week of February was Read Across America. Westridge students and staff celebrated each day of the week with a different theme based on a Dr. Seuss book. We also had guest readers throughout the week including athletes from the KC Mavericks and Kansas City Chiefs.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 5, 6:00 p.m.** 4th/5th Grade Musical
- **March 15, All Day** Bookmobile
- **March 28, 8:30 a.m.** Muffins with Moms
- **March 29** 4th Grade to Jeff City

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### New Trails Early Learning Center

#### Academic Focus

- **Transition to Kindergarten-** We have started our process for transitioning our special education students to kindergarten. Kindergarten staff come observe then work together to create a draft IEP for kindergarten. During the meeting we develop the goals, determine accommodations and modification to ensure success and for some children we develop a behavior success plan. It is truly a collaborative effort between staff with the goal of ensuring a successful transition of our youngest learners.
- **Read Across America-** Students and staff celebrated each day of the week with a different theme based on a Dr. Seuss book. The classes read the books, guest readers and students from Blue Ridge helped us celebrate reading.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- Staff from NT went to the REAP Walmart donation day. We were able to gather clothes, supplies, Valentine cards, and other items to support families and NT.
- Caring for Kids hosted an Open House and five potential partners came. One of the activities they were invited to attend was to be guest readers during Read Across America. We had several representatives from the Mid-Continent Library and a Kiwanis member read to several students.
- Home visits and Parent Teacher Conferences was a great opportunity for staff to connect with our families. Parents of 4 year olds were invited to come to school for a conference similar to elementary. This was started in an effort to help bridge for family's preschool and elementary expectations and processes.

#### Upcoming School Events

- March 11      **Hunger Games Challenge**
- March 12      **Walk Through with Dr. Huff**
- March 28      **Mr. Stinky Feet parent event**

# Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



## March, 2019

### Three Trails Preschool

#### Academic Focus

- Teachers met with parents for parent teacher conferences sharing progress their student has made.
- Teachers have worked on planning units of study focusing on comprehension strategies and integrating more writing into their lessons
- Teachers increased the rigor of their small groups. Teachers created flexible grouping in the areas of phonological Awareness, math interventions, name writing, handwriting, and math objectives. The schedule allows for students needing intervention to be seen daily and every student see at least two times per week.

#### Parent/Community Focus

- Staff from 3T went to the REAP Walmart donation day. We were able to gather clothes, supplies, Valentine cards, and other items to support families and 3T.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **March 4-8** Kindergarten/Preschool Enrollment
- **March 4-8** Dr. Seuss Week
- **March 15** Donuts for Dad