

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



November, 2018

Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Writing Focus:** In the month of October, Blue Ridge students completed final copies of personal narratives. The goal of this focus was for students to write a personal narrative that stayed on topic and contained a beginning, middle, and end. When student wrote a cold prompt in September, most students were unable to stay on topic and lacked evidence of a middle and end. Each week, teachers examined student work in Tuesday DRT meetings with the principal to set a new goal for writing instruction. Consistently students were able to meet the goals with 75-80% proficiency as measured by a rubric. During one Wednesday professional development, teachers met vertically to discuss strengths and weaknesses across grade levels. It was determined that most students, even the emerging writers, wrote personal narratives that stayed on topic and contained a beginning, middle, and end.
- **Believe Incentive:** This year, the Blue Ridge Essentials Team (PBS) decided to increase the expectations for students attending the quarterly incentive. The criteria for attending the incentive included: 1. Only 2 buddy rooms, no recovery room visits, no ISS or OSS, and no bus suspensions. Students rose to the expectations as 350 out of 380 students attended the Believe Incentive.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Pumpkins on Parade:** Blue Ridge carved about 300 pumpkins for Pumpkins on Parade. Pumpkin carving day is a great time for RayFriends, parents and community members to work with students. Members from Graceway and Raytown Mid-Continent Library helped students carve faces into the pumpkins.
- **Trail of Treats:** New Trails and Blue Ridge partnered to host our annual Trail of Treats. Approximately 780 princesses, monsters, superheroes, and characters passed through the hallways.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 6** Bookmobile
- **November 16, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Carnival

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- In addition to continuing to refine and evaluate the integrity of our Professional Learning Community within grade level teams and as an entire school building, for the month of October teachers also engaged in professional learning in the area of growth mindset and reading instructional strategies. Approximately 10 teachers started meeting twice a month to participate in the book study Mindset by Carol Dweck and on October 31st Becky Schubkegel will lead professional development regarding instructional strategies utilized in a reading workshop model that can be incorporated into Differentiated Reading Instruction.

Parent/Community Focus

- Our first WATCH DOG volunteered at Eastwood Hills in the month of October! For the rest of the school year we have an average of 3-4 RQS Screened male volunteers signed up monthly to serve as WATCH D.O.G.S. at EWH. We could not be more excited about this opportunity to increase the visibility and potential for positive male role models in our school setting.
- Additionally, we have begun a partnership with the KCPD who are entering the school twice monthly to visit with students during lunch and recess for the purpose of strengthening community service and relations, and increase positive police interactions with our students.
- Lastly, the first Family Fun Night Trunk or Treat took place the evening of Tuesday October 30th. Eastwood Hills families donated over 48 pounds of candy to support this event and students and teachers alike enjoyed the festivities as we celebrated together!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 6, 6:00 p.m.** Fourth Grade Music Program & PTA Meeting
- **November 13** Fifth Grade Field Trip to Mavericks Game

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Fletridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Professional Development:** The building Cultural Competency team led a session on cultural competency as part of our school-wide plan they developed over the summer. The staff participated in a Kahoot activity that led to awareness about unconscious bias and stereotypes and how we need to be aware of these things when working with students and parents.
- Teachers participated in half day professional development as well. K-2nd teachers practiced various Greg Tang strategies and how to implement them in classrooms and 3-5th learned more about science and reading in the content area.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Walk to School/Pastries with Parents** - Even though it was a little misty, we braved the elements and had a successful Walk to School Day on October 11th. Pastries with Parents followed the walk and students, parents, and staff enjoyed some community time together before school.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences** - Fletridge has three grade levels with 100% participation for parent teacher conferences and one grade level with 95%!! The building percentage was 96%.
- **Haunted Hallways** - Students enjoyed dressing in their costumes and trick-or-treating the hallways at Fletridge. Classroom doors were decorated and candy was passed out. Students and parents were also able to vote with coins for their favorite grade level or department decorated pumpkin. The money collected is part of our United Way contribution. The popular Patrick Mahomes pumpkin was our winner!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 13** 5th Grade to Mavericks Game
- **November 15** 4th & 5th Grade Music Program
- **November 20** Grandparent's/VIP Day

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- The primary teachers, grades kindergarten through third grade, have emphasized phonemic awareness with their students. The teachers worked with the building Reading Specialist to learn specific instructional strategies to develop student's phonemic awareness. The students and the teachers are excited to see the students progressing with their phonemic awareness skills.
- The teachers are participating in an ongoing book study this semester. We are reading *Engaging with Poverty in Mind* by Eric Jensen. Teachers are reading a chapter each week and responding to questions posted through Google Classroom. The online discussion is proving to be beneficial for the teachers. They are exploring new engagement techniques in their lessons. The more engaging lessons are beneficial for academic achievement and student discipline.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Literacy Night:** Laurel Hills hosted our Family Literacy Night. Over 200 people participated in literacy station fun and a BINGO for Books. This event is a highlight for our students and families. They leave with hands on literacy materials and books!
- **Fall Fun Fest:** The Laurel Hills PTA hosted our Fall Family Fun Night. Students got to dress up, play games in the gym, and eat popcorn. This is an exciting evening for our families. They enjoy getting dressed up in costumes for an evening of fun at school.
- **Book Fair:** Laurel Hills also had the Book Fair set up during Parent/Teacher Conferences. This allowed families to purchase books for their children during conference time.
- **Flu Shot Clinic:** Several Laurel Hills students and staff participated in the Flu Shot Clinic on Oct. 29th. Our families were grateful for the flu shot to be offered at school.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 13** 5th Grade to Mavericks Game

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Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Student Accountability:** All students at Little Blue are keeping track of their own learning through data documentation. This looks different for each grade; however, all students are tracking their learning, setting goals, and monitoring their own scores. This has increased student's accountability for their learning, and has resulted in higher test scores.
- **Math Carnival:** 4th grade teachers held a Math Carnival at the end of October. Each student was a different carnival animal group and solved word problems together before moving to the next station. Students were able to work together, covered Math, Science, and Writing objectives. The students had a blast!
- **Decimal Diner:** 5th grade teachers hosted a Decimal Diner at the beginning of October. Students solved different problems using the menu provided. Situations were given that require higher level thinking skills coupled with math skills. They also had snacks to enjoy. Student engagement was at an all time high!

Parent/Community Focus

- **Book Fair:** We had our first book fair of the year the last week of October. Grandparents were able to shop during Goodies with Grandparents and we had it open during Math Night, as well. PTA allowed each teacher to get \$10 worth of books for their classroom.
- **Goodies with Grandparents:** Little Blue hosted Goodies with Grandparents at the end of October. Students and their grandparents or special guest enjoyed breakfast together then visited their classrooms for fun activities.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 13** 5th Grade to Mavericks Game
- **November 28** Sky Zone Night

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **PBS Incentive Day:** Students were able to participate in the first quarter PBS Incentive Party of the year in October which was centered around our school jungle theme. The favorite activity of the day was making jungle slime! This incentive is available to students who consistently exhibit safe, respectful, and responsible behavior. Norfleet teachers and staff were impressed by the 335 students who were able to participate in this special day.
- **Professional Development:** Teachers participated in half day professional development again this month. K-2nd teachers learned more about Greg Tang strategies and 3-5th learned more about science and reading in the content area.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Norfleet staff welcomed our families into the building in October for parent teacher conferences. Teachers appreciate this opportunity to build rapport with our families and praise our students for the academic and behavior gains that they are exhibiting this school year. We look forward to the opportunity to conference with our families again this spring.
- **Watch D.O.G.S:** Our began working at Norfleet again this fall. We have been thrilled by the support of our Watch D.O.G.S male role models and have thoroughly enjoyed their presence at school. Norfleet students have experienced many benefits from having this additional support in the building.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 6** PTA Restaurant Reward Night (Freddy's)
- **November 6, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting and Party Planning 7:00pm
- **November 8** Picture Retakes
- **November 15** Thanksgiving Lunch (set up 10:00)
- **November 27, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Unit Meeting and 2nd & 3rd Grade Music Program
- **November 30** Cerner Healthy Kids Screenings

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- Teachers are focused on working through the Data Team Process. Data is being collected, analyzed and used to make instructional decisions. Teachers have also been focusing on completing running records with students and then triangulating that piece of data with other data points such as STAR and their assessments in Wonders. Conversations are taking place to explore the intentionality of all tasks. We are hoping to maximize our instructional time and focus on each student's needs.
- **Our building committees, which are teacher led and driven, are focused on areas tied to both our building CPL plan and the district C and I goals. Building PDs are being based on the work of these committees.**

Parent/Community Focus

- Robinson families came up dressed for Halloween and enjoyed our annual PTA Trunk or Treat event. Families enjoyed parading through the building and receiving a special treat from staff members and also participating in other fun activities that evening.
- Our first annual Robinson Family Paint Night will take place on November 13th. Families will have the opportunity to come up and paint on a canvas. The event and the design of the Fall/Winter picture will be led by our Art Teacher, Mrs. Vanbuskirk.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 6, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **November 13, 6:00 p.m.** Robinson Family Paint Night
- **November 19, 6:00 p.m.** Thanksgiving Feast Sponsored by Caring for Kids & PTA @ Ivanhoe Church

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Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** In our continued work with data teams, we are thinking about answering the most burning questions about student learning when determining a focus. This process works best if it is more of an inquiry approach to the results we are getting from students. For example, rather than, *this was the lowest item on the pre-test so we are going to make it our smart goal* ask *why was this item the lowest? What are the commonalities of students who do not get it? What are the misconceptions? Noticings? Patterns?* From such conversation comes a burning question about student learning. Every team is also making instructional strategies part of the conversation. Teams are labeling and modeling how strategies will be implemented. Teams have made this conversation part of how they are responding to the data. These conversations are going great and will get easier as we continue this focus throughout the year.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Spooky Spectacular:** During one dark, dreary night in October, families came back to school dressed in their slightly scary costumes to participate in our trick or treating event. Teachers decorated doors and halls and made the evening a fun family event for all.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Another successful conference time for teachers and families. It is always a great opportunity to share student progress and gain insight from parents.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 12** McDonald's Night
- **November 29** Family Math Night

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Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- Spring Valley staff is conducting a book study on, “The Daily 5”. As Spring Valley works towards 21st century learning, this text has been proven to help build purposeful literacy utilizing a cafe system that includes comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expansion of vocabulary.
- Ignite Labs are off and running at Spring Valley! The lab carts have provided all K-5th grade students the opportunity to engage in science, with the incorporation of technology, to create, design, and build a variety of items that can be applied to other content areas and life skills.

Parent/Community Focus

- National Walk to School Day: Wednesday, October 10, 2018, Spring Valley PTA hosted our National Walk to School Day in which many students and families participated for this event. Students were excited about having this time with family members, friends, and staff. Students and families enjoyed donuts and juice as students prepared their mind, body, and souls for a great instructional day.
- United Way Campaign: Beginning the Week of October 22nd, Spring Valley staff, students, and community members set a goal to raise \$1,000 for the United Way Campaign. After two weeks of great activities and events, Spring Valley was able to raise over \$800 for the 2018 campaign.
- Fall Fun Festival: On Thursday, October 25, 2018, Spring Valley hosted our annual Fall Fun Festival in which many families, students, and community members attended. This night consisted of activities and games, along with a trunk-a-treat. Students dressed up in their favorite costume and enjoyed an evening indoors with treats from the cakewalk, popcorn, conversation, laughter, and tons of candy!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** 2nd/3rd Grade Music Program
- **November 7, 7:15-8:15 a.m.** Chris Cakes Family Breakfast

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Instructional Rounds-** Teachers completed their first round of instructional rounds. Grade levels and teams completed at least four rounds each looking for evidence of Indicator 7.2. Throughout the building students were able to articulate the objective of the lesson, where he or she was in relation to mastery of the standard, and finally, specific skills of focus for improvement.
- **Tang Math Solving Model-** Staff recently attended a PD on the six step problem solving model with an emphasis on identifying questions for each step of the process. PD was identified based on observations conducted with Marilyn Cannon.
- **Science Curriculum-** Tuesday, November 6th, teachers will meet with Tyler Britt to review implementation of the new science curriculum with a specific focus on students notebooking and journaling within the process.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Game Night-** Over 250 people attended Family Game night on Tuesday, October 30th. Family were able to go to several stations to play board games, card games, Family Feud, Human Hungry, Hungry, Hippos, giant Jenga and Connect Four, among others. Students also wore costumes and got candy at each station.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 8** Donuts with Dads
- **November 20** Chuck E Cheese Night

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- **Smart Goal-** The staff developed the building SMART goal for students understanding same and different. The building developed a continuum of how to teach same and different. The staff is integrating the concept into math and reading.
- **STEM-** We had our first STEM activity with capacity.
- **Instructional Rounds-** Staff video tapped their collaboration/DRT time. On the half day professional development day we watched the tape and gave feedback on their group goals for collaboration and DRT.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Home Visit-** Staff completed home visits for first semester during Parent Teacher Conferences. Many staff came back with new insight into a child's environment and the effect that has on them at school.
- **Poverty Stimulation-** New Trails and Three Trails combined to participate in the Poverty Stimulation. It was a great learning opportunity to experience the road blocks and frustrations some of our families face every day.
- **Pumpkin Day-** The Blue Ridge Mall Optimist purchased pumpkins for every child. We created a pumpkin patch and had different activities throughout the building to celebrate fall.
- **Trail of Treats-** New Trails and Blue Ridge hosted their annual Trail of Treats. Families donated candy and helped to decorate doors. We had 781 people attend the event.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Messy Night and DECA game night
- **December 7** Wonder Woman Visit
- **December 11, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** PAT and New Trails Holiday Event

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Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- Three Trails has met their academic SMART goal of 80% of PRK students being able to identifying rhyming words. Our next goal is to have 80% of PRK students be able to clap syllables by December 19th.

Parent/Community Focus

- 128 families attended our first Haunted Hallways. Parents supported the even by donating 3 wagons full of candy.
- Teachers met with parents during conferences at school or at home. Families were provided progress regarding their child in the area of Language Arts, Math, Social/Emotional, and Fine/Gross Motor.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 20** Goodies with Grandparents