

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report January, 2023

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Blue Ridge Struts Its Stuff:** Bluejay staff was able to strut its stuff for members of the Raytown School District during district monthly Learning Walks. Staff joined in a presentation, observations in various classrooms, and debriefed with feedback to wrap things up.
- **Holiday Bowling for Good Behavior:** Students with no behavior write-ups for the month of December were invited to Cosmic Bowling in the gym! Staff donned seasonal gear, played festive music, and used flashing colorful lights to make things festive! Students were “bowled over”! Ha!

Academic Focus:

- **Trauma Smart Update:** During the month of December staff received Trauma Smart training to better understand Affect Identification for staff and students. The building TIC Team met and set goals to begin teaching students the language staff has learned in training. We are on our way!
- **DRT Update:** Staff is continuing to implement with fidelity our CKLA curriculum and use data taken from the pre/post tests to drive whole group and small group instruction. With the upcoming NWEA assessment, staff will build on prior information to fine tune ELA instruction for students.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Students Shopped Till We Dropped:** Blue Ridge PTA was able to sponsor its annual Santa Shop experience for students this year! Students were able to buy loved ones and special friends holiday treats, complete with gift wrap service! Many smiles were seen by students who had things to give their families for the holidays!
- **Wishes Were Granted:** Blue Ridge counseling staff partnered with Family Support Services to meet the needs of students and their families during the holiday season. School counselor, Morgan Mings, shopped till she dropped to make sure students received warm and new clothes cutely gift wrapped for the holiday! Yippee!

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 4** PTA Board Meeting
- **January 4** Staff Intruder Training
- **January 5** Cultural Competency Meeting
- **January 6** Donuts with the Principal
- **January 10** Winter Dance
- **January 31** PBIS Incentive

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Second & Third Grade Music Performance:** Congratulations to the second and third grade students, teachers, and Mr. Adamson and the Special's team for their FANTASTIC music program, Crazy Carols, December 6th!!! The house was jam packed as we celebrated our wonderful students and their beautiful and entertaining singing! Families were also able to hear from Dr. Martin-Knox and members of her leadership team about upcoming bond projects! It is always a joy to watch our students thrive with their families!

Academic Focus:

- **Math Instruction:** Through the work of Vertical Teams, Eastwood Teachers identified three focus, or essential, standards students need to master in each grade level for content proficiency and continuous academic success. Over the last month, we created assessments and administered them to students on these essential skills. We will take this data to identify students who have not mastered essential standards in the area of mathematics to focus our small group instruction and close achievement gaps.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **December Family Fun Night:** We had so much fun at our December Family Fun Night! Eastwood students and their families enjoyed an evening with Eastwood teachers decorating cookies, making ornaments and taking silly pictures at the photo booth! As part of the work of our Community Leadership team, we are intentional about creating non-learning events to build relationships and have FUN together as members of the Eastwood community. We host no less than four Family Fun Nights a year for this purpose.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 9-13** December Positive Behavior Party Celebrations
- **January 10, 4:30 p.m.** EWH PTA Meeting
- **January 13** Cupcakin' Truck for students with perfect 2nd Quarter attendance
- **January 13** Learning Walk at EWH
- **January 18** Q2 PBS Assembly
- **January 19** Semester 1 Positive Behavior Party
- **January 23-27** Peer Observations

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Fleetridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Fleetridge Counselor Laura Greeson** served as head elf, collecting wish lists from families in need and pairing them with Secret Santas (families and staff members) who purchased gifts for the families. Twenty-two children from thirteen families received everything on their wish lists. Families also received gift cards to spend at local grocery stores and restaurants. Fleetridge Community Partner Norfleet Baptist Church also served as a Secret Santa for one of the Fleetridge families in need. Students AND staff members enjoyed the holiday season at Fleetridge. ~**A Fleetridge Staff Holiday Mart** was a huge success with a dozen vendors who sold homemade goods. ~Staff members surprised each other during the annual Secret Santa week. ~Staff members and their families attended a very cold Glo Wild event at the KC Zoo. ~Staff members were treated to a Rainbow of Holiday Cheer as we counted down the days leading up to winter break. The staff lounge was transformed each day beginning with Red Day and ending in Purple Day. **Fleetridge** students participated in a holiday sing along Tuesday, December 20. Music Teacher Ryan Morrill led the school wide celebration full of games, contests, dancing, instruments, singing, and fun. The Twelve Days of Christmas finale featured teachers and students-both acting silly and having fun. It was the perfect way to end the calendar year! Visit the Fleetridge Facebook page for photos of Fleetridge events.

Academic Focus:

- Title Reading Teacher Kelly Anderson meets with teachers weekly to provide support with the new Amplify Reading program. Title Math Teacher Melissa Taylor supports teachers with Reveal Math by meeting with them during their planning and collaboration time each week.
- Fleetridge Teachers participated in Trauma Smart Training #6 and completed a special activity led by Administrator Intern Bill Lor. I Wish My Teacher Knew is an activity teachers facilitated with students after completing the same activity as a staff. I Wish My Fleetridge Family Knew was an insightful and eye opening experience.

Parent/Community Focus:

- The PTA sponsored Fleetridge Holiday Shop was open December 12-16, 9:00-3:00 and Thursday, December 15, 5:30-7:00. Students had the opportunity to shop for family members and friends. The Holiday Shop is a fundraiser for Fleetridge PTA. Money earned will be used by PTA to support Fleetridge students.
- 5th grade D.A.R.E. Graduation took place Friday, December 16, 2022, 10:00-11:00 in the Fleetridge gymnasium. It was well attended by families. Students performed the D.A.R.E. song, the 5th grade orchestra students performed, and students who do not participate in orchestra performed two skits. D.A.R.E. officer Kelly Stamm presented students with a certificate along with several special treats and goodies. The event ended with a cookie reception with families.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 6** Grade level BIST meetings with BIST consultant
- **January 13** 2nd Quarter PBS Celebration: Winter Wonderland

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Staff Secret Santa:** During the week of December 12, Laurel Hills staff celebrated the season by participating in a Secret Santa Week. Each day staff celebrated one another with a small gift and a clue as to who they were. On Friday, we had the big reveal!
- **Spirit Day Fun:** To countdown to Winter Break, LH students and staff enjoyed a spirit week! We had grinchy green, winter gear, PJs, Red Friday, and even ugly sweater day.

Academic Focus:

- **Title Reading Collab / DRT:** As we continue working with our Title 1 Reading Specialist on phonics and reading instruction, we are pleased to see plentiful student progress. On average, about 41% of students (1-5) in each grade level were at our end of the year target in September. In December, we've seen that number climb to about 62%.
- **Instructional Promises:** Team Laurel has been engaged in a vision setting process for small group instruction for both math and reading. Starting back in August, teachers have been working toward a clear set of united commitments or "promises" for how we "do business" in small groups at LH. We have finalized these promises and are moving forward with implementing them!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Rock n Bowl!** Parents and grandparents joined us for the annual "Rock n Bowl" event in PE this month. This tradition is the capstone to student's learning the game of bowling. They show off their skills in both score keeping and bowling moves to their adults. We love having our families join us!
- **LH Panera Day:** Recently we held a Laurel Hills fundraiser day at the Chipman Road Panera location. We are waiting patiently for the final fundraising totals! We've also had community food nights at the Raytown Panda Express and the Raytown Chipotle this year.
- **Caring for Kids Partners:** On Monday, December 19 our Caring for Kids partners from River Church personally dropped off gift bags to all of the Laurel Hills staff!



Upcoming School Events:

- **January 26** 2nd and 3rd Grade Music Performance
- **January 26** Laurel Hills Math Night
- **January 31** Score 1 for Health Screenings

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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 December's character trait was Responsible! Teachers nominated one student from their class that represented that trait and will be getting a certificate and t-shirt!
- **PBIS Party!**- On December 19, students who were being safe, respectful and responsible at Little Blue Elementary will go to the Winter themed PBIS party! They will be playing games, making crafts and enjoying some hot cocoa!
- **Chiefs Stadium Tour!**- Students who participated in our candy bar fundraiser attended a field trip where they received a stadium tour of Arrowhead Stadium. Students were shown the Chiefs Hall of Honor, went down onto the field and visited the locker room!



Academic Focus:

- **Music Performance-** Mrs. Bartz did a fantastic job of getting all the 2nd and 3rd grade students prepared for their grade level music performance on December 8! The students worked so hard and when the spotlights were on...the students DELIVERED!!
- **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.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Food and Toy Drive!**- Students and their families donated toys and food to those in need this holiday season. Huge thank you to those who gave what they could to help out others! Definitely showed what it means to be a Little Blue Mustang!

Upcoming School Events:

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Norfleet Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Ray of Hope Honoree:** Congratulations to Art Teacher Nichole Hartnett who was recognized at last month's Board meeting as a Ray of Hope for the students, staff, and families of Norfleet!
- **Elves on the Run:** Counselor Emileigh Hernan and Secretary Kelly Mais spent an entire afternoon shopping for holiday gifts for 11 students. We appreciate their shopping skills and patience with the holiday crowds!
- **Newlywed Knight:** Congratulations to Emileigh Hernan, who got married last month. She is now Mrs. Suydam!

Academic Focus:

- **2nd & 3rd Grade Music Performance:** Record numbers of parents and guests attended our December PTA Unit Meeting and 2nd & 3rd Grade Music Performance. Due to Covid, these two grades had never performed at a school assembly or in the evening for families. The students did a great job and families were thrilled to see the children perform!
- **Professional Learning:** Norfleet Staff continued learning more about Trauma Smart. December was a review of prior sessions and affect identification. Teachers also participated in a Signs of Dyslexia.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Winter Parties:** Norfleet PTA and parent volunteers hosted annual winter parties on December 16th. It was great to have volunteers back in the building and students back together in the gym at grade level parties. For a craft, students enjoyed having their picture taken and then making a picture frame for a family member. They also played a variety of winter games, including Egg and Spoon Racing.
- **Caring for Kids:** Norfleet's partners donated a pair of socks for every student as a party gift and PTA also had a prize for every student at the party.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 10, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **January 20** PTA Family Night
- **January 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** PTA Skate Night

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations:

- Mrs. Cook, our school counselor, welcomed her first baby on November 30th. Archie Follet Cook is already loved and admired by the Robinson staff and students.
- During the holiday season staff have been able to practice self-care by visiting our staff lounge where there are treats provided by Mrs. Washington, PTA, business partners, and volunteers from the community. We have loved the extra love and sweet treats while we continue teaching and learning leading up to the holiday break.
- Students participated in their second quarter Positive Behavior Party this month. Participants got to purchase hot chocolate, marshmallows, and a s'mores mix while they watched a school wide movie in the gym. We are so proud of all the hard work our students have been doing in being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible.

Academic Focus:

- Robinson staff participated in a day of collaboration with our Trauma Smart Consultant in the month of December. We were able to use our building substitute to cover classrooms so staff could get together with their grade level team to share successes and problem solve additional support that we can give to our students. We had many examples of students utilizing the Calming Corner to regulate their emotions.
- Robinson teachers began the first cycle of peer observations. Nearly every teacher was able to observe 2-3 colleagues during a one hour observation and provide feedback on evidence of effective lesson design.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Kindergarten and First Grade held their first music performance of the year this month. They did an amazing job singing and dancing for a gym full of family and friends. We were so proud of our littlest Raccoons.
- Following the performance PTA held a Cookie Decorating event where families were able to decorate their favorite cookie with frosting and sprinkles. We had over 200 students and their families participate in this event.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 6** November/December Character Trait Lunch
- **January 18** Monthly Buddies Activity
- **January 19** PTA Meeting

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Season of Giving:** All students were able to participate in the PTA sponsored Penguin Patch Holiday Shop. Students were able to purchase special gifts for their family and friends. Staff celebrated the season with a visit from the treat trolley, a fun scavenger hunt for prizes, and the gift of time.
- **Holiday Spirit Days:** Students and staff were able to participate in holiday spirit days leading up to winter break. Some of the days included flannel Friday, dressing like a snowman, and a silent night pajama day.

Academic Focus:

- **Trauma Smart:** Southwood learned about Attunement during the month of December in our Trauma Smart session. Staff have been putting the four steps- Notice, Name, Validate, and Respond into practice when communicating with students, staff, and families.
- **Math and ELA Involvement Night:** Mrs. Reger and Mrs. Stine hosted an amazing Winter Wonderland Math and ELA Family Involvement Night. Families participated in snowball throwing measurement activities, place value snowman building, Don't Break the Ice speech and articulation games, and were able to snuggle up in the cozy room to read and pick free books. Pizza and hot chocolate were provided courtesy of our community partners and students were given a coupon for a free meal at Applebee's for their attendance.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Teaching the World to Sing:** Second and Third Grade held their first music performance of the year this month. They, along with our music teacher Mrs. Tarwater, put on a spectacular performance called "Teach the World to Sing" for family and friends. The night was something special.
- **Community Outreach:** During the month of December, Southwood staff and families collected over 100 items to donate to KC Pet Project. Items collected included dog and cat beds, food, treats, collars, leashes, and more.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 19** Quarter 2 Assembly
- **January 20** Quarter 2 Principal's Breakfast
- **January 24, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Unit Meeting
- **January 26** PTA Family Game Night

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Spring Valley Elementary



Celebrations:

- **It's SNOW Secret....12 Days of Giving:** Staff searched the hallways and other common areas for a blue or white snowflake that had been hidden by Mrs. Gabbert. Staff then turned their snowflake in for a coupon to redeem during the last 12 days prior to Winter Break. Staff enjoyed self care bags, lunch from Chipotle, self care breaks, free week of jeans, etc. It was a way for Mrs. Gabbert and Caring for Kids Community Partners to thank staff for all their hard work. They also had a lot of fun finding the snowflakes.
- **Snow Much Fun 2nd Qtr PBIS Incentive:** All SV Cougars who displayed respectful, responsible and safe behaviors enjoyed an all snow event prior to Winter Break with snow games, a snow craft and snow floats. Students had a ball and stated it was the best day ever!!!
- **1st Annual Winter Sing Along:** Students and staff enjoyed our first winter sing along where students and staff came together in the gym to sing and a few just had to get up and dance! It was such a hit with all who participated. Our music teacher, Mr. Doney, put the song list and presentation of slides together which included a read aloud at the end.

Academic Focus:

- **Rock an Ugly Sweater Music Performance:** Our awesome music teacher, Mike Doney, worked wonderfully with our 4th & 5th graders to put on a memorable performance. Students showcased several songs and played a variety of instruments, so that all families and staff members enjoyed a rockin' evening of holiday music.
- **Teacher Leader DRI Peer Observations:** Our teacher leader team has been working on their district project which correlates with our Academic Team focus and were able to get into every classroom during small group reading instruction. During their peer visits they were able to see DRI in action while providing feedback to each of the teachers as well.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Winter Parties:** All students were able to participate in their classroom winter party with an art craft, game and treats provided by our PTA. Students had fun with reindeer antler relays, grab a gift, snowball poppers and pass the present.
- **Book, Gloves & Hat Giving:** Our Caring for Kids partner, Skyline Church and staff members helped to reach our goal of providing each student with a math mania interactive book, non fiction books, gloves and hats. Students were excited to pick out their own of each prior to dismissal on the 20th.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 6** Cooperation Admin Chew & Chat
- **January 11** PTA Meeting w/ special guest-Dr. Martin-Knox
- **January 26, 5:30 p.m.** Winter Wonderland ELA/Math Night
- **January 30, 4:00-7:00 p.m.** SV McDonald's Night (87th & Blue Ridge location)

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- **Second and Third Grade Performance:** Second and third grade students held their winter musical and art show right before break. We had about 120 visitors come to watch students perform. You can see the performance yourself [here](#).

Academic Focus

- **Math DRT-** Grade levels continue to focus integration of Greg Tang strategies in math by planning unit lessons, creating exit tickets, and proficiency scales.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Winter Store-** Westridge held its yearly Winter Store the week of the 13th. Students purchased gifts for themselves, family members and friends. It was a great success and created almost \$460 in profits for our activities fund.
- **Spirit Week-** From the 13th to the 22nd, Westridge has had theme dress up days. Click [here](#) for a few pics of our students participating in scarf day, flannel day, and red and green day.
- **Winter Carnival-** Friday, the 16th was our Winter Carnival. Students were able to celebrate their hard work before Winter Break with a cake walk, bounce house, tattoo station, craft station, and more. Thank you to our PTA and Caring for Kids partners!

Upcoming School Events

- **January 26, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Family Movie Night
- **January 20** Platinum Party

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations:

- Dr. Martin-Knox visited a class and read *The Snowy Day* to Ms Jennifer's class. They had a great time interacting with the story and engaging in a snowball fight.
- December 9 the building leadership team planned a staff selfcare day. There were two twenty minute sessions that staff signed up for. Choices were yoga, walking, reading, meditating, coloring and other activities. They planned this to be an extension from a previous Trauma Smart training on self-care.
- December 19 students participated in *The Snowy Day* activities for their winter party.

Academic Focus:

- Three year old data and collaboration team started prioritizing learning goals and standards and modifying their benchmark assessments after some research on developmental milestones and learning progressions for four year old priority standards.
- The four year old collaboration team shared WIG data and chose their next WIG. The next goal is initial sound. The team developed a proficiency scale.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Celebrate the Season- PAT hosted its annual winter event at New Trails. New Trails and PAT staff worked together to have winter developmental activities in every room for the families to participate in creating memories with their children. Santa visited and we had a great turn out.
- BR Mall Optimist brought Santa to visit New Trails.
- The building celebrated the 12 days before Christmas with spirit days. These days included celebrations from other cultures.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 18** Caring for Kids
- **January 20** Trauma Smart module 7 training

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations:

- Three Trails has started our weekly STAR STUDENT celebration. 3T staff and students have begun recognizing each other by noticing helpful and encouraging behavior with CELEBRATION CARDS. When a child gets a Celebration card, the student will take their card to the office to be placed in a drawing box. On Wednesday's, STAR STUDENTS are announced and the students will get a STAR bracelet, sticker and goodie from treasure chest.

Academic Focus:

- Students wrapped up their Trees Unit with a celebration of learning! Teachers engaged their students in a discussion about What they learned about trees and what their favorite part of the trees unit was. Some of the students stated they enjoyed creating birds nests and trees and others enjoyed learning about the different kinds of trees. In January, the students will begin their investigation of clothing.

Parent/Community Focus:

- This month was filled with Holiday shopping and gift giving to our families in need. We kicked off the month with our Toiletry Basket Distribution, Federal Program Family Gift Bags, and Pairing Families with Community Partners for Holiday adoption.
- Head Start Families enjoyed a Winter Eat and Meet where students' families and staff's families came together to celebrate the power of community and connection.
- This month's Diversi-3T topic was : Dare to be Different Disability Awareness-Just ASK. Social Emotional Classroom Lessons for December: Stealing–It's not cool to steal at school & In the store do not take it if it's not yours.

Upcoming School Events:

- **January 12** Dino O'Dell Performances
- **January 23, 24 and 26** Kansas City Water Dept class Presentation (What is Water?)