

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report

April, 2019



Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Diversity Training:** Mrs. Latasha Roland and Ms. Christy Curran provided Blue Ridge staff with diversity training during professional learning this month. The purpose of this training was to give teachers and staff the opportunity to consider how their experiences and perspectives were shaped by the adults in their lives. Questions posed to staff were: What was the first memory of you noticing race or the different color of skin? How did the adults handle the situation? Were you able to talk openly about the experience? For many staff members, the memory of this experience brought about a variety of emotions from laughter to shame.
- **Writing Focus:** Blue Ridge students and staff started the last unit of writing, opinion. Our goal is to complete opinion pieces by the end of April. Grade levels are focusing on topics that are controversial in the school, community and country. In the month of May, students will have the opportunity to share their opinion pieces in an open mic assembly.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Pizza Street Limo Ride:** Ten Blue Ridge students earned a trip to Pizza Street via a stretch limo for selling REF Major Saver cards.
- **LEAD Incentive:** Three hundred forty student attended the quarterly incentive for meeting expectations and demonstrating positive behavior. Students attended a viewing of a movie at Graceway and received popcorn, M&Ms, and flavored water.
- **4th Grade to Jefferson City:** Fourth graders had a great time in Jefferson City on March 12.
- **Hunger Games:** Blue Ridge students collected 1,177 nonperishable items for the REAP drive.
- **Beautify Blue Ridge:** Blue Ridge teachers and staff donate 3-4 hours every to work on one project to beautify the school. This month teachers painted a mural of the word “grow” in the back stairwell. This is the third of the four vision words for Blue Ridge.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 11** Skating Party @ Landmark
- **April 26** MAP Assembly
- **April 29** Dress for Success

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- In Kindergarten students are working on writing How To Books. The students learned that a How To Book teaches the reader how to do something. This type of writing uses order words such as first, next, then, and last. First grade has been working really hard on place value. Students have been comparing double digit numbers and gaining a better understanding of tens and ones. In second grade students started learning how to make and read picture graphs and bar graphs and how to tell time on an analog clock. Third grade has been busy working on elapsed time word problems and the students are doing great! We are also reading fiction stories and working on discovering character's point of view. Fourth grade is moving right along with our understanding of fractions. Throughout the month, we have used manipulatives, oranges, paper, and chocolate bars to understand fractions, unit fractions, and fractions of different wholes. The students are working to add and subtract fractions as well as compare and order fractions. We are also working to find equivalent fractions. Fifth grade students worked really hard on learning how to multiply fractions. Our goal for this standard was to go from 0% mastery to 60% mastery. Students exceeded this goal and 78% of students mastered the concept! Students in our functional skills classrooms had a great time on their trip to Arrowhead Stadium as they were able to get on the field and into the locker room! They have also been working very hard on achieving their learning goals.

Parent/Community Focus

- We had two major community events this month with our ELA Bingo for Books night on March 14th and the Art Show on the 28th. It is always a sweet pleasure to join with our students and families in both play and celebration of our students' achievement. I urge you to visit the next annual Eastwood Hills Art Show. We are always amazed by the beauty our students can create!

Upcoming School Events

- **March 26-April 3** Scholastic Book Fair
- **April 3, 7:30 am** Pastries with Police
- **April 4** 5th Grade Field Trip to Ernie Miller
- **April 8** Kindergarten Field Trip to Wonderscope
- **April 18** 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Zoo
- **April 19** 2nd Grade Field Trip to Science City
- **April 26** 4th Grade Field Trip to Science City

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Fletridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Ignite Science Lab:** Students had an opportunity to participate in the Binary Bracelets science lab this month. Teachers and students look forward to a new lab each month!
- **Professional Learning:** Vertical Teams have been a consistent focus at Fletridge this year. All teachers are a part of either the Math Team, ELA Team, or Structure Team. Through these monthly meetings, we are able to have great conversations across grade levels and departments. We are continuing to refine our process and discuss how better to improve our instruction and knowledge about teaching and learning.

Parent/Community Focus

- **2nd & 3rd Grade Music Program:** Our students put on a fabulous performance under the direction of music teacher, Ryan Morrill. Families enjoyed songs in English, Spanish, and Maori. Students also showed off their dance moves to current popular songs. It was a full house! PTA provided refreshments for our families to enjoy before and after the show.
- **PTA Glow Dance Party:** Students, families, and staff enjoyed a glow-in-the-dark dance party this past month. Our PTA parents worked hard to provide an evening of fun, food and prizes.
- **Hunger Games:** Fletridge students participated in the Hunger Games food drive for REAP. We collected 882 items this year!

Upcoming School Events

- **April 3, 6:30 pm** PTA Meeting
- **April 4, 6:00 pm** ELL Literacy Night
- **April 5** Fourth Grade to Jefferson City
- **April 18, 6:00 pm** Art Fair/Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction
- **April 25, 6:30 pm** K/1 Music Program

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Greg Tang Strategies:** The teachers at Laurel Hills are working to develop their proficiency with Greg Tang math strategies. During 4th quarter, the math specialist and a classroom teacher are offering additional strategy instructional practice session for their colleagues. Each week, teachers submit math concepts they want assistance with and the two teachers work on the submitted concepts with the staff. We believe with the additional support, teachers will continue to develop their math instructional prowess, feel more comfortable asking questions, and feel more empowered introducing new math strategies to their students.
- **DRT:** Teachers continue to meet weekly for DRT. During the weekly DRT sessions, teachers are discussing student progress and instructional strategies. The DRT sessions continue to evolve; most of the team meetings contain deep discussion about instruction. Teachers are also modeling for one another during these meetings. The teachers value their time together to discuss instruction and their student responses.

Parent/Community Focus

- **1st & 2nd Grade Performance:** Family members enjoyed the music performance by the 1st and 2nd grade students. The students sang songs about being super. The songs included lots of actions, instruments, and rhythm!
- **Hunger Games:** Laurel Hills students participated in the Hunger Games food drive for REAP. Laurel Hills collected 910 item this year!

Upcoming School Events

- April 12, 1:15 pm** Representative Barnes speaks with 4th grade
April 15-19 Book Fair Week
April 16, 6:30 pm Art Fair, Grandparents Night, & Ice Cream Social

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Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Greg Tang:** All teachers have participated in additional Greg Tang Math Professional Development. Mrs. Barzee, Title 1 Math teacher and Ms. Crail, 3rd grade teacher have attended more in-depth professional development with Greg Tang, as well, and continue to build their own knowledge so they can continue to build the capacity of their peers with Math instruction.
- **Music Performance:** Mrs. Emily Bartz directed an amazing 4th and 5th grade music performance the second week of March. Students sang and played a variety of instruments. We had well over 300 family member in attendance.

Parent/Community 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!!
- **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 350 people attend.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 19** Rep. Jerome Barns visits 4th grade
- **April 22** PTA Board meeting
- **April 25** Family Movie Night

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Professional Learning:** All teachers participated in Greg Tang professional development this month. It was great day to build our capacity for Tang's strategies at all grade levels.
- **Fourth Grade:** Norfleet fourth graders enjoyed the exciting opportunity to visit the state capitol in Jefferson City last month. Students were able to see a house vote and discussion about current bills. Representative Barnes introduced our fourth graders to the House Floor. Students also visited the Supreme Court building and library.
- **Fourth and Fifth Grade Music Program:** Fourth and fifth graders entertained parents with assorted musical selections during the March PTA Unit meeting.
- **Bookmobile:** Norfleet was fortunate to be able to reschedule an earlier Bookmobile date that was a snow day. Students were thrilled to select two books to take home.
- **One Year Smarter:** Third-fifth graders are discussing how their effort and attitude will impact their MAP test scores. They will be showing they are "one year smarter" when testing starts on April 30th.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PBS Third Quarter Incentive:** 350 students were recognized for having great behavior during the third quarter of school. Students enjoyed a party that featured games, snacks, and face painting.
- **Hunger Games Food Drive for REAP:** In collaboration with RHS's Leadership Class, Norfleet students and staff collected canned goods to donate to REAP. We collected 712 items!
- **Spring Parties:** PTA hosted a fun-filled "Wreck It Ralph" themed party for each grade level. Students were treated to games, crafts, and snacks before leaving for Spring Break.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 2, 6:30 pm** PTA Unit Meeting and K-1 Music Program
- **April 4, 6:30-8:30** PTA Skate Night
- **April 9** PTA Papa John's Night
- **April 9, 6:00 pm** PTA Board Meeting

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- At Robinson we are continuing our DRT process to drive our instructional planning. We are working to be even more intentional in our craft and practices as we work to ensure our students are prepared for the upcoming MAP test. Implementing best practices, differentiating and scaffolding our instruction, goal setting and maximizing our learning time continue to be some of the focuses at Robinson during this time. Additionally, 3rd-5th grade teachers also spent some time collaborating to determine how to best utilize the MAP practice test information and plan for student success. To ensure the vertical articulation, we have spent several DRTs in vertical teams having discussions building wide.
- We celebrated Read Across America Day by participating in many activities at Robinson. Students and staff came dressed as their favorite book character. Each classroom had the opportunity to have different staff members as guest readers and students enjoyed having these familiar faces come read to them. Our school also experienced an all school DEAR time (drop everything and read time). Students also had the opportunity to earn a book in our weekly Raccoon Raffle.

Parent/Community Focus

- In March, 2nd and 3rd grade families came up to enjoy a musical performance followed by a PTA sponsored BINGO event. This month, it will be 4th and 5th grades turn followed by our Math Night. This year we have restructured our Curriculum Nights (Math and ELA) by labeling stations as primary and intermediate stations vs specific grade levels in the hopes that our materials can get themselves into more people's hands. Families will also have the opportunity to visit our BOGO book fair. Robinson also participated in the Hunger Games bringing in a total of 952 can goods.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 26-April 5** PTA Read- A- Thon Fundraiser
- **April 2, 6:30 pm** PTA Board Meeting
- **April 5** Bookmobile
- **April 8-12** Book Fair
- **April 9, 6:00-6:30 pm** 4th and 5th Grade Music Program
- **April 9, 6:00-6:30 pm** Math Night

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Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Teams:** Linda Shippy visited data teams this month and provided insight into the processes we follow to ensure progress for teams and opportunities for success with students. We appreciated her input and feel good about the direction we are headed.
- **Ignite Science Lab:** Students had an opportunity to participate in a Cubelets science lab this month. Students created moveable robots and used rulers to measure the distance the robots moved. Students loved it!
- **Greg Tang:** Greg Tang visited Southwood on March 29. He spent the afternoon working with three classes. He first modeled a lesson, then he coached teachers as they taught the same lesson. It was an outstanding learning opportunity for all. Students and staff were overly excited about his visit.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Music Program-Grades K-1:** Kindergarten and first grade students performed to a packed house in March. The “Sing a Little Song” program included fun songs with adorable movements. There was an opportunity for several students to speak into the microphone during the “Down by the Bay” performance.
- **Major Saver Limo Ride:** Three Southwood students enjoyed a limo ride to Pizza Street for a fun lunch, because they sold at least ten Major Saver cards.
- **Hunger Games Food Drive:** Southwood Roadrunners participated in the District-wide Hunger Games food drive to benefit REAP-Raytown Emergency Assistance Program. In total, 970 items were collected at SW during the one-week food drive.
- **Gardening Club:** Students in the after school Gardening Club planted collard greens, four kinds of lettuce, Yukon and red potatoes, garlic, and red and yellow onions. They will soon plant radishes, mustard greens, and peas.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 2, 6:00 pm** Music Program-Grades 4-5
- **April 3** Third Quarter Assemblies **9:30 (Grades 3-5), 10:25 (Grades K-2)**
- **April 4** 4th Grade Field Trip-Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- **April 12, 6:00-8:00 pm** PTA Movie Night

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- **April 22, 4:00-8:00 pm** McDonald's Night
- **April 30, 6:00-7:30 pm** Art Fair/4th Grade Wax Museum/Ice Cream Social

Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- **D.E.A.R./Dr. Seuss Day:** Spring Valley staff and students conducted our annual drop everything and read day on Friday, March 1, 2019, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. This was a great focus of reflective reading. The goal was for students to remember the importance of reading information for enjoyment and discussion. This day of reading was differentiated through a variety of reading activities that took place building wide and in grade levels that included, buddy reading with different grade levels, listening to a read aloud building wide, and a host of other activities outlined by each grade levels.
- **Vertical Teaming** continues to be an area of focus for Spring Valley staff and we work to truly outline how we will understand and support the learning needs of all students in all content areas. Therefore, this month led to an intentional focus on redefining what vertical teaming will look like in our DRT process. Staff spent time conversing and collaborating on what vertical teaming in DRT needs to look like for our school. This will be a continued area of refinement and and focus for the duration of the school year.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Stem in the Gym:** On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, staff and students participated in the annual STEM in the Gym event at Raytown High School. This event always sparks the interest of families and activities incorporate science, technology, engineering and math.
- **Spring Valley Culver's Family Night:** On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, Family Night for Spring Valley was held at Culver's in Lees Summit, MO. This was a great time for families, staff, and community members to come out to eat great food, enjoy custards, and great conversations. This was another fun night in which SV Cougars and families always enjoy having the opportunity to participate in!

Upcoming School Events

- **April 8-12** SV Book Fair
- **April 9** 4th/5th Grade Music Program
- **April 12, 10:30 am** Representative Barnes speaks with 4th grade

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Academic Intervention Meetings-** Westridge began their academic intervention meetings. Teachers bring refer students to the team to discuss academic concerns with admin, title, and sped supports. The goal is to align title and sped support with the class and prevent gen ed students from falling through the cracks.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Art Fair-** We recently had our Art Fair with families after school. Students and families had the opportunity to walk around and discuss art that has been completed throughout the year, including woven dragon windsocks, cityscape drawings, and clay masks.
- **Hunger Games-** Westridge has its best collection to date with over 800 items. One fourth grade student worked to donate 88 items on her own.
- **Muffins with Moms-** March 28th was Muffins with Moms with over 200 students and family come through for breakfast. It was a great opportunity for students to enjoy time with the important women in their lives. It was also a chance for us to talk about the upcoming bond vote, taking advantage of the much needed parking!

Upcoming School Events

- **April 8-19** Jump Rope for Heart
- **April 16, 6:00-7:00 pm** Kindergarten and First Grade Music Performance

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- NT has been working on shapes both 2D and 3D in math.
- The children built 3D cities out of boxes for STEM.
- Students continue to work on writing their name without a model, many students are now writing first and last name.
- Parents as Teachers Coordinator taught a session at DESE's Conference on the Young Years this month focused on encouraging and building upon positive parenting behaviors.

Parent/Community Focus

- Mr. Stinkyfeet came and performed two concerts for our families. We offered dinner before each session. We had 117 people come and enjoy the family event.
- Before spring break we hosted a Harverstors Pop up Pantry and our special Giving Beyond the Classroom. Families could come and get food and other supplies such as toilet paper, detergent, clothing. We served 24 families and during Stinkyfeet an additional 15 families.
- Parents as Teachers has started building relationships with in-home daycares in addition to established community daycares to increase early childhood intervention in Raytown.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 10** Meet Me At the Playground
- **April 10** Pop Up Pantry
- **April 19, 5:30-7:30 pm** Indoor Evening Playgroup @ Success by 6
- **April 26, 6:00-7:00 pm** Outdoor Evening Playgroup @ New Trails

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Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- 3T has been using STAR data to identify which students need additional intervention and progress monitoring. Teachers have created assessments that mirror the STAR. These assessments focus on specific sub-skills students on target will have mastered. Using these assessments as well as intervention strategies, students will be progress monitored to assess growth.
- 3T teachers have begun professional development about reading comprehension strategies using the resources from Strategies that Work, Stephanie Harvey. Using these strategies, teachers collaborated together to create ELA Express lesson plans that increase the depth of questioning/thinking, increased writing as well as use of vocabulary and language.

Parent/Community Focus

- 3T hosted Donuts with Dad. Over 120 fathers attended this event. Dads/important person were able to enjoy donuts as well learn about STEM and participate in a STEM activity.
- During Read Across America Week, 3T had many guest readers. Readers from the community included Rotary members, families, parents and district employees.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 16** 3T Community truck and Messy Night