

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



December, 2018

Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- Two teacher leaders led the staff through a cultural competency activity addressing power and privilege on November 7. This is the first of a three part series working from the inside out on perceptions and attitudes developed from teachers' background and experiences. The first training focused on how privilege possesses power and influence. For white staff members, the conversation about privilege was especially difficult for a variety of reasons. Although there were uncomfortable moments in the training, it spurred conversation about how our experiences shape the way we see the world and how we experience others. At the conclusion of the training, the teacher leaders challenged staff members to use the power and privilege they possess for social justice and empowerment of students.

Parent/Community Focus

- PTA held our annual school carnival for families to enjoy. It was held November 16th in the evening. Families were able to enjoy carnival games, selfie station pics, face painting, an obstacle course and a variety of carnival foods. PTA also brought back our silent auction with many great baskets supporting Raytown businesses. It was a family fun evening for everyone who attended.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 4, 6:00 p.m.** 2nd/5th grades music program
- **December 3-7** Santa Shop
- **December 7** Kindergarten Field Trip to the Coterie Theatre
- **December 20** PTA Winter Parties
- **December 21** GROW Incentive (Positive Behavior Celebration)

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- For the month of November, teacher leaders and administration led two vertical team discussions regarding curriculum and instructional practice. First, we examined the vertical progression of place value within the standards to identify gaps in our current teaching practice and necessary next steps to correct these noticings. Secondly we examined Fall STAR data and teacher knowledge about students' academic skills to critically evaluate our teaching to determine if any teaching shifts need to occur. From this discussion the following shifts in instructional practice were determined: teach common mathematics strategies and vocabulary to focus instruction and clarify student learning, use the concrete to teach mathematical concepts at all grade levels and ensure teachers have necessary tools, increase teaching place value up to the thousands in second grade, provide professional development on the 5 components of reading instruction, including the phonics continuum, to upper grade level teachers to ensure the proper sequence and focus of instruction is occurring during Differentiated Reading time, provide quality phonemic awareness instruction in the lower grades up through 3rd grade, provide professional development on effective ways to teach vocabulary, increase teacher oral reading of text to students to model good reading and facilitate a love for reading, and increase the rigor of calendar math in some grades to better prepare students for the increased rigor of standards in the upper grades.

Parent/Community Focus

- Our fourth grade music performance occurred November 4th in the school gymnasium. The PTA board spoke briefly to parents prior to the show, informing parents of upcoming PTA events and ways family members can become more involved in the school community. The show was very well attended and the fourth graders did a great job with their speaking and singing roles!
- Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that our WATCH D.O.G.S. program is up and running! For the month of November alone we had four WATCH D.O.G.S. at EWH a total of six school days!

Upcoming School Events

- **December 4, 6:00 p.m.** Second & Third Grade Music Performance & PTA Meeting
- **December 11** Kindergarten field trip to the Coterie Theatre
- **December 13** Second Quarter Positive Behavior Party
- **December 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** PTA Movie and Family Fun Night
- **December 20** D.A.R.E. Graduation & Winter Classroom Parties

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- **December 21** Traditional All School Sing & Hat, Book, & Glove Distribution
Fleetridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- Our Math Team led us through a mini-workshop of Greg Tang ideas. Teachers rotated through hands-on lessons that included number sense with ten frames, creating bar models using snap cubes, and many more. This was a great opportunity to enhance our own mathematical understanding before guiding students through the concepts in class.
- Fleetridge is enjoying our first round of Ignite activities! This month students were able to work with Cubelets. This hands-on lesson was engaging for teachers and students. We are looking forward to our next Ignite Lab-Spheros!

Parent/Community Focus

- **Grandparent's/VIP Day** - Over 250 Grandparents and VIP's joined students for a morning of fun. The event began in the cafeteria with a breakfast of pastries, juice, and coffee. Visitors were also treated to music by our 5th grade orchestra students. Students then took their guest to show off their classrooms and meet teachers. They also visited a photo booth with a beautiful background created by all Fleetridge students under the direction of our Art teacher.
- **PTA Holiday Store** - Once again, PTA will sponsor a Holiday Store where students can shop for presents for their family members. Prices start at 50 cents. Students are so proud of their purchases and are able to leave with their presents wrapped and labeled.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 5** PTA Meeting
- **December 10** Holiday Store
- **December 11** McTeacher Night at McDonalds

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Collective Teacher Efficacy:** The teachers at Laurel Hills participated in a collective teacher efficacy presentation by our Teacher Leaders. We discussed characteristics of teacher efficacy, collective efficacy, and collective teacher efficacy. This presentation led to vertical team discussions about math instruction. The grade level teams reviewed their math commitment statements they wrote last spring and reported out their progress towards their goals. The focus was on math instruction and the implementation of the strategies taught by Greg Tang.
- **DRT:** The Laurel Hills teams are focusing on how to refine their DRT practices. The Data Team Leaders met to review weekly agendas. The leaders used the district provided scoring guide to evaluate their DRT implementation. The leaders also compared agendas from last year to agendas to this year. This was an exciting meeting to see the growth in the DRT process in just one year.
- **Ignite Lab:** Several classrooms participated in the first Ignite Lab of the year. Laurel Hills had the egg drop challenge for the first lab. Students designed ways to protect the eggs from being dropped at a variety of heights. The students enjoyed the collaboration and challenge this lab brought.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Thanksgiving Meals:** Several Laurel Hills families received thanksgiving meal assistance from our Caring for Kids partners. The families were very thankful for the food.
- **McTeacher Night:** PTA hosted a McTeacher Night at the local McDonalds. It was well attended by several Laurel Hills families. These evenings offer opportunities for families to get to know the PTA Board and ways to get involved in the school. It is also a way for new families to get connected with families in their children's school community.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 7** Score One for Health
- **December 10** Holiday Store for students
- **December 11, 6:30 p.m.** 3rd and 4th grade music performance
- **December 20** Winter Parties during the day

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Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Ignite:** Little Blue is enjoying another round of Ignite activities! This month students were able to create batteries out of lemons. This hands-on lesson was engaging and enabled teachers to tie many content standards together at every level! Students are already looking forward to our next Ignite lesson.
- **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.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Thanksgiving Meals:** With the help of our Caring for Kids partners, Little Blue families who needed help, were provided with a full Thanksgiving meal including a Turkey, potatoes, stuffing, veggies, rolls and jelly. Parents were incredibly grateful for the support!
- **Math Night:** Little Blue hosted Math night the first week of November. We had nearly 400 students and parents attend our event. We fed every person in attendance dinner and they had the opportunity to play up to 8 different games with their families. Everyone had games to take home with them as well. We had multiple giveaways including gift cards, Lego sets, and Waldo Pizza for a year!
- **Goodies with Grandparents:** Little Blue hosted our annual Goodies with Grandparents event the first week of November. Students and their grandparents or special person were able to come have breakfast, visit the book fair, and visit their classroom.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 6, 6:00 p.m.** 4th and 5th Grade Music Performance
- **December 17-21** Penguin Patch
- **December 17 & 18** PBIS Parties - Graceway Church
- **December 18, 3:15 p.m.** Terrific Kids Assembly

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Professional Development:** Teachers benefitted from a variety of professional development this month, including sessions on social-emotional learning, DRT, cultural competency and the opportunity gap, collective efficacy, and Cuisenaire Rods for math.
- **Norfleet Fifth Grade:** Fifth graders enjoyed a field trip to the Mavericks game. This was the first hockey experience for many of our students, and they thoroughly enjoyed it.
- **Ignite Lab:** Several classrooms participated in the first science Ignite Lab of the year, which was spheres. Students enjoyed collaborating to program these small, round robots. Students and teachers are eagerly awaiting our next Ignite Lab in December.

Parent/Community Focus

- **MLK Essay Contest:** All third, fourth, and fifth grade students submitted an essay for the annual MLK Essay contest. This worthwhile activity connects history lessons of the past to actions students can take to make our world a better place.
- **2nd & 3rd Grade Musical Program:** Norfleet hosted our first musical program of the school year. This year's music consisted of seasonal favorites performed by our 2nd and 3rd grade students.
- **Veteran's Day Assembly:** On November 9th, Norfleet hosted its annual Veteran's Day Assembly. Norfleet staff members and students use this as an avenue to show our gratitude to those service members who have fought for our freedom.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 4** PBS Assembly
- **December 4** PTA Papa John's Night
- **December 4, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **December 12** PBS Second Quarter Incentive Party
- **December 20** Winter Parties

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- We have continued our work on the data teams process. When looking at our overall instructional practices and the work we are assigning students, we have been focusing on the words “purposeful” and “intentional” in order to maximize our time. We also supported this by focusing our peer observations in this area. This aided our teachers in not only seeing what each other was doing to gain ideas, but also allowed them to observe their own students with the reading or math specialist. Teachers found value in looking at ways to address student deficits in this fashion and it also deepened our understanding of interventions and ensured alignment of our practices. These conversations will deepen when vertical teams reconvene this month as well.
- Our Cultural Competency Committee has led us through a couple of valuable professional development opportunities and our Data and Curriculum Committee is facilitating an upcoming mini PD on engagement and instructional strategies.

Parent/Community Focus

- Our Art Teacher, Shelby Vanbuskirk, organized and facilitated the first ever Robinson Family Paint Night. Families enjoyed their time and were already asking about the next one.
- The K/1 Music Program is coming on December 6th followed by our Family Literacy Night. Families will have the opportunity to visit make and take Primary and/or Intermediate stations and every student will also leave with a new book. Families will also get to shop at the PTA Scholastic Book Fair that evening.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 3-7** Book Fair
- **December 5** Papa John’s Night
- **December 5** PTA Unit Meeting
- **December 6** K/1 Music Program and Family Literacy Night
- **December 17** PBIS Incentive Parties

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Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- Teachers participated in training and discussion centered around the effects of trauma and why trauma matters in our classrooms. Our counselor presented the mechanisms by which adverse childhood experiences influence health and well-being throughout a person's lifespan. When a young child's stress response systems are activated within an environment of supportive relationships with adults, the physiological effects are buffered. We will continue to study trauma throughout the school year as it is fascinating and relevant information.
- Our math discussion and vertical teaming focused on cementing best practices in the classroom. Making sure teachers understand the progression involved from subitizing to an area model and the 6 step framework for problem solving. We are working on math strategies, math language and making sure we are using manipulatives in our practice.

Parent/Community Focus

- Math Night- On a cold night in November, we gathered to play math games, win prizes and eat pizza. Families had fun filling out their passport at each of the math stations to get clues to find the Roadrunner. It was a great family event.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 4** Gr 2-3 Music program
- **December 10** McDonald's Night
- **December 12** PBS Assemblies
- **December 19** Winter Parties
- **December 20** BookMobile

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Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Best Instructional Practices:** Teachers and staff are continuing to focus on whole group instruction while incorporating differentiated small group instruction following whole group instruction and also during allocated small group instructional times. Data continues to display that prescribed instructional practices must be outlined based upon specific needs. The goal of this model is to assist with instruction directly aligned to student data and outcomes. Classroom teachers have been observed over the past few weeks with a specific focus on the model outlined with specific feedback given. Conversations will continue take place with administration and teachers during DRT and observation conferences to determine the impact this process is having with student achievement.
- **Ignite Labs:** Spring Valley is very excited about the opportunity to engage and participate in Ignite Labs during the first semester of school. The experience has been extremely interactive and engaging. As we continue to incorporate this science resource, we look to see the continued dialogue, interest, and creativity this will have for all Spring Valley students.

Parent/Community Focus

- **SV Book Fair:** During the week of November 5th-9th, Spring Valley hosted their fall book fair. This was an awesome week in which a variety of literature with a variety of genres were purchased in addition to posters, pencils, erasers, and other nicknacks.
- **SV Music Program:** On Tuesday, November 6th, Spring Valley's 2nd/3rd grade students participated in the first music program of the year. The gymnasium was filled with over 250 families and friends as students sang a variety of songs. This was a great event that allowed families to see the importance of arts and music, in addition to students being provided the opportunity to display their musical talents.
- **Chris Cakes Family Breakfast:** Spring Valley hosted the family Chris Cakes breakfast on November 7th. Participation was great with over 100 families to come together with their student, connect with the school community, and shop at the SV Book Fair!

Upcoming School Events

- **December 14, 2:15-3:15 p.m.** Winter Classroom Parties

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Professional Development:** Staff completed our first session of instructional rounds. Grade level teams completed rounds in 4-5 rooms and provided feedback on building indicator 7.2 Student Assessment and Data Analysis. Once rounds were complete, staff came together to identify practices currently in place and next possible steps.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Winter Carnival:** In partnership with the Caring for Kids and PTA, students will again participate in the Westridge Winter Carnival. This is a carnival created and managed by the PTA giving students their specials time to play games and have fun before break. Many of the activities are available with support from Caring for Kids partners and Walmart.
- **Donuts with Dads:** Donuts with Dads was November 8th. Students and important males enjoyed a donuts and time to chat in the gym. Guests then had the opportunity to walk their students to the classroom. Almost 400 people were in attendance.
- **Chuck E Cheese Night:** Westridge families spent the night right before Thanksgiving Break at Chuck E Cheese. Several staff members and families attended the event resulting in money being raised for PTA. Nothing like “getting paid” to have fun!

Upcoming School Events

- **December 11, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** 2nd and 3rd Grade Musical
- **December 17-21** Westridge Winter Store
- **December 20** Winter Carnival

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Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- Head Start teachers completed the Desired Results Developmental Profile for students. Teachers created an electronic portfolio for each student. The portfolio included pictures and observational notes. The notes were used to assess students in 5 focus areas: approaches to learning, social emotional development, language and literacy development, english language development, cognition-math and physical development.
- Amy Thompson, our Head Start Social Emotional Coach, provided professional development about Conscious Discipline for staff. The PD focused on consequences and class meetings. Teachers were able to reflect and modify their practices responding to behavior in the classroom. Teachers learned how to support students meeting expectations as well as how to respond to children who need additional skills. Providing support to the students will help to change a child's behavior and increase their success in Kindergarten and beyond.

Parent/Community Focus

- Games with Grandparents/Special Guest: Students invited a special guest or grandparent to visit 3T during the day. Visitors played games and also participated in whole group circle with their child.
- Care Closet: Three Trails has a closet of hygiene and home cleaning products that is available to our families throughout the school year. A drive was held to collect items for our Care Closet. 3T reached out to our parents, different community groups, as well as staff to help fill our closet with donations. The donations will be used to create holiday baskets of different items and resources during the school year to families who are in need.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 10-21** Star Testing Window
- **December 20** Winter Party

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- **DRT-** The SMART Goal for NT continues to be same and different. The staff developed a continuum for teaching the skills required to successfully distinguishing letters, numbers and words that are the same and different. This is incorporated into all parts of the day and during small group. During collaboration and DRT the staff is planning on how to incorporate same and different into all parts of the day including small group. The decided to use signs to help with engagement and integrate movement into the lessons.
- **Walk- through-** Dr. Huff and Mrs. Bielawski both have visited and done walkthroughs during November. Dr. Moore was to visit and conduct walkthroughs but we had a snow day and will need to reschedule. During the walk throughs we have focused on math, noticing the use of same and different in an authentic manner, structures and routines.
- **Social Emotional Learning-**The staff followed up and processed the Poverty Stimulation and how that has impacted their practices and what needs to be changed based on our new learning. The overwhelming response as been the empathy for families trying to access resources and the limited resource regarding transportation. We also revisited our previous work with trauma and the impact. We discussed how poverty and trauma impacts home visits, conferences and parent events. At this point it was more information and awareness. The next step is what to do make those events more accessible.
- **Parents As Teachers - Professional Development-** DESE requires Parent Educators to meet a certain number of professional development hours each year. Recently several staff members attended a professional development session from DESE on Mindfulness. They were all impressed with how the content connected to them both personally and professionally and were looking forward to implementing it with families.
- **Parent Educator Observations-** This year our entire team of Parent Educators will observe one another. An observation framework has been developed that lets Parent Educators identify to one another the specific areas of the visit they hope to get feedback from. We hope to use the observations as a way to improve our practice and effectiveness with families.
- **Head Start Screenings -** PAT has completed screenings on every new Head Start student. This gives us important developmental information for each student.

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New Trails Early Learning Center (cont'd)

Parent/Community Focus

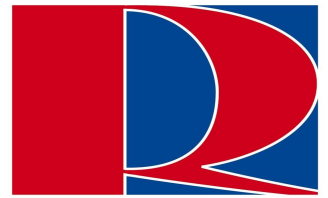
- **Messy Night** We partnered with RHS DECA for our annual carnival and parent night. We had a 219 people attend and 70 students. We only had 51 students at Grandparents/ Special Person Night in September. The staff had messy activities in seven rooms and DECA had the other rooms and halls for games.
- **Community Unit** The November theme in Express is My Community. This year we invited the police department, fire department and the nurse to come visit and share how they help the community.
- **Healthy Kids** Healthy Kids visited and saw many students. They are following up on supports for families.
- **Parents As Teachers - Evening Playgroups-** PAT continues to host monthly evening playgroups at Three Trails preschool. We're developing additional evening playgroups for cold-weather months that will occur in the gym at Three Trails.
- **Home Visits-**As of mid November, Parent Educators have made over 700 home visits to families throughout the district.
- **Car Seats-** PAT was given an incredibly generous allotment of car seats. We continue to get those out to families who need them.

Upcoming School Events

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| ● December 6 | Healthy Kids comes back to rescreen |
| ● December 11, 5:30-7:00 p.m. | Parents as Teacher Holiday Event at New Trails |
| ● December 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. | PAT Evening Playgroup |
| ● December 14 | Holiday Party/Pajama Day |

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**RAYTOWN
QUALITY
SCHOOLS**
Expect the Exceptional