

Elementary School Monthly Update to Board of Education

March, 2018



Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Math Night:** On February 27, Blue Ridge hosted its annual Math Night. Students and parents engaged in a variety of Greg Tang math games. Parents experienced games using manipulatives and digital games on the laptops. A total of 88 families attended the event.
- **Greg Tang:** Teachers participated in the math professional learning with Greg Tang on Wednesday, February 28. Upon returning to the classroom, teachers immediately implemented subtraction strategies to enhance number sense and understanding.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** At Blue Ridge, the intermediate grades conduct student-led conferences. This is a time for students to use classroom data to share growth and struggles with parents. Students also show parents a piece of work they are most proud of and their self-reflections on work and social skills.
- **Community Building:** In response to the threats, teachers and students discussed the strategies for an active shooter during community building. We decided as a Blue Ridge community that students cannot make decisions if they don't have information. Even the youngest child needs to know what to do in case of an emergency.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Friendship Party:** Friendship Parties were held on the Friday, February 9th by the PTA. Student friendships were celebrated with games and activities celebrated in each grade level. Students also had the opportunity to send friends and teachers candy grams with words of encouragement.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 12-16** Hunger Games
- **March 13 & 14** LEAD Incentive

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Assessment and Instruction:** Eastwood Hills has continued our primary instructional focus this school year on fidelity to Professional Learning Communities through the formal DRT process. Grade level teams meet weekly to determine learning intentions/objectives based on the standards and student pre-assessment data, collaboratively develop assessments during and at the summation of learning, determine what “success” on the learning intention looks like, collectively discuss instructional strategies to meet learning objectives and modify instruction for both enrichment and remediation. Through our Instructional Leadership Team, DRT leaders have been discussing their “next steps” in the PLC process focusing on Instructional Strategies and Success Criteria to improve their PLC practice for the benefit of student learning.
- **Teacher Leadership and Professional Learning:** Teacher leadership this month focused on the collective leadership of the Instructional Leadership Team in evaluating our PLC impact as well as through our Math Specialist as she continues to coach new teaching teams in rigorous math instruction. Every certified Eastwood Hills Teacher also attended Greg Tang this month and learned a multitude of strategies to better instruct number sense, word problems and fractions at any age.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Pennies for Patients:** Eastwood Hills students participated in the Pennies for Patients campaign which raises money for children fighting blood-related cancers, collecting approximately \$1,037.09 school-wide for this worthy cause!
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Eighty-nine percent of Eastwood Families participated in Parent Teacher Conferences in February, one percentage higher than Fall totals.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 2-9** Read Across America Sprit Week
- **March 13** 4th Grade Field Trip to the Coterie Theatre
- **March 15 & 16** Positive Behavior Parties at Graceway Church
- **March 27** College Day
- **March 29, 6:00 p.m.** Math & Art Curriculum Night

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Fleetridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **RMS Jazz Band** – The Raytown Middle School Jazz band performed for the 4th and 5th grade students in an effort to create interest in being a member of the band when our students reach middle school. The performance was excellent and it is always nice to see former Fleetridge STARS performing! Mr. Rick from RMS then returned the following week to answer questions for 5th grade students.
- **Science Adoption** - Teachers are taking time this week to review resources and information from the three vendors selected for final consideration. Teachers are reviewing the samples, looking at feedback provided by the Science Adoption committee and providing any additional feedback prior to a final selection.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Math Night** - Kindergarten through fifth grade students and parents attended 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. Prize drawings were held at the end of the evening with families choosing from a variety of Math board games.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 29, 6:30 p.m.** PTA 4th & 5th Grade Spring Fling

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Laurel Hills

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Team Professional Development:** Dr. Lisa Almeida returned to Laurel Hills for her second visit this year. She worked with two of the grade level teams to provide coaching support and professional development about how to strengthen the implementation of the data review team practice. Our time with Dr. Almeida has greatly benefited our teachers this year. She provides effective feedback to the teachers after observing a portion of their meeting. Following the observation, Dr. Almeida provides professional development specifically to the team and she sets goals to support the team's implementation level.
- **Math Fluency Professional Development:** The Laurel Hills teachers met with Shea Thomas, Elementary Math Curriculum Coordinator, to discuss a new approach to measure math fluency with their students. She shared a new perspective on the idea of math fluency. Ms. Thomas also provided resources to begin this transition to the new practice. The teachers were excited about this new approach to measuring math fluency. They were eager to implement the new practice.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Kindness Week:** The students and staff at Laurel Hills participated in Random Acts of Kindness week. During this week, the students collected toiletrie items for REAP, recognized their peers for performing kind acts, decorated grocery bags for Price Chopper with messages of kindness, and wrote letters to a variety of community members and organizations.
- **Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Laurel Hills teachers welcomed parents during into their classrooms for spring conferences. Parents were given information about student progress in the areas of academics and behavior. Spring conferences offered an opportunity for parents and teachers to visit about their children and establish goals for the remainder of the year.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 12, 12:00 p.m.** MO Model District DESE Visit
- **March 13** 4th Graders visit Jefferson City

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Little Blue

Academic Focus

- **DRT (Data Review Team):** The depth of conversations during DRT meetings continue to grow as grade level implement units, collaborate about instructional strategies, analyze data, and working to implement engaging lessons.
- **Read Across America Week:** The last week of February, Little Blue students and staff participated in a variety of staff-lead literacy activities and spirit days that encouraged reading. We had special guest-readers including Lauren Halifax from Fox 4 News, Brian Busby from Channel 9 news, Dr. Michael Listen CMO and Cardiologist from St. Mary's hospital, an Independence Police Officer, a Raytown Fire Fighter, and Dr. Schmidli – dressed as The Cat in the Hat. Our focus was on all the places reading can take you.

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.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** As a building, we had 95% 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.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 8** 4th Grade to Jefferson City

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Fifth Grade Field Trip:** Our fifth grade scientists put their learning into action when they visited Science City this month. It was a memorable day for all.
- **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 94% of our parents.
- **Procedure Practice:** With the extra short month due to conferences, a holiday, several students out ill, and inclement weather days, teachers have re-taught classroom procedures and expectations. We also ensured everyone knows our emergency procedures by holding a lock down drill and also practicing our revised fire drill protocol.

Parent/ Community Focus

- **2nd and 3rd Grade Music Performance:** Our 2nd and 3rd graders were able to showcase their talents at their annual music performance this month. They received huge accolades during their finale to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling". Song and dance are a clear strength of this group of students!

Upcoming School Events

- **March 5-9** Read Across America Week
- **March 16** Spring Parties in Gym
- **March 26-29** PTA Book Fair
- **March 27, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Family Math Night, Art Fair, and Evening Book Fair
- **March 29, 7:30-8:10 a.m.** Donuts with Dads

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Testing:** Teachers continue to prepare for spring testing. They have been receiving testing updates from coordinators and are working hard with students to not only enhance content knowledge for testing, but also further the technology skills needed in the actual taking of the test. Many resources have been provided for our building to begin utilizing. Building data teams, in conjunction with our Title Reading and Math Specialists continue to enhance student achievement and hold discussions around how best to monitor and adjust the learning before testing in April.
- **Third Quarter Teacher Meetings:** Third quarter meetings just concluded. I spent time with each teacher discussing progress toward the Professional Growth Plans. We looked at how closely goals are being met, and how I could be of help in successfully meeting those goals. For those teachers on-cycle, discussions were held on summative evaluations and what plans are for the upcoming school year. Robinson has a great group of teachers!

Parent/Community Focus

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Robinson had a great turn out for parent-teacher conferences. I attended several conferences not only as a teacher support, but also to be seen as a partner in student learning.
- **Major Saver:** After the conclusion of our card sales earlier this month, 12 students qualified for and will be enjoying a limo ride and pizza lunch this month.
- **Musical Performance:** Mr. Dancy led our Second and Third Grade Students in a musical performance on March 1. Our future musicians “stole the show” with their vocals, as well as presenting many different instruments.
- **PTA Bingo Night:** Bingo night followed our musical performance. Families had great fun; there were many prizes to choose from and raffles available.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 9** Bookmobile Visit
- **March 12** Spring Pictures
- **March 15** Fourth Graders to Jefferson City
- **March 26** Principal Breakfast

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Spring Valley Elementary School

Academic Focus

- **Grade Level Assessment:** 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. Students were also provided the opportunity to utilize the technology tools with their practice materials. Teacher will utilize data from assessment to determine instructional areas of strength and support. They 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.
- **Grade Level Peer Observation:** Teachers will be conducting a different method of peer observation based upon instructional focus and needs for the building. Grade level teams will have the opportunity to provide feedback to each other from small group video observation. They will determine for each other areas of strength, areas of focus, and next steps needed to enhance their instructional practices through peer instructional planning.

Parent/Community Focus

- **SV Friendship Parties:** On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 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 volunteers, students, and staff had the opportunity to provide tokens of friendship and engage in activities with classmates.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 13, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** 4th/5th Grade Music Program

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Instructional Rounds-** Teachers Leaders recently completed our first run of instructional rounds. These peer observations focus on the use of data to drive instruction. Indicators of this were identified and developed by the staff to provide consistent feedback from peers around a common goal. Teacher leaders will meet with the entire teaching group to discuss how the process went as we roll out rounds with the entire certificated staff.
- **Writing Professional Development-** Fourth grade recently worked with Alicia Wallace to plan out their writing units from now to testing time. The goal was to learn more about the 4th grade writing prompt and increasing opportunities for non-fiction writing across all curriculum.

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 sculptures, and art bots. Families also had opportunities to experience Tableuxs and Visual Thinking Strategies in classrooms.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 9** Fourth grade to Jeff City
- **March 28** 3rd Quarter Recognition Assembly (All Day)
- **March 29, 8:30 a.m.** Muffins with Moms