

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

March, 2023

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- Instructional Assistant Awesomeness: Blue Ridge Support Staff of the year was awarded to Functional Skills IA Ruth Fox! She was selected by her co-workers for her dedication to Special Education students, her willingness to help all students, and her great dip contributions when we have tailgate Fridays! We love you Ruth!
- Blue Ridge kicked off their second annual Read-A-Thon with a visit from the Jaywalkers and the Cardettes! Also seen around the building were members of the Raytown South football team! It's great to see high-school students supporting the little ones! GO RAYTOWN!

Academic Focus:

- Blue Ridge ILT Team Makes Great Strides: Using a collaborative team rubric, the Blue Ridge Instructional Leadership Team has made great strides in creating smart goals, implementing quality instructional strategies, and using the data to drive instruction.
- Teacher Leader Lowdown: Blue Ridge teacher leaders completed their district teacher action research project! They dove into big 5 discipline data, recognized a time of day that Blue Jays were struggling, and pinpointed what interventions were needed to support student success. They created a staff professional development on quality transitions for students and taught calming strategies.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Community Readers Inspire ALL: During the first week of the Blue Ridge Read-A-Thon, many members of the community turned out to read with our children. We received visits from the KC Comets, Raytown Mayor-Mike McDonough
- What Would We Do Without Them: The Caring for Kids committee met and planned ways to support students and teachers. Local community members are collecting clothes for students in need, prizes for improved student attendance, and are collaborating on a remodel of the Blue Ridge Staff Lounge.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 8, 9:00-9:15 a.m.** Bubbles and Bubblegum
- **March 21, 6:00 p.m.** K/1st Grade Musical Performance
- **March 24, 8:15-8:45 a.m.** Donuts with the Principal

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Book Vending Machine:** The Eastwood Hills PTA was recognized recently as a district Ray of Hope for the purchase of our school book vending machine. The vending machine was purchased by the PTA with funds raised last year through our school Read-A-Thon. Students earn tokens to redeem books from the vending machine by moving up a level in our reading intervention continuum and can be purchased for \$50 Jr. Jay bucks, given to students for positive behavior and attendance. Every Friday, students who move up a reading level are recognized over the morning announcements. As part of 2022/23 Read-A-Thon taking place this week as part of Read Across America Week, students are reading and gathering pledge donations for the goal of helping to fund a rock wall in our school gymnasium. Eastwood students love to read!!

Academic Focus:

- **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support:** Eastwood Hills teachers have adjusted our procedures in the area of mathematics to ensure that every student is able to receive Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction, and Tier 3 instruction as needed. We have focused and prioritized what is most essential for every student to learn in each grade level, and modified our intervention schedules to allow our classroom teachers, special education teachers, and title math teachers to collaborate to provide focused and intensive interventions to raise the math skill and achievement of our students. Every Monday students who advance along the intervention continuum are recognized over the morning announcements and receive a certificate and prize from administration and the math specialists.
- **Community Learning Experiences:** In the month of February, Eastwood students participated in three separate field trips. These experiences are highly valued, as they provide opportunity for the students at Eastwood Hills to engage in community learning that may not be available to them outside of the school setting. Our fifth grade students attended the A.B. May Academy to learn skills in customer service, personal finance, business values, and characteristics of the trade in plumbing and heating and cooling. Our third grade students went bowling and learned some practical application of mathematics and visible proof of force in nature. Lastly, our fifth grade students also toured the Negro Leagues and Jazz Museums!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Eastwood Hills Service Project:** Every year the Eastwood community chooses one organization to give to. This year, we collected items to support the Heart of America Humane Society.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 6-8** Dental Clinic
- **March 7, 6:15 p.m.** PTA Meeting & Kindergarten & First Grade Music Performance
- **March 16** 2nd Grade Field Trip to the KC Zoo
- **March 21** BIST Site Visit-EWH Model School
- **March 22, 9:30 a.m.** Q3 PBIS Assembly
- **March 24** College Day

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Fletridge Elementary

Celebrations:

- Behavior Interventionist Rodney Jones was named Fletridge Support Staff Employee of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Fletridge students enjoyed PTA sponsored Friendship Parties on Wednesday, February 8. Students rotated between three stations: Friendship Bingo, Rainbow Snack, and Inflatable Obstacle Course.
- Fourth graders participated in a field trip to the National Frontier Trails Museum on Friday, February 3. They also enjoyed a special horse-drawn covered wagon ride.
- Second graders participated in a field trip to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on Friday, February 10. Students first toured portions of the museum before the hands-on sculpture and design portion of the field trip.

Academic Focus:

- Fletridge Reading Specialist and Elementary ELA Curriculum Coordinator Kelly Anderson meets with Fletridge teachers monthly to answer questions and assist in Amplify Reading lesson planning. Kelly is helping teachers navigate the new curriculum as they become familiar with the program and its components.
- Fletridge Math Specialist and Math Curriculum Coordinator Melissa Taylor is working with teachers to establish clear expectations for small group math instruction. Melissa also meets with teachers monthly to incorporate Greg Tang strategies in Reveal Math lessons.
- Fletridge teachers meet weekly in data review teams to plan Reveal and Greg Tang Math lessons and track student progress toward mastery of the highest priority standards.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Fletridge students donated to REAP more than 100 cans of soup that were collected during SOUPer Bowl 2023 and students purchased friendship bracelets for family members and friends during the PTA sponsored friendship bracelet sale.
- Norfleet Baptist Church provided a delicious, warm Olive Garden meal on the cold parent-teacher conference day.
- Fletridge students celebrated Read Across America Week 2023 with a spirit week and a number of guest readers. In addition, a donation drive was organized to support River of Refuge Transitional Housing.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 9, 6:30 p.m.** 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade Music Performance, @FR Gym
- **March 24** Third Quarter Positive Behavior Celebration

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff Employee of the Year:** Laurel Hills is proud to announce Leslee Hunsucker, Lead Functional Skills Instructional Assistant, as our Support Staff Employee of the Year for 23-24! She was nominated many times over by her peers at Laurel Hills for her dependability, deep dedication to the functional skills program, and love for our students. We are so proud of her!
- **Friendship Parties & Super Spirit Week:** Friendship and hometown spirit was in the air in February! We celebrated Friendship Day on February 14 with treats and classroom parties. We also held a “Super Spirit Week” to countdown to the Super Bowl game. The hallways were filled with smiles!

Academic Focus:

- **Black History Month:** In February Laurel Hills celebrated Black History Month. All month long, students and staff focused on learning about the important impacts of Black Americans to our culture, history, and achievement. Students learned through read alouds, interactive bulletin boards, community building activities, and more!
- **Attendance Awareness:** The Laurel Hills team continues to emphasize the importance of being at school “on time, all day, everyday unless you are sick.” Weekly attendance banners, “Are You Here?” have all been exciting ways students have celebrated being at school.
- **MAP Prep:** As we inch closer to spring assessment time, our MAP testing grades are gearing up with MAP preparation plans. Grade level data teams recently met with Mr. Britt to develop a plan of action in our final weeks leading to assessment. We’ll be using a variety of strategies including “MAP compacts”, conferences, and strategic use of prep materials. We can’t wait to show what we know!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Read-A-Thon Success:** Leopards were hard working readers during the whole month of February. Our annual Read-A-Thon was a smashing success. We had 52 readers who clocked more than 8,000 minutes of reading! We’re proud of everyone who participated in this fundraiser.
- **Caring for Kids / Conference Partnership:** Snacks on snacks! Thanks to the partnership of our Caring for Kids partners, teachers enjoyed a variety of healthy snacks and drinks during their long Parent Teacher conference day in February. We’re thankful to have caring partners who take care of our staff as we work to take care of our children.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 14** Spring/Class Picture Day
- **March 23** Donuts with Grown Ups

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Little Blue Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year-** Congratulations to Library Media Clerk, Mrs. Genteman, on being named Little Blue Elementary's 2023-2024 Support Staff of the year! Her peers say she is a bright light of positivity and pours her amazing creative mind into everything she works on! Little Blue wouldn't be the same without her!
- **Chiefs Spirit Week:** Little Blue students and staff enjoyed a spirit week leading up to the Chiefs beating the Eagles in the Super Bowl. With days like Mahomes Monday and Red Fri-Yay, the school was bursting with Chiefs Pride!



Academic Focus:

- **Teacher Leaders:** Little Blue's Teacher Leaders have been working diligently on their district research project. With presentations coming up, our group is putting final touches on organizing teachers' thoughts and their implementation knowledge gained from Comprehension Thinking Strategies PD, Differentiation PD and Social Emotional Learning/Behavior PD.
- **Gearing Up For Middle School:** Little Blue 5th Graders were treated to a performance from the Raytown Middle School Jazz Band. The Jazz band played a few songs and after the performance 5th graders got to ask questions about the instruments, the songs and what music related opportunities await them next year in 6th grade.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parents and teachers spent a 12 hour day discussing student's academics and their social emotional development for the second semester parent teacher conferences.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 6-10** Book Fair
- **March 7** Goodies With Grandparents
- **March 24** 3rd Quarter PBIS Party

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Norfleet Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year:** Congratulations to Building Clerk and GE Site Coordinator Savannah Chancellor, who was selected as our Support Staff Employee of the Year. She is a huge help to anyone in need throughout the building, in both of her important positions.
- **Super Bowl Champs:** To help the Chiefs secure the big win, Norfleet participated in a fun Super Bowl spirit week. Highlights included “dreaming of a big win” (pajama day) and “road trip to the desert” (sunglasses and vacation gear).
- **Special Recognitions:** Norfleet celebrated Mrs. Suydam during National School Counselor Week and also our bus drivers on Norfleet’s Bus Driver Recognition Day last month.
- **Student Attendance:** We started several attendance incentives to encourage students to attend school. Many of those and other students are making great progress on their attendance!
- **RAK Week:** Norfleet participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week by doing kind things for one another during conference week. Some acts were anonymous and some people left a note for the recipient of the kind gesture.

Academic Focus:

- **Black History Month:** All teachers delivered lessons on Black History Month in February. Students worked on research projects, learned African American songs and spirituals in music, and read selections about and by African Americans. We also shared information about historical, modern, and local African Americans each day on our morning announcements.
- **Parent Conferences:** Due to the Super Bowl parade, teachers scrambled to reschedule their Wednesday conferences. Staff and families were happy to be able to enjoy the special day and then conference the next day. We conferenced with 95% of families!

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Souper Bowl:** Norfleet held a canned food drive the week before the Super Bowl. We collected canned goods to show which team we thought would win. Our prediction was correct, the Chiefs won, and Norfleet collected 157 cans! The items were donated to REAP.
- **Unit Meeting and Performance:** Norfleet’s PTA hosted its third quarter unit meeting last month. The program featured our fourth and fifth graders performing their program, which included songs by black musicians.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 7, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **March 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** PTA Skate Night
- **March 24** Spring Parties

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year** - Congratulations to Robinson's 2023-2024 Support Staff of the Year, Patrick Rivera. Mr. R is an Instructional Assistant in one of our Functional Skills classrooms.
- **Kindness Challenge** - Staff and students spent the month of February participating in various kindness activities from writing someone a note, to smiling at someone you don't know, to caring for Robinson materials kindly and respectfully. We loved seeing all the extra kindness going around Robinson!
- **Music Performance** - Great job to our second and third graders for their wonderful music performance. This was our second music performance of the year. We enjoy seeing all our families come out to support the hard work our students are doing in our special classes.
- **Read Across America Day** - Robinson loves reading! We enjoyed a whole school Drop Everything and Read event and wore our bright colors for our theme, Reading Makes Us Bright! Students got to stop by the book grab table and everyone went home with a brand new book.

Academic Focus:

- **Attendance Challenge** - Donut You Know Attendance Matters? This month we focused on school wide attendance and rewarded the top three classes with a donut party. Each week we encouraged students to come to school and kept track of the classroom attendance percentages on a school wide bulletin board.
- **Black History Month** - Fifth Grade students completed a Choice Board activity on a Black Leader of their choice. They then had the option to design a poster, create an advertisement, write a children's book, build a 3-D model, or record a documentary to share about their life. Students then had the opportunity to share about their Black Leader on the morning announcements.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Community Garden** - Our fourth graders got to get their hands dirty this past month with the first step in building our school garden! The Schoolyard Garden was made possible by a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation and Kansas City Community Gardens. Each student in the school will have an opportunity to learn about, grow, and harvest fresh vegetables. All of the produce grown at Robinson will then be used by Robinson students and their families.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 14** Spring Picture Day
- **March 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Family Game Night-ELA/Math Night
- **March 23, 5:00 p.m.** PTA Meeting

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year:** Congratulations to Mr. Gary Crippen, Southwood day custodian, for being selected as Southwood's Support Staff of the Year. Mr. Crippen is a great support for all staff and students at Southwood and goes above and beyond to help make Southwood better each day.
- **Chiefs Spirit Week:** Southwood students and staff enjoyed cheering on the Chiefs to their Super Bowl victory against the Philadelphia Eagles through fun spirit days including Mahomes Monday and Andy Reid Winsday.

Academic Focus:

- **Priority Standards Planning:** Classroom teachers have been mapping out Reveal Math units with Lori Reger, building math specialist. This has helped them to better understand the curriculum and deepen conversations around prioritized standards. This month, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, and fifth grade all met their WIG goals for various standards.
- **Third Annual Black History Month Program:** Southwood hosted their third annual Black History Month Program organized by Ms. Powell. Students learned about influential Black Americans throughout history and shared a program with the school on February 23rd sharing poems, songs, book reviews, and biographies. The program is posted on our school's Facebook page.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Donuts with Grownups:** Southwood hosted Donuts with Grownups on February 7th. The gym and hallways were filled with students and families coming to spend time together in the morning for a sweet treat with friends.
- **PTA Unit Meeting with Dr. Martin Knox:** Southwood hosted Dr. Martin-Knox, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Hustad to talk with families about the bond on the April 4th ballot.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 14, 6:30-7:00** PTA Meeting
- **March 23** Spring Parties and Quarter 3 Assembly
- **March 24** PBIS Parties

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Celebrations:

- **SV Support Staff of the Year:** Congratulations to Mrs. Freda Green, Spring Valley's SpEd Resource IA, who was selected by her colleagues as our 2023-24 Support Staff Person of the Year. Mrs. Green is an asset not only to SV students she assists, but also to our teachers she works with daily. She exhibits positivity and a smile daily within the classrooms and halls of SV.
- **Staff of the Week:** During the month of February, SV celebrated the following staff members: Cheryl Evans, Megan Bridge, Lisa Kirk and Danielle VanDevVyere. They each enjoyed a shout out on our morning announcements, their own front row designated parking spot and a prize from Gabbert's Goodies.
- **Courage Chew & Chat w/ Admin:** In February, our life skill focus word was Courage. During the month, students participated in read alouds and community building activities to learn about how to show courage in different ways. Forty students were selected as having shown courage during the month and celebrated with a donut and juice breakfast with Mrs. Gabbert and Mrs. Kelley, Admin Intern. Students also received a certificate and celebrated why each student was specifically chosen for this honor.

Academic Focus:

- **DRI--Small Group Reading Instruction:** SV teachers continue to focus on improving their small group reading instruction as they work on specific reading strategies in the area of phonological and phonemic awareness as well as fluency and comprehension skills with students. Our PD focus on direct reading instruction is showing through our monthly student growth. In February, SV celebrated 85 students who showed improvements by moving on the continuum to progress in phonics skills, fluency or comprehension.
- **NWEA Data & Goal Setting:** In February, SV's title team provided instructional support to teachers by digging into our NWEA growth data and collaborating to work with students in setting specific student goals for our end of the year NWEA MAP testing in Reading and Math. We look forward to celebrating student achievement at the end of the year and to reflect on the new implementations we have put in place.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parents and teachers enjoyed meeting to discuss student academic and social emotional development during our February PT Conferences.
- **PTA Friendship Parties:** SV's PTA supported our wonderful friendship parties with arts and crafts, games and snacks on Feb. 14.
- **Trauma Smart--Smart Connections:** Michele Jordan, SV Counselor and Tiffany Woods, SV/SW Social Worker spoke with parents during conferences informing them of our upcoming Smart Connections Meeting-Managing the Ups and Downs as they focus on discussing TS and Brain as a Car with families.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 9, 6:30 p.m.** 2nd/3rd Grade Musical Performance
- **March 17** End of 3rd Qtr & 3rd Qtr PBIS Incentive
- **March 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** SV Spring Fling
- **March 24** 3rd Quarter Awards

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Friendship Parties & Spirit Weeks:** February was busy with Friendship parties on the 10th and Chiefs spirit week before the Super Bowl.
- **Read Across America Week:** Students and staff took part in Read Across America week with spirit wear all week. We had multiple guest speakers from Central Office staff, to former Westridge teachers, to Raytown South High students. On Wednesday during community time, we held Shine a Light on Westridge. Grade levels paired with each other and every student partnered with another to read in the hallway. To make it a little more fun, we turned down the lights and used finger flashlights as they read.

Academic Focus:

- **Extended Planning Sessions:** Teachers used the last bit of extended time built in to our CPL plan to proactively plan for the next few units in math. Working along side the Math Specialists, teachers determined priority standards, specific instructional strategies, and aligned assessment questions.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **WR ELA and Math Night:** We held our annual Math and ELA Night on March 2nd. To go along with our space theme, students used measurement to make space goo, used math and reading to get out of a space escape room, got to try astronaut food, made constellations with marshmallows, and so much more. Almost 300 students and family members participated.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 10** 5th Grade Band Recruitment
- **March 13** Picture Day and Grades Open
- **March 23** Platinum Awards Ceremony
- **March 24** Platinum Party

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations:

- Super Bowl Spirit Week- Staff and students enjoyed a spirit week dressing up to support our KC Chiefs with “Mahomes Monday” and “Wake up and Win Wednesday”.
- Parent Teacher Conferences- We strive to have 100% participation. This year with the changes in schedule staff were still able to conference with all but 2 families. We will continue to reach out to those 2 and get 100%.
- Classes had their friendship parties. It provided students an authentic opportunity to practice writing their names on their valentines before they passed them out to friends.

Academic Focus:

- Three year olds are working on senses. The children are exploring touch, hear, taste and smell through different modalities. Their WIG is 1 to 1 counting and corresponding to 10. The teachers created a learning progression and a pre/post assessment. Megan Butler attended LETRS and has shared with her team best practices for beginning writing so teachers are integrating more writing into their day. Teachers are bringing work samples to share and discuss student progress on the writing continuum.
- Teachers of 4 year olds developed a learning progression for their new WIG for prepositions. They are also working on Animals. That science unit includes animal habitats, and characteristics. Students made great progress on their last WIG goal of initial sound.

Parent/Community Focus:

- We had 97% participation in spring conferences. We only had 2 families not participate.
- The February Trauma training module gave strategies to support families and children experiencing grief.

Upcoming School Events:

- **March 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Trauma Training Module 10
- **March 21, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Playgroup