

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report November, 2021

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations

- Specific staff free and frequents are presented to staff over the intercom on Fridays:
 - McCurren, Blanchard, and Stratton received-Admin Intern read aloud in the classroom with a 20 minute teacher break
 - IA's Xavier, Young, and Emerald received- Sonic drink vouchers to turn into the principal for a free Sonic drink provided during their school day
 - Chavez and Riley received- 1 day extra jeans day for the week
 - McCully received- \$5 QT gift cards
- Classroom Teachers were treated to extra time for lunch by having their classrooms taken to lunch and picked up by the principal, assistant principal, building floating subs, and IA's during a Friday when we hosted a food truck, The Melt.
- 19 staff members were recognized for having perfect attendance for the month of September. They were celebrated by providing them a Sonic drink during the day and placing all 19 names in a hat with one chosen to have lunch purchased by the principal.

Academic Focus

- **Staff Pineapple Observations-** A pineapple is a sign of "welcome and openness to others." **October 11th-15th** during their own plan time, library, counselor, or off duty recess time, teachers went and observed. Teachers were focusing their observations around our building focus, Summarizing or instructional strategies related to the new math curriculum. The staff had professional development from the Greater Kansas City Writing Project in the specific area of summarizing in September. Teachers wrote "shout outs" of exceptional instruction observed on a pineapple die cut and placed it on a bulletin board in the hallway for all to read and see.
Observing our peers allows us to learn, develop, lead, and grow together!

Parent/Community Focus

- **Trail of Treats** - With a vote from the staff, Blue Ridge, hosted its annual Trail of Treats during the school day this year. Staff and students decorated their classroom doors and participated in a door decorating contest. Mrs. Thomas' 4th grade class took home the win! Families graciously donated candy so we could provide goodie bags to all of our students at the end of their day. Students and staff also had the opportunity to dress up in costume! Participation from both parents and students were highly appreciated for this event.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 9-12** Scholastic Book Fair Begins
- **November 9** Fall Picture Retakes
- **November 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Curriculum Night
- **November 11, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Evening Book Fair Available for Families

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- Every week at Faculty Team Meeting, EWH Teachers celebrate one another with “Kudos.” These public celebrations are specific shout-outs and praise from one teacher or staff member to another teacher or staff member. At the last weekly Faculty Team meeting, 17 staff members were recognized. Recipients receive a “sweet treat” of their choice and public applause.
- Every student and staff member with perfect first quarter attendance received a free cupcake from the *I am Cupcakin* bakery food truck. These quarterly celebrations are paid for by our community partners.
- Eight “Toot-toot” trophies were awarded from the principal to teachers or staff members who modeled raising others up, and contributing to the positivity of EWH.

Academic Focus

- Eastwood teachers began the first cycle of peer observations. Nearly every EW teacher was able to observe 2-3 colleagues during a one hour observation and provide feedback on evidence of effective lesson design.
- Eastwood teachers met in vertical teams to develop math mastery schedules. This process allowed teachers to organize their instruction by quarter based on prioritized standards and the progress reporting sequence, utilizing the new Reveal math curriculum.
- Five percent more Eastwood students are proficient in basic reading skills this month compared to last month. Thirty-six percent of all EW students have reading proficiency skills on grade level.

Parent/Community Focus

- Eastwood hosted Trunk or Treat October 21st on the school grounds. Families walked the path of the car rider line to “trick or treat” from the decorated trunks of EWH staff. It was a BLAST!!!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 5** Kingdom United Book Launch #2
- **November 6, 8:00 a.m.** Girls on the Run 5K @ Swope Park
- **November 18, 5:00-9:00 p.m.** PTA Panda Express Night
- **November 19** PTA Papa John’s Day

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Fletridge Elementary



Celebrations

- **Birthdays:** Students/staff recognized during daily announcements for birthdays. Students receive a birthday pencil, bookmark and select a book from the birthday book bin courtesy of PTA.
- **Building Character:** Each month 2 students per class are recognized for displaying the positive character. October's character trait was Perseverance.
- **Perfect Attendance:** 1st quarter students w/perfect attendance were recognized during morning announcements. Students received a certificate and a treat. Moving forward students will be recognized monthly.

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** FR team will continue their focus on the DRT process. Many teams are focusing on Math to support student growth and development. Teams are reviewing post assessment data to determine growth and next steps for identified priority skills.
- **Weekly Behavior Focus:** With the implementation of a weekly behavior focus has allowed students and staff to be intentional with supporting our building wide focus. This has resulted in increased time in the classroom for identified FR at risk students in addition to more positive productive student/staff relationships.
- **Cultural Competency:** In Oct., the administrator team recorded and shared a read aloud "Spookley". The focus of the read aloud was to recognize the differences in all of us and to acknowledge that we all have a purpose and sense of belonging.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Boo Drive Thru & Math Night:** This year's haunted hallways turned into a Boo Drive Thru. Students were greeted and treated with staff dressed in costumes handing out treats and sharing math take home activities that families can do at home. The evening was a blast with more than 200 students/families participating.
- **Spirit Week:** The week of parent teacher conferences was a spirit week hosted by the FR Student Council. Students and staff were eager to engage in showcasing school spirit with a hat, twin or Halloween/orange & black day.
- **PTA:** FR students, families and staff supported several activities sponsored by our own PTA to include spirit wear and Panda Express fundraisers. To keep families informed of these activities were shared in our parent newsletter (Rising Star), parent link and social media sites.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 3, 6:30 p.m.** Fall Parties, PTA Mtg.
- **November 15 -19** PTA Book Fair
- **November 30** Principal's Breakfast

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- Carla Williams Wellness Champ - Carla was recognized by two LH staff members for having an unstoppable positive attitude!
- Teachers and Staff were treated with a pumpkin donut and orange juice from the Cheer Cart.
- LH custodians, Ms. Gracie and Ms. Sierra, were celebrated by having their doors decorated with fun quotes and student thank you notes.
- Staff shout-outs were drawn from the Shout Out Jar and announced over the intercom on Fridays! Staff members that were given a shout out were given a sweet treat!
- It was announced that we have 3 little leopards to come toward the end of the school year! Congrats to our momma leopards and families!

Academic Focus

- Teachers are focusing on Math for our Data Review Team. Many teams are seeing growth in their students. For example, 4th grade is working on addition and subtraction with regrouping up to a million and has seen growth in 31/59 4th grade students.
- On November 11th we will have our first CPL Peer Observation day. As part of our CPL plan, teachers are provided the opportunity to learn from peers by observing during Math time. With our new math curriculum, we felt like it was important that teachers collaborate with each other over new instructional strategies and curriculum practices.

Parent/Community Focus

- PTA "Boo Thru" Parade- Laurel Hills held a "Boo Thru" that allowed students and families to get dressed up and drive through to trick or treat.
- Scholastic Book Fair- Students got to preview the Book Fair on 10/25.
- Literacy Pumpkin Contest- LH students got the opportunity to decorate a pumpkin or draw a picture of a pumpkin for our library's pumpkin contest!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 12** Picture Retakes
- **November 30** LH PTA Board Meeting via Zoom

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Little Blue Elementary

Celebrations

- **Terrific Staff:** Each month we recognize students and staff who exhibit our featured character traits for that month. Our character trait for October was Enthusiastic. Mrs. Debra Arnold-Waxter our Office Clerk and Mrs. Jennifer Bickford 4th grade virtual teacher. Were recognized as our Terrific Staff members. They received reserved parking and bragging rights.

Academic Focus

- **Vertical Teaming:** As a building, we have a laser focus on reading this year. We have created a continuum for all teachers to follow to teach students how to read. This continuum takes students to fluency. Currently, we have a team working to create a comprehension continuum, as well. Our goal is that every child leaves Little Blue as a confident, fluent reader who understands and is able to discuss what they are reading.
- **Trauma Smart-**This year, Little Blue has started a partnership with Crittenton Children’s Center with training and implementation of Trauma Smart. Trauma Smart is an intervention program geared to train staff in trauma informed approaches to support children who have faced adversity. Our LB staff has been participating in training modules geared to positively impact our school community. As part of this journey, we will be sharing tools and strategies with our Little Blue families as well. We have been excited about the learning and self discovery that has taken place thus far and are looking forward to its continued impact as we look towards the future.

Parent Community Focus

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** We held parent/teacher conferences the last week of October. We had about 30% in person and the rest were virtual. Teachers and parents enjoyed collaborating about students’ growth and successes this year. Teachers are still working to contact a few families who have been hard to reach or didn’t show up as we strive for 100% participation.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 2** PTA Meeting
- **November 2** Virtual PBIS assemblies
- **November 15-19** Trauma Coaching Week
- **November 15-19** Book Fair

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Norfleet Elementary



Celebrations

- Congratulations to Nichole Hartnett, Reannin (Tungett) Davis, Stephenie Villanueva, and Linda Sisteck on completing their second master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.
- Thank you to Kathryn Hoelting for her continued support of a student who lost a parent.
- Thank you to Nurse Kim, Amy Lowe-Smith, and Brandy Burke for their actions and care for a student with a medical need.
- Norfleet celebrated Reggie Pierce, Steve Alfaro, and Gail Khounvongsa on October 8th for National School Custodian Day!
- Norfleet celebrated 251 (92%) students for being safe, respectful, and responsible at our first quarter PBS parties.

Academic Focus

- **First Quarter Ends:** Teachers worked hard during this month to complete end of quarter assessments to be able to share a complete picture of student progress at parent teacher conferences.
- **Virtual Charlotte's Web:** First and second grade students watched an online performance of Charlotte's Web from the Folly Theater. This was a great opportunity for students to see a quality theater production and enhance their reading and writing skills.
- **Monthly Focuses:** Norfleet's PBS and Cultural Competency Teams selected one or more building focus(es) for each month. In October, we finished Hispanic Heritage Month and Mrs. Kang and Mrs. Burke taught bullying prevention lessons in each classroom, as part of Bullying Prevention Month. We concluded the month with discussions about Polish Americans, Italian Americans, and a spirit week for Red Ribbon Week, where "Drug Free Looks Like Me".

Parent/Community Focus

- **Spooktacular Parade:** Norfleet hosted a Spooktacular reverse car parade on October 21. Over 150 students drove through our parking lots to see the teachers dressed in costume.
- **Parent Conferences:** Norfleet held parent-teacher conferences on October 27-28. 45% of families selected virtual conferences.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 4 -5, 5:00-7:00 p.m.** PTA Family Portrait Night
- **November 6, 10:00-10:20 a.m.** PTA Rock Painting for World Kindness Day (virtual)
- **November 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Virtual Family Literacy & Math Night, Book Fair

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations

- So far this year, Robinson Teachers and Staff have handed out over 16, 500 Raccoon Rewards to students who were doing the right thing (safe, respectful and responsible)!
- Congrats to Victoria So who was selected as this month's Wellness Champion for Robinson! Thank you, Maggie. You are so flexible and easygoing and support us wherever you are asked every single day. We are so thankful you are here with us!
- Thank you, Jen and Kellee for helping fill in the gaps and needs of your grade level during your teammates absence. Teamwork is evident here and you are appreciated! Thank you, Carly and Andrea for representing us as teacher reps on our Robinson PTA!
- "Thanks for all you do 'round here"--Staff was treated to donuts and bagel breakfast this month.
- Staff recognized one another using Staff Stash. Admin recognizes those that are recognizing the greatness in others. Those selected from the "Washington Wahoo". Additionally, staff surprised one another with a traveling "I've Got This" mug and stuffing the mug with treats before passing along.

Academic Focus

- **Trauma Smart**-This year, Robinson has embarked in partnership with Crittenton Children's Center with training and implementation of Trauma Smart. Trauma Smart is an intervention program geared to train staff in trauma informed approaches to support children who have faced adversity. Our Robinson staff has been participating in training modules geared to positively impact our school community. As part of this journey, we will be sharing tools and strategies with our Robinson families as well. We have been excited about the learning and self discovery that has taken place thus far and are looking forward to its continued impact as we look towards the future.
- **DRT Focus**-our data review teams continue with a ELA, Math or Science focus weekly. Teams have spent time collaborating as grade level teams and as vertical teams identifying strengths and learning gaps. This is especially true in Math as we continue to delve deeper into our newly adopted resource-Reveal Math. These conversations strengthen our IMW and DRI instruction.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Boo Fest**-Robinson hosted their annual Boo Fest. This year's event was held on the Robinson playground and tables were decorated by our PTA, Robinson staff and volunteers. Students were able to trick or treat and play some table games. We were so pleased to welcome more than 200 of our Robinson students and their families to this event. Wow!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 11** Picture Retakes
- **November 18, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Robinson PTA Board Meeting

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Southwood Elementary



Celebrations

- Congrats to Mrs. Reames she was selected as SW Wellness Champion
- Congratulations to Mr. Flaherty, a student entered him in a community contest and he won a full bag of teacher supplies.
- Sutherland Superstars (*Baker, Bragg, Coin, Childs, Dahlstrom, Duewel, Fratzke, Lopez, Koechner, McIntyre, Parsons, Powell, Quinn, Reger, Stiine, Tarwater, Waddell*) are those who have given compliments to others.
- Several staff have received SW shoutouts from colleagues on a weekly basis.
- Staff were surprised with an apple bar with fresh apples and several toppings provided by our Admin intern (Quinn), secretary (Bragg) and building clerk (Law)

Academic Focus

- Our school has focused on meeting our students where they are. Working on the basic skills (phonemic awareness) to build confidence and enhance their growth. Each grade level has created smart goals in math and phonological sounds. Our teachers are using Heggerty with our students by using consistent and repeated instruction, which we have seen progress in developing our student's decoding and encoding skills.
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)- Students participated in a PBIS assembly and class celebrations. Virtual assemblies took place in each grade level, students were recognized with awards in the areas of math, reading and attendance. Selected students from each grade level were chosen to receive a character award and received a t-shirt which read, "*Southwood has character.*" Our students had the opportunity to have an earned celebration. All students who met the behavior criteria were able to participate in the party.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Trunk or Treat**-Southwood's PTA hosted a Trunk or treat. This year the school had a candy contest the first 2 weeks of October. Classes were placed into 3 groups and the group who donated the most candy won a popcorn party. Barrels were placed in the front of the school for all to see. October 21, 2021, the trunk or treat event took place on the playground. Each grade level decorated a car and students were able to trick or treat, play games and partake in 2 food trucks (taco truck & Kona Ice). It was fun, and exciting to welcome more than 300 families including community visitors.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** PTA Movie Night
- **November 7, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting @Connection Point
- **November 12** Southwood Picture Retakes
- **November 16** PTA fundraiser @McDonalds

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Spring Valley Elementary



Celebrations

- SV Staff of the Week: Mrs. Niemeyer, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Abegg & Ms. Dyer were all recognized weekly this past month as staff of the week and got to park in the designated staff of the week spot and all staff with monthly perfect attendance were honored with a Sonic Drink of their choice.
- Integrity Principal Chew & Chat: 2 students from each classroom were recognized for showing integrity during the previous month and honored with a donut breakfast and certificate for doing the right thing at all times. Donuts were donated by our Caring for Kids Partner, Smile Doctors.
- 1st & 5th grade teachers treated the staff to a sandwich luncheon as a way to celebrate everyone's hard work.
- SV Bus & Car Rider and Walkers of the Month: Each month students are recognized for following expectations on their way to school and back home daily.

Academic Focus

- All grade level teams have created Smart Goals in ELA and Math DRT. Our focus has been in small group instruction as we work collaboratively to meet our student's needs. We are implementing Heggerty for all students, regardless of grade level, so that we can address their phonemic needs. We have already seen growth in our students and look forward to the growth we will see!
- PBIS Incentive: SV kicked off our 1st quarter incentive, SV's Pumpkinpalooza, in October to promote safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff discussed these important life skills daily in community building with students. Students were able to enjoy a fall craft, tic tac toe, ring toss over pumpkins, pumpkin bowling, candy walk and a snack. We had over 275 students attend this fun event!!

Parent/Community Focus

- 2nd Annual Spooktacular Drive Thru Parade: SV held our 2nd annual event which was a hit with our families. Families decorated their cars and drove through our trunk or treat to enjoy seeing staff dressed up and cars decorated. We decorated outdoors and gave each student a scavenger hunt paper to locate various Fall/Halloween decor on their ride. Students and families had so much fun and got various goodies as they drove through. Our awesome PTA honored 3 winning families of decorated cars with a \$25 Papa Johns' GC. Our three winners were: The IT Clown Car, Toxic Waste and Day of the Dead.
- Caring for Kids Partner: Smiles Doctors has been amazing at supporting SV this past month. They donated donuts for the Principal Chew & Chat, snack basket for our teacher's lounge, two portable speakers for the Gabbert Goodies basket honoring staff with perfect attendance and breakfast to staff during parent conferences.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 3** PTA Meeting
- **November 29** SV Culver's Night

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Each month staff are celebrated for their hard work and dedication to families, students, and each other. Oct 14th was National Dessert Day. Staff were treated with cake, ice cream, candies, rice crispy treats, and more!
- Before conferences, students who had zero recovery referrals participated in our first quarter celebration behavior celebration. Almost 90% of our students had a fall carnival with games, crafts, treats, and more.

Academic Focus

- Writing vertical team continues to refine our writing rubrics to properly scaffold expectations for writing K-5. Teams are finalizing rubrics to begin use in the classroom.
- Reading vertical teams are focused on small group instruction, running records, and phonemic awareness.
- Math vertical teams are focused on learning the new math curriculum and marrying instruction with C,R,A structures.

Parent/Community Focus

- Westridge staff and PTA held a trunk or treat drive through where families were able to drive through in costumes and stop at stations for treats and a backpack full of math activities that can be played at home K-5. We had 150 families participate in the drive through and handed out over 1,200 pieces of candy!
- Huge thank you to our Caring for Kids partner One Spirit and PTA for dinner during conferences. One Spirit provided sandwiches and treats, while the PTA provided its World Famous Baked Potato Bar!

Upcoming School Events

- **November 2** PTA Meeting
- **November 6** Girls on the Run 5K @ Swope Park

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations

- Trail of Treats: Staff decorated cars and hosted our first outside Trail of Treats. Parents donated a lot of candy to help with this event. Families came and enjoyed the creatively decorated trunks and participated in a young child friendly event. Our Caring for Kids partner had a trunk and handed out spider rings!
- Pumpkin Day: Blue Ridge Mall Optimists donated small pie pumpkins for every child. The playground turned into a pumpkin patch. Children decorated pumpkins, watched a story acted out by staff and enjoyed special treats.
- Birthdays- Staff and children are celebrated on their special day by having their name announced. Students and staff can get a special treat from the office. Students also get a birthday crown and a special happy birthday song from the principal.

Academic Focus

- Three year olds have focused on our new phonemic awareness resource from Heggerty. It is designed to support three year olds in developing phonemic awareness skills. There is an emphasis on how to listen for sounds, names and nursery rhymes.
- Four year olds have learned about three dimensional shapes including describing them using corners and sides. The finished STAR and benchmark assessments using that data to create their smart goals.
- All classrooms continue to work on teaching social skills. The focus for October has been feelings. Identifying and strategies to manage feelings.

Parent/Community Focus

- Trail of Treats: Staff decorated cars and hosted our first outside Trail of Treats. Parents donated a lot of candy to help with this event. Families came and enjoyed the creatively decorated trunks and participated in a young child friendly event. Our Caring for Kids partner had a trunk and handed out spider rings!
- Pumpkin Day: Blue Ridge Mall Optimists donated small pie pumpkins for every child. The playground turned into a pumpkin patch. Children decorated pumpkins, watched a story acted out by staff and enjoyed special treats.
- Sutherlands in Raytown donated mums and soil for our students to plant in our learnscape.

Upcoming School Events

- **November 9** Instructional Rounds
- **November 10** Picture Day
- **November 18** Turkey Hunt

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations

- Ms. Ebony Sims, presented to Raytown Success Academy teachers and IAs her presentation called “The Elephant in the Classroom” . The training provided an opportunity for staff to reflect on their personal biases and what strategies to use to support multicultural teaching.
- Ms. Jennifer Gutierrez, our building clerk, has been supporting the nursing staff. She has worked extremely hard to continue to keep 3T safe and follow COVID protocol. Jennifer also helped partner with Head Start to provide students with dental exams from Swope dental as well as providing hearing and vision screenings to all Head Start students.
- Ms. Bridgette Willoughby was hired as a behavior interventionist this year. Ms. Bridgette provides hands-on support to the classroom teachers and students daily. Her support allows 3T to show an increase of proactive behavior supports that are significantly higher than the behavior incidents that are reactive.
- Ms. Beth Vaughn has joined the 3T school Family. Beth has been able to meet with all parents as well as screen all new students. The class begins the first day of school on 11/1.

Academic Focus

- Teachers have focused on providing phonemic awareness instruction to individual students during centers. Teachers are identifying students' level in order to begin small groups on 11/1. All classroom teachers are focused on increasing writing opportunities for their students. Everyday students have authentic opportunities to write their name and also free writing. As part of our morning routine, every student can be seen greeting their teacher and signing into class by writing their name. Each child also completes a daily journal.

Parent/Community Focus

- Three Trails was able to have our first family event since COVID. Staff and their families were able to decorate trunks for a family Trunk or Treat event. Over 100 families participated. Raytown South Highschool also participated.
- Swope Dental and MARC Community Health Workers provided a variety of Health Services to help students and families. All Head Start students were provided vision and hearing screenings. Students who did not pass will be provided additional support. All 3T families were provided the opportunity to be seen by a dentist for a cleaning, checkup and referral;

Upcoming School Events

- **November 3** Trauma Smart Training
- **November 4** Social Emotional Group Coaching
- **November 5** Picture Day
- **November 10** Celebration of Diversity: Native Language and Food