

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



January, 2019

Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Team Review and Writing Focus:** During the month of December, teachers and students focused writing instruction on expository writing. The primary focus of the writing is staying on topic and presenting information in a logical order. Incorporated into the organization is details from sources such as books, articles and Internet. In the primary grades, student writing samples show evidence of students transitioning from pictures to writing in complete sentences that are focused and connected. The intermediate grades demonstrate evidence of logical flow and connectedness with big ideas and supporting details. Observational data of teachers shows the focus on writing shows a deeper connection to reading and the ability for students to communicate effectively.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Santa Shop:** Each year, the Blue Ridge PTA opens a Santa Shop for students to buy presents for parents, siblings, teachers and friends. Every item in Santa Shop cost \$1. Students enjoy the opportunity to buy presents for friends and family.
- **Winter Parties:** The PTA hosted Winter Parties for students on Thursday, December 20. Students participated in activities like ring toss, cake walk and cookie decorating.
- **GROW Incentive:** For the 2nd quarter, students earned a pass into a movie wearing pajamas for positive behavior. Students also received a package of Pirate Booty and bottle of water. Students also had the option to purchase a VIP into a showing of Home Alone. Snacks included a hot chocolate bar and specialized popcorn.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 7-22** Major Saver Campaign
- **January 15** Winter Dance
- **January 24** Score 1

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- This month at Eastwood Hills, MAP and STAR data were reviewed. Collaboratively, as a building team, teachers reflected on summative and benchmark evaluation data to examine our current practice and consider changes needed in instruction and interventions to more systematically target student needs. Teachers identified professional learning they need to provide the best instruction to students and professional development in the areas of targeted reading and math intervention was provided. Specifically, the Title Reading teacher and Principal met with 4th & 5th Grade teachers to review the reading progression and guided teachers through identifying reading intervention needed based on skill deficits within the reading progression. Specific instructional strategies were provided to address deficits in phonics, fluency and vocabulary. Additionally, as a building team EWH teachers watched the video of Greg Tang teaching Blue Ridge 2nd graders to evaluate mathematics instructional strategies observed within the lesson to be incorporated into whole group and Interactive Math Workshop at EWH.

Parent/Community Focus

- On December 18th Eastwood Hills, in conjunction with the PTA, hosted our second Family Fun Night of the year. From 6:00-8:00 PM students and families joined with Eastwood Hills staff for a viewing of The Polar Express in the school gymnasium. Students brought blankets and pillows and wore their PJ's. The PTA sold concessions and popcorn and hot chocolate were provided. Even Santa had time to attend the event!

Upcoming School Events

- **January 7-22** Major Saver Campaign
- **January 8, 6:00 p.m.** EWH PTA Meeting
- **January 16** Wednesday Family Time Initiates
- **January 17** Community Gardens partnership/flower bed construction
- **January 18** 5th Grade Field Trip to Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art
- **January 24** BIST Leadership Conference Administration tour of EWH
- **January 25** 5th Grade Leadership Academy training @ ABMay
- **January 28** Great Kindness Challenge Week
- **January 31, 6:00 p.m.** Family Fun Night/ Chili Contest

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Fletridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- Fletridge students finished STAR testing in Reading, Math, and Early Literacy during the winter testing window. Our teachers will begin to compare fall and winter scores to examine growth trends. We will also set goals for the spring testing window and implement instructional strategies needed to support growth in all students.

Parent/Community Focus

- Our Fletridge PTA hosted McTeacher Night on December 11th. This was a great opportunity for teachers to interact with our students and families. In addition, we are looking forward to investing that profit back into our students and staff.
- Our PTA also hosted the Holiday Store. Students were able to shop for gifts for friends and family members. Our PTA parents helped students choose and wrap gifts to take home.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 9** Intruder Drill Training

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- Laurel Hills teachers reviewed STAR Reading, Math, and Early Literacy scores after the students completed the winter testing window. The teachers compared fall and winter scores to examine growth trends. The teachers also set goals for the spring window. We discussed instructional strategies to support growth in all students.
- The teachers at Laurel Hills continue to refine their DRT practices. Linda Shippy worked with two grade level teams this month to challenge their thinking about the DRT process. She worked with these grade level teams on unwrapping their grade level expectations and identifying the exact skills students needed to master. The time with Linda Shippy was well spent and supported the teachers with their understanding of the MO Learning Expectations.

Parent/Community Focus

- The 3rd and 4th grade students performed “Snow Day” this month. The program featured speakers, singers, and instruments. We had a record turn out for an evening performance. Many families attended this performance!
- The Laurel Hills PTA hosted The Penguin Patch this month. Students were able to shop for gifts for their family members while at school.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 10, 6:30 p.m.** 5th Grade Music Performance & DARE Graduation

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Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Tracking Growth:** All students at Little Blue are tracking their academic growth. Some are charting pre and post test data, some are charting site words, and others are tracking their mastery toward a goal. ALL students are tracking their STAR scores and setting goals for the next assessment.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Holiday Adopt a Family:** Little Blue came together as a staff this December and “adopted” several Little Blue families in need of holiday help. Our counselor, Mrs. Michelle Fox, coordinated with our families in need of extra help to make sure they had food, clothing and gifts for their children. We had an increase in families requesting help this year so it was extremely powerful to see our staff work together to help give our students a nice holiday.
- **Winter Books:** Little Blue’s PTA purchased a book for each student to take home and enjoy during Winter break. Students were able to choose a “just right” book from a large collection.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 7-22** Major Saver Campaign
- **January 28** Great Kindness Challenge Week
- **January 29** 3rd Grade Field Trip
- **January 30** Spring Pictures
- **January 31** Terrific Kids Assembly

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **MAP Practice Forms Professional Development:** Third - fifth grade teachers are preparing to administer the MAP Practice Forms test. We are looking forward to seeing the score reports that will be generated and use them to adjust instruction.
- **PBS Second Quarter Incentive:** Norfleet continues to grow in our implementation of PBS and has become increasingly aware of how this system positively impacts our students. We celebrated 312 students with who kept their problems small during second quarter with a jungle themed party.
- **DRT:** Teachers have been reviewing and analyzing GLA and Winter STAR data. DRT teams have held powerful conversations and adjusted instruction based on the data.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Winter Parties:** The Norfleet PTA hosted their annual winter classroom parties on December 20th. Students, volunteers, and teachers enjoyed a wide variety of activities centered around a Holiday in Whoville theme.
- **Caring for Kids:** Norfleet's partners provided a book and bookmark for each student on Winter Party day this year. Students were thrilled to take home a book of their choice.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 8, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **January 8-22** Major Saver Sales
- **January 11, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Family Movie Night
- **January 15** PTA Restaurant Reward Night at Freddy's
- **January 24, 5:00-9:00 p.m.** PTA Get Air! Trampoline Fundraiser Night

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- Robinson students are taking the STAR assessment this month. This data as well as our GLA data, will be one of the focuses of our data team conversations upon our return from Winter Break. Our ELA, Math and Science vertical teams also met again this month. We have discussed things such as “I wish the grade below me would know that_____”, GLA tidbits and also worked to articulate what things such as science and math journals might look like in each grade level.

Parent/Community Focus

- Our Thanksgiving Feast was held at Ivanhoe Church, a Robinson Caring for Kids partner. This feast was co-sponsored by the Robinson PTA. Families gathered to enjoy a delicious dinner that PTA provided. The dinner was served up by Robinson staff members.
- Robinson had a busy evening on Thursday, December 6th. That evening featured our K/1 Music Program and our Family Literacy Night. Each student left with a free book in addition to make and take activities. Families also had the opportunity to visit the book fair that was open that evening as **well**.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 8, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **January 8-22** Major Saver Campaign

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Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- During our final DRT of the semester, teachers spent time analyzing reading and math data from STAR testing and (when applicable) MAP data. Teachers in upper grades ranked achievement levels - advanced, proficient, basic and below basic compared to scaled scores for STAR. The comparison is a great visual aid to see where students fall along the continuum and to allow teachers to begin making plans to respond to the data. We look forward to continuing our conversations into the new year to ensure continued growth for each child.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Holiday Store:** The Southwood PTA hosted The Penguin Patch store December 3-7. Students shopped for gifts to give their family members. The Penguin Patch is fun for students and a great fundraiser for PTA.
- **Winter Parties:** The Southwood PTA hosted winter parties on December 19th. Students, volunteers, and teachers enjoyed a variety of winter-themed activities.
- **PBS Incentive:** Southwood students participated in the 2nd Quarter school wide PBS incentive, a Movie Day celebration. Students saved the Beep Beep Bucks they earned throughout the quarter for being respectful, responsible, and safe and used them to purchase yummy treats to enjoy during the movie.
- **Community Outreach:** School counselor, Eileen Fratzke, connected more than 25 Southwood families to different resources in the community to help with Christmas. Southwood staff members also purchased clothes and gifts for these families in need. In total, more than 40 students received gifts this Christmas due to the efforts of Mrs. Fratzke and the Southwood staff.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 7-22** Major Saver Campaign
- **January 9** Intruder Training
- **January 14, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **January 25** 2nd Grade Zoomobile

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Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- Teachers are beginning the process of analyzing and determining general trends in the MAP and STAR assessment data. Brief conversations began during the month of December as teachers look to take a deeper dive into the areas of growth students have made and the areas of support that are still needed. Continued reflection and planning will take place upon the return from winter break as staff outlined next steps utilizing the wheel of change that consist of what we must accept, preserve, eliminate, and create.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Chick Fil' A Family Night:** On Tuesday, December 4, 2018, Spring Valley students and families spent time at the Lees Summit Chick Fil'A for our winter family night. Not only was there great food involved, but the Spring Valley community had the opportunity to interact and enjoy each other outside of the traditional school setting.
- **Winter Classroom Parties:** On Friday, December 14, 2018, Spring Valley staff in collaboration with the Spring Valley PTA hosted winter classroom celebrations that consisted of a craft and treats for students to enjoy. This event was great successes as it allowed students to display their own individual artistic style, while also enjoying a variety of treats provided by our PTA.
- **"Now Showing" PBS Incentive:** On Wednesday, December 19, 2018, Spring Valley students participated in the school wide PBS incentive of the movie Muppets Christmas and Santa Clause 3, as the gymnasium and cafeteria was transformed into theatres while staff and students relaxed in their pajamas. The support provided by the PBS committee and staff was phenomenal. This incentive has been an all-time favorite each year as students work hard to earn points by being respectful, responsible, and safe!
- **Something Warm:** On Thursday, December 18, 2018, all Spring Valley students received their annual holiday gift that consisted of them choosing a scarf, gloves, hat, or headband provided by the Caring for Kids community partners, staff, and district donations. The theme outlined for students was for them to be able to take home something warm. Many of the items provided to students were made by a host of volunteers and staff members that entailed coordination, donations, and financial support. Students were beyond excited and grateful for the items that they received that provided them an item to take home for their holiday break.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 9** Major Saver Fundraiser Kick Off
- **January 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** SV PTA Meeting
- **January 18, 7:00-9:00 a.m.** SV Family Movie Night

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **MAP Trends-** Westridge staff met to review MAP data trends as an additional data point to discuss the effect of instructional practices. During the review, teachers determined what must be accepted, protected, eliminated, and created. In conjunction, teams reviewed the DESE provided Performance Level Descriptors to ensure instruction matched the true rigor of the each standard.
- **Vertical Teams-** Westridge ELA, Math, and Behavior vertical teams met to identify goals for the second semester. These goals align to the district curricular goals. Teams then set specific benchmarks to monitor our progress of implementation.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Winter Store-** During the last week of school, Westridge held their annual Winter Store. Throughout the week, students could bring money from home to shop in the store to purchase gifts for themselves, friends, and family. On Thursday and Friday, a portion of the store was open for students to use Penguin Bucks. Penguin Bucks replace Eagle Dollars during this time and are earned by being respectful, responsible, and safe.
- **Winter Carnival-** Students celebrated the winter break with a winter carnival on Thursday, December 20th. During specials time, students were able to play games surround the theme of Arctic Explorer. Students had a fake snowball fight, had to navigate a winter blizzard, and even picked a polar bear's nose! Special thanks to PTA and Caring for Kids members for their support with the event.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 8-22** Major Saver Fundraiser
- **January 10, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Movie Night
- **January 25** Spring Picture Day
- **January 29, 6:00 p.m.** Math Night

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- **DRT**
Staff determined the next goal to be writing. Students will write their name using all the letters in order without a prompt.
- **Professional Development**
All staff participated in Conscious Discipline professional development. Staff chose from three different webinars. The topics were: Steps to Self-Care, Conscious Discipline for Children with Special Needs, Vital steps to successful routines and Guiding the Most Challenging Children.
- **Parent Educator Observations**-Last month we informed you that Parent Educators had begun observations of one another with the goal to improve on the services we deliver to families. Parent Educators meet before the visit to specify what they would like to watch for and then debrief after the visit to discuss feedback. The level of professional conversations has been high. Our Parent Educators take their craft seriously and are consistently looking for ways to improve.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Giving Beyond the Classroom-**
We had 20 families take advantage of our store. Staff donated items for families to help offset the costs of Christmas. Families can get detergent, toilet paper, fabric softener, gloves, hats, wrapping paper, underwear, socks, cleaning supplies. We will open it back up during Parent Teacher Conferences.
- **Community Outreach**
Our social worker was able to help connect over 20 families to different resources in the community to help with Christmas.
- **Celebrate the Season-** PAT paired with New Trails staff to host the annual, Celebrate the Season event. Families from both programs were invited to make different holiday themed crafts, decorate cookies and meet Santa. 75 individual families & more than 200 overall people attended the event.

Upcoming School Events

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| ● January 14-18 | STEM |
| ● January 18 | Wonder Woman visits |
| ● January 19, 5:00-6:30 pm | PAT @ Champion Gymnastics |
| ● January 24, 5:30-7:00 pm | PAT Evening playgroup |

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Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- Three Trails teachers are STAR Early Literacy test for all students. We will analyze data in January during DRT to support our students progress and make adjustments to continue student growth.
- Teachers participated in professional development about effective consequences and proactive classmeeting using Conscious Discipline. Teachers applied their new learning to their classrooms.

Parent/Community Focus

- Three Trails hosted Games with Grandparents/Special Friend. Children's guest were able to participate in circle time and play a game. We had over 100 families attend.
- Three Trails annual donation drive for our Care Closet was held. Families and community group donated items that were used to create 28 baskets of toiletries and household cleaning items for our families.

Upcoming School Events

- **January 9** Intruder Trainer
- **January 15** Head Start Parent Meeting and 3T family event night
- **January 18** Zoo Mobile