

Elementary School Monthly Update to Board of Education

April, 2018



Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **LEAD Incentive:** On March 13th and 14th, Graceway hosted our 3rd quarter behavior incentive for students in K-5. Students who displayed positive behavior enjoyed popcorn and a movie in the theater at Graceway. Ninety-two percent of our students earned the movie incentive. Additionally, students had the opportunity to purchase the VIP Experience with their earned Blue Jay Bonuses. These students had a blast in the game room at Graceway that included participating in air hockey, foosball, ping pong, basketball and gaming. They also enjoyed pizza and soda. We had 51 students attend the VIP Experience.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Hunger Games:** Blue Ridge participated in The Hunger Games food drive against the other elementary schools in the district. We are still awaiting the results to see Blue Ridge was able to pull ahead of Spring Valley on the last leg of the race. Fifth graders led the charge by establishing an incentive aligned with the movie, *Hunger Games*. Each grade level, selected 2 adult “tributes” to participate in a final event in the near future. Each day, the grade level with the most donated food items received an “advantage” for the culminating event. Date and time for the great race=TBA.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 5** Staff Easter Egg Hunt
- **April 26** Give, Get, GROW

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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, and collectively discuss instructional strategies to meet learning objectives and modify instruction for both enrichment and remediation.
- **Teacher Leadership and Professional Learning:** Wednesday Professional Development time is continually dedicated to grade level professional learning community and data review. In addition, this month every certified teacher had the opportunity to take the practice GLA assessment in vertical teams, analyzing the rigor and content of the assessment for the purpose of evaluating instructional needs and implications.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Math & Art Curriculum Night:** March 29th was the annual EWH Math & Art Night! As is tradition, one hallway of the school building displayed student art work from every Eastwood Hills Student! In the gym, four Greg Tang math stations were set up teaching varied K-5 mathematics and reasoning skills. Families were able to play math games at the school and every winner left with math games as prizes!
- **March Field Trips:** Our Fourth Grade students visited the MO State Capitol on March 5th, and the value of this trip cannot be overstated! Additionally, Fourth Grade went to the Coterie Theatre on the 13th to view the play Tuck Everlasting. To celebrate our student’s behavioral success, every student who did not need the support of at least a buddy room for the third quarter traveled to Graceway Church for a movie and popcorn party immediately before our release for Spring Break.
- **College Day:** Eighteen different universities visited Eastwood Hills March 27th to showcase the university experience to Eastwood Hills fourth and fifth grade students. This is our sixth annual College Day and was the largest thus far with visits from Kansas University, Pittsburg State, K-State, and Truman State and UMKC to name a few. The purpose of College Days is to both provide exposure to our students and wet their appetite for life as a college student.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 3, 6:00 p.m.** Kindergarten & 1st Grade Music Program and PTA Meeting
- **April 10, 7:00 PM** Elementary Orchestra Concert @ RSHS
- **April 23, 6:00 PM** Family Fun Night
- **April 26** Kindergarten Field Trip to Wonderscope

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Fleetridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Anti-Bullying Assembly:** We had an anti-bullying assembly with Linda Hanson (owner) and Robert Baum from Tamashii Black Belt Academy. The message delivered was understanding what empathy is, defining bullying, how the victim feels, how the bully feels, why would someone bully? She ended with the entire student body standing clapping and stomping in unison to demonstrate the power in numbers/how important the bystanders are in preventing bullying (she started with a few students and slowly added more and more until the entire gym was standing.) It was a powerful assembly and her message and terminology fit exactly with the focus of our counselor bullying lessons.
- **4th Grade Jefferson City Field Trip:** 4th graders went on their Jefferson City field trip and were fortunate enough to spend time with State Representative Jerome Barnes. They were able to go onto the floor and sit in the seats our representatives sit in when in session.

Parent/Community Focus

- **2nd & 3rd Grade Music Program:** "On with the Snow!" was the theme of the music and performances parents and grandparents enjoyed watching. It was a full house! PTA provided refreshments for our families to enjoy before and after the show.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 19, 6:00 p.m.** Art Fair/Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction
- **April 26, 6:30 p.m.** K/1 Music Program

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Writing Professional Development:** The Laurel Hills teachers met with Missy Marcella, Elementary ELA Curriculum Coordinator, to discuss instructional practices for increasing writing stamina in all grade levels. The teachers discussed the online resources within Wonders and how to incorporate them into their daily practices.
- **MAP GLA Readiness:** The Laurel Hills teachers are fine tuning their GLA readiness with their students in the final weeks before testing. They are teaching students how to use the DESE provided reference sheets, reviewing multi-step problems, online tools, and positive self-talk strategies with their students.

Parent/Community Focus

- **17 Intentional Acts:** The students at Laurel Hills have the opportunity to participate in the 17 Intentional Acts Challenge between now and the end of the year. Students were given a list of 24 different actions to select from. Students completing the challenge receive a Character Counts bracelet along with their name announced on the intercom for recognition.
- **Hunger Games:** The students and staff at Laurel Hills collected 957 items for REAP during The Hunger Games week! Our goal was 900 items!

Upcoming School Events

- **April 10, 6:30 p.m.** K and 1st Grade Music Performance
- **April 17, 6:30 p.m.** Grandparents Night/Art Fair/Book Fair

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Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Greg Tang:** All teachers have participated in Greg Tang Math Professional Development. Mrs. Barzee, Title 1 Math teacher and Ms. Crail, 3rd grade teacher have attended more in-depth professional development with Greg Tang, as well. These 2 teachers have provided additional, differentiated professional development at the building level to help continue to build teacher capacity with Math instruction.
- **Music Performance:** Mrs. Colene Moss directed an amazing 4th and 5th grade music performance the second week of March. We had well over 350 family member in attendance.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Boys to Gentlemen:** One of our student clubs, Boys to Gentlemen, created and presented a skit our monthly PBIS assembly. The focus was kindness and ways to be a good friend. They have been very intentional about doing random acts of kindness to adults and students as well, and encouraging their peers to do the same.
- **Book Mobile:** The bookmobile visited Little Blue at the beginning of March. Each student was able to pick one new, free book and one gently used, free book. We are very grateful for this partnership, that allows more books to get in the hand of our students!

Upcoming School Events

- **April 10** National Librarian's Day

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Math Family Night:** Norfleet hosted our annual Math Night in March. During this evening event, families were encouraged to travel to various Greg Tang math game stations. These activities were designed to promote practice of the mathematics standards.
- **Art Fair:** All students had a piece of artwork displayed in halls during Math Family Night. Parents enjoyed taking a photo of their artist next to their work.
- **Fourth Grade:** Norfleet fourth graders had the unique opportunity to visit the state capitol in Jefferson City last month. Students were inspired to further their understanding of how our government works.
- **One Year Smarter:** Third-fifth graders are discussing how their effort and attitude will impact their MAP test scores. They will be showing they are “one year smarter” when testing starts on April 17th.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Donuts with Dads:** Norfleet families participated in our annual Donuts with Dads event in March. This event promotes positive interactions between male role models and our Norfleet students. Our Watchdogs group sponsored the event and they recruited six more volunteers at that morning.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Norfleet families attended our annual spring book fair which was in conjunction with our Donuts with Dads event and Math Family Night.
- **Hunger Games Food Drive for REAP:** In collaboration with RHS’s Leadership Class, Norfleet students and staff collected canned goods to donate to REAP. We collected 934 items!

Upcoming School Events

- April 5 PTA Skate Night
- April 10 PTA Board Meeting
- April 25 Spring and Class Pictures

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Teams:** Discussions continue to deepen as teachers look further into student data. Action plans have been in place several weeks and those students in the lower percentiles have been provided extra supports from teachers based on identified gaps through both grade level and vertical teaming. MAP testing grades took advantage of a full day of planning to finalize steps to prepare students for the upcoming testing.
- **Fourth Grade Capitol Trip:** Our fourth graders enjoyed their trip and learning experience this month in Jefferson City. Students are always excited to ride the chartered bus and tour the various locations at the Capitol. We are so fortunate they are afforded this opportunity.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Read-a-thon:** Students collected donations for our first Robinson Read-a-thon. For each minute of reading that took place, sponsors donated money to help our school and students.
- **Bookmobile:** The bookmobile from the Church of the Resurrection visited Robinson for the second time this school year. All students were provided the opportunity to receive both a new book, as well as a used book to keep and take home with them.
- **Hunger Games:** Robinson students and staff collected over a thousand items for The Hunger Games this year. Our Robinson Student Leadership Club helped to lead the student collections with daily announcements and posters around the building.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 2-6** Book Fair
- **April 5** Music Program at 6:00 p.m./Family Math Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **April 16** MAP Kick-Off Assembly

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Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- **MAP/GLA Prep:** Grades 3-5 have been practicing with the Online Tools Training in preparation for taking the MAP/GLA assessment on the chromebooks. Students are becoming proficient at using all the tools at their disposal to assist them during their test-taking. In addition, we continue to push hard academically by making every minute matter. Teachers have been challenged to take-on a student or a class of students to support in some way as they prepare for the tests. We are all in this together.
- **Greg Tang Math:** During one of our Wed PD sessions, we participated in a Greg Tang math presentation. His time with us was a good reminder on how to incorporate modeling and number bonds to build students' understanding of math concepts. Other techniques he modeled were easy to take immediately back to the classroom and put them into practice. We consistently work on incorporating the 6 step framework for word problems into our lessons.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Caring for Kids:** We continue to partner with Caring for Kids volunteers. Each month the volunteers create a teacher gift basket as part of recognizing an adult "Roadrunner of the Month." They attend the assemblies and recognize the award winner. Our partners are also working on final preparation to create an outdoor space for a class to enjoy on beautiful days.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 24, 6:00 p.m.** Art Fair/Wax Museum/Ice Cream Social

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Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Grade Level Assessment:** As Spring Valley staff prepares for the MAP GLA the staff will complete the practice assessment in collaborative form, practice methods will be imbedded during small/whole group structure, focus on utilizing the technology tools and practice materials. The goal during this time is for staff to gain a better understanding of the assessment in ELA and Math, in addition to a better understanding of tools utilized to answer multi-step questions.
- **D.E.A.R. and Dr. Seuss Day:** Spring Valley staff and students conducted our annual drop everything and read day on Friday, March 2, 2018, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. This was a great focus of reflective reading. The goal was for students to remember the importance of reading information for enjoyment and discussion. This day of reading was differentiated through a variety of reading activities that took place building wide and in grade levels that included, buddy reading with different grade levels, listening to a read aloud building wide, and a host of other activities outlined by each grade levels.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Tang Math Curriculum Night:** On March 1, 2018, Spring Valley hosted an outstanding curriculum night that provided games, resources, and tools for families in Math, with a focus on Greg Tang activities and games. Over 60 families were in attendance on this evening and the learning was amazing and fun for all!
- **Stem in the Gym:** On Tuesday, March 13, 2018, staff and students participated in the annual STEM in the Gym event at Raytown High School. This event always sparks the interest of families and activities incorporate science, technology, engineering and math.
- **Music Program:** On Thursday, March 15, 2018, Spring Valley hosted our 4th and 5th grade student Music Program with a theme of "Motown" and "Loving Ourselves". The families enjoyed how students had to the opportunity to show case solo and group singing in addition to using recorders and drum instruments. This was a great event in which families filled all the chairs in the gymnasium!

Upcoming School Events

- **April 9-13** SV Bogo Book Fair
- **April 10, 6:00 p.m.** 2nd/3rd Grade Music Program
- **April 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** Roy@h3tv Motivational Assembly
- **April 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** SV Skate Night@ Landmark Skating

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Arts Integration PD:** WR staff members created and presented PD on how to integrate art into all content areas. Staff learned how to use questioning and images to make inferences and identify important details. They also learned how to assess learning and increase engagement with implementation of Tableaus. Tableau is french for picture and requires students to act out a key concept or idea. Examples included commutative property, water cycle, and weather.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Muffins with Moms** Westridge PTA recently held Muffins with Moms. We had over 300 student and family members come through the gym and enjoy breakfast. Students were able to spend quality time with important females in their life and provided an opportunity for those important people to come down, meet their teacher, and see the classroom. The event was a huge success!
- **Platinum/Gold/Silver Eagles:** Students were recognized for great behavior for third quarter with Platinum, Gold, and Silver Eagle Awards. These awards recognize students for keeping problems small and staying in class as well as student who've shown improvement or graduated off behavior plans.

Upcoming School Events

- **April 5** Family Night at the Nelson
- **April 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Kindergarten/First Grade Musical Performance
- **April 16, 10:00 a.m.** Kindness Assembly
- **April 19, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Movie Night
- **April 24, 9:30 a.m.** Caring for Kids Partnership Breakfast