

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

February, 2022

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Teacher of the Year:** Our Blue Ridge teacher of the year for 2021-2022 school year has been discovered! The competition was fierce, but Kindergarten teacher Courtney Stratton emerged victorious! Her commitment to student success, the support she gives her peers, and her contribution as chairperson of the building leadership team are just some of the reasons staff elected her to represent the Blue Jays!
- **Super Safe Students:** Student safety and success is not only important for Blue Jays when inside our building, but while traveling there as well! Blue Ridge was thrilled to announce the first Blue Jays to receive the safe rider of the month award! Congratulations to Jordan Littlejohn, Arya Braun, Messiah Franklin, Isabela Sanchez, and Nicole Davis for being selected by their drivers for being safe, respectful and responsible while riding the bus to and from school!

Academic Focus

- **Summary of Summarizing:** All Blue Jay eyes were on students' ability to summarize. Staff members met in vertical teams to reflect on our building goal to teach students the skills they need to summarize fiction and non-fiction. Teachers shared how effective the strategies being implemented are when teaching students the art of the summary. As teachers discussed, they laid out plans on how to embed summarizing in their lesson plans across all curriculum areas for the next quarter.
- **Small Group Instruction:** Teachers are getting bang for their buck during their small group targeted instruction! Students' specific needs are being met in both math and reading when classroom teachers fill in the skills they are missing. This allows students to make true progress in their learning. Blue Ridge small groups pack a BIG punch.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Blue Jays for REAP:** Our building-wide effort to collect cereal box donations for REAP was wildly successful! Students were able to make a hallway long dominio run with the boxes and see for themselves the power of giving to others. It was an excellent concrete illustration of the combined power of "US" to achieve for others!
- **Community Connections:** Kindergarten students in Mrs. Stratton's class supported local military personnel by Zooming with a local Kansas City Air Force Staff Sergeant Corey Barr. Students asked him questions about his job and then followed up with cards and letters of support and thanks!

Upcoming School Events

- **February 7** 100th Day of School
- **February 7** PTA Board Meeting
- **February 14** PTA Sponsored Friendship Parties
- **February 22** Student Celebration of 2-22-22
- **February 28** Read Across America Week Begins/Read-a-thon/Scholastic Bookfair

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- **Teacher of the Year:** Eastwood is thrilled to announce 4th Grade Teacher, Amber Nieznajko-Frankenfield (a.k.a. N-F) as the EWH 2022/23 Teacher of the Year. Amber has taught 4th grade at Eastwood Hills for the last five years, and she student taught at Little Blue Elementary prior to her hire at Eastwood Hills. Amber was nominated by her peers for her positivity in and out of the classroom, strong classroom community and high expectations for student learning, ability to differentiate to meet and challenge all learners' needs, her growth mindset for students and colleagues alike, and her leadership within the building. Amber is a Teacher Leader and member of the PTA board. In the Fall, Ms. N-F was selected as the 2021 Blue KC Sporting Samaritan as a teacher who makes the Kansas City community a better place to live, work and play. Ms. N-F was selected for her dedication to the Eastwood Hills community and the students and families it serves. Mrs. N-F is also a chair of our courtyard beautification committee, responsible for implementing a vegetable garden and monarch butterfly waystation. And most importantly, her students LOVE HER and SHE LOVES HER STUDENTS!
- **Perfect Second Quarter attendance:** Seventeen students received a free cupcake from the I Am Cupcakin' Bakery for their perfect 2nd Quarter attendance. Every quarter, students with perfect attendance for that quarter receive this small reward to celebrate their attendance and commitment to being at school all day, every day. Absences related to COVID-19 quarantines do not count against perfect attendance
- **Second Quarter PBS Assembly:** 44 students were recognized at our Second Quarter PBS Assembly for their academic growth and positive community behaviors. We love celebrating our EW students!!

Academic Focus

- **Reading Success:** Eastwood is continuing to track student reading skill progress through a building lens, this year focused on ensuring that all students are able to decode words on grade level. To date, 49% of Eastwood students have met the end of year basic reading goal!!
- **Math Masters:** Our first round of the 3rd-5th grade Multiplication Math Masters tournament has commenced, with Ms. Williams' 3rd grade class taking the lead on proficiency with 0-2 math multiplication facts. We are focusing on our multiplication fluency in the upper grades in this fun, dynamic way, because we know that multiplication fluency is the foundation for continued learning and success in mathematics.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Great Kindness Challenge Week** The last week of January the EW community participated in the Great Kindness Challenge. Students and staff checked off acts of kindness and showered one another with extra compliments and hugs!

Upcoming School Events

- **February 7-11** City Union Mission Campaign
- **February 15** EWH Papa John's Day

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Fleetridge Elementary



Celebrations

- **Teacher of the Year-**Ms. Michaela Whitmore is Fleetridge's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Whitmore is valued by both teachers and students alike. She is described as a loving kindergarten teacher who has high expectations and consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to helping her students meet her expectations. Her colleagues describe her as happy and eager to share resources to support teachers. When Michaela checks in with her colleagues she always inquires, "How can I help you?" Congratulations Ms. Whitmore! **Safe Riders of the Month-**Fleetridge's safe riders for 2nd quarter are Layla, Skylar, Emma, Julius, and Madison. Congratulations for showing outstanding bus behavior. **Principal's Breakfast/Perfect Attendance:** Congratulations to our students who were recognized for exhibiting positive character and/or present every hour, minute of every day in January. January's character trait was **Respect**. Congratulations to our Fleetridge Stars!

Academic Focus

- **DRT with CRT:** FR specialist team facilitated data review team conversations with grade levels. Discussions focused on collaboration of student progress, student goals, next steps and the proactive sharing of additional students experiencing academic concerns within the classroom
- **Spotlight on Dr. MLK Jr.:** The month of January FR staff spotlighted Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Students recognized the contributions of Dr. King in a variety of ways to include read alouds, student led reader's theater and student created presentations of learning connected to young activists such as Audrey F. Hendricks.

Parent/Community Focus

- **FR Yearbook Club-** Yearbook club students designed covers for the school yearbook which will be voted upon by FR student population. Looking forward to seeing which will be selected as the yearbook cover. **Student Council:** STUCO led a schoolwide donut fundraiser to purchase additional recess equipment for grade levels.
- **Community Connection:** FR students created Valentine cards to be shared with the Hidden Lake community, a local nursing facility that is home to approximately 130 residents. We hope our cards will brighten their day.
- **Black History Month-** Our building is planning to recognize the contributions of African Americans both past and present during the month of February. The plan is to spotlight men and women of color during morning announcements which will be led by student leaders. We are looking forward to learning about those whose contributions have impacted our community today.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 14** Friendship Parties
- **February 25** PTA Monthly Dinner Fundraiser at Panda Express

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- **Teacher of the Year:** Laurel Hills is excited to announce 4th grade teacher, Rachel Soliday, as our teacher of the year! Mrs. Soliday has radiated the halls of Laurel Hills with positive energy for the last 7 years. When described by her peers, it was said that Mrs. Soliday is always willing to help out, and cares for her students and colleagues. Mrs. Soliday is a lifelong learner who enjoys learning new tools and techniques. Congratulations, Mrs. Soliday! We are so lucky to have you!
- **Quarter 2 Academic Awards:** Learning Leopards were recognized for their hard work for 2nd quarter! Two students were selected from each classroom in both reading and math. One selection was also made for each grade level by our reading specialist and 2 math specialists. Leopards were awarded a certificate in a short, socially distanced, grade level assembly. Way to go, leopards!

Academic Focus

- **Data Wall:** Laurel Hills teacher recently had data wall meetings during grade level plan times to check in on student growth. We are seeing tremendous growth from all grade levels, and fifth grade has already met their end of the year goal for phonics surveys.
- **Spotlight on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr:** As we celebrated the MLK holiday in January, each grade level took time to specifically teach about the life and lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students learned about Dr. King through a variety of activities including read alouds, research, and writing projects.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Read-A-Thon:** Throughout the month of February, Laurel Hills PTA is running a read-a-thon! The classes that raise the most money will get a pizza party!
- **Caring for Kids Partners:** River Church recently stocked our teachers lounge with lots of coffee and cocoa to keep our staff moving throughout the cold winter months. We're grateful for their thoughtfulness and support as we finish winter.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 7** 100th day of school celebration
- **February 14** Friendship Parties
- **February 22** LH PTA Board Meeting

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Little Blue Elementary

Celebrations

- **Teacher of the Year:** Mrs. Kaysie Saddler is Little Blue's teacher of the year. She is a Special Education teacher and a vital member of the Little Blue family.
- **PBIS Parties:** Little Blue celebrated students who have been safe, respectful and responsible during the 2nd quarter at our PBIS party. Students were able to play games with friends and enjoy a snack.

Academic Focus

- **DRT & Collaboration:** Grade level teams are really focusing on collaboration and planning weekly. We continue to monitor our post-test data and analyze our benchmark data, as well, to help guide our planning and effectiveness.

Parent Community Focus

- **Great Kindness Challenge:** Little Blue staff and students participated in the Great Kindness Challenge the last week of January. We had spirit days each day to highlight kindness and had different challenges to show Kindness. Each classroom was challenged to fill in a chart with 100 hearts to represent acts of kindness. Mrs. Fox, our counselor, decorated the sidewalks in front of the building the weekend before the Challenge to



Upcoming School Events

- **February 7** 100th day of school celebration
- **February 14** Friendship Parties

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Norfleet Elementary



Celebrations

- **Teacher of the Year:** We are thrilled to announce that fifth grade teacher, Emileigh Hernan, was selected as our Norfleet Teacher of the Year! Ms. Hernan has taught for three years at Norfleet, in SWAS and fifth grade. She is dedicated to doing what is best for students and she is willing to be a positive support for students both in and out of her classroom. Ms. Hernan also plans ways to boost staff and student morale with fun events, friendly competitions, and spirit weeks. We are fortunate to have Emileigh Hernan on the Norfleet team!
- **All-State Children's Choir:** 5th grader Amory Jones represented Raytown as a member of the All-State Children's Choir. The choir rehearsed and then performed at the State Music Teachers' conference last month.
- **Safe Riders for Quarter 2:** Norfleet's safe rider awards for second quarter went to: Jordan DePriest, Joshua Markley, Taylor Boone, Ja'Niayah Greene, Kensley Holmes, and Alivia Brown.



Academic Focus

- **Professional Development:** Norfleet teachers participated in professional learning with Dr. Sondra Cave to better understand our personal strengths, how we communicate, and how we work with one another.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Chiefs Fever:** Norfleet celebrated Red Friday every Friday by donning our Chiefs gear. Students and staff enjoyed several spirit weeks to cheer on the Chiefs during the playoffs. Kindergarten also made Chiefs crowns and treated us to a spirit parade.
- **PTA Family Night-** PTA Family Night was postponed due to rising Covid cases. We are looking for a new date later in the spring.



Upcoming School Events

- **February 7** School Counselor Appreciation Day
- **February 14** Valentine Exchange
- **February 22** Virtual PTA Unit Meeting 6:00pm
- **February 22** Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- **February 22** Twosday Spirit Day

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations

- **Teacher of the Year**-Mrs. Cook-Congratulations to Mrs. Allie Cook, Robinson's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Cook serves as Robinson's counselor and is trusted and valued by staff and students. She is described as a team player and someone that everyone looks up to. Congratulations, Mrs. Cook!
- **Robinson Rockstars**-Teachers nominate two "Robinson Rockstars" from their classrooms each week who are exhibiting academic excellence. These students are recognized on our morning announcements, handed a certificate outlining their accomplishments and get to put a coveted puzzle piece up on our Robinson team board.
- **Safe Riders of the Month**-Robinson's safe riders for January were Ra'Shae Parham, Cristiano Williams, Jaselle Gomez, Aiyanna Irving, Jasmine Epps, Alicia Gulley, Robert Hendrix, Athena Johnson and Mackenzie Stuart.

Academic Focus

- **Trauma Smart**-Robinson teachers and staff are continuing through the Trauma Smart training and modules during some early release Wednesdays. We have recently completed the modules on attunement and routines and rituals. The immediate impact of this training on our ability to effectively meet the social-emotional needs of our students is most evident.
- **DRT and School Data Wall**-during our weekly data review team meeting, teachers took the opportunity to update the reading and math data wall. From there, conversations were had around student strengths and deficits as we shifted students around for differentiated small group instruction.

Parent/Community Focus

- **BikeWalkKC**-BikeWalkKC instructors in cooperation with Coach Lantsberger, Robinson PE teacher, have been leading our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students through a bicycle safety course. The course includes classroom bike safety instruction and bike riding in a controlled environment. The students have loved the opportunity to not only navigate the bikes, but become more safety aware.
- **PTA Unit Meeting Updates**-At our Robinson January PTA Unit Meeting, discussions were held around our upcoming Friendship parties and a spirit day and food drive on 2/22/22. Our PTA worked with us to secure crafts for our students from Kaleidoscope and will also ensure our students have a yummy snack. We are optimistic that the spirit day will elicit some fun and also provide some support to our greater Raytown community.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 14** Friendship Parties
- **February 22** 2/22/22 spirit day and food drive
- **February 23** PTA Board Meeting

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations

- **Teacher Of the Year:** Southwood is proud to announce our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Samantha Reames. Mrs. Reames is one of our 1st grade teachers. She is described as an always positive, soft-spoken team player and a wonderful data team leader. Way to go Mrs. Reames! **Yearbook Club:** Our yearbook has begun their club meetings in person. We have several students who are meeting and preparing the 21-22 Southwood Yearbook. The students are excited and are writing, arranging pictures to prepare for our student-led yearbook. **Welcome Back Parade:** It was a big surprise for Dr. Sutherland, Principal of Southwood. She had recently been selected as the Kansas City Suburban Region Exemplary New Principal before she left to go on medical leave. She returned January 31, 2022. The whole school surprised her with a school wide parade. The students cheered as she walked through the halls. Southwood's Orchestra students played celebration with their instruments. The walls filled with signs and signatures with the words, Welcome Back and Congratulations. It was definitely a heartfelt moment.

Academic Focus

- **Data And Grade Level teams:** Data Team Leaders worked together to come up with similarities needed to end the year successfully. This was led by our title teachers to collaborate and decide on academic goals for the remainder of the year. The data team leaders took back the process to focus on how to make the most gains with the grade levels for students to have what they need for the 21-22 school year. Leaders will continue to discuss with their grade level members and come up with final goals for their grade level which will be shared with all grade levels.
- **Second Quarter Assembly-** Our PBIS and Awards assembly took place on January 14, 2022. Grade levels participated virtually to give out awards in areas of math, reading and a character award. The character traits for the month of January were empathy and teamwork. Each classroom teacher selected two students who received the recognition in which they were given a "Southwood has character t-shirt". The PBIS assembly had approximately 90% of our students attend. The assembly consisted of a treat, drink and a movie.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Black History Month-** Our Art Teacher, Mrs. Amos hosted a T-shirt contest for our Black History T-shirt. The theme this year is "The Power of YOU in 22". Eighteen students entered the contest with a chance to win their drawing which will be featured on the school Black History Shirt. A 5th grade student by the name of Trinity is our winner. She will have the pleasure of having the whole school wear her drawing on a T-shirt the day of the Black History Program.
- **PTA Movie Night-** PTA had its monthly fundraiser at Freddy's on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 7** 100th Day of School Celebration
- **February 14** Friendship Parties
- **February 24** Black History Program
- **February 25** PTA Monthly DinnerFundraiser at Panda Express

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Spring Valley Elementary



Celebrations

- January Staff of the Week: Art teacher, Mrs. Kirk; 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Jackson; Nurse, Ms. Taylor; SPED Resource teacher, Ms. Bridge. All were recognized during morning announcements and given their own front row parking space for a week.
- Spring Valley Teacher of the Year: Congratulations to Mrs. Lisa Kirk who was nominated by her peers as our Teacher of the Year. Lisa is in her eighth year of teaching at Spring Valley Elementary School. Lisa has taught art during her tenure at Spring Valley. Mrs. Kirk is creative, collaborative, intuitive, relational and positive with staff and students. She shows the characteristics of a leader by offering ideas, listening to opinions, and overall making all staff feel included in every situation. She is a major part of our success in PBIS parties- her wonderful imagination brings to life ideas and themes that our students entangle themselves in. The activities she chooses for the students are always chosen with student interest in mind. Lisa goes above and beyond for our school, her colleagues, and our students every single day.
- January Perfect Attendance: Each month, one lucky Cougar is drawn to be the recipient of a Razor Scooter. All students who have perfect attendance with zero tardies and no early checkouts are eligible. Our January winner is 1st grader, Aden Sanders!

Academic Focus

- DRT/Small Group Instruction: All grade levels are continuing their focus on differentiating small group instruction in Reading and Math. We are seeing student gains each month and look forward to seeing continued growth in the coming month now that individual assessments have been completed.
- Trauma Smart: Spring Valley staff are continuing our TS focus on calming corners in each classroom and how to differentiate based on individual student needs. Teachers are collaborating with our TIC team to ensure that all students at SV are able to self regulate in a meaningful way no matter where they are in the building.

Parent/Community Focus

- Trash bag Fundraiser: SV students are currently participating in our annual trash bag fundraiser. PTA supports this fundraiser where funds are returned to assist our staff and students throughout the school year.
- SV McDonald's Night: On January 20th, we raised \$445.77 during our Spring Valley Night. These events are very successful with our families.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 11** Friendship Parties
- **February 16, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM** Jason's Deli Night
- **February 24, 5:30 PM via ZOOM** Smart Connections Parent Meeting

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- **Second Quarter Assembly-** We celebrated students who worked hard to stay in their front seat and in class with our second quarter assembly. Platinum, Gold, and Silver Eagles were recognized for their efforts to keep problems small and stay in class. Linked is a [picture of Mrs. Rickett's class](#) (K) celebrating.
- **Yearbook Design Contest-** Students had a chance to design the front and back covers of their yearbook. Linked here are pictures of our winners, [Caidance Finn](#) and [Daniela Godinez](#)!

Academic Focus

- **Differentiation PD-** Teachers recently met with district support, Becky Schubkegel, to discuss strategies for differentiation in the classroom and small groups. Teachers then had an extended plan time to implement practices and strategies in upcoming lessons. We will revisit this PD on Feb 23rd to continue discussion and assist with ongoing planning during another extended plan time.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Black History Month-** Our building Events committee is planning activities to celebrate Black History Month in February. The plan is to spotlight influential men and women of color beyond the typical names that exhibit characteristics of courage, bravery, integrity, honesty, and perseverance. The goal is for students to see they too have these same characteristics and can influence change to their community.
- **PTA Movie Night-** PTA Movie Night was postponed due to rising cases of Covid. We are looking at the calendar for a potential new date.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 10** Score 1 for Health follow up
- **February 11** Friendship Parties
- **February 24** 5th Grade to Symphony

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New Trails Early Learning Center



Celebrations

- Staff rallied to support Dora Cruz who was seriously injured. Dora and her family were given grocery and gas gift cards and a get well basket was given to Dora to help her during her recovery.
- January was a challenging month for a variety of reasons. No matter what the challenge, staff came to school ready to take on the challenges with a smile on their face. They have remained positive, child centered and present.
- Staff and students celebrated Dr. King with special activities including learning more about him and his legacy as well as celebrating his birthday with cake.
- **Kindergarten transition-** We have started the process of transitioning our special education students to kindergarten. Elementary teams will begin to observe and together develop IEP and plans for a successful transition to Kindergarten.
- **Instructional Rounds-** Due to shortage of subs staff decided to dedicate time each week during collaboration to watch fall teaching videos. The focus is student engagement and staff is giving feedback on their effective implementation of engagement strategies staff have worked on over the past few years.
- **DRT/Collaboration-** Teachers are working on SMART goals, updating IEP goals and reteaching school procedures and routines. Benchmark and STAR data is being used to update data walls and celebrate student growth.

Parent/Community Focus

- Parents as Teachers hosted an in person event. Families had a great time participating in math, reading, sensory, fine and gross motor activities all around the winter theme.
- Caring for Kids partners are planning on partnering to provide meals for staff during Parent/Teacher Conferences, guest readers for Read Across America.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 7** Healthy Kids
- **February 9** 100th Day of School
- **February 14** Friendship Parties

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations

- **Elaina** is a friend to all students in our class. She always makes sure everyone has somebody to play with and everyone is included. She is a great example to others in our class! **Adrain** is always demonstrating the Hawklett Motto. She is a good friend and helpful to her teachers. **Henry** has made so much progress with being able to manage his big feelings! He is doing much better at keeping his hands safe and to himself with both students and staff. He is also interacting more with the other children, and improving on his play/social skills. **Kaiah** is a good friend and is always willing to play with friends that are alone! **Mylah** consistently makes sure all of her friends are included. She makes cards, writes them "letters" for them to take home. **Kylie** has been managing her big feelings by breathing on her own and helping others when they are upset. **Maliyah** has been a great friend by showing another student how to ask for help, how to clean up toys and meals, and what to do when you are upset. **Jojo** has been following directions and being a good example for her peers **Analissia** is a friend to all! She is helpful and kind, and even though she may be small she still brings a huge amount of joy to our classroom. **Miciah** has come really far and is doing very well in our classroom. **Bailey** is an amazing example when it comes to following rules and directions the first time, and reminding her friends. **Malachi** has been helping other students in the classroom remember the routines and to pick up toys before leaving a center. At carpet time, he sits quietly on his carpet spot and raises his hand to participate.

Academic Focus

- Three Trails teachers have completed individual winter assessments. All data has been collected and teachers will meet to create instructional plans for at-risk students.
- Three Trails Staff continued their professional development with the partnership of St. Luke's Trauma Smart. Staff participated in our monthly training, focusing on teachers learning strategies to support students and adults with trauma.

Parent/Community Focus

- Healthy Kids Screenings from Cerner provided over 150 students physicals. The students were provided a variety of health data as well as follow up support and resources for students who may need additional treatments.
- Kansas City Zoom Mobile visited Three Trails and provided students the opportunity to learn about different zoo animals and their habitats. The KC Zoom brought a variety of animals for the students to see in person. Also, Dino O'dell performed at Three Trails for the students. Each class had the opportunity to watch a performance and participate in a music and movement activity.

Upcoming School Events

- February 8 Messner Puppet Theater
- February 9 Celebration of Diversity (Black history month)