

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- Blue Ridge kicked off a writing focus this year starting with personal narratives. Students kindergarten through fifth grade are taking a deep dive into the components of narrative writing. Between our first two data review teams, students improved their ability to connect their writing to the essential features of narrative writing. Kindergartener demonstrated the greatest amount of growth. Only 30% of students connected an illustration to their writing on a cold prompt. After direct instruction and feedback, 93% of the kindergarteners matched their illustration to a narrative statement. One kindergartener drew a picture of a bumble bee in a field of flowers and wrote, “I see a bumble bee getting nectar from the flower to make honey”.
- Drop Everything and Write (DEW) is a ten minute block of time at the end of the day when most Blue Ridge students and teachers are engaged in free writing. Teachers decided to build stamina and confidence in writing by providing students with an uninterrupted opportunity to write thoughts, feelings and stories. Interestingly, there are a growing number of students who treasure this time of day. Teachers report students are excited to share writing with the teacher and peers. In future months, students will have an opportunity to showcase their writing produced during DEW.

Parent/Community Focus

- On Tuesday, September 25, Blue Ridge hosted Math Night for families. Parents and students engaged in Greg Tang math card games, life size board games, and math computers games. Walking tacos were served for dinner.
- Third and fourth grade students showed off their singing and dancing skills at their annual music program. On the last song, students asked parents, teachers and the principal to participate in a folk dance. Check out @RQSBlueRidge for pictures.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 8-9** Dentist Clinic
- **October 11** Believe Incentive
- **October 17** Pumpkin Carving Community Event for Cave Springs
- **October 22** Healthy Schools Flu Shots
- **October 29** Trail of Treats

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- The teaching and learning focus for the month of September at Eastwood Hills has been on learning about our students' entering understandings and skill levels to determine whole group and small group instruction by grade level and by classroom. Grade level teams are engaged in professional learning community through collaborative planning and data review. As part of our focus on rigorous and relevant instructional strategies, we asked Becky Schubkegel to come to EWH to provide professional development on the Writer's Workshop model. Our adult learning focus this year is to strengthen writing and mathematics pedagogy and professional learning will focus on these needs.

Parent/Community Focus

- On September 14th we had Career Day at EWH. On this day, community members and parents came to Eastwood Hills to visit with individual classrooms and grade levels about their jobs. The purpose of this event is to provide exposure to our students regarding the myriad of opportunities the world has to offer them. Special guest speaker included Beth Plank and jobs showcased ranged from Barista, to Mortician to Engineer among many more!
- We launched WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) for the first time at Eastwood Hills September 27th with our WATCH D.O.G.S. Orientation Night. We were overjoyed to have 28 dads/uncles/big brothers/male role models show up and sign up to be a WATCH D.O.G.S. at Eastwood Hills!!
- Following WATCH D.O.G.S. all family members and students were invited to participate in our Family Math Curriculum Night. Approximately 65 families joined EW staff as we played leveled Greg Tang math games in the gym. Students entered themselves into great math give-aways based on their frequency of participation in the games.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 9** PTA Chipotle Night
- **October 16** DARE Begins for 5th Grade Students
- **October 22** Red Ribbon Week & United Way Begin
- **October 22** Health Schools Free Flu Shots
- **October 26** RHS Orchestra to perform for 4th & 5th Grades
- **October 30** Family Fun Night Trunk or Treat

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Fletridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** Our students completed STAR testing in September. Teams then analyzed this data and included it in the Data Review Team process. Part of our building goals include a refocus on Wednesday Professional Development time to create SMART goals, review progress, and discuss teaching strategies as part of our professional learning communities.
- Our students look forward to their Community Building time, which incorporates the character trait monthly focus and an opportunity to teach other social skills. The month of September we focused on “Responsibility”. The admin team looks forward to their daily read aloud which provides an opportunity to teach our Fletridge Stars and connect to each classroom.

Parent/Community Focus

- This past week we launched WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) with a pizza party kick-off. Fathers could learn about the program, complete background checks, and sign up for days to volunteer at school. We are looking forward to this partnership!
- Fletridge hosted Cerner Healthe Kids and Smile, It’s Healthy dental services during September. Students were given health assessments which resulted in a beneficial report for parents. Several students also received teeth cleanings and fillings.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 1-5** Scholastic Book Fair
- **October 3, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** PTA Meeting
- **October 4, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Reading Under the Stars/ELA night
- **October 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m.** Walk to School/Pastries with Parents
- **October 16, 4:00-8:00 p.m.** Chipotle Night
- **October 25, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Haunted Hallways
- **October 31** Fall Parties

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- Laurel Hills continues to focus on student engagement in the classroom. We are studying Eric Jensen's book Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind. Throughout this weekly book study, teachers are selecting a strategy to implement with their class. As the teachers become more comfortable with the strategies, they are seeing a positive impact on their classroom. This impact was immediately felt in the area of behavior and classroom management. We are anxious to see how the improved behavior will translate with student achievement.
- In addition to the student engagement focus, our teachers are also working to identify high yield instructional strategies to use in ELA, math, and science. We are discussing these instructional strategies during weekly Data Team meetings. The teachers are both discussing and modeling strategies during these weekly meetings.

Parent/Community Focus

- On Tuesday, September 25th, we hosted our annual Black and Gold Night. Families came to school and were treated to a 45 minute presentation from Mad Science. A scientist conducted several different science experiments. He had several members of the audience participate in the experiments. The students and the parents loved the opportunities to work beside the scientist to develop deeper understanding.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 15-18** Book Fair
- **October 22** School Bus Safety Week & United Way
- **October 23, 12:30-3:30 p.m.** Flu Shot Clinic
- **October 23, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Fall Family Festival

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Social/Emotional Committee:** The Social/Emotional Committee has been working hard to sustain the processes and procedures we have in place for Tier 1 supports and to continue to strengthen and implement Tier 2 and 3 supports with fidelity. The entire staff is working together to make sure that necessary supports are in place for all students and staff to feel success every day.
- **Strategic Monitoring:** We are preparing to strategically monitor students who are not meeting our academic expectations. We are using the results of these assessments to continue to drive our instructional focus and to help us better differentiate our instruction to meet all of our learners.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Terrific Kids and Staff:** We had our first round character assemblies on September 27th to recognize one student from each room who exhibits thoughtfulness every day. Parents were invited to see their children recognized. We certificates and have purchased shirts for all student recognized. We are also recognized teachers who exhibit the monthly character traits as well; 2 employees earn prime parking for displaying the month's character trait. Students with perfect attendance were also recognized.
- **GREAT:** Our 4th grade students started GREAT with Officer Lawson from the Kansas City Police Department this month. Students are learning a lot about decision making and ways to solve problems in a productive manner.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 26** Fall Parties
- **October 29 - November 2** Book Fair

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **STAR Testing:** Students completed fall benchmark testing in September. Teachers analyzed this data as a part of Data Review Team. Grade levels truly appreciate having Wednesday Professional Development time to create SMART goals, review progress, and discuss teaching strategies as part of the data review process.
- **Teacher Leader Training:** This month our new teacher leaders were able to attend the first in a series of trainings that were led by Dr. Huff and the Instructional Coordinators. The Teacher Leader program is a key component in our teachers feeling empowered and encouraged to lead others.
- **Field Trips:** P.E. Teacher Darryl Duncan accompanied 4th grade on a field trip to the Kansas City Chiefs Sports Lab. 2nd grade also took a field trip to the Nelson Museum of Art.

Parent/Community Focus

- **WATCH D.O.G.S. Kickoff:** Norfleet will again be partnering with the WATCH D.O.G.S. program to provide positive male role models for our students, as well as to provide an extra set of eyes and ears to promote school security. The annual pizza party kick-off was held so fathers could learn about the program, complete background checks, and sign up for days to volunteer at school. The evening ended with fathers and students enjoying dessert and games together in the cafeteria.
- Dozens of students sat in the dentist's chair in the Norfleet gym on September 20th! It was an amazing day to see students receive the dental care they needed, all provided through the Smile, It's Healthy! program.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 1-4, 9:00 a.m.-Noon** PTA Book Fair in Library
- **October 4, 6:00 p.m.** Family Literacy Night, Grandparents' Night, & Book Fair
- **October 5** Picture Day and Bookmobile
- **October 9, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **October 16** PTA Papa John's Night
- **October 22-November** United Way Drive
- **October 23, 9:00-11:45 a.m.** Flu Shot Clinic for Students
- **October 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** PTA Skate Night (B & D)

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- Robinson's building teams have been busy collaborating and planning for upcoming activities with staff while always remaining aligned to the district's five C and I goals. The Cultural Competency team is excited both about the books that were chosen to study but also taking it a step further this year with the application piece. It is our hope that this transcends into even more success for our students. Data Teams have been meeting and are focused on making intentional decisions that can have the greatest impact.
- Additionally, we have a character trait monthly focus. The month of September we have been focusing during community building and other times on "Respect" and in October we are moving to "Responsibility". The team has taken great initiative to create lessons and activities and provide books and resources to truly aid staff in implementation. This has been a great way to provide a building focus as well.

Parent/Community Focus

- Families and staff and enjoyed a game night in September. Here families and staff played popular board games and enjoyed "concession stand snacks" courtesy of the PTA. Families are looking forward to our building wide upcoming Trunk or Treat that will be held on October 30th.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 4-5** Dental Clinic
- **October 30, 6:00 p.m.** Trunk or Treat

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- **STAR:** During September students completed STAR math and reading assessments or the STAR Early Literacy assessment. We use this data as a piece of our overall information as we plan for individual students, small groups and whole group focus. STAR data, along with other assessment data, anecdotal records, and daily work provides us with enough information to make good decisions in planning for individual student deficits.
- **Vertical Teams:** After receiving training from Greg Tang and being challenged to get really good at something, vertical teams met to discuss the base ten math progression. Teams worked together to make noticings, misconceptions, and share student and teacher strengths. Teams are looking forward to delving deeper into this progression and finding ways to strengthen what we do as a team to affect every student in every grade.

Parent/Community Focus

- Southwood hosted Cerner Healthe Kids and Smile, It's Healthy dental services during September. The Healthe Kids program quickly and efficiently served our school population and provided families with valuable information about their assessments. The following week, Smile Dentistry served 54 students and completed a variety of treatments including 11 fillings. We greatly appreciated working with each of these programs to help our students live a healthy lifestyle.
- Southwood finished our first fundraiser for the year by selling lots and lots of World's Finest Chocolates. Families did a great job of participating so we are anticipating good results.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 8, 4:00-8:00 p.m.** Chipotle Night
- **October 10** PBS Assemblies
- **October 22-26** Book Fair
- **October 22-November 2** United Way
- **October 25** Spooky Spectacular PTA event

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** Teachers continued to focus on the data team process. Grades set SMART goals to for priority standards and begun specific instructional planning to meet the various needs and skills based on formative assessments.
- **Social Emotional Learning:** Kindergarten and First grade SEL Small groups will be held with 30 students in which Whole Body Listening, Emotions, Self Regulation & Social Awareness will be taught. The goal of these groups is to increase positive student behaviors to decrease time spent out of class.
- **Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire:** Spring Valley is one of several schools Piloting the Strengths and difficulties Questionnaire (*SDQ*) this year. The *SDQ* is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire for 3-17 year olds. The *SDQ* ask about 25 attributes, some positive and others negative. These 25 items are divided between 5 scales: emotional symptoms (5 items), conduct problems (5 items), hyperactivity/inattention (5 items), peer relationship problems (5 items), prosocial behaviour (5 items). Recently teachers completed a survey. Every student in the building was assessed using the *SDQ*.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Back to School Night Picnic:** Spring Valley hosted a back to school night on Thursday, September 6th. Families came out to enjoy a cookout and paint rocks out on the playground. More than 100 people showed up to participate in the festivities.
- **Movie Night:** On Friday, September 14, Spring Valley families gathered for a movie night at school. The purpose of this PTA event was to build a stronger community feeling with our families and provide a fun Friday night activity. Families snuggled up with blankets, pillows, and popcorn as we watched Ratatouille in the gym.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 5** Score 1 for Health
- **October 11** Curriculum Night
- **October 25** Fall Fun Festival

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** Teachers continued to focus on the data team process. Grades set SMART goals to for priority standards and begun specific instructional planning to meet the various needs and skills based on formative assessments.
- **Vertical Teams:** ELA, Math, and Behavior teams continue to meet to vertically align strategies, models and expectations.
 - The ELA Team has developed and refine a writing rubric to be used K-5, identified effective Write Tools strategies, and are producing writing artifacts to evaluate.
 - The Math Team is focused on integrating Greg Tang strategies and planning using concrete, to representational, to abstract.
 - The Behavior Team has aligned our monthly traits to our team building curriculum of Peace First.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Literacy and Bingo for Books Curriculum Night:** Westridge will host Literacy Night on October 2nd. Teams of grades partnered together to develop games and activities to be done at home to reinforce literacy practices.
- **Book Fair:** Westridge recently had their book fair. On Tuesday, September 25th, we held Book Fair Night with a fairy tale theme. Students dressed up in fairy tale costumes and had an opportunity to meet and take pictures with two princesses, a unicorn, a wizard, a fairy godmother, and fairy. We raised \$200 more this year than last.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 15-18** Westridge Door Decorating Contest
- **October 22-23** Dental Clinic
- **October 24** Flu Clinic
- **October 25, 3:30 p.m.** Terrific Kid
- **October 30, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Family Game Night

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- Walkthroughs- Mrs. Bielawski and I walked through 7 classrooms looking for implementation of instructional strategies and positive reinforcement. In all the rooms students were engaged in whole group learning opportunities. The teachers used movement, music, smartboard, whole group, gestures to teach the skill. The children were engaged the lessons and eager to participate.
- The building has been working in collaboration groups on our SMART goal for data review teams. They are working in small groups on the concept of same and different in all content areas.

Parent/Community Focus

- Grandparent or Special Friend night was a success. We only had 51 children () attend but 210 guests visited NT. There was a scavenger hunt to see the building, children that completed the hunt were given a book for participating.

Upcoming School Events

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ● October 29, 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Trail of Treats |
| ● October 30, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. | Poverty Simulation |
| ● October 30, 1:00-4:00 p.m. | Instructional Rounds |
| ● November 2 | Fall Party and Pumpkin Patch |

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2018

Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- During DRT Three Trails has been using STAR scores to create small groups focused on phonological awareness. The goal by end of October is to have at least 80% of students master the skill of matching rhyming.
- 3T and NT teachers have been working together to finalize the Early Childhood progress report. Staff has also created a guide that identifies what end of the year mastery looks like for each standard on the progress report.

Parent/Community Focus

- Families attended Curriculum Night in September. Teachers were able to share schedules, assessments and learning objectives for 3T students.
- 3T continues to support families with the Care Closet. The closet supports families by providing full size hygiene and home cleaning supplies. Several families have already reached out and have been supported with the closet. 3T takes donations throughout the school year and will begin a donation drive in November.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 22-23** Lead and Hemoglobin testing and Swope Dental exams
- **October 30** Haunted Hallway.