

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

October, 2021

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations

- **Universal Math Screener-** Students grades K-5 took the Universal Math Screener. The percentage of students who scored proficient on our Fall screener was 49%. We will use this data to support our Title small groups, classroom differentiated groups, and lesson planning.
- **Blue Jay Bonus Drawing-** Through our PBIS model, students at Blue Ridge are rewarded for expected behavior and academic achievement and growth. Students may choose to turn in their Blue Jay Bonus Bucks for a random prize drawing every Friday. We celebrate over the intercom 12-15 students among all grade levels to be recognized for demonstrating expected behaviors as Blue Jays.

Academic Focus

- **Greater Kansas City Writing Project-** Blue Ridge staff had the pleasure of receiving professional development by the Greater Kansas City Writing Project. Our main academic focus at Blue Ridge is in the area of Reading. To be more specific, summarizing. The Greater Kansas City Writing Project provided teachers with an in depth look at the vertical standards referencing summarizing as well as instructional strategies to scaffold this skill Kindergarten-5th Grade.
- **District Professional Development Day-** Following our PD from the GKCWP teachers were able to take their knowledge regarding standards and instructional strategies for summarizing and begin to embed those into whole group and small group lesson plans. We took this a step further and planned instructionally for students of all academic abilities.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Meet the Teacher Night-** Staff were excited to welcome our families back into the building to meet new teachers. We had a wonderful turnout and provided families with information needed to begin the school year off positive. Families were also provided with a sweet treat from Frosty Treats where 360 parents, students, siblings, and staff participated in our Ice Cream Social!
- **Back to School Night-** Blue Ridge hosted a Title 1/Back to School Night virtually on September 9th. Families were provided with a zoom link and three different opportunities to ZOOM in and hear about Title 1, curriculum, schedules, expectations, and more. We had a wonderful turn out and it is always a pleasure to see and connect with our families and students.

Upcoming School Events

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| ● October 7 | Fall Pictures |
| ● October 18 | Bus Appreciation Week/ Rear Door Bus Protocol Practice |
| ● October 21 | Q1 Believe Incentive- Fall Fun Event |

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- **Chiefs Kingdom United Read Aloud Program-** The Kansas City Chiefs, along with its players and community partners, have developed "Kingdom United," a youth-focused education program to help fight systemic racism in Kansas City, and beyond, by strategically teaching the next generation about race, diversity, inclusion and acceptance. Partnering with Scholastic, and schools across the KC area including Eastwood Hills, the program uses diversity-themed books, multimedia resources and discussion questions to educate students about appreciating the uniqueness of every individual. Every Eastwood student will receive four free diversity-themed books as part of participation in the program. The first month's theme focuses on Kindness and Respect. Teachers will use classroom Community Building time to read selected books and facilitate classroom discussions about diversity, inclusion, acceptance and respect.

Academic Focus

- **Teacher Practice & Modeling-**This academic year, in addition to a continued focus on Data Review Teams through Professional Learning Communities, teachers will begin a cycle of monthly vertical teams and quarterly peer observations. Teachers will use rubrics focused on elements of effective lessons to provide feedback to one another, and outcomes of these sessions include teacher practice and modeling of effective instruction as a component of Faculty meetings.
- **Mathematics Progression-**Teacher PD and work time on September 23rd was used to initiate development of mathematics progression charts which outline instructional standards taught within units of the new math curriculum, timelines for reporting progress on prioritized standards, and expectations of learning mastery. This work will be continued as part of vertical teams and will help teachers focus and strengthen their instructional practice and planning.
- **Reading Intervention-**Due to the number of reading support staff, every student working to basic reading skill mastery is engaged in daily small group reading instruction to specifically address reading needs. By the end of the school year, our goal at EWH is to have at least 80% of students able to read words to grade level standard!

Parent/Community Focus

- **Fun Run-**Our PTA Fun Run was held on Friday, September the 24th. We are pleased to announce that Eastwood students and families raised nearly \$3,000 for this event, with all proceeds going back into the EWH PTA!

Upcoming School Events

- **October 6** Walk to School Day (from Graceway Church)
- **October 8** Kingdom United Monthly Book Kick-Off!
- **October 13** Home Run 4 Health Kick-Off!
- **October 17** Red Ribbon Week
- **October 18** EWH Papa John's Day
- **October 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Trunk or Treat

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Fletridge Elementary



Celebrations

- **Fletridge Superstars:** Recognized our students of the month who represented our September Character trait of “Responsibility” with a principal breakfast, read aloud and certificate. We want our students to know that we see them making great choices.

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Team Kick off:** Established our purpose for how we will work collectively and collaboratively to improve student achievement. As a team we revisited “what are DRT” and established our structure and focus for data review team cycles.
- **Professional learning Day:** Professional Learning was twofold As a building, our focus was on increasing teacher collective efficacy through:
 - Team collaboration to increase student achievement through data analysis of BOY assessments and establishing the structures for data review cycles.
 - vertical team collaboration focusing on academic conversations to identify and share strategies to support teaching and learning (ie Building teams focused on strategies to minimize time out of instruction, and collaborative conversation to support reading critical thinking and math learning at home
- As a District professional learning focused on the new Reveal Math series. Professional learning provided teachers with the opportunity to process their learning as well as make plans for implementation. We were thankful for this opportunity to learn and collaborate.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Back to School Night:** Back to School Night was held on Thursday, September 9. Great opportunity for families to learn more about their child’s classroom and school resources via Zoom. Three different sessions were held. Recorded sessions were made available for families who were unable to attend and shared via parent newsletter.
- **PTA sponsored Fall Fundraiser Kickoff:** Shared our Fall Fundraiser Kickoff with students and families to get them excited about raising funds to support our school. Our goal is to raise funds to support field trips, special activities and equipment. Looking forward to opportunities to support students

Upcoming School Events

- **October 1-11** Fall Fundraiser
- **October 6** Virtual Walk to School
- **October 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** PTA Mtg. (virtual)
- **October 21** Boo Drive Thru/ Math Night
- **October 27** Principal’s Breakfast

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- **Positive Phone Calls Home** - Teachers have been nominating outstanding Leopards to receive a positive phone call home from the office. Each child gets to visit the Principal or Assistant Principal and call home brag about their great choices. Then, students get their photo taken and added to our “#SpottedAtLaurel” bulletin board. We’ve enjoyed bragging about our students!
- **Student of the Month Celebrations** - Students of the month will celebrate their great choices with a donut breakfast on Friday, October 1. Students are nominated by their teacher and celebrated for making good choices!

Academic Focus

- **StrengthsFinder Professional Learning** - Laurel Hills faculty recently met with Dr. Sandra Cave during building professional learning time to extend our examination of both personal and team strengths. Understanding the strengths of ourselves and of our team will help us come together as one school community, which helps us support students.
- **DRT Kickoff** - Teachers have jumped into the data review team (DRT) process for 21-22 by committing to roles, norms, and meeting schedules. Most teams are completing their first cycle and starting their second. Teachers use the data review team process to target specific learning goals and track achievement.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Welcomes Students Back** - Our PTA celebrated the return of students to the buildings with beautiful decorations and many positive notes around the exterior of our school. Students were excited to enter on the first day with so many wonderful words of encouragement and affirmation. Thank you PTA!
- **Meet the Teacher/Kindergarten Orientation** - We had a very successful Meet the Teacher and Kindergarten Orientation night. Families filled the hallways to reconnect with teachers from the past and meet new teachers for this year. The Laurel Leopard was “on the prowl” and many students and family members enjoyed taking a photo with our mascot.
- **Back to School Night** - Back to School Night was held on Thursday, September 9. Families had an opportunity to join three different sessions via Zoom. The evening was used to help families get familiar with specific curricula for each grade level.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 26** PTA “Boo Thru” Drive Thru Celebration

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Little Blue Elementary



Celebrations

- **PBIS Character Assembly:** At the end of September, we celebrated one student from each class who exemplified our character trait for the month, Thoughtful. We did a pre-recorded virtual assembly so all students could see their peers be recognized from their classrooms. Each student received a “Terrific Kid” shirt and a write-up about why they were chosen as the most thoughtful student in their room.

Academic Focus

- **Fall Benchmark Assessments:** The first two weeks of September were all about student assessments. Teachers assessed each student using the Number Sense Universal Screener, STAR Early Literacy or Reading, and the new Phonics Survey. We learned a great deal about what students have mastered and what they need to work on next.
- **Trauma Smart-**Little Blue has the opportunity to participate in Trauma Smart Training this year. This prevention program was created by Crittenton Children’s Center in Kansas City, MO. Through staff training, coaching, interventions implemented at school, and training with parents we will learn how to provide trauma informed care to help children develop skills needed to manage the impact of trauma and succeed in life. The year-long training includes 10 training modules. We have completed the first 2 modules and have already learned so much. We are excited to continue to learn and grow through this PD.

Parent Community Focus

- **Meet the Teacher/Kindergarten Orientation** - We had a very successful Meet the Teacher and Kindergarten Orientation night. Families filled the hallways to reconnect with teachers from the past and meet new teachers for this year. Our virtual students were able to pick up their devices and meet their teachers, too.
- **Back to School Night** - Back to School Night was held on Thursday, September 9. Families had an opportunity to join three different sessions via Zoom. The evening was used to help families get familiar with specific curricula for each grade level.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 6** Supply Pick up for virtual students

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Norfleet Elementary

Celebrations

- 40% of Norfleet students scored proficient on the Math Universal Screener.
- Norfleet teachers and staff have prioritized social emotional learning in their classrooms this year. Students are learning to “cool off” in the calming corners in the classroom when they have an overwhelming feeling, rather than leaving the classroom as much.

Academic Focus

- **Fall Benchmark Assessments:** The first two weeks of September were all about student assessments. Teachers assessed each student using the Number Sense Universal Screener, STAR Early Literacy or Reading, and the new Phonics Survey. We learned a great deal about what students have mastered and what they need to work on next.
- **Wednesday Building Professional Learning:** Dr. Anthony Moore presented a session on bias and microaggression to the Norfleet staff. We also broke out into small groups to discuss several scenarios of microaggressions. The time together prompted lots of thinking and discussion.
- **Professional Learning Day:** Teachers participated in an hour of building professional learning focused on calming corners, Sanford Harmony resources to support social emotional learning, and using our assessment data to form reading small groups for DRI. Two hours in the afternoon focused on district professional development on the new Reveal Math series. The remainder of the time was used by teachers to process this learning, make plans to implement it in their classrooms, and plan lessons. Teachers were very thankful for this opportunity to learn and collaborate.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Back to School Night:** Back to School Night was held virtually again this year. Teachers presented in grade level teams and offered three informative sessions for parents. They discussed curriculum, procedures of the school and classroom, and Title I information. We were pleased with the parent turnout.
- **Readathon:** Students participated in a readathon for our fall PTA fundraiser in September. We are eager to see the totals of minutes read and funds earned.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 1-14** PTA Trash Bag Sales
- **October 6, 5:00-9:00 p.m.** PTA Chipotle Night (9205 E State Route 350, Raytown)
- **October 8** School Custodian Day
- **October 12** Picture Day
- **October 19** PTA Papa John's Night
- **October 21, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Reverse Car Parade Spooktacular

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations

- **Raccoon Reward Tracker**-As part of our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) framework, students have the opportunity to earn Raccoon Rewards for doing the right thing and being safe, respectful and responsible. Students can use these raccoon rewards to spend in the classroom store, our weekly Raccoon Raffle or during our special quarterly incentives. We have been tracking our totals as a building and through the last three weeks have collected 5,221 Raccoon Rewards as a school!

Academic Focus

- **Fall Benchmark Screener**-We recently completed our Fall Benchmark Window. During our data review team discussions, we analyzed this data and used it to form our differentiated groups for IMW and DRI. This data was also used as a means to develop individual and grade level team Smart Goals.
- **Trauma Smart**-Robinson has the opportunity to participate in Trauma Smart Training this year. This prevention program was created by Crittenton Children's Center in Kansas City, MO. Through staff training, coaching, interventions implemented at school, and training with parents we will learn how to provide trauma informed care to help children develop skills needed to manage the impact of trauma and succeed in life. The year-long training includes 10 training modules.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Meet the Teacher Night and Back to School Night**-Staff was pleased with the turnout at both of these events early in our school year. We had the opportunity to meet many of our students and families and talk to parents about classroom related information for the school year.
- **Boo Fest**-Students, staff and families are excited for our upcoming Boo Fest on Thursday, October 21st. Families have the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor Trick or Treat style event in their costumes. This event is always a family favorite and hosted in conjunction with our Robinson PTA.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 14, 6:00-7:00 PM** Robinson PTA Board Meeting
- **October 21, 5:45-7:00 PM** Boo Fest
- **October 25** Book Fair
- **October 26, 5:00-9:00 PM** Freddy's Night Fundraiser

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Southwood Elementary



Celebrations

- **Third Grade**-Our third grade numbers increased and we were able to have another teacher join our third grade team. Our new teacher is Ms. Karson Tatum who comes to us with a few years of experience. The school as a whole (staff and students) are excited to have her. This will definitely enhance the culture and learning environment of our third grade classrooms.

Academic Focus

- **Fall Assessments**-We completed our Fall Benchmark Window. We initially began in our Data Review Team (DRI) practicing giving the screeners with team mates and getting familiar with the questions and answers. Once all assessments were complete, we used the data to form our differentiated groups for IMW and DRI. Our title teachers computed a PD to which angle our data overall and discussed strategies to use for whole and small groups during ELA & Math.
- **Courageous Corner**- One of our Curriculum & Instructional goals include Cultural Competence. Staff this year will continue to participate in activities and book studies to be aware of biases, differences and how to have courageous conversations with each other. Our staff had a mini PD where staff were given a variety of statements in which they had to share how the statements made them feel. This was an eye opening experience for staff to have open conversations, understand the same things can often mean different things for people and how to relate to each other knowing this information. This is also an awareness for teaching our students, knowing the importance of having a variety of learning strategies and understanding others point of view in the classroom is beneficial.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Back to School Night**- Southwood hosted a Back to School Night virtually on September 9th. Families were provided with three different sessions to participate via zoom. In these sessions they were able to talk to teachers, hear about school information and ask questions. One out of the three sessions was recorded and sent to families who were unable to attend. It was a great turn, and staff and families were appreciative of the time spent together.
- **PTA Yoga Night/Unit Meeting**- Southwood PTA hosted a Yoga Night on September 29. We had over 30 in attendance. We joined in fun yoga techniques in our school gym. It was very calming and relaxing with lots of laughs and smiles. Prior to stretching we had a unit meeting where upcoming events were discussed and our budget was approved.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 11-15** Book Fair
- **October 14** Fall Pictures
- **October 22** Southwood Trunk & Treat

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Spring Valley Elementary

Celebrations

- **Friendship Students of the Month:** Each month Spring Valley staff and students implement a life skill word. In August our word was Friendship. Students were selected by peers and staff to be recognized for being a friend to others throughout the month. Students were recognized over the intercom and during a Chew & Chat with Mrs. Gabbert. Students enjoyed great conversation while enjoying a donut and photo shoot. Our September life skill word was Integrity. Students will enjoy recognition and enjoy the Principal Chew & Chat on October 8th.
- **Social Emotional Learning:** All classrooms have embraced our Trauma Smart Goals by creating a calming spot in their classrooms where students can use a variety of calming tools to get back on track and focused on learning.

Academic Focus

- **Fall Assessments:** Teachers completed all assessments to provide accurate data on all students in Reading and Math. During our Data Review Team (DRT) meetings, we used the data to create our small groups for differentiated learning in DRI and IMW. Title Specialists were able to provide additional strategies that teachers could use for small group instruction.
- **Professional Learning Day:** Staff began our morning with our Cultural Competency Team leading professional development with our book study. Staff were able to work individually to create identity maps. Then we worked collaboratively to discuss which identities give privilege and what parts of our identity are oppressed. Great conversations were had by all groups and we were able to see the lens of each other that we had not experienced previously. Through this open dialogue, we are able to transfer the knowledge gained back in our awareness when teaching and listening to our students.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Back to School Night:** This year we held a Virtual Back To School where families had the opportunity to Zoom in one of three sessions with their student's teacher. Parents were able to hear about our curriculum, classroom and school expectations, homework, PBIS, Social Emotional Learning and Title Reading and Math. Parents were also able to ask questions at the end of each session.
- **International Walk to School Day:** October 6th is Walk to School Day. Families have the opportunity to participate in walking their students to school and enjoy donuts from our PTA upon arrival. Our very own SV Cougar will greet families as well.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 6** Walk to School Day
- **October 14** SV McDonald's Night (87th Street location)
- **October 21** Fall Fun Fest Drive Thru

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- **Monthly Assemblies:** Each month we have a monthly assembly to introduce our SEL trait or skill for the month and recognize students who have shown growth in math and reading. This year these celebrations are virtual. We are focused on Brain as a Car and the techniques learned in Trauma Smart. We got away from doing this monthly celebration last year, and it has been great to return to the celebration.

Academic Focus

- **Fall Assessments:** Teachers and staff worked together to complete the initial Fall Benchmark of assessments on students. This data is going to be used as a baseline to monitor monthly growth in reading for students.
- **Professional Learning Day:** During our professional learning time, grade level teams met with Title teachers to develop small group schedules, rotations, and structured activities for IMW and DRI time. This year we are emphasizing structure, purpose, and student progress in small group instruction time.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Board:** We have worked hard at rebuilding our PTA here this year. We only have one member who was a returning member from the previous year and have added five other members. We are excited to reestablish our Board and get back in good standing with required expectations.
- **Drive Through Trunk or Treat/Math Night:** We are planning our Math Night for October 21st this year. Students can dress in costumes and drive through the trick or treat line to receive a few treats and supplies for games to be played at home. These games were specifically designed by teachers to fit standards K-5.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 21, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Math Night

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New Trails Early Learning Center



Celebrations

- Teachers participated in creating our “Why and Look For”s for Instructional Rounds. The staff participated in a variety of cooperative learning activities while working on their/our Why. The activities helped staff connect with the previous professional development on Conscious Discipline, Teacher Efficacy, and our effective team.

Academic Focus

- The four year old classes participated in Star testing. Benchmark assessments were given to students in all programs to assess where students are on our major learner objectives and develop SMART goals.
- DRT-Staff went through each benchmark and discussed how to assess and score each area of the Benchmark to establish consistent data.
- Staff established student engagement for Look Fors. Staff developed best practices using research from TLAC, Kagan, Haiti to pick high impact strategies to increase student engagement and learning.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Meet your teacher/orientation-** Families set up individual times to come in and meet with the teacher. They were able to see the room, get pictures and review classroom/building expectations. Parents were able to ask questions and meet staff. Every family attended!
- **Curriculum Night-**This year it was virtual. Families were offered a variety of options every 15 minutes. Staff presented on various topics related to early childhood. Topics included sensory, speech, motor lab, phonemic awareness, reading, and math. Parent feedback was very positive.
- **Community-**New Trails, Three Trails Kiwanis partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build 50 beds for families in need of beds.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 21, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Trail of Treats
- **October 27, during the day** Pumpkin Day

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations

- Custodians Day 10/4
- Celebration of Diversity 10/13

Academic Focus

- Students all were given STAR Early Reading assessment. Students' STAR scores were used to identify focus for phonemic awareness instruction.
- During Meet Your Teacher, all students were given a language screening to identify any deficits in the student's language.
- Teachers began partnering with Trauma Smart. 3T has completed 4 hours of required training.

Parent/Community Focus

- Parent Meeting and Parent Curriculum Meeting 9/15
- Curriculum Night 9/16

Upcoming School Events

- **October 7** Fire truck visit
- **October 1-8** Cookie Dough Fundraiser
- **October 15** Swope Dental
- **October 21** Haunted Hallways/Trunk or Treat
- **October 25-27** Fall Activity
- **October 25-28** Virtual Book Fair and Spirit Week