

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



February, 2019

Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- This month, grade levels were provided an opportunity to strategically plan instruction for second semester. Intermediate grades focused on integrating MAP practice opportunities and test-taking strategies into everyday lessons as well as outlined units to ensure coverage of the standards prior to testing. Primary grades outlined reading, writing and math units to ensure mastery of the priority standards.
- The Blue Ridge Community of Professional Learning also planned professional learning for teachers and academic celebrations for students for second semester. Teachers have a strong desire to integrate STEM activities into weekly lessons to increase opportunities for creativity. To meet this need, Tyler Britt will present a professional learning opportunity on STEM based activities in the classroom.

Parent/Community Focus

- Blue Ridge fifth graders visited Central Middle School to explore instrument possibilities for sixth grade. Students had a great time learning about the different options and exploring the sounds and rhythms of the band.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 8** Friendship Party
- **February 25-March 1** Scholastic Book Fair
- **February 26** K-1 Music Program/ ELA Night
- **February 27** Donuts with Dad

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- In the area of mathematics, Kindergarten students have been learning how to find number partners within 10. The First Grade Team celebrated 36 students passing out of STAR Early Literacy advancing the number of students with beginning reading skills capable for the STAR Reading assessment from 2 to 38 since the beginning of the school year! Second grade students learned about ponds, tide pools and river deltas and are writing about a plant or animal from one of these habitats. Third grade students met their S.M.A.R.T. goal of using the comparison bar model to solve comparison problems based off of information presented in a bar graph. Fourth grade students learned about strategies of multiplication and division and Eastwood Hills 5th graders learned from their community at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and A.B.May company. At the Nerman, students learned how geometry is embedded into art and at A.B.May students received mini-classes on appropriate communication and needed community job skills.

Parent/Community Focus

- Eastwood Hills hosted our third annual Family Fun Night January 31st. This community event was grounded in the spirit of football and the Super Bowl. Staff competed in a chili contest sampled and scored by students and families. Bragging rights go to 3rd grade teacher and Teacher Leader Claire Quinn! Families participated in a desert contest scored by Eastwood Hills staff, and bragging rights for the best strawberry cake ever go to the family of Gavin and Skyli Janes! Students, parents, and staff played games in the gym when not taste testing including game trivia, corn hole and balloon ping-pong, just to name a few. We received a lot of positive feedback from families and teachers alike about what a fun evening it was!

Upcoming School Events

- **February 4-13** Pennies for Patients Campaign
- **February 8** First Grade Field Trip to Arrowhead Sports Lab
- **February 25** Functional Skills Field Trip to Wonderscope

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Fletridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice Test:** In January, our 3rd-5th graders participated in the first round of Math GLA Practice. This was a great way for students to experience the online tools and rigor of questions they may see on the actual GLA test. Teachers are able to coach students through the difficult problems and provide appropriate support and strategies before the MAP test in April.
- **Vision Screenings:** Several Fletridge Stars qualified for new glasses. These students traveled to Advanced EyeCare where they were fitted for a new pair. Teachers and families were thankful for this opportunity.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Movie Night:** A school-wide vote was held in early January and students and families enjoyed watching Smallfoot for our PTA sponsored event. Families could also purchase walking tacos, popcorn and hot chocolate.
- **Fletridge Night at Freddy's:** Even though this event landed on a snow day, our fundraiser at Freddy's was a huge success. Many families turned out in the snowy weather to enjoy a dinner to support our school.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 6, 6:30 PM** PTA Meeting
- **February 7, 6:00-7:30 PM** Family Math Night
- **February 13** Friendship Parties

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- The Laurel Hills teachers continued to focus on improving student achievement through their DRT team meetings and discussions. The discussions during our data teams continue to improve and become more focused on student learning. Teachers are beginning to model instructional strategies for each other to really develop their teammates.
- Additionally, the teachers viewed a portion of the video of Greg Tang teaching at Blue Ridge Elementary School earlier this year. This video prompted some reflection about the rigor of the questions being asked in the classroom. The group also discussed the importance of having manipulatives readily available at all times to support children through their development of new skills.

Parent/Community Focus

- The 5th grade students at Laurel Hills held their DARE Graduation, Music Performance, and Orchestra Showcase on January 10th. This was a fun evening for the students and the families to recognize their children and watch them perform. Our evening was well attended this year.
- Unfortunately, due to the weather, we were unable to hold other parent events. These events will be rescheduled throughout the spring semester.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 13, Scheduled throughout the school day** Friendship Parties
- **February 26, 6:00-7:30 PM** Family Math Night

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Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice:** Students in grades 3-5 started GLA practice assessments. This year, teachers are incorporating the practice into lessons, and are creating teachable moments, rather than testing in isolation. This district-directed planning has proven to be much more authentic and relevant to students.
- **Clubs:** This year Little Blue has three teacher-sponsored after school activities for students; Writing Club, Culture Club, and Student Council. Ms. Burkemper and Ms. Rose are facilitating writing club for students who like to express themselves through writing. Ms. Harris hosts Culture Club every week for student of all grades who are interested in learning more about other cultures, as well as uncommon facts about their own cultures. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hanning run the Student Council for 4th and 5th students who want to give back to the school and community while cultivating their leadership skills.

Parent/Community Focus

- **New Student Luncheons:** Dr. Schmidli and Mrs. Fox meet with students new to Little Blue each month to have lunch. It is a great opportunity for students to have a few more familiar faces and learn the “Little Blue Way” of doing things. Additionally, members of the Student Council give new students a tour of Little Blue and introduce them to adults they will need to know throughout the school.
- **Great Kindness Challenge:** Students and staff participated in the Great Kindness Challenge the last week of January. Students wrote encouraging notes to students at all the other elementary schools in the district, as well as to their peers at Little Blue. Each class was challenged to complete 100 acts of kindness during the week, as well. Teachers, with the help of their students, participated in a door decorating contest to promote kindness, winning lunch to their favorite restaurants. It was a fun week!

Upcoming School Events

- **February 7, 6:00 PM** 4th and 5th Grade Music performance
- **February 8** Friendship Parties Scheduled Throughout the School Day
- **February 25- March 1** Book Fair
- **February 26, 8:00 AM** Pastries with Parents
- **February 28, 6:00-7:30 PM** Family Math Night/Art Fair

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Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice Test:** In January, third-fifth graders participated in the first round of GLA Practice. This was a great way for students to experience the online tools and rigor of questions they may see on the actual GLA test. Teachers are able to see what concepts are challenging for students so they can make adjustments to instruction.
- **Expectations Safari:** Students took a safari to the common areas of the school to review the expectations in each area on the first day of school in January. This experience was beneficial to both new and returning students.
- **STAR Data Review:** Teachers continued to analyze both STAR and GLA data, as well as to compare the results to classroom data and observations of student achievement. They used this information to plan instructional strategies during DRT time.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Movie Night:** This event was canceled in January due to inclement weather.
- **Spring Conferences:** This month, Norfleet teachers will share academic and behavior progress with our students' families. This sharing of information allows our teachers to partner with families in order to best meet the needs of all of our students.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 9, 9:00-11:00 AM** PTA Chris Cakes Family Breakfast
- **February 12** PTA Papa John's Night
- **February 21** Spring and Class Picture Day
- **February 25-28, 9:00 AM-Noon** PTA Book Fair in library
- **February 26, 7:30-8:10 AM** Pastries for Parents in Gym
- **February 28, 6:00-7:30 PM** Family Math Night, Art Fair, & Book Fair

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Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- At Robinson, we continue our data team conversations. Our conversations in January also included STAR data analysis from our December benchmark window and reviewing our Grade Level Assessment Data from the Spring. Using all of this information, we look to continue to be make intentional teaching decisions in order to provide students what they need.
- This month students learned about Integrity. Time is spent reviewing this word both during community building time and also during transitions as part of reviewing building expectations and procedures. Teachers select one student monthly that demonstrates the identified character trait of the month. These students, along with our Mathematician, Scientist and Writer are recognized at our Remarkable Raccoons Assembly each month.

Parent/Community Focus

- In January, our students participated in the Great Kindness Challenge. The challenge encourages all student and staff participation and helps to foster and maintain a positive learning environment. Opportunities for this challenge to be continued at home were also presented. The event at Robinson came as part of the work of our Robinson Student Leadership Club. Students and staff also took advantage of school spirit days all connected to this kindness theme.
- A Watch Dog informational session was held in January. We are looking forward to seeing some of our dads and father being up here volunteering at Robinson.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 13** Friendship Parties
- **February 19** Spring Picture Day

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Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice Test:** In January, SW third, fourth, and fifth graders began taking the GLA Practice Test. Students were able to practice using the online tools as they answered questions similar to those they may see on the math and ELA tests in April. Teachers will use the GLA Practice Test data to determine which skills need extra practice.
- **Data Teams:** Conversations in January focused on analysis of STAR test data and grade level assessments. Additionally, teachers viewed a portion of a video of Greg Tang teaching at second grade classroom at Blue Ridge Elementary School. Time was spent discussing ways to incorporate manipulatives into lessons as new skills are introduced.
- **Ignite Science Lab:** Southwood Roadrunners participated in an engaging Ignite lab this month-Gumdrop Bridges. Through hands-on inquiry using gumdrops and toothpicks, students were able to experience the knowledge and process engineers encounter as they develop and design bridges that are strong enough and safe enough to carry a load.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Major Saver Fundraiser:** The Major Saver Fundraiser kicked off on Wednesday, January 9 and lasted for two weeks. Southwood students sold more than 90 cards this year.
- **ZooMobile:** The Kansas City Zoomobile visited Southwood 2nd and 3rd graders this month. Zoo instructors introduced animal artifacts as well as several small animals.
- **Recycling:** Students in the Behavior Skills Program pick up paper and cardboard recyclables from every classroom weekly. Their classroom teacher takes the recycling to a local recycling drop-off center.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 11** McDonald's Night
- **February 13, 8:00 AM** Pastries with Parents

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Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- Building Wide Priority Standard Focus: As SV continues to review instructional data and determine critical areas of support needed for students as teachers determined one ELA and one math standard as a building focus through vertical planning. Teams utilize the DRT time to discuss and outline progress of standards in addition to determining how they continue to imbed standards in daily curriculum instruction that includes, but is not limited to DRI and IMW. Teachers feel that focusing on 2 building wide standards helps to establish quick wins while also helping students set specific and continuous goals towards their success.
- Lexia: Spring Valley is excited about the opportunity for students to be introduced to a new technology program for ELA called Lexia during a trial period. This program will provide all students from at-risk to advanced a structured and systematic approach to six areas of reading that include phonological awareness and comprehension. This personalized program will provide students with a personalized adaptive placement and scaffolded activities aligned to our curriculum and state standards.

Parent/Community Focus

- Major Savers: On Wednesday, January 10, 2019, Spring Valley Elementary School kicked off their district wide fundraiser with Major Saver's through the partnership partner with the Raytown Educational Foundation. Last year alone, the district was able to raise over \$20,000!

Upcoming School Events

- **February 12, 2:15 PM** PTA Spring Parties
- **February 20, 4:00-9:00 PM** SV Chuck E Cheese Night

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Westridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice Test:** In January, our 3rd-5th graders participated in the first round of Math GLA Practice. Teachers used the tools for teachable moments on navigating the system, structure of answers, and process to develop solutions.
- **Question Challenge:** Teachers recently watched Greg Tang teach math strategies to students. One component we studied was the number of questions he asked in a five minute timespan compared to the number of academic statements he made. From this, we are rolling out the question challenge, which asks teachers to design a lesson containing a question to statement ratio of 5:1. The goal is to increase the frequency and rigor in which we ask questions. As a result the cognitive load is shifted from the teacher to the student.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Westridge Movie Night:** We came back from Winter Break to Westridge movie night. This is our second year of movie night, and we more than doubled attendance compared to last year. Families cuddled in chairs and blankets while we watch *The House With a Clock in its Walls*. Everyone enjoyed the night.
- **Family Math Night:** Families fought the cold to come out to Family Math Night which included games and activities based in math skills and practices. Families were able to not only learn games played at school, but get grab bags of activities to take home. In addition, families stayed to enjoy a hot dog and chip dinner.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 8** Friendship Parties
- **February 19, 6:00-7:00 PM** Challenge Open House
- **February 21, 4:00-9:00 PM** WR PTA Freddie's Night
- **February 26 - March 1** Bookfair
- **February 28, 6:00-7:30 PM** Art Fair Night

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- **Data Teams:** Dr. Shippy worked with the teachers while they developed a scoring guide for our SMART goal of writing first name. The staff created criteria for below basic, basic, proficient and advanced in name writing. While scoring student work samples based on our criteria 30% of the students were proficient and/or advanced. Most of those students have been at New Trails for more than one year and will begin working on last name.
- **STEM:** Children worked with a variety of materials to build ramps. They then tried golf balls, marbles and cars to see how far they went. Several teams had to adjust as the different items wouldn't fit into the tunnels. There was great discussion and problem solving

Parent/Community Focus

- The students participated in the District Major Saver campaign.
- Wonder Woman and Captain America visited the morning session to talk about being a true Hero.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 8** Friendship Parties
- **February 21** Instructional Rounds

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Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- Three Trails teachers has started the process of analyzing the Winter Star Early Literacy benchmark. Teacher will determine whether our focus during DRT has transferred to show growth since fall. Teachers will also be identifying students who have not made adequate growth and identify ways to increase support.

Parent/Community Focus

- Three Trails hosted Literacy and Music Night. Children could visit rooms and create a make and take literacy activity. The evening concluded with a performance from the interactive rhythm band Johnny and Adam.

Upcoming School Events

- **February 12** Friendship Celebration