

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

December, 2021



Blue Ridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Staff November Perfect Attendance- 14 staff members received a SONIC drink in celebration and appreciation for their perfect attendance for the month of November.
- Staff and Student Holiday Meal- Staff and students dressed up and enjoyed a Holiday Meal in the cafeteria lined with colorful paper, turkeys, and an opportunity to write/draw what they were thankful for.
- Wellness Winner “Unstoppable Attitude with Gratitude”- Deanna Hills was the nominee for Blue Ridge representing Blue Ridge. Jana Caudle, our Wellness Champion, put together a google presentation for all staff to view nominations and reveal the winner. Please click [here](#) to view.
- Virtual BELIEVE Assembly-Students were nominated by their classroom teachers to receive the Believe certificate and recognition for 1st Quarter. We model and teach students what it means to have self control, work as a team, and to BELIEVE in the power of "yet." Whatever I can't do... "yet." Please click [here](#) to view the video.

Academic Focus

- 5th Grade Reading Success- The 5th grade students as well as the teachers here at Blue Ridge are celebrating the reading success of our 5th grade students. ALL of our students in this grade level are currently working on comprehension and fluency. Students are on grade level in regards to their reading level and Title is on consultation only. This is a huge success for the entire Blue Ridge community in regards to the level of reading instruction provided to our students.
- Title Support Through Observations and Coaching- Kathy Cairer, our Title Reading Specialist, provides coaching and modeling opportunities throughout the day for teachers to learn more about the PGM Notebook and it's instructional value. Teachers are using their own time to observe and work with Mrs. Cairer to understand and provide small group instruction utilizing the PGM notebook and its lessons.

Parent/Community Focus

- Boy Scout/Eagle Scout Project- John An, former Blue Ridge Student, selected Blue Ridge as the recipient of his Eagle Scout Project. He collected, sorted, labeled, and delivered 2,000 gently used and new books for the Blue Ridge Community. Staff were able to “shop” for new books to place in their classroom libraries. Books will be distributed among the students as well!
- Every Kids Safety Billboard Contest-Hillary An, current 2nd grade student, recently won an artwork contest from Every Kids Safety Billboard Contest. The purpose of the contest is to promote electrical safety in our community. Her artwork will be featured on billboards at a number of different spots in Raytown and Kansas City Highways starting December 6th. She was featured in our Bluejay Newsletter as well!
- PTA Family Book Fair Night- On November 11th, PTA hosted an event for families to come in and shop the bookfair for new books. The event was well attended and it was great to see families here at the building as well as promoting literacy.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 6-10** PTA Santa Workshop
- **December 21** PTA Winter Classroom Parties

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- EWH 4th and 5th Grade girls participated in the greater Kansas City Girls on the Run 5K at Swope Park Saturday, November 6th.
- Melissa Hunter, EWH PE Teacher, was honored by the KC Royals for her continued participation in Home Run for Health, a healthy lifestyle program for 4th and 5th grade students. In her honor, Mrs. Hunter was awarded a personalized Royals jersey and an autographed picture of Salvador Perez!
- Ninety percent of students participated in the positive behavior party this past month! This means that only 10% of EW students went to a buddy room for the entire month! Additionally, EW has had no incidents of ISS or OSS for the school year.
- Per EW tradition, staff and students enjoyed a Thanksgiving Meal together in the cafeteria lined with colorful paper and an opportunity to write/draw what they were thankful for.

Academic Focus

- Over the past month, approximately 90 books have been distributed to students in grades K-5 for advancing at least one level along the reading continuum. Eastwood teachers have approached reading instruction within intensity this school year, providing 45 minutes of explicit instruction on basic reading skills in small groups 4-5 days a week for most students, along with weekly recognition and celebration as students advance along the reading continuum. Our end of year goal is to have at least 80% of all students with grade level proficient basic reading skills.

Parent/Community Focus

- EW is pleased to host community members at our facility three nights a week. The KC Rebels basketball team and the Raytown Parks and Rec both rent the EWH gymnasium for basketball practice.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 7** Score 1 for Health
- **December 7** Peer Observations
- **December 16, 5:30 p.m.** Virtual Family Fun Night
- **December 22** Winter Parties & Gift Giving

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Fletridge Elementary



Celebrations

- November Principal's Breakfast: We celebrated K-5 students from each classroom who exemplified our monthly character trait Independence. Students were treated to a read aloud, donut and drink. Way to go!
- November Perfect Attendance: We acknowledged our students who had perfect attendance for the month. Students received a certificate and treat.
- Students enjoyed the opportunity to have a fall party w/in their classrooms with friends and a craft.
- FR continued its tradition of having a Thanksgiving meal with students. Students and staff dressed in their finest to enjoy a meal, music and conversation with one another.
- Staff enjoyed rounding up a few loose turkeys just in time for Thanksgiving break. In return for the found turkey they collected a special surprise. Much fun was had by all.

Academic Focus

- Mrs. Anderson reading specialist provided professional learning to staff regarding the PGM binder and the resource support for small group instruction.
- FR students wrote letters to veterans for Veteran's Day in honor of their service. These letters were taken to Operation Gratitude to be sent to service members

Parent/Community Focus

- The Student Council planned for a spirit week the week of Thanksgiving break. Students enjoyed wearing PJs.
- FR was able to host its fall Book Fair with two evening times where families were able to shop for new books. This event was a huge success thanks to our PTA.
- PTA hosted a family night at Culver's where many FR families attended to support.
- FR provided the opportunity for the Parks and Rec. league to utilize the gym for basketball practice 2-3 nights per week.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 13-17** Holiday Shop
- **December 15 -22** Spirit Week
- **December 21** 2nd Quarter PBIS Incentive
- **December 30, 3:00-8:00 p.m.** Get Air Trampoline Park (sponsored by FR PTA)

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- Resource Instructional Assistant, Anita Reliford, accepted a teaching position at RSA! We will miss her, but we are so excited for her new adventure.
- Staff enjoyed the annual Holiday Meal in celebration of Thanksgiving break!
- November's Students of the Month were celebrated! Students were treated to a donut and juice breakfast. November's trait was "Respectful".
- Building substitute, Josh Ballard, got engaged & Laura Serville, Kindergarten teacher, also got engaged!
- We celebrated Quarter 1 academic awards. Each classroom teacher picked two students for reading and two for math. The reading specialist and both math specialists also picked a rock star from each grade level.

Academic Focus

- We have set aside one Tuesday a month to update our data wall with our reading specialist to improve small group reading instruction. We had our second data wall meeting. All grade levels have made good growth from October-November! We look forward to continuing to utilize this process.
- On November 11th we had our first CPL Peer Observation day. As part of our CPL plan, teachers are provided the opportunity to learn from peers by observing during Math time. With our new math curriculum, we felt like it was important that teachers collaborate with each other over new instructional strategies and curriculum practices.
- Also in November, we wrapped up professional development with Dr. Sondra Cave around the StrengthsFinder tool. As teams, we continue to work together to develop in ways that recognize and celebrate natural gifts and talents of one another.

Parent/Community Focus

- We are preparing to welcome parents into the building for our annual Rock n Bowl during PE! Students learn the fundamentals of the sport of bowling during December. It culminates with a "Rock n Bowl" celebration. We really missed this activity last year, and are looking forward to welcoming families back.
- Laurel Hills was proud to serve as a polling place for local elections on November 4th. We took the opportunity to encourage our Leopards to exercise their civic responsibility to vote when their time comes.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 22** Classroom Winter Parties

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Little Blue Elementary



Celebrations

- **PBIS Recognition-** 24 students were recognized at the end of November for being the “Terrific Kid” in their class for displaying the character trait Respect.
- View Leaving Little Blue at the end of November:



Academic Focus

- **Trauma Smart-** Our staff continues to grow with our Trauma Smart training. We have completed 4 sessions and have 6 more to go this year. We are all finding great value as we learn more about trauma, how to better help our students, and how to better help ourselves.
- **Vertical Teams** - We have developed a Math Vertical Team and a Reading Vertical team this year. The purpose of each team is to create a building-wide continuum for math and reading progressions. We are making great progress!

Parent Community Focus

- **Book Fair-** We hosted our Fall Book Fair the last week of November. We sold over \$6000 worth of books and products. The profits are going to be used to purchase books for students as a holiday gift.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 17, 5:30 p.m, Konrads** Staff Holiday Party
- **December 21** Terrific Kid’s Virtual Assembly

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Norfleet Elementary



Celebrations

- Thank you to Music Teacher Amanda Brown for putting together an amazing virtual Veteran's Day celebration!
- Congratulations to fifth grader Amory Jones on being selected for the Missouri All State Chorus!
- Custodians Steve Alfaro and Gail Khounvongsa were selected as Staff Leaders of the Month by Norfleet students.
- We recognized our [November Students of the Month](#) during our virtual PBS Assembly. These students exhibit Habit #2, Begin with the End in Mind.

Academic Focus

- November's building professional development focused on questioning in math, gender identity, behavior DRT, and the Harmony SEL program. We also continued our staff book study on [I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids](#).
- Instructional Coordinators joined our collaboration meetings to support math, reading, and science instruction.
- Norfleet hosted its annual Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11th, in a virtual format again this year. Norfleet staff members and students use this as an avenue to show our gratitude to those service members who have served our country.

Parent/Community Focus

- Norfleet hosted Virtual Family Literacy and Math night in November. 110 students and their families participated to learn and explore reading and math activities together at home.
- PTA hosted a virtual unit meeting on November 9. A doctor from Children's Mercy was a guest speaker about bullying. This tied in nicely to classroom bullying prevention lessons from the prior month.
- The in person Book Fair returned to Norfleet! Over \$3000 worth of books were sold that week!

Upcoming School Events

- **December 7, 6:00 p.m.** PTA Board Meeting
- **December 14** PTA Papa John's Night
- **December 22** Classroom Winter Parties

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations

- Thank you TIC team for assisting with Brain as a Car lessons and creating a Self Care Spot for Staff!
- Kathy and Kendra, thank you for doing all of the behind the scenes work for our Robinson Post Office.
- Students and staff dressed up and ate together as a community at our recent Thanksgiving holiday lunch. It was great to see all of the things our students and staff wrote down as things they are thankful for.
- We celebrated students at a recent Character Trait Breakfast. Students were selected as representatives for their classrooms as it relates to the schoolwide Character Trait focus. The Sept/Nov focus was "Respect". Our winner can be seen [here](#).

Academic Focus

- In December, we are meeting one final time for Trauma Smart professional development. Staff have commented about how powerful and important this training is for us to effectively serve our students and families. This month's focus will be on "attunement". We are encouraged about the impact this work will have on us all.
- Both our Leadership and Data and Curriculum Team recently met and we discussed additional ways to celebrate the many successes of our students, especially academic successes. We are excited about the ways we have come up with to showcase this to the Robinson community after winter break.

Parent/Community Focus

- We recently completed our Cookie Dough Fundraiser for PTA. This fundraiser was a big success! At school, we recently celebrated the winners--ice cream sandwich parties for the winning classrooms and a pizza party with Mrs. Washington for the top 5 individual sellers. The proceeds will help support field trips at Robinson and our winter and spring parties.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 13** Spirit Days begin
- **December 14** Papa John's Night
- **December 15, 3:00-5:00 p.m.** Cookie Dough Pick Up
- **December 21** Winter Parties

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Southwood Elementary



Celebrations

- Jon Flaherty was nominated for Distinguished Clinician in Teacher Education
- Sutherland Superstars which is ongoing at Southwood. These are staff members who recognize others: The superstars for the month of November are: Jon Flaherty, Brandi Stringer, Laura Schroer, Lori Reger, Julie Dahlstrom, Michelle Bragg, Claire Quinn, Eilleen Fratzke, Liza Childs and Stacy Parsons they all received a meal from Noodles and Company.
- Several teachers were recognized for perfect attendance for the month of November received a meal from Panda Express

Academic Focus

- **Positive Behavior Supports (PBIS):** Mr. Rex Blevins, Our PBIS consultant met with all staff on creating and Outlasting Continuum Google doc. It was a working template to identify students who are "Non-Compliant" or "Compliant". Students were added to the Continuum who were demonstrating a PATTERN of out-of-bounds/disruptive or harmful behaviors so the school as a whole to be proactive, provide strategies and utilize common language to help the students succeed. This is the beginning of an ongoing process within our school.
- **Specials Teachers: (ART, Music & PE)** **Music:** Kindergarten students have been working on Barn units, discussing barn animals and instruments that correlate as they learn how to properly handle instruments. Focusing on utilizing one song for each instrument and correct timing. **PE:** Kindergarten & 1st: Have completed a jump rope unit where there was a competition for the most jumps which have been announced and names of winners and scores are hanging up in the gym. **Art:** Kindergarten & 1st: They incorporated a new center where students build logs (ramps, balls) They are also working on beginning imagination prompts and learning about Asian art.
- **Principals Breakfast: [Students-1](#) [Students2](#)** Two students from each classroom were chosen to have breakfast with administration. Each teacher wrote why the student was chosen. During the breakfast the principal read each statement about the student as they stood to be recognized. Each student received a certificate and a panda express free meal coupon. Each student was also given a Southwood cup, pencil and a treat.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Staff ate the district's wonderful Thanksgiving meal with students to celebrate a day of thanks.
- Southwood had its 3rd annual "[Happy Thanksgiving video](#)" which is sent to families to wish them a Happy Thanksgiving and staff share what they are thankful for.

Upcoming School Events:

- **December 8-10,** PTA holiday Shop (Penguin Patch)
- **December 17** Staff Holiday Celebration
- **December 21** PTA Winter Parties

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Spring Valley Elementary



Celebrations

- Congratulations to our November Staff Members of the Week: Ms. Dyer, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Sanderson and Ms. E. Johnson
- Several teachers were recognized for their perfect attendance in November and were able to visit Gabbert's Goodies to select an item for themselves.
- 34 students were recognized for showing their Problem Solving Skills during the month of November in a Principal Chew & Chat where they received a donut and certificate. During the breakfast the principal and admin intern read statements about each student and why they were chosen as they stood to be recognized.
- Congratulations to our two top readers during our Read A Thon Fundraiser: 2nd grader, Marlee Price and 1st grader, Lorenzo Moore.
- In an effort to raise academic achievement, students with perfect attendance are eligible for a drawing to win a Razor Scooter each month beginning in November. Our first winner was Kindergartner, Enrique Huerte. Enrique called mom stating, "I told you I couldn't come to school late that one day!! I had perfect attendance! I did it!" He was so thrilled and his excitement was priceless.

Academic Focus

- Reading achievement has been our main focus this year and we held our first ever Read A Thon. It was such a success with our families and students as we raised over \$3615. We celebrated all students who signed up to participate, our top 2 readers, our class with the most participants and our class with the most money raised. We look forward to making the Read A Thon a tradition at SV.
- Staff have been engaged in reading and discussing the book, Start with Joy, Designing Literacy Learning for Student Happiness. Our discussions have continued to circle back to being able to support our students to become stronger readers, writers and communicators in conjunction with learning the life skill of how to be happy now and in their future. This will create a sense of confidence, courage and belonging while enriching literacy in their lives. Teachers have engaged their students in activities and discussions around happiness and are displaying their writing projects.

Parent/Community Focus

- Staff and students enjoyed our SV Thanksgiving Feast where we all ate together to celebrate what we are thankful for prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- SV Culver's Night was a success with the support from our families, PTA and staff on November 29th. We raised just over \$475.00.
- Our Fall Book Fair was a hit with our families and we were able to profit \$2015.00 in Scholastic Dollars that we will put back into the hands of our students through book giveaways..

Upcoming School Events

- **December 17** Winter Parties
- **December 21** Catch Me If You Can PBIS 2nd Qtr. Incentive
- **December 22** Staff Holiday Luncheon

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- **Gratitude Awards-** Teachers Abby Mercer and Courtney Wattenbarger were recognized as Gratitude Attitude Award winners for the month of November. Both teachers are extremely dedicated to the families of Westridge and give so much, yet are so gracious and unassuming when recognition comes their way. We are thankful they are here at Westridge!
- **Monthly Academic Winners-** Each month we recognize students who have shown growth in math and/or reading by announcing their names over the intercom. From these names, four students are randomly chosen to pick prizes from Mr. Jones' office. In addition, two students are Drivers of the Month. These students use their strategies to keep themselves in the driver seat when they get upset or overwhelmed. Below are the students for Oct.
- [Pictures of Students](#) [Pictures of Students](#)
Math: Eli Silva, Zacchaeus West
Reading: Avery McCreary, Jordyn Holloway
Driver of the Month: Maddox Smith, Donovan Coulter

Academic Focus

- **Music Performances-** Below are links to several classroom performances in music with classes applying melody to learn and play new songs.
[Second Grade](#)
[Third Grade](#)
[Third Grade](#)

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Fundraiser-** This month PTA started a fundraiser with Reading for Education. Families can purchase treats, household items, and books online from students. They also can donate gift cards to classrooms for teachers to purchase books and items for the classroom. Our families have donated over \$2500 in gift cards to teachers and PTA has earned almost \$1100 in profits!

Upcoming School Events

- **December 17** Winter Carnival
- **December 13-17** Winter Store
- **December 22** Staff Holiday Party
- **December 13-22** Winter Spirit Week

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New Trails Early Learning Center



Celebrations

- Turkey Trot- Students participated in a STEM activity. After reading about a turkey loose in a school they followed clues and hints searching for a loose turkey. We never caught him so they used various building materials to build turkey traps.
- Students got to cut open a paper turkey stuffed with popcorn.
- Staff utilized the learn scape during our nice weather.
- NT opened a new three year old classroom.
- Staff dressed up to celebrate a teacher turning 60!

Academic Focus

- November's academic focus was Family and Community. Using fiction and nonfiction texts to talk about families, places in our community and community helpers. Comprehension focus was identifying text to self connections and setting. In math students worked on comparing items size, length and mass. Students also ordered items based on size, length and mass.
- **EdCamp with Liberty-**
Staff participated in a Zoom EdCamp with Liberty Early Childhood. Staff signed up for topics which included Student Engagement, MELS, Cultural Competency, Conscious Discipline, and Arts Integration. Our own Liz, Mary and Lydia facilitated topics. Both staffs found it very informative and want to participate in another EdCamp.

Parent/Community Focus

- Caring for Kids partners helped with the Turkey Trot.
- Graceway provided a weekly take home sack lunch.

Upcoming School Events

- **December 6** Starts the 12 Days of December Spirit Days
- **December 21** *Snowy Day* Celebration

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations

- 3T celebrated Head Start teachers Mr Bret, Ms Deborah, Ms. Angie, Ms. Sharmain, Mr. Derrick and Ms. Ann for completing their Fall DRDP ratings. Over 4 weeks, teachers took hundreds of anecdotal notes in order to complete over 800 learning ratings.
- Each week 3T Staff nominates a student as a star student. Student names are announced and given a special certificate and a prize from the school treasure box. 3T staff celebrated:
 - Zu'Rhyan has been a great leader in the classroom, he helps other students who need to be reminded about the routine. He will show them the routine and them what to do.
 - ALayna is following directions better and breathing instead of crying and I am so proud of Zayne for the amazing progress he has made.
 - EmmaRose follows the visual routines in class. She is always willing to share her toys or switch to a different center to include others.
 - Monroe is always the first student to follow directions even before we give them. She is a great helper in the classroom, and always kind and helpful to her classmates
 - Zy'Aira is a leader in the classroom, helping other students during meal time opening their packages and cleaning up when they are done.
 - Kace does a fantastic job at staying in his space, and keeping his body safe. He follows directions the first time, and is always willing to go with the flow.
 - With Daily Practice for two weeks, Eric has become a "Now Kid" and Zelan has been playing nicer with friends. He is creative and enjoys trying new things at centers and Rhett has gotten up every day this week after nap time and walked to GE without problems.

Academic Focus

- Three Trails hosted our monthly Celebrating Diversity-3T. This month's focus was "Around the World". Classrooms were able to study and learn about native languages and food.

Parent/Community Focus

- Parent Curriculum Training: The Head Start Parent Policy Council Representative updated 3T Head Start parents about upcoming events and opportunities for parents and students. After the Head Start Parent meeting, Ms. Ebony Sims, 3T Social Worker, facilitated a parent training session about the brain states and how to use the brain states to help effectively parent and to provide self care.
- KC Water Department visited 3T. Each classroom met with the water department and learned about water in KC!

Upcoming School Events

- **December 8** Creative Curriculum Teacher Training & Dare to Be Different-Disability Awareness