

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

May 2021



Celebrations

- Fourth grade teacher, Ms. Jana Champion Caudle, was named and recognized as the 21-22 District Teacher of the Year. Staff and students with the assistance of Danielle Nixon surprised Ms. Caudle at the conclusion of a Friday morning meeting. Ms. Caudle is a most deserving recipient as she invests her time and creativity into bringing people together. She is also dedicated to ensuring the whole child is developed and celebrated.

Academic Focus

- **Poetry:** During the month of April, teachers focused on writing and reading poetry to inspire students. Students were introduced to the different ways to creatively express their ideas and feelings through haikus, cinquins, free verse, etc. Our overall goal was to provide students with alternative ways to express their thinking.
- **MAP:** Third, fourth, and fifth grade students participated in the MAP test this month. It was also wonderful to see virtual students come to the school to take the MAP. There was excitement in the air as the students returned back to the building for the week.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Parent Engagement Night:** Blue Ridge hosted a virtual parent engagement night on April 22, 2021. Teachers provided families with strategies to assist with student comprehension and showed parents some online resources to make reading fun. Families that attended received snacks and books for enjoyment. Kindergarten and 1st grade students received *Say Something* by Peter H. Reynolds, 2nd and 3rd graders received *Be You* by Peter H. Reynolds, and 4th and 5th graders received *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry.
- **Earth Day Clean-up:** On April 22, Blue Ridge students spent time picking up trash around the school and along Blue Ridge Blvd. Students enjoy the time outside and finding interesting trash items like pools, bumpers, and hubcaps.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 3-7** Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 21** 5th Grade Celebration
- **May 25** Fun Day
- **May 27** Last Day of School; 5th Grade Clap-out

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Celebrations

- Eastwood Hills hosted its second virtual Parent Involvement Night this month, Math and Munchies. Families zoomed in and participated in mathematics jeopardy with their grade level cohorts. Mathematics skills focused on numbers sense and math fact fluency. It was a ton of fun!

Academic Focus

- Eastwood Teachers have been participating in a month of reading professional development focused on strengthening our reading pedagogy in the area of developmental reading progression and basic reading skill instruction. Eastwood is excited to lead the way in the implementation of new curricular tools to strengthen our direct instruction of basic reading skills to all students in grades K-5th and are excited to see the reading abilities of our student soar in the coming years!

Parent/Community Focus

- In addition to the Mathematics Parent Involvement Night listed above, the Eastwood PTA hosted their monthly Papa John's night on April 20th, which has helped raise funds this school year that are returned to the school through the donations of the PTA.
- All teachers and staff have loved seeing our Virtual 3rd-5th grade students return to school for MAP testing, and we have enjoyed the brief connections with families for the first time all year!

Upcoming School Events

- **May 3-7** Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 4, 4:30 PM** EWH PTA Virtual Meeting
- **May 5** Bike/Walk to school day
- **May 6** PTA Panda Express Night
- **May 10** Kindergarten, 1st Grade & 3rd Grade Vision Screenings
- **May 11** 5th Grade Career Fair
- **May 12, 3:45 PM** Girls on the Run 5K @ EWH
- **May 13, 6:00-7:00 PM** Science & Sweets, Virtual Parent Involvement Night
- **May 25** Championship Mile run
- **May 26** Activity Day
- **May 26** Cupcakin Truck @ EWH for students with perfect 4th Qtr. Attendance
- **May 27** Bike give-away for students with perfect year-long attendance
- **May 28** 5th Grade "drive through" celebration

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Fletridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Staff and students are excited to wrap up MAP testing for the 2021 school year. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication demonstrated during the process. It took a lot of stamina and determination to stay focused and do their best. Way to go, Stars!
- This past month we celebrated our students who reflected the character word of the month-Honesty. Both in-person and virtual students were recognized with a Zoom principal's breakfast. They received a certificate, donut and milk and enjoyed a read-aloud by Mrs. Glasco, our assistant principal.

Academic Focus

- **GLA Testing**-Third, fourth, and fifth grade students participated in the MAP test this month. It was also wonderful to see virtual students come to the school to take the MAP. There was excitement in the air as the students returned back to the building for the week.
- **Spring Benchmarks**-We are gearing up for our spring benchmark assessment window during the first and second weeks of May. We will have the opportunity to see the growth and any areas of continued practice as we begin to make plans for the upcoming school year.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Fundraiser**-This past month, students and staff participated in a Chipotle fundraiser to benefit our school. We are looking forward to hearing the amount of money raised.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 3-7** Staff Appreciation Week
- **May 5** PTA Meeting
- **May 13** Parent Engagement Night-Muffins and Marigolds
- **May 25** Fifth Grade Fun Day
- **May 25** Retirement Tea for Cheryl Hazlett and Mary Bell

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Laurel Hills Elementary

Celebrations

- Laurel Hills is celebrating wrapping up MAP testing for our in person and virtual students. It was fantastic to see our virtual 3rd through 5th graders when they came in for MAP testing this spring. This was the first time these students have been in the building since March of 2020.
- Congratulations to Ms. Anita Reliford. Ms. Reliford is our Support Staff Employee of the Year. Ms. Reliford is beloved by the students and staff at Laurel Hills. She serves as an Instructional Assistant and supports several students and classrooms throughout the school.

Academic Focus

- Our third through fifth grade students completed MAP testing during this month. In addition to MAP testing, our K-5 students are gearing up for the spring assessment window. We are excited to see the academic gains our students have made this year.
- Additionally, our Grade Level teams are working to prepare math materials for our students and families to use throughout the summer. Our teachers are gathering materials and games for our students to take home for the rest of the school year and the summer.

Parent/Community Focus

- The Laurel Hills PTA completed a spring fundraiser. This fundraiser will assist with the purchase of a t-shirt for each 5th grade student.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 6** Virtual Family Math Night
- **May 26** Modified Fun Day

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Little Blue Elementary

Celebrations

- **Congratulations** to Kimberlee Knabe, Little Blue's Support Staff Employee of the year! This is Kimberlee's second year at Little Blue and she serves as the building secretary. We love her dearly and would be lost without her.

Academic Focus

- **MAP Testing:** Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students completed MAP testing in April. All of our students showed great effort and had amazing attitudes. 90% of our virtual students also came to Little Blue to test. For some of our virtual students, it was the first time they have ever been here. It was a positive experience for everyone involved.

Parent Community Focus

- **Parent Involvement Night:** Little Blue hosted three virtual parent involvement nights, via Zoom in April. Each family who signed up received books, Math bingo materials, popcorn and M&Ms. Teacher did read-alouds and think alouds to model different comprehension strategies, and our Math Bingo supported number sense in each grade. We all had a great time!

Upcoming School Events

- **May 24** 5th Grade Fun Day
- **May 25, 1:00-3:00 PM** 3rd Grade Family Culture Presentations

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Norfleet Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Custodian Steve Alfaro on being selected Norfleet's Support Staff Employee of the Year! Mr. Steve keeps Norfleet safe, clean, and well stocked with needed supplies. We appreciate all he does for students and staff!

Academic Focus

- **MAP Testing:** Third, fourth, and fifth grade students participated in MAP testing in April. They worked very hard during some long testing sessions. It was the first year where we had two grade levels experiencing their first MAP test. Students are celebrating the completion of MAP testing by shopping in their grade's MAP store using the MAP dollars earned for showing good effort on the test. 74% of our enrolled virtual students came to school during the last week of April for their MAP testing.
- **Universal Screener for Number Sense:** Teachers recently received training on this new math screener. They are eager to assess each student and see how they are performing in math, as well as create a plan to use this data in the future.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Family Engagement Nights:** This year, Norfleet is hosting six virtual mini-sessions for our families. Each grade level planned a different 30 minute family event in April or early May. We sent home supplies and snacks with students and held drawings for door prizes. These events are a great way to reinforce ELA and math concepts at home!

Upcoming School Events

- **May 3-7** Staff Appreciation Week
- **May 4** PTA Virtual Unit Meeting
- **May 4** National Teacher's Day
- **May 7-10** PTA Virtual Book Fair
- **May 8** Drive through Book Fair
- **May 10-14** Career Week
- **May 19** Modified Field Day
- **May 21** 5th Grade Recognition (virtual)

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Robinson Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Mrs. Robin Crump, Robinson secretary, who was selected as our Robinson Support Staff of the Year. Robin is in her second year at Robinson as the secretary and brings joy and smiles to Robinson each day.
- Ms. Maib's classroom has been working with our Robinson custodian, Regina Grant in beautifying our courtyard by adding flowers and providing general. This will be a wonderful place for our students to read, work while soaking in the Spring sunshine.

Academic Focus

- Our GLA (MAP) testing wrapped up for our in person learners last week. For the final week of April, we could not wait to welcome back to our building our virtual learners for their test. There was added excitement for those students as they entered our doors for the first time in more than a year.
- We are gearing up for our spring benchmark assessment window during the first week of May. We will have the opportunity to see the growth and any areas of continued practice as we begin to make plans for the upcoming school year.

Parent/Community Focus

- Robinson hosted a Family Paint Night via Zoom on Friday, April 9th. Families had the opportunity to purchase a canvas and supplies. Families joined us for an evening of painting gnomes. This was led by our art teacher, Shelby Vanbuskirk. A wonderful time was had by all.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 3-7** Staff Appreciation Week
- **May 13, 6:30 PM** PTA Unit Meeting via Zoom
- **May 24** 4th Quarter PBIS party
- **May 25** Fun Day
- **May 26** 5th Grade Celebration

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations

- The school celebrated before and afterschool professionals week. The school celebrated the administrative professional day with signs made by students and staff as well as treats were provided.
- The school had a kick off to celebrate the Grade level assessments. K-2 students made signs and cheered on the 3-5 grade students as they ran through a tunnel of students filled with cheers and bubbles.

Academic Focus

- Grade level Assessments: Grades 3rd-5th In-person and virtual students successfully completed the state Grade level assessments. 60% of the in-person students attended the testing on site.

Parent/Community Focus

- PTA had a fundraiser at papa Johns Pizza on April 15, 2021. The school raised for Sales - \$688. And received a Donation of \$137.65 and a pizza party
- Bingo for Books: This parent engagement event took place on April 22, 2021. It was a fun event, families were able to play digital bingo and win books .We had over 100 participants on zoom. Every student won or received a book. Three families won \$20 Hy-vee Gift cards. We had a digital photobooth which families enjoyed. It was an event filled with smiles, laughs and fellowship. The feedback remarks from the survey shared families appreciated the time together.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 13** Vertical Team meetings
- **May 18-28** Playground Days
- **May 19** 5th Grade Recognition
- **May 21 or May 25** Roadrunner Express

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Spring Valley Elementary

Celebrations

- Raised Garden Beds: SV has worked with our Caring for Kids Partner, KC Community Gardens, to install raised beds in one of our courtyards. Grades 1, 2, 3 & 5 have been busy planting, watering and growing a variety of veggies. We can't wait to share the harvest with students and their families.
- Celebrating State Testing: SV students and staff participated in a PEP rally prior to beginning our MAP-GLA testing for 3rd-5th grade students. Virtual teachers paraded with their computers so that K-2 and staff could cheer them on as well. K-2 students and teachers also provided a daily positive message to 3rd-5th grade students daily with a treat as well.
- Congratulations to our Social Worker, Nashay Williams, who was selected as Spring Valley's Support Staff of the Year! Nashay perseveres and works amazingly well with our students, their families and our staff on a daily basis with a positive attitude at all times.

Academic Focus

- GLA assessments have wrapped up for in person students. The last week of April we welcomed back our virtual learners to complete their testing. It was great to see them in person and they were excited to be back in person, even if it was only for three days.
- Staff are preparing to administer spring benchmark assessments in Reading and Math. We are excited to see student growth and areas of needed improvement as we plan for the upcoming school year.

Parent/Community Focus

- PTA members nominated our 2021-22 SV PTA Board Members at our April meeting.
- Our fabulous PTA donated nine umbrellas for our outdoor tables in our main courtyard so that students and teachers can enjoy lessons and lunch outdoors.
- Students in grades 1, 2, 3 & 5 have begun planting various vegetables to harvest to share with their families once they are ready.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 21** 4th Quarter PBIS Incentive (Eat. Paint. Play. Win.)
- **May 24** Field Day
- **May 25** K & 5th Grade Celebrations via zoom

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Virtual Students were able to participate in a virtual only assembly with Healthy HipHop. This included dancing, exercise, goal setting, and discussions around working hard and being a positive influence on others around you. Parents, students, and siblings were able to join in and participate. We had over 100 different connections to the Zoom.

Academic Focus

- **GLA Testing-** Both virtual and in person students completed GLA testing for the year. We are proud of their hard work and efforts.
- **Trauma Smart Implementation-** Grade level teams recently met with admin, counselor, and social worker to review implementation of Trauma Smart strategies in the classroom. Collectively we identified specific areas of focus, actions to address the concerns, and are working together to provide in the moment support and coaching to staff regarding preventing and reacting to negative behaviors.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Parent Curriculum Night-** Teachers are planning a three-night Virtual Parent Curriculum Night for families May 17, 18, 19. The first night will focus on implementing Trauma Smart strategies at home and provide time to create calming resources with families, the next night will focus on modeling specific math strategies as well as a Parent Resource Library for math strategies and games to practice at home. The final night will do the same for reading. All sessions will be recorded to be offered as future resources for parents.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 17-19** Parent Curriculum Nights
- **May 24** 5th Grade Fun Day
- **May 26** Virtual Talent Show

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations

- Zero the Hero came and visited every classroom to celebrate the 100th day of school and all the children being 100 days smarter.
- Children planted seeds on our new learning scape to celebrate Earth Day. Classes will continue to water and help take care of the plants.
- Caterpillars arrived and have started their process of changing into butterflies. Classes are charting their change and making predictions.
- Congratulations to Megan Butler, she was selected as New Trails Teacher of the Year.

Academic Focus

- Classes have been studying how animals, plants, and people change and grow.
- Math: The 4 year olds are working on 1 to 1 counting past 10. Three years olds have been learning about shapes.
- The 4 year old rooms continue to work on phonemic awareness and have begun to change initial sounds to make new words.

Parent/Community Focus

- We have held many meetings to transition children to kindergarten. We are starting to hold IEP meetings with elementary school staff and parents. Everyone is working together to make the transition to kindergarten as positive as possible.
- The Blue Ridge Mall Optimists gave treat bags to all the students for Easter.
- Success By Six hosted an outdoor play group for the first time since last March.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 18** Moving On
- **May 20** Moving On for virtual students
- **May 25** Water Day
- **May 26** School Picnic

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations

- Congratulations to our Preschool Teacher, Ashley Bosworth. Ashley was selected as Three Trails Teacher of the Year.

Academic Focus

- Three Trails teachers have been focusing on preparing students for Kindergarten. Teachers have identified specific academic and self-regulation skills that students need as they enter Kindergarten.
- Three Trails has continued the professional development focus of increasing writing opportunities in the classroom. Teachers have continued to add additional opportunities for writing in the classroom. All classrooms provide students with a daily journal time. Teacher's individually conference with students focusing on helping the student write about a topic, label their pictures and begin to use inventive spelling.

Parent/Community Focus

- Three Trails hosted a virtual parenting event partnering with Cornerstones of Care. Parents were able to participate in a week long training focusing on improving relationships in their home and lives.
- HeadStart Father's were provided with a recipe and cookie supplies. Father's were encouraged to bake cookies with their child and send pictures of the experience.
- Several Three Trails classrooms have been partnering with families to encourage connection between home and school. Families have been encouraged to bring in empty food and grocery containers. These items are being used to create mini grocery stores in the classroom.
- Swope Dental visited Three Trails and provided families the opportunity for the child to receive a dental exam at school.

Upcoming School Events

- **May 20** Moving on Ceremony
- **May 25** Water Day