

# Elementary School Monthly Update to Board of Education

January, 2018



## Southwood Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **Reading:** Our data clearly indicates a need to address reading across grade levels. Therefore, we are focusing time and attention on Tier I reading to ensure a strong foundation for all. Our building professional learning has provided opportunities for discussion and reflection on whole group instruction and differentiation. The conversations continue in data team meetings as we collaborate with team members to make decisions about explicit instruction and differentiation.
- **Attendance:** One of the most important aspects of being an excellent student is being a present student. Southwood attendance continues to be one of the highest in the district but we are always looking to improve. We are working with families below the 90% goal and attempting to partner with ideas to support the student and the family.

### Parent/Community Focus

- Southwood families were invited to come back to school for an evening of literacy activities, information and fun on January 25th. Teachers went above and beyond in planning this event for our students. To ensure interest and encourage attendance, they chose a Recipe for Reading theme. Students participated in a few spirit days leading up to the event. Students were given recipe books as they arrived and had their names put into a drawing for books if they completed each literacy station. Student work was displayed during the event and the Mid-Continent Library was on hand to sign up students for a library card.

### Upcoming School Events

- **Feb 13 and 15:** P/T Conference
- **Feb 14:** Pastries with Parents
- **Feb 23:** PTA Movie Night

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## Little Blue Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **Clubs:** This year Little Blue has five teacher-sponsored after school activities for students; Science Club, Writing Club, Culture Club, Student Leadership Club, and Boys to Gentlemen Club. Mrs. Weaver and Mrs. Saddler have facilitated Science club for intermediate students who are interested in learning more about the scientific method and putting into action with experiments. Ms. Rose and Ms. Burkemper are facilitating Writing club for students who enjoy writing and want to learn about different styles of 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 Leadership Club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> students who want to give back to the school and community while cultivating their leadership skills. Mr. So, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Moser are hosting 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and working on skills to help them become gentlemen.
- **Testing:** We have set goals and have started our second round of STAR testing. We are very excited with the effort and attitude students are showing for this assessment and look forward to seeing the results.

### 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 Leadership Club give new students a tour of Little Blue and introduce them to adults they will need to know throughout the school.
- **100<sup>th</sup> Day of School:** On January 30<sup>h</sup>, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Students and staff celebrated in a variety of ways including dressing up like they were 100 years old, creating projects with 100 items, writing about what they will be doing when they are 100 years old and more!

### Upcoming School Events

- **February 8-12:** School Counselor’s Week
- **February 14:** Friendship Parties
- **February 13 & 15:** Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **February 19:** No school – President’s Day
- **February 26-March 2:** Book Fair
- **February 26:** Terrific Kid’s Assemblies
- **February 27:** Pastries with Parents 8:00
- **March 1:** ELA Night

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## Laurel Hills Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **MAP GLA Practice Assessments:** The third through fifth grade students participated in the practice MAP GLA assessments during this month of January. These practice assessments provided teachers and students with information about test format and question types. It also gave students and opportunity to experience working with the online tools. The teachers are meeting with ELA and Math Curriculum Coordinators to discuss observations of the practice GLA.
- **STAR Data:** Data teams reviewed STAR data from December. Teams examined Growth Reports to compare scores from September to December. Teachers also placed students in quadrants based on percentile scores. They identified trends in how students are progressing throughout the year.
- **Professional Book Studies cont.:** The three book studies continued meet. We are ready to being a second round for “A Teacher’s Guide to Classroom Management” during the month of February. Several teachers expressed interest in reading this book. Currently, 18 teachers are participating in one of the three book studies. The book titles are “A Teacher’s Guide to Classroom Management,” “The End of Molasses Classes,” and School Culture Rewired.” We anticipate this number to increase as the semester continues. The book studies are receiving positive feedback.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **ELA Curriculum Night:** The Laurel Hills teachers hosted a Family Literacy Night designed around a winter theme. Families learned ways to support their children in the area of literacy from classroom teachers and the reading specialist. Families also received two free books from the Bookmobile. We ended the evening with bingo for books! All of the children left with multiple books in their hands! The evening was well attended and the families were excited for the materials and the books!

### Upcoming School Events

- **February 13 & 15,** Parent Teacher Conferences
- **February 22,** PTA Roller Skating Night at B&D Roller Rink, 6:00-8:00

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## Fletridge Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **MAP Practice** - Teachers in 3rd-5th grades appreciated that students had the opportunity to immediately apply learning from Online Tools Training while doing the MAP Practice assessment online.
- **4th Grade Writing** - Our 4th grade team at Fletridge has been meeting with Missy Marcella to insure that they are planning instruction to prepare students to take the MAP writing assessment. They are using state writing rubrics along with exemplars to help students set goals to improve their writing.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Decades Dance** - Families enjoyed dancing, food, prizes, and glow-in-the-dark jewelry as they danced to music from the 60's to present. Each year the attendance grows, with approximately 125 in attendance this year.

### Upcoming School Events

- Feb 13/15th- P/T Conferences

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## Robinson Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **Testing:** Growth was seen with STAR testing, and classes are celebrating those accomplishments. Teachers are cross-referencing those scores with the day-to-day data taken through unit testing, quick quizzes and exit tickets. With grades 3-5 completing the MAP Practice Test, teachers have a renewed sense of what students have a clear understanding of and what areas must be a focus in upcoming weeks. They are looking at data and analyzing how that will adjust instruction. With Spring Grade Level Assessments also just around the corner, teachers are emphasizing goal setting with students and tightening up on test-taking strategies. District Coordinators have provided lots of great information and learning opportunities to our teachers over the last few months dealing with spring testing.
- **Committee Updates:** Our various building committees are working hard on projects that will help push Robinson to further success. Our Curriculum and Data Team has facilitated the development of the data board and the monthly updates to it, as well as providing clear and concise information about what “look fors” are in each area of learning. The Positive Behavior Support Teams are updating the second semester behavior grade level goals and working on tightening up the matrix expectations to help decrease behaviors where our data shows areas of concern. Our building just celebrated “flurries and fun” with students showing that safe, respectful and responsible behavior. The Cultural Competence Team is presenting a book study to all staff on *Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind* by Jensen which is a second book to the series started last year with staff.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **WatchD.O.G.S:** Several Dads have volunteered over the past few weeks to help out in the building. It is great to see them involved with our kids as positive role models. Our numbers have been slightly higher and continue to grow with our “Dad Involvement.”
- **Major Saver:** Our Major Saver sales have just concluded. Students were eager to sell the discount cards and earn some exciting prizes. It will be great to see how many earn the limo ride and lunch.

### Upcoming School Events

- **February 13 – 15** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **February 14** PTA Friendship Parties
- **February 23** Robinson Spirit Day
- **February 26** Principal Breakfast

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## Norfleet Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **MAP Practice Test:** In January, all third-fifth graders participated in MAP Practice Testing. This was a great way for students to experience the online tools and rigor of questions they may see on the actual MAP test. Teachers are looking forward to seeing score reports so they can make adjustments to instruction.
- **Fifth Grade's Science City Field Trip:** Fifth grade enjoyed a field trip to science city last month. Students participated in many experiments that helped bring their readings and discussions to life.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **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.
- **PTA Movie Night:** The Norfleet PTA hosted a movie night for our families. Norfleet families were able to enjoy the "Captain Underpants" movie and snacks, as well as the opportunity to fellowship with one another.

### Upcoming School Events

- **February 10** PTA Chris Cakes Family Sweetheart Breakfast 9:00-11:00am
- **February 13** Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00pm
- **February 15** Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:00am-8:00pm
- **February 20** PTA Board Meeting 6:00
- **February 22** Spring and Group Pictures
- **February 27** PTA Unit Meeting and 2nd-3rd Grade Music Program 6:30pm

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## Spring Valley Elementary School

### Academic Focus

- **Teacher Peer Observations:** As SV continues to review instructional data and determine critical areas of support needed for students, small group instruction has been the determined area of focus. Teachers will review video recordings of their peers, provide feedback of small group instruction, and outline instructional plans. This feedback will allow grade levels to determine instructional strategies that are essential to student growth and development through collaboration and instructional practices.
- **DRT Meetings:** A deeper dive has begun to take place for SV's data review team meetings through the questioning model that is displayed with students and teachers in the classroom. DRT meetings will focus on 3 questions to be answered by grade level teams, so that a laser focus is maintained on the instructional processes and supports based upon data. The three questions of focus will be: What is your strategy based upon the data? What risk will you now take? What are the outcomes based upon the risk taken? Teachers are excited about the deeper dive of questioning in support of the DRT process.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **Major Savers:** On Wednesday, January 10, 2018, Spring Valley Elementary School kicked off their district wide fundraiser with Major Saver's through the partnership partner with the Raytown Educational Foundation. Spring Valley Elementary was proud to say that 240 cards were sold last year and we are looking for great outcomes for the 2018 year!

### Upcoming School Events

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|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
| • <b>February 13<sup>th</sup></b>                 | PTA Friendship Party          | 2:15 pm      |
| • <b>February 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup></b> | No School-Conferences/Holiday | All Day      |
| • <b>February 21<sup>st</sup></b>                 | SV Chuckie Cheese Night       | 5:00-8:00 pm |

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## Eastwood Hills Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **Assessment and Instruction:** Using the Teacher Collaborative Rubric by Dr. Brandon Doubek of Creative Leadership Solutions, teaching teams are regularly evaluating their progress as Professional Learning Communities and setting and reviewing 30 day goals focused in the areas of Instruction Strategies and Success Criteria. Many 30 day goals for the month of January focused on increasing the amount of time collaborating in Data Review Teams regarding precise instructional strategies utilized for targeted objectives, because we know that human beings learn best from one another and that teacher collective efficacy on teaching a focused learning objective will yield the highest results in student learning and growth.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **Community Adventures:** Our fifth graders participated in the third annual AbMay Academy this month! This field trip developed by our community partner, takes small groups of students through various modules by AbMay staff including Customer Service, Heating and Plumbing, and Professional Character Qualities. This trip continues to be an incredibly high-interest, highly engaging opportunity for our students to learn some of the professional and social skills needed in the business community!
- **Kindness Counts:** We concluded the month of January participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. Students and staff alike recorded their acts of kindness and celebrated the difference kindness makes every day. It is accurate to say we had a great month!

### Upcoming School Events

- **February 13<sup>th</sup>** -- Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 PM
- **February 15<sup>th</sup>** -- Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- **February 22<sup>nd</sup>** -- KC W Guy Reading to EWH 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students
- **February 23<sup>rd</sup>** -- RMS Jazz Band Concert @ EWH
- **February 26<sup>th</sup>** -- PTA Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- **February 27<sup>th</sup>** -- Scholastic Book Fair Begins



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## Westridge Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **Data Review:** The Westridge staff spent time analyzing the data produced during the winter assessment benchmark. Each teacher and grade level reviewed reading and math data to compare progress alignment with data monitored during DRT. Growth was evident in almost all areas.
- **Professional Development:** Teacher Leaders and administration are working together to plan and coordinate the professional development for the remainder of the year. Three sessions have been planned to focus on writing, math strategies, and behavior goals. All PDs will be lead by Teacher Leaders and staff.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **Westridge Math Night:** We had our Math Curriculum Night on Jan 23rd. The night included multiple Greg Tang activities in the gym and online and a STEM activity involving magnets and superheroes. It was an incredibly successful evening, with parents and students actively engaged in games and math strategies.

### Upcoming Events

- **Feb 13/15-** P/T Conferences
- **Feb 26-** Mar 2nd- Book Fair
- **Feb 27-** WR Art Gallery Night

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## Blue Ridge Elementary

### Academic Focus

- **Data Meetings:** During the month of January, grade levels refocused conversations around the Four Essential Questions of Professional Learning Communities: What do we expect students to learn? How will we know if they are learning? How will we respond when they don't learn? How will we respond if they already know it? Using these questions, the teachers narrowed their focus to ensure 80% of students master one standard in reading and math per unit. In order to say that the students mastered the standard, they will need to demonstrate the skill in a variety of setting and show transfer of knowledge.
- **Problem Solving:** Students in all grade levels are focusing on the 6-step problem solving model presented by Greg Tang. Eighty percent of students have mastered two additions strategies. By the end of the month, students will master four strategies for addition and subtraction. Blue Ridge attends Greg Tang professional learning on February 28.

### Parent/Community Focus

- **I Love the 80s and 90s Dance Party:** This year PTA hosted an 80s and 90s dance party. Parents played music from the eighties, nineties and today while students danced the night away with crimped hair and fluorescent clothing.

### Upcoming Events

- **Feb 13/15th-** P/T Conferences
- **Feb 26th-March 2:** Scholastic Book Fair
- **Feb 27th** Kindergarten/1st Grade Program
- **Feb 27:** Math Night
- **Feb 28:** Donuts with Dad

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## New Trails Early Learning Center

### **Educational Focus**

- New Trails teachers participated in our second set of Instructional Rounds. They video taped themselves teaching from our new math curriculum. The staff then gave feedback on student engagement and differentiation.
- New Trails' teachers as a part of our building CPL plan stayed after school to work on long range planning for Origo.
- The staff of New Trails, 3 Trails Preschool and Parents as Teachers attended intruder training in January.
- New Trails' staff has started on the Transition process for our special education students going to kindergarten. We have 38 special education students going to kindergarten next year.
- New Trails teachers have been busy giving our winter benchmark. They will use this information to help plan for small group instruction and pick our next smart goal.

### **Parent/Community Focus**

- New Trails teachers have been going on home visits sharing progress and giving suggestions on what families can do at home to help support their child.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Feb 13-** Friendship Parties for New Trails
- **Feb 13/15-** Parent Teacher Conferences for Herndon and home visits for New Trails
- **Feb 21, 23-** 10:00 Success by Six play group