

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

April, 2022

Blue Ridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Looney Tunes:** Blue Ridge had their first all school sing-a-long in many months. Students gathered to sing Principal Phillips a very happy birthday for all her hard work and dedication to students and staff.
- **Support Staff of the Year:** Blue Ridge staff honored Functional Skills Instructional Assistant, Kim Young for her patience, love, and commitment to her students each and every day! We are so very lucky she is a Raytown staff member!
- **Awesome Assembly:** Students who worked hard to be safe, respectful, and responsible in the third quarter had their first assembly to see Magic Scott, a local magician who is nationally recognized! It was amazing fun!

Academic Focus:

- **Reading Rockstars:** Blue Jays just wrapped up an EPIC amount of reading in their first ever Read-A-Thon. Students read over 151,324 minutes and raised a good sum of money to benefit students activities.
- **Readers Theater:** Fifth grade students presented book skits to students throughout the building to reinforce their in depth understanding of the novels they are reading in class and to share more about social studies topics surrounding the Civil War.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Guest Readers Gathered:** Students were introduced to a variety of community members and district leaders when they participated in our guest reader program for Read Across America week. Police officers, board members, administrators, and parents shared their favorite books with students to encourage lifelong readers.
- **Bingo for Books:** Parents and students gathered together to play BINGO for books in a Title 1 sponsored event. Blue Ridge had a record turnout of parents and students. It was amazing to see everyone gathered after such a long time apart!

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 19** PTA Carnival
- **April 22** Earth Day Clean Up

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Eastwood Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Celebration of Life:** Eastwood Hills lost one of their students on March 5th. Fourth grade student Rahnae Clay died of complications due to Asthma. Rahnae and her siblings have attended Eastwood Hills for the past ten years and the family are very loved and special members of the school community. The EW staff were able to gift the family with food, a large floral arrangement for the service, and monetary donations to help cover funeral costs. Two works of Rahnae's art will be framed in her honor; one piece donated to the family and the other to hang in the halls of Eastwood Hills. Rahnae will forever be an Eastwood Hills S.T.A.R.R.
- **Support Staff Of the Year:** Congratulations to Diana Scarcello, Cafeteria Manager, for her nomination of EWH Support Staff of the Year. Diana was nominated by her peers for her kind and quality service to students over the past few years in the midst of a global pandemic, creating staffing shortages and increased work demands. Through it all, Mrs. Scarcello has maintained a focus and commitment to the students of Eastwood Hills, always wanting the very best for them!

Academic Focus:

- **Eastwood Super Readers:** Eastwood students participated in Read Across America Week, logging over 20,000 minutes read and raising \$2,000 in pledge donations for the EWH PTA! Top classrooms participated in a DJ zoom dance party to celebrate and prizes for top readers included lego sets and book bags. We LOVE to read at EWH!!
- **Reading Comprehension:** Eastwood teachers have taken a deep dive into reading instruction over the past two years, focusing first on specialized and differentiated instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics to teach decoding, then focusing on targeted fluency instruction. This month teachers participated in professional development addressing the complex nature of reading comprehension, and the role of vocabulary and background knowledge in text comprehension. Teachers will use this new learning to focus instruction on text selection to build background knowledge and targeted vocabulary instruction for the remainder of the school year.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Curriculum Night:** Eastwood is so excited to host their first In Person Curriculum Night in 3 years Thursday, March 24th! Students and families will go to grade level classrooms to play Greg Tang Math games with their families, read provided nonfiction selections and FREE fiction books with fun comprehension tools, listen to story read-alouds from the school principal, tour the Art Show displaying artwork from every Eastwood student, shop at the Scholastic Book Fair, learn about the EWH PTA, and end the evening with a pizza dinner on us! We can't wait!!

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 8** Functional Skills Students' field trip to RMS
- **April 19** EWH Papa John's Day
- **April 28** EWH Culver's Night

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Fleetridge Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year:** Fleetridge honored Karen Mahabir, Library Clerk for her commitment to our students each and every day! Karen has gone above and beyond to enrich our students by sponsoring multiple clubs this school year. We treasure her commitment to Fleetridge.
- **Social Worker Day:** FR celebrated Tiffany Woods for all that she does to support our students and families SEL needs.
- **Schoolwide Assembly:** FR students and staff gathered together for our first school wide assembly on the playground. Students enjoyed school Administration getting "Pied" by two of our students. We sang our school song and also enjoyed a special treat from our PTA **PBS 3rd Quarter Incentive:** Students were invited to partake in our **Fleetridge LUCKY RAINBOW Day celebration** for showing positive behavior (Respectful, Responsible, and Safe)

Academic Focus:

- **RAA Week:** Read Across America Week was a blast! Students participated in a fun week focused on reading with the theme Play with Stories. Students enjoyed hearing stories from guest readers in person and virtually. Top classroom donations enjoyed a class determined treat. Thank you Mrs. Howell FR LMS for organizing this event.
- **Frontier Museum:** Fourth Gr. students enriched their classroom learning experience with a field trip to Frontier Trails Museum to learn more about the Westward Expansion. Students culminated their learning experience with a wagon ride.
- **Zoomobile:** Third grade students experienced the opportunity to learn from some animal ambassadors from the KC Zoo.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **RAA Donations:** During Read Across America Week FR students donated 180 items to support Children's Mercy hospital patients. Way to go FR!
- **Pot of Gold Challenge:** Students enjoyed donating to their Leprechaun Trap of choice to help reach our school goal. Students were looking forward to "pieing" Mrs. Mott in the face. All proceeds went to PTA to support school activities.
- **ELA/Art Fair Night:** We are looking forward to hosting an in person ELA/Art Fair Family Night. Our theme this year is "[Read to Them](#)," Students will experience the opportunity of Reading together, tour the Art Gallery displaying student work from every student, shop at the Book Fair and receive a special treat from our PTA.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 14** 2nd Gr. KC Zoo Field Trip
- **April 18-22** PTA Book Fair
- **April 21, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** ELA/Art Fair Night 6:00 -7:30

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations:

- **New Leopard** - Fifth grade teacher Brea Reser welcomed daughter Ryleigh on March 14! We are excited to have a new Leopard in our midst. She even participated in our Spirit Week the week before Spring Break! Here she is on “tacky tourist” day.
- **Quarter 3 Academic Awards** - On the Friday before Spring Break, we honored academic success for the third quarter. Quarterly, each teacher selects one student in the area of Reading and one in the area of Math. Awards are given to students for exceptional effort, progress, or perseverance. Our Title 1 Math and Reading teachers also nominate one winner per grade.
- **Character Trait Kids for March** - The Character Trait for the month of March was “Initiative”. Students from each classroom were recognized for their excellent initiative, by earning a donut breakfast, certificate, and special backpack.



Academic Focus:

- **Data Wall Updates** - Teachers continue to collaborate with administrators and our Title Reading Team to track and update reading data throughout the year. Recently, we celebrated the fact that all three intermediate grades (3-5) have met their goal of having 75% of students or more at their targeted spot on our continuum. We are proud of our Leopards!
- **MAP Testing Preparations** - Teachers and students are working hard on preparing for the upcoming MAP Grade Level Assessments. Students will use their perseverance to “try their best on the test”.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Read-a-Thon Wrap Up** - Our PTA’s Read-A-Thon Fundraiser raised nearly \$5,000 in the month of February! Students collected pledges all month long. On the Friday before Spring Break, the top raising classes in each grade were treated to a PTA Pizza Party!
- **Upcoming ELA & Math Night** - Laurel Hills will host an in person Family ELA and Math Night on Thursday, April 28 from 5:30 - 7:30

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Math/ELA Night 5:30-7:30



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Little Blue Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Terrific Kids-** A student from each class was nominated by their classroom teacher for demonstrating the February Character Trait of being Inquisitive!
- **Chess Club-** Since October of 2021, Mr. Saddler and Mr. Barber led a before school chess club that included 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The students that were a part of the club learned how to play, the name of the pieces and the strategy that comes to playing chess. The club just had their last chess club before Spring Break.
- **Quarter 3 PBIS Party-** Students had a Glow Party where they received treats and lemonade, played black light games in the gym and were able to make lighting bugs for a take home craft.

Academic Focus:

- **2nd Grade Book Projects-** Students created posters, t-shirts and dioramas on books of their choice they read in the month March. After creating these projects, the students then presented them to their classrooms and then displayed them on the walls of the school so other students in different grade levels could view them.
- **Reading and Math Vertical Team-** This school year at Little Blue our Math Vertical Team has been working on a small group IMW Continuum and our Reading Vertical Team has worked on comprehension connections and completing the reading continuum past fluency.

Parent Community Focus:

- **Read Across America-** Students and staff at Little Blue participated in Read Across America Week by having a spirit week and getting to go to the week long book fair in the library. The students had a blast on their "Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character" spirit day!
- **Title 1 Math and Reading Night-** Our Title 1 Math and Reading teachers have been planning this parent involvement night and currently putting on the final touches to make this night a success.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 4 - April 14** Yearbook Sales
- **April 29** Always Changing

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Norfleet Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Social Worker Day & Behavior Specialist Day:** Norfleet celebrated Social Worker Sarah Thompson and Behavior Interventionist Molly Tennant with their own special days on March 8 and March 22. We appreciate all they do for our students and families.
- **Stork News:** First grade teacher Nichole Harnett delivered her baby girl on March 4th.
- **PBS Third Quarter Incentive:** Students were recognized for having great behavior during the third quarter of school. These “lucky” students enjoyed a scavenger hunt around school to find clues to make shamrock shakes.
- **PTA Spring Parties:** Norfleet celebrated spring and Spring Break with classroom parties the day before break. Students enjoyed a snack, a seed planting activity, and a schoolwide BINGO game. A fun time was had by all!

Academic Focus:

- **RAA Week:** Students participated in a fun week focused on reading with the theme Play with Stories during Read Across America Week. The spirit week included dress up days to recognize how we have fun and play in all different places. Students enjoyed hearing stories from guest readers during this special week. Norfleet would like to celebrate LMS Stephanie Howell for her creativity and organization in making this week a success.
- **Professional Learning:** Norfleet teachers continued our professional learning on Harmony SEL. This free resource helps us plan the SEL lessons we teach during Community Building time. Staff members also completed a Relationship Map to help us identify students who we need to get connected to our staff and school.
- **One Year Smarter:** Third-fifth graders are practicing using their online tools and discussing how their effort and attitude will impact their GLA test scores. Students will be showing they are “one year smarter” when GLA testing starts on April 12th.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **RAA Comfort Items Drive:** During Read Across America Week, Norfleet students and staff collected comfort items for patients at Children’s Mercy Hospital. We collected 152 items!
- **Cerner Health Kids Screenings:** The gym and a classroom were taken over by the Health Kids nurses on March 22! These health screenings provide such valuable information to parents.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 5, 6:00 PM** PTA Board Meeting
- **April 12** PTA Papa John’s Night
- **April 14** National School Librarian Day
- **April 26** PTA Unit Meeting

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Robinson Elementary



Celebrations:

- Molly Williamson, Admin Intern, welcomed a baby girl on March 2nd.
- Read Across America was a success! We celebrated this week by having a spirit week, a schoolwide DEAR and students were all gifted a new book to celebrate reading!
- We celebrated the week before Spring Break with a spirit week. The highlight of the week was a “Flip the Switch Day” where students dressed as staff and the staff as students.
- We continue to celebrate the academic achievements of our students on Mondays. Our Robinson Rockstars are announced and celebrated on our morning announcements. They are awarded a certificate and given a special puzzle piece to our building bulletin board. We are all working together to achieve academic success at Robinson!

Academic Focus:

- **Data Teams**-Discussions were held around our small group DRI and IMW. We have been reassessing students and making instructional decisions to adjust the frequency and type of student intervention based on our new data. We have also been planning and preparing for our upcoming GLA Testing.
- **Trauma Smart**-We continue to work through the Trauma Smart modules with the help of our Trauma Smart trainer. This month we focused on Affect Modulation and reviewed tools and strategies to work with students for Up Regulation and Down Regulation. Our Social Emotional Learning committee at Robinson, has been further evaluating and reflecting on our new learnings as we look at sustainability for this year and beyond.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Family Game Night**-Robinson held a Family Game Night. Teachers led families through ELA and Math activities to use at home. We had more than 350 people in attendance. Families also had the opportunity to visit our Robinson Book Fair that evening. It was a great night at Robinson!
- **PTA Unit Meeting**-Our March PTA Unit Meeting was held. We focused on upcoming events including the planning of our 5th Grade Farewell. Conversations were also held between board members as it relates to PTA Board Nominations for the 2022-2023 school year.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 4-14** Yearbook sales
- **April 5** 1st Grade Wonderscope
- **April 6** 4th Grade Missouri Town
- **April 7** 2nd Grade Coterie
- **April 14** Always Changing
- **April 21, 6:00-7:00 PM** PTA Board Meeting

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations:

- CORE Club collected over 1000 snacks to make Snack packs for the Ronald McDonald house.
- Our Yearbook Club completed the 21-22 Yearbook

Academic Focus:

- The month of March we had our Blast Program for Bikes. Students in grades 3rd, 4th & 5th were able to participate with Bike KC in learning how to ride a bike. Instructors taught students the components of a bike, bike safety and how to ride.
- Students had 3rd Quarter PBIS parties. The students received treats, had an activity and were able to make their color of choice slime to take home.
- Our PBIS assembly took place where students received academic and character trait awards. Students were recognized in ELA, Math and Perfect Attendance. Each teacher picked 2 students from their classroom who represented the character trait for the quarter. All students chosen received a Southwood character T-shirt.

Parent/Community Focus:

- March 15 , 2022 we had a PTA Unit Meeting and Paint night. This was a night full of fun and excitement. There were six stations where families were able to use their creative side to learn about artists, create murals and fellowship. There was a scavenger hunt where families searched and read about artists. At the end of the artist biographies were symbols they had to draw on the maps. Once all symbols were collected, students could turn in the map for a prize. We had over 180 in attendance for the event. This was our first time hosting this event and many shared this was definitely a new Southwood tradition.
- Parent Teacher Association(PTA): We had our annual trash bag sales which began at the end of February into March. On Thursday March 23, 2022 we had our PTA McTeacher Night Fundraiser in which families purchased food from mcDonalds so Southwood could receive a percentage of the profits.
- On Friday, March 25, 2022 PTA Winter parties took place in the gym. Students rotated stations and were able to create a craft, have a treat and participated in fun games.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 8** Donuts with Grown-ups
- **April 8** Kansas City Water Education
- **April 8** Always Changing
- **April 13** [Blast into Math & ELA Night](#)
- **April 24** Healthe Kids

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Spring Valley Elementary



Celebrations:

- **Support Staff of the Year:** Congratulations to Veronica Bell, our amazing secretary at Spring Valley. Ms. Bell is the face and voice of SV as everyone sees her when they walk through our front doors. She is a great role model of encouragement, hard work, team work, showing care and concern, accountability and overflows with a joyful heart and radiating attitude.
- **Awards Assembly:** We were able to have our first in person assembly to celebrate academic and behavior accomplishments of our students. Students enjoyed singing our SV Cougar Song and learning a new Kindness Chant created by our wonderful counselor, Mrs. Jordan. It was fun celebrating our students as they marched down the red carpet to receive their award.
- **March Madness:** Students enjoyed our 3rd quarter PBIS incentive with a March Madness theme. Students were able to have a ball with Bossy Ball, Bucket Bounce and Rob the Nest. They also enjoyed nachos and a drink.

Academic Focus:

- **Reading Data Wall:** Teachers and students continue to persevere in small group reading instruction to reach individual goals. As a whole SV students in K-5th grades have improved their reading skills by 20%.
- **MAP Testing Prep:** Teaching and students have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming MAP Grade Level Assessments in April. Students in grades K-2 have been sending kind and uplifting messages to 3rd-5th grade students to pump them up to do their best.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Feelin' Groovy ELA & Math Night:** We held our annual ELA & Math Night on March 24th. Families were excited to join in the fun evening to learn math and reading strategies, new skills and games that they could play at home as well. Parents loved to be in person at a school event!
- **Read Across America:** SV invited our community members and Caring for Kids Partners to join our Read Across America week long celebration. Having caring patrons and district personnel come in person and read to students was engaging and enjoyed by all.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 4-18** World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser
- **April 11** SV Culver's Night from 5-8pm (LS location)
- **April 18-29** RHS/REAP's Hunger Games Food Drive

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations:

- **Read Across America-** We had a great week for Read Across America. We celebrated by having a spirit week, a schoolwide DEAR and guest readers from the high school.
- **Caring for Kids Dream Big Competition-** Caring for Kids held a "Dream Big" contest where students were asked to write an Essay, Poetry or use art to express their big dreams. We had 11 students participate in the contest for Westridge and submitted three entries for consideration. 5th grader Tilly Davis was the winner for poetry and 5th grader Clay Acton's art submission will also be featured. These works will be auctioned off as a fundraiser for Caring for Kids.

Academic Focus:

- **Writing Vertical Teams-** The writing team has finalized rubrics for writing expectations and is moving on to application with students to guide instruction. Teams will bring writing artifacts back to the next meeting to discuss.
- **Math Vertical Teams-** The math team is developing a mastery calendar for Reveal and then aligning Greg Tang strategies to each priority and power standard.
- **Comprehension Vertical Team-** The comp team is doing a book study of Strategies that Work to identify specific instructional strategies that should be evident in each comprehension lesson.

Parent/Community Focus:

- **Pastries with Peeps-** Parents, family members, and friends had the opportunity to enjoy a donut breakfast before break. We had over 200 people come through making the first in-person event since COVID a huge success!

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 22** Spring Pictures

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New Trails Early Learning Center



Celebrations:

- Support Staff Person of the Year for New Trails is Kathy Bartelli. Kathy has been an instructional assistant at early childhood for over fifteen years. She has worked in a variety of classrooms and has supported some of our most struggling students. Kathy was nominated by her peers for her problem solving skills and creativity. All those that nominated Kathy shared that she always puts children first. Making sure children are safe and love to learn is the most important job of an IA.
- Read Across America was celebrated with a spirit week and guest readers from our Caring for Kids Partners. We had a theme and a book for the day to inspire the love of reading.

Academic Focus:

- Classes have been learning about animals. They have worked on finding facts and sorting using nonfiction texts. Using fiction texts students have learned how to predict and make inferences. In math they worked on prepositions.
- The Zoo Mobile came and taught the children about animal skins and habitats.

Parent/Community Focus:

- We have had many Kindergarten Transition IEP meetings. Staff have collaborated with elementary teams to help develop Kindergarten IEPs.
- Caring for Kids partners came and read books to our classes during Read Across America.

Upcoming School Events:

- **April 8** Staff Egg Hunt
- **April 26, 5:30-7** Splash Into Spring playgroup

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations:

- Teacher Kendall Devore welcomed her daughter, Quinn on March 2, 2022.
- Congratulations to secretary, Jennifer Gutierrez. Jennifer was nominated for a 2nd time as Three Trails building support staff of the year.
- Ronnie has been able to use his words to describe his big feelings
- Kamari has been following directions the first time and not giving up! Also, being a kind friend to his peers
- Luke has always being helpful, kind, and respectful to his peers
- Isabel consistently follows directions and tries her best!
- Elias is a star student because he is such a helpful student. He helps others at clean up time, writes things in the writing area, answers questions at carpet time and is just an overall great student! He also has a new baby sister!
- Jevon is always a helpful student. Jevon is quiet and follows directions when asked. Jevon had really helped Miciah and he is his go-to friend in the classroom.
- Kyndall is always willing to help her peers and teachers. She loves school and learning new concepts!
- Eliseo is kind to all of his classmates and loves learning.
- Jordyn is a gentle and humble student. She never discriminates when it comes to students that want to play with her!
- Ivory is always happy and helpful. She is a good friend and plays nicely with others. We are glad she is in our classroom!

Academic Focus:

- All teachers at 3T read “Love Makes a Family” as their monthly focus for Celebrating Diversity-3T, LGBT.
- Teachers collaboratively planned Creative Curriculum Units of study. Teachers began to use the new online planning Creative Curriculum Cloud.
- 3T completed their 16th hour of Trauma Smart. 3T Staff will have completed 20 hours of Trauma Smart PD by the end of the year.

Parent/Community Focus:

- Three Trails participated in the yearly Head Start Self-Assessment. MARC Head Start feedback regarding policies and procedures were reviewed. 3T continued to meet the Head Start expectations for students, staff and families.

Upcoming School Events

- 4/14, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Big Truck Night
- 4/18 - 4/19 KC Zoo Field Trip
- 4/26 Picture Day