

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Blue Ridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Half Day Professional Learning:** This year, Blue Ridge focused on Cultural Competence and vertical teams. For Cultural Competence, teachers discussed cultural barriers that exists within the Blue Ridge organization among staff. Groups agreed on specific commitments to overcome these cultural barriers. Vertical teams also met to discuss the progression of expectations for writing and math mastery. Goals were established based on the expectations, and future data review teams will analyze progress of student mastery.
- **Questioning Focus:** Teachers participated in a review of Teach Like a Champion techniques and an introduction of the Hess Cognitive Rigor Matrix. During October, teachers will choose a technique to practice and perfect in the classroom. Teacher Leaders will provide feedback to their peers about the utilization of the techniques and level of questioning.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Score I:** Students participated in Score I for Health on September 24. Information from this screening event helps Blue Ridge identify students for our free glasses event in October.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 10** BELIEVE Incentive
- **October 16** Pumpkin Carving
- **October 19** Pumpkins on Parade
- **October 29** Half Day Professional Development, Trail of Treats

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Eastwood Hills Elementary

Academic Focus

- Eastwood Teachers engaged in two comprehensive professional development sessions in the month of September, for the purpose of strengthening their instructional expertise for advanced student learning in the areas of writing and mathematics. On September 10th, Greater Kansas City Writing Project presenters facilitated a half-day session with EWH teachers on 6 Trait Writing. Outcomes included a vertical progression of focused writing skills by grade level connected to the writing traits. Secondly, Eastwood grade level and special education resource teachers participated in half day grade level sessions with Greg Tang. Their learning was rehearsed and shared with building-level teacher colleagues during the Wednesday October 1st PD session.

Parent/Community Focus

- Career Day was held at Eastwood Hills on September 13th. Guest speakers from the Kansas City community and EW parents came and spoke with grade levels about their careers as part of the counseling program goal of supporting career planning with students. We hosted our V.I.P. (very important person) breakfast with students and their VIPs Friday September 20th, and our annual PTA Fun Run was a huge success on September 27th with over \$2000 collected in pledge donations!

Upcoming School Events

- **October 10** One Sight Vision Van
- **October 20-25** Red Ribbon Week
- **October 24** Kindergarten Field Trip to Johnson Farms
- **October 30, 9:30 a.m.** Quarter 1 PBS Assembly
- **October 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Family Fun Night/Trunk or Treat
- **October 31** Fall Classroom Parties

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Fleetridge Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** Our students completed STAR testing in September. Teams then analyzed this data and included it in the Data Review Team process. Part of our building goals include a continued focus on Wednesday Professional Development time to create SMART goals, review progress, and discuss teaching strategies as part of our professional learning communities.
- **Character Building:** Our students look forward to their Community Building time each day. During this time, teachers incorporate the character trait monthly focus and an opportunity to teach other social skills. In the month of September we focused on “Dependability”. The admin team looks forward to their daily read aloud which provides an opportunity to teach our Fleetridge Stars and connect to each classroom.

Parent/Community Focus

- Fleetridge hosted Cerner Healthe Kids during September. Students were given health assessments which resulted in a beneficial report for parents to review.
- National Walk to School Day took place on Wednesday October 2, 2019. Students, parents, and staff started their walk with two personal escorts from the KCPD. Upon arrival at Fleetridge, families went to the gym for Pastries with Parents.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 8, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** Fleetridge Night at Culver’s
- **October 16** PBIS Quarter 1 Celebration
- **October 24, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Haunted Hallways
- **October 30** Fall Parties

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report

October, 2019

Laurel Hills Elementary



Academic Focus

- **Math Professional Development:** The teachers at Laurel Hills are focusing on math practices to improve student achievement. The teachers are implementing the following practices this year. Each grade level team is using specific resources from Greg Tang during Independent Math Workshop (IMW). These resources were suggested by Greg Tang during the half day professional development sessions in September. The teachers are also being very intentional about which Greg Tang games students are accessing on his website during IMW. We feel both of these small changes will result in strong improvement in the area of math fact fluency. In addition to these practices, the teachers are also implementing a new instructional strategy or technique every two weeks this school year. These strategies or techniques were identified this summer from the Math Plus National Conference.
- **Student Achievement Data:** Student achievement is the primary focus of all academic conversations at Laurel Hills. We continue to ask ourselves, are our students learning and what evidence we have to support our answer. Our teachers spent a considerable amount of time having vertical discussions around these two questions. The teachers committed about the difference they have noticed in the returning Laurel Hills students math reasoning abilities from previous year.

Parent/Community Focus

- **ELA Curriculum Night:** Laurel Hills hosted a Superhero Literacy Night for families. Families moved around the school to learn about ways to support reading at home. They also had an opportunity to make different activities to use at home. The evening concluded with BINGO for Books. Children won books when they got a BINGO! It was a great night to see our students so excited to read!
- **PTA Family Skate Night:** Laurel Hills families had an opportunity to go skating in September. We had several families attend the skate night. It was fun to see our families getting to know one another and seeing the kids outside of school.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 14-15** Dental Clinic
- **October 14-17** Book Fair
- **October 15 & 17** Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **October 29, 6:30 p.m.** PTA Fall Family Fun Night

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Little Blue Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Digital Citizenship:** All grades levels are participating in Digital Citizenship courses. These lessons focus on internet safety and how to be good stewards of the internet. Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers are leading these lessons, and grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 are student-led lessons.
- **Student Accountability:** All students at Little Blue are keeping track of their own learning through data documentation. This looks different for each grade; however, all students are tracking their learning, setting goals, and monitoring their own scores. This has increased student's accountability for their learning, and has resulted in higher test scores.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Terrific Kids:** We had our first round character assemblies on September 30th to recognize one student from each room who exhibits thoughtfulness every day. We are also recognizing teachers who exhibit the monthly character traits as well; 2 employees earn prime parking for displaying the month's character trait. Students with perfect attendance were also recognized.
- **Skate Party:** PTA hosted our first skate party of the year on September 26th. PTA covered the cost to skate, and students got a free drink if they were wearing Little Blue apparel. Students, parents, and staff had a great time!

Upcoming School Event

- **October 21-23** Dental Clinic
- **October 25** Fall Parties

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Norfleet Elementary

Academic Focus

- **STAR Testing:** Students completed fall benchmark testing during September. Teachers analyzed this data as a part of Data Review Teams. Grade levels truly appreciate having Wednesday Professional Development time to create SMART goals, review progress, and discuss teaching strategies as part of the data review process.
- **Teacher Leader Training:** This month our new teacher leaders were able to attend the first in a series of trainings that were led by Dr. Huff and Instructional Coordinators. The Teacher Leader program is a key component in our teachers feeling empowered and encouraged to lead others.
- **Field Trips:** P.E. Teacher Darryl Duncan accompanied 4th grade on a field trip to the Kansas City Chiefs Sports Lab. They experienced many hands-on science, math, and P.E. activities. The highlight of the day was a private tour of Arrowhead Stadium!

Parent/Community Focus

- **WATCH D.O.G.S. Kickoff:** Norfleet will again be participating in the WATCH D.O.G.S. program to provide positive male role models for our students, as well as to provide an extra set of eyes and ears to promote school security. The annual pizza party kick-off was held so fathers could learn about the program and sign up for days to volunteer at school. The evening ended with fathers and students enjoying dessert and games together in the cafeteria.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 7-10, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** PTA Book Fair in Library
- **October 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Family Math Night, Grandparents' Night, & Book Fair
- **October 14** Picture Day
- **October 26, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** PTA Trek & Trea Family Fun Walk

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report

October, 2019



Robinson Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Data Review Teams:** Teachers continue to gather in data teams to make decisions based on data. Most recently, teachers gathered with administration, the BIST consultant and other school support staff to analyze behavior data and scenarios. These collaborative discussions allowed us all to refocus and refine our practices as we work to ensure all of our students successful academically and behaviorally.
- **Character Traits:** Our students and staff look forward to their Community Building time each day. During the month of September, we focused on Respect. In addition to our daily Community Building time, each primary classroom is paired up with an intermediate classroom as a buddy. These “buddies” get together on one Wednesday each month to further their work on the Character Trait and provide mentorship and support. At the end of the month, classroom teachers select one student as the Character Trait award winner for the month. These students are treated to an awesome t-shirt and a donut breakfast with the Principal.

Parent/Community Focus

- **BINGO Night-**Many students and families showed up for our PTA Bingo Night. PTA was on hand with a concession stand and lots of prizes. A good time was had by all.
- **BOO Fest-** PTA and our Robinson students and staff are geared up for our Boo Fest. This event takes place at the school and is one of the best attended events each year. Families come dressed in their costumes and are greeted by Robinson Staff who are passing out treats.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 29, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (doors close at 7:00 p.m.)** Boo Fest
- **October 30** Picture Retakes

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Southwood Elementary

Academic Focus

- Students are learning to use critical thinking skills by recognizing the skills and strategies teachers are utilizing from Greg Tang. Students are being accountable for their work by tracking their data. Students are aware of their fall STAR scores and are setting goals to improve. They are working on individualized specific strategies to monitor and be accountable for their academic progress.
- Staff is focused on enriching professional development in the building to enhance the cultural and climate of the school regarding building level topics. Teacher leaders focused on presenting the Doug Lemov TLAC Strategies, trauma sensitive students and a growth mindset. Teachers are applying the Greg Tang models in a variety of ways to adapt to the needs of the students to enhance educational progression.

Parent/Community Focus

- The PTA has increased our membership to 109 memberships as well as 4 business memberships. The goal of increasing membership continues each month. Movie night took place on Friday September 13, 2019. It was one of the largest turnouts. There were several, family, staff and friends who took part in watching The Secret Life of Pets
- We were excited to have arranged for the Smile, its Healthy dentist to provide service to our students on September 29th 30th, 2019. Seeing the dentist at school makes it easy for the student to stay healthy and not miss valuable class time.
- National Walk to School Day took place on Wednesday October 2, 2019. Students and staff began at Kenagy Park in Raytown Missouri. They walked to Southwood Elementary. Upon arrival students greeted with the roadrunner mascot and lots of cheers.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 15** Principals Breakfast
- **October 16** Awards Assembly
- **October 22** Jammie Jam PBIS Assembly
- **October 23** Haunted Hallways

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Spring Valley Elementary

Academic Focus

- **Fostering Resilient Learners:** Spring Valley continues to focus on student engagement with a focus on what it means to be a trauma informed school. We are currently doing a book study on , Fostering Resilient Learners. Throughout this monthly book study, teachers are selecting a strategy to implement with their class. As the teachers become more comfortable with the strategies, they are seeing a positive impact on their classroom. This impact was immediately felt in the area of behavior and classroom management. We are anxious to see how the improved behavior will translate with student achievement.
- **Vertical Planning:** Vertical Planning is in full affect for building wide standards and unit standards. This area of focus for teachers has worked to put intentional backwards planning in place and reflective conversations over the pre and post data. Vertical planning was determined to be essential to the incremental growth for students in all content areas K-5.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Fun Run Fundraiser:** SV PTA hosted our annual Fun Run Fundraiser that consisted of student collecting money to raise for SV for the upcoming school year. Students had the opportunity to participate in the Fun Run Obstacle course on Friday, September 27th as an incentive for all of the money raised. The goal of \$3,500 was met therefore, Dr. Campbell is looking forward to a celebration assembly that will require her to be silly stringed in front of the entire student body and staff!
- **PTA Dues:** Spring Valley is excited to state that all Spring Valley staff has paid their PTA membership dues. This is a first and huge accomplishment as we work to maintain a partnership that supports the learning and development of all students in our community.
- **Back to School Night Picnic:** Spring Valley hosted a back to school night on Thursday, September 5th at Kenagy Park. Families came out to enjoy hotdogs, chips, face painting, along with outdoor fun in the skateboard and playground area. More than 100 people showed up to participate in the festivities.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 15** Papa John's Night
- **October 21** Open PTA Meeting
- **October 29, 5:30 p.m.** Fall Fun Festival

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report

October, 2019

Westridge Elementary



Academic Focus

- **Vertical Teams:** Writing, Math, and Comprehension teams have met to vertically align strategies, models and expectations.
 - The Writing Team is refining rubrics to outline expectations and assessment practices for writing K-5. The team is reviewing DESE expectations for writing to calibrate the rubric to ensure proper scaffolding of expectations.
 - The Math Team presented the strategies learned from the recent PD with Greg Tang to staff to show how skills and strategies build upon each other K-5. This also reinforced the importance of continuity across the board to ensure all students enter the next grade prepared for new content.
 - The Comprehension Team first designed PD for running records and is establishing expectations for frequency of running records for each grade. Our next step is to present the expectations to staff and PD on how to integrate running records into small group instruction and review with students during DRI.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Monthly Recognition:** Each month WR has an assembly to review our monthly SEL focus and recognize students for growth in reading and math. This year we have included Terrific Kids in the celebration.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** Stone Lion Puppet Assembly
- **October 21, 4:00-8:00 p.m.** Chipotle Night
- **October 30** Family Game Night

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

New Trails Early Learning Center

Academic Focus

- **STAR:** Based on our data the staff established our SMART goal to focus on students distinguishing same and different. They developed a learning progression with the goal for proficiency in identifying a letter and a numeral, which includes identifying same and different in letters, numerals, and words.
- **Walk Throughs:** After walk throughs the focus for collaboration has been to go deeper in our planning. Planning for a full day has been challenging. The staff has set some additional planning days to help them get ahead of their planning. One area of emphasis is book time. As we realigned our standards and developed comprehension focuses for each unit we need to develop better questions. We will be working on developing questions to match the standard for each book time unit.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Healthy Kids:** The nurses and staff came and screened many of our children. The kids did a great job and the Nurses were patient. They were able to complete most of our children without tears. They also brought Care Packages containing pajamas and blankets. The children loved them!
- **Family Fun Night:** September we hosted a Family Fun night. We had sensory activities and family friendly preschool games. Mid-Continent Library came and hosted a story time. SB6 had a booth showing the games and toys available as well as flyers with upcoming play groups. Families completed a BINGO card to get a free book.
- **PAT:** PAT was awarded two Truman grants this year one for 2,000 to purchase car seats for our families and another for 5,000 to provide baby bags to targeted families. The families will receive 10 bags over the course of a year. The bags will contain developmentally appropriate toys and household items such as safety latches. The Parent Educator will share information on how to use the items and their benefits to the child's development, safety and well being.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 24** School Pictures
- **October 29** CPI training and Instructional Rounds
- **October 29, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Trail of Treats
- **October 31** Fall Celebration with Pumpkin Patch at NT

Elementary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



October, 2019

Three Trails Preschool

Academic Focus

- Three Trails has completed STAR Testing on all students. During DRT, teachers have reviewed the STAR data to support creating small flexible groupings for all students.
- Three Trails has been focusing on teaching student Teach Like a Champion strategy Turn and Talk during their whole group reading time.

Parent/Community Focus

- Parents are invited to attend our first field trip to Johnson Farm.
- Parents were invited to attend Curriculum Night to learn about the school day and instruction.
- All teachers reached out to parents with a positive phone call to all students.

Upcoming School Events

- **October 30, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Haunted Halls