

Elementary Schools

Monthly Board of Education Report

March 2021



Blue Ridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Paulette Seidelman, library clerk, was named Blue Ridge Support Staff of the Year.
- Shanise Riley received a scholarship to participate in the LeaderForward Academy through ThriveOn Concepts, a teacher leadership program to build interpersonal and leadership skills.
- We celebrated the 100th school day on Tuesday, February 23rd.

Academic Focus

- **2nd Semester Focus:** For second semester, teachers are focusing on reading grade level material fluently with intonation, inflection, and accuracy. For primary readers, this might entail engaging students in repetitive readings to ensure retention and comprehension. The intermediate grades might spend time on Reader's Theater to practice expression and inflection. The emphasis is necessary to get students reading independently and demonstrate their comprehension using their voice.
- **Black History Month:** Third quarter at Blue Ridge is about LEADERSHIP. What does it mean to lead others? What does it mean to be a leader? Who are some leaders that model the values and beliefs that resonate with me? Blue Ridge teachers and students explored famous and everyday black leaders and examined their stories.

Parent/Community Focus

- **LEAD Incentive:** As previously stated, Blue Ridge focuses on the vision word, LEAD, during the third quarter. This month, students started working toward the LEAD incentive. Every morning in community building, teachers and students discuss what it means to be a leader and how to lead others. At the end of the quarter, students will celebrate with a classroom party and a treat.
- **Super Bowl Spirit Week:** Blue Ridge teachers and students supported the Chiefs with a Spirit Week. Follow us on Facebook at Blue Ridge Elementary School to see all the fun in hallways and virtual classrooms.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 1-5** Read Across America
- **March 1-14** Online Scholastic Book Fair
- **March 3** Picture Day
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Conferences

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Eastwood Hills Elementary

Celebrations

- We are pleased to announce 5th grade teacher, Rosemary Collins, as the overwhelming nominee for EWH 21/22 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Collins has been the virtual teacher for 5th grade this school year, teaching a virtual class of 30 fifth grade students. Mrs. Collins was nominated by her peers for the strength of her relationships with students and her readiness to help and support her colleagues in any endeavor. Rosemary has taught at EWH for five years, and did her student teaching at EWH as well, all in fifth grade!
- EWH has had a great time celebrating Black History Month in February. We at EWH believe that Black History is American History, and highly value and celebrate all the uniqueness and differences within our school community. We enjoyed carving out extra time to showcase some of the African Americans that have helped shape the greatness of our country. Activities include biographies shared over the morning announcements, student research and art projects, and books were purchased for every student and teacher at EWH that celebrate people of color.

Academic Focus

- The Eastwood Hills' Instructional Leadership Team has been engaged in discussions about literacy instruction. Specifically, we have been asking ourselves to consider the instruction that is most essential for each grade level. Through this discussion we have identified focused skills to address both basic reading and reading comprehension skills, and have developed a professional development plan to address these areas of curriculum and instruction for the remainder of the 20/21 school year.

Parent/Community Focus

- The Eastwood Hills community adopts a major giving campaign every year. This month our faculty and families donated supplies to the Kansas City Pet Project. As always, I remain overwhelmed by the generosity of our students and parents. In total the EWH community collected \$120 and 8 boxes of supplies for the animal shelter!

Upcoming School Events

- **March 1-5** Read Across America Week
- **March 2, 4:30 PM** EWH PTA Meeting
- **March 4** Bookmobile
- **March 16** EWH Papa John's Night
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Conferences

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Fletridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Latrece Wilson, our Fletridge Support Staff of the Year. Mrs. Wilson is our Cafeteria Manager. She is always so kind and helpful with our students and staff.
- Our students celebrated being 100 days smarter this week! We enjoyed doing a variety of activities to celebrate this fun day.
- We also had fun with Super Bowl Spirit Week. Each day had a different theme for dress and style.
- Fletridge celebrated World Read Aloud Day with a virtual read aloud by author Lindsay H. Metcalf. Librarian Stephanie Howell organized this memorable event for our virtual classes.

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice:** Fifth grade students took the MO-LEAP science test as practice for April's GLA tests. This was a nice way to see what concepts the students have and where we need to focus our instruction.
- **Black History Month:** Every class is studying and participating in Black History Month. Some of these projects include writing research papers and inviting guest speakers like KC Star writer, Eric Wesson and KMBC meteorologist, Neville Miller.

Parent/Community Focus

- Fletridge had picture day for all of our students on February 18th. In person students had their pictures taken in the morning and the virtual students were able to come to school for their pictures in the afternoon. It was great to see several of our virtual students and families.
- Our PTA is trying a new fundraiser with Nothing Bundt Cakes. We are excited about this new partnership.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 1-7** PTA Fundraiser-Nothing Bundt Cakes
- **March 3, 6:30 PM** PTA Meeting
- **March 16, 4:30-6:00 PM** District-Wide Picture Retakes at Fletridge
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Conferences

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Laurel Hills Elementary



Celebrations

- Congratulations to Ms. Anita Reliford for being recognized as the Laurel Hills Support Staff Employee of the Year. Ms. Reliford is a special education Instructional Assistant.
- Our students and staff celebrated 100 days smarter this week! Our students enjoyed doing a variety of 100 activities.
- Each student at Laurel Hills received a book as a gift during the month of February. The titles were selected by grade level teams and the books promoted themes around inclusion and equity.

Academic Focus

- This month the students at Laurel Hills have been researching different African Americans to recognize during Black History Month. The upper grade students are creating presentations for their peers about their selected individuals. The lower grade students are writing about their findings.
- Collaboration and data discussion continue to be essential elements of our weekly practice. Teachers continue to meet weekly to discuss student outcomes and learning goals throughout units of study.

Parent/Community Focus

- Laurel Hills had picture day for the students on February 23rd. All in person students had their pictures taken in the morning and the virtual students were able to come to school for their pictures in the afternoon. It was great to see several of our virtual students at the school.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 1-15** PTA Fundraiser
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Conferences

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Little Blue Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Mrs. Maring, Math Specialist (current 4th grade teacher), for being the Little Blue Teacher of the year!
- Congratulations to Ms. Knabe, building secretary, for being the Little Blue Support Staff Employee of the year!

Academic Focus

- Fifth grade students took the MO-LEAP science test as practice for April's GLA tests. This was a nice way to see what concepts the students have and where we need to focus our instruction.
- Students at Little Blue focused on Black History Month during this month. We had guest readers from throughout the district and community read to students. Each grade did a variety of activities and lessons to celebrate.

Parent Community Focus

- LB had school pictures at the end of February. Virtual teachers were in the gym to see their kiddos, some for the first time, in person. It was good for everyone's hearts!
- LB students celebrated the 100th day of school on February 23rd. Many of our littles dressed up as 100-year-old students and did activities around the 100th day of school.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 16, 4:30-6:30** Picture Retakes at Fleetridge
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Conferences

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Norfleet Elementary

Celebrations

- Norfleet celebrated the 100th day of school on February 23. Everyone recognized being 100 days smarter with counting and writing activities. Some teachers and students dressed up like 100 year olds!
- Congratulations to Day Custodian Steve Alfaro, who was selected as our Support Staff Employee of the Year.
- The first week of February was Super Bowl Spirit Week. Each day had a different theme for dress and students completed Chiefs art projects including Andy Reid portraits. We're hoping to be able to do this again next year!
- Norfleet celebrated World Read Aloud Day with a virtual read aloud by author Lindsay H. Metcalf. Librarian Stephanie Howell organized this memorable event for grades K-2.

Academic Focus

- **GLA Practice:** Fifth grade students took the MO-LEAP science test as practice for April's GLA tests. This was a nice way to see what concepts the students have and where we need to focus our instruction.
- **Cultural Competency PD:** Dr. Moore presented a professional development on Courageous Conversations on Cultural Competency. It was a great session with conversations on current events, communication, and bias.
- **Black History Month:** All teachers delivered lessons on Black History Month. Some of these included researching Kamala Harris and Amanda Gorman, having meteorologist Neville Miller as a guest speaker, learning about African American game songs and spirituals in music, or watching a play about Harriet Tubman.

Parent/Community Focus

- Norfleet's PTA hosted its third quarter unit meeting last month. The program was a speaker from Code Ninjas. We are fortunate to have a partnership with this company and to get more STEM events for students.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 2, 6:00 PM** PTA Virtual Board Meeting
- **March 8-12** Read Across America Week
- **March 24** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **March 24** Spring Parties in Classrooms
- **March 25** Parent-Teacher Conferences

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Robinson Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Mrs. Robin Crump, Robinson school secretary, who was chosen as this year's Support Staff of the Year recipient. Her friendly smile and great customer service is an asset to all of the Robinson community.
- Students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school on February 23, 2021, This is always a favorite especially with our primary students and teachers.
- Mrs. Whitesell's 4th grade classroom recently celebrated a large percentage growth from pretest to posttest and the students were eager to share these results with administration.

Academic Focus

- At our latest DRT, conversations were had in regards to math lesson pacing and mastery. Based on student data and those discussions, instructional decisions were made. Additionally, teachers had the opportunity to attend a webinar outlining some key components of Edulastic, a math assessment platform.
- Vertical Teams-At a recent vertical team/PLC committee, teachers had the opportunity to share useful tips and ways they have been using Tang Math in their classrooms as we continue to look for ways to utilize this great resource. Additionally, they were able to bring topics of choice to these chats. While vertical team conversations are nothing new at Robinson, this particular format was new.
- Black History Month-We have celebrated Black History Month in numerous ways at Robinson. In addition to a daily focus on the announcements schoolwide, classrooms have implemented their own activities with the students. Many of these activities included finished products that now adorn many of our walls both in the hallways and classrooms.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Friendship Parties**-Our Friendship Parties were held after we returned to school from the wintry weather. Students enjoyed a sweet treat and juice from our PTA and created an individual Valentine themed craft. Students also had the opportunity to select a new book. Friendship parties coincided with picture day so our virtual students who came for pictures selected a new book as well!

Upcoming School Events

- **March 2** Read Across America Day
- **March 16, 4:30-6:30** Picture Retakes at Fleetridge

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Southwood Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Kristin Sweeny, a Kindergarten teacher. She is the Southwood Teacher of the year. She is also an integral part of Southwood's Committees which supports our school's community by planning and organizing building events for students and colleagues.
- Congratulations to Briana Law, our clerk. She is our Support Staff of the year. This is Ms. Law's first year at Southwood and when she came to Southwood in this very different school year. She jumped in and just started helping wherever was necessary. Her ability to help and understand children is amazing.
- Writers Workshop is up and running. Teachers are continuing to collaborate with their different ideas.
- Caring Partners, Connection Point brought Valentines for our staff.

Academic Focus

- **DRT** -Our focus is utilizing the skills from our writing workshop. Our teachers have placed emphasis on making sure students share writings with their class.
- **Technology:** Staff had a refresher training on See-Saw presented by Tyler Britt on February 4, 2021. Staff also had a refresher Edulastic class on February 25, 2021. Staff has had time to utilize the tools and now wanted to be able to ask specific questions related to the experiences they have had working with these programs with their students.
- **Body Safety Lessons:** Our Counselor , Eileen Fraztke presented body safety classes for all grade levels.

Parent/Community Focus

- **PTA Unit Meeting:** We had our unit meeting, meeting with a yoga session called Breathe and Stretch with our families and students.
- **PTA Fundraiser** Our PTA hosted a monthly fundraiser at McDonalds night on Thursday, February 18 2021.
- **100th Day of School:** Students and staff celebrated the 100th day of School on February 23, 2021.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 5** Black History Program
- **March 16** Picture Day
- **March 11, 18** Strengths-Finder PD with Dr. Cave

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Spring Valley Elementary

Celebrations

- Congratulations to our social worker, Nashay Williams, who is representing Spring Valley as our Support Staff of the Year. Mrs. Williams goes over and beyond to work with and support our families at Spring Valley!!
- Many of our classrooms celebrated the 100th day of school with various activities that were filled with fun and learning!
- While our Friendship Drive Thru Parade was cancelled due to weather, we were able to give out a book and treats to all of our students in person and our virtual students picked up throughout the week.

Academic Focus

- Fifth graders participated in the MO LEAP Science Assessment to practice testing procedures online prior to April's state testing.
- Black History Month-All students and staff are participating in a school wide bingo where facts are given daily honoring two individuals who have made a difference in our community or world and students research to determine who the individuals are for the day. Classrooms have also read stories, researched and created projects around African American who have contributed to society in making it a better place.
- Our academic focus is in Reading and DRI where we are emphasizing on teaching comprehension strategies in our small groups. Teachers participated in PD with Alicia Wallace with specific emphasis on comprehension strategies.
- In Math, teachers have signed up their students to have opportunities to be in live zoom sessions with Greg Tang. Teachers and students have both benefited from the seeing Greg Tang model strategies live.

Parent/Community Focus

- We had picture day at Spring Valley this week and all students in person and virtual had the opportunity to get their picture taken by Rolland Studios.
- Our Caring for Kids Partner, Kansas City Community Gardens, have partnered with us to finalize getting raised beds in one of our courtyards to implement STEM projects for our students

Upcoming School Events

- **March 1-5** Read Across America Week
- **March 3, 5:00 PM** PTA Meeting-Virtual
- **March 24** PTA Jason's Deli Night
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Virtual Conferences

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Westridge Elementary

Celebrations

- Amanda Hernandez, Custodian, was named Westridge Support Staff of the Year.
- Lauren Schroer was selected as a recipient of the Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers of the Gifted by the Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM). Schroer will receive a \$250 grant to invest in her classroom and will be recognized in the GAM publication, The GAMbit.

Academic Focus

- **Black History Month:** Fourth and fifth grade students are researching various Black and African Americans who have made a difference in the community. The research includes what each person achieved and a trait each person exemplified. Each morning students share one of their persons with the morning announcements.
- **Math:** Grade levels are working with Shea Thomas to review updated pacing guides and professional learning sessions around the instructional strategies associated with each standard or objective.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Super Bowl Spirit Week:** Westridge teachers and students supported the Chiefs with a Spirit Week. Each day students and staff wore clothing and outfits in support of the Chiefs.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 1-5** Read Across America
- **March 24-25** Parent Teacher Conferences

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New Trails Early Learning Center

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Megan Butler, she has been named the New Trails Teacher of the Year.

Academic Focus

- **Black History Month** - teachers have incorporated books to celebrate black history and to acknowledge and celebrate our differences.
- **Math Focus**- students have been working on counting using one to one correspondence.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Super Bowl Spirit week** - New Trails teachers and students supported the Chiefs with a Spirit Week.
- **Friendship Parties** - Classrooms held Friendship Parties and parents were able to join the party by Zoom and enjoy the fun!

Upcoming School Events

- **March 3** Read Across America Guest Readers will be Zooming into classrooms
- **March 15** Open Enrollment Preschool
- **March 17** Picture Day

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Three Trails Preschool

Celebrations

- Three Trails celebrated the 100th day of school. Families items for sorting and counting by 10s to equal 100. Students and staff dressed like they were 100.
- Three Trails honored Black History month with a visit from Dr. Moore. Dr. Moore visited all classrooms to tell about his life and experiences as well as read a book about MLK.

Academic Focus

- Teachers placed students in small groups based on phonemic awareness needs. Students meet with their teacher in a small group then practice their skills using IXL.

Parent/Community Focus

- Parents helped 3T celebrate the 100th day and Friendship day with donations for classroom activities.
- Through Caring for Kids, Raytown Rotary provided lunches for staff.

Upcoming School Events

- **March 4** Parent Head Start Representative Meeting
- **March 15** Open Enrollment Preschool
- **March 15** Fathering Event- Head Start