



VFES MONTHLY REPORT

April 2012–Team Updates

Kindergarten:

The Kindergarten has been busy with all Earth Day activities this month. We connected most of our studies with our science program. We read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books on weather, landforms, habitats, earth, recycling, trees, worms, seeds and plants. Of course the best thing about April at VFE is our annual Kindergarten Earth Day event! We celebrated our planet earth on Friday, April 20th with lots of smiles, perfect weather, and tons of energetic parents! Our kindergarten parents supported the day by working five different stations throughout the VFE campus. During the day the children planted seeds to take home, worked in the school flower garden, made frames from cereal boxes, played a recycling game and learned about the importance of exercise to keep healthy like the earth, learned about different soils, erosion, and worms and cleaned up an oil spill! The children worked up an appetite and enjoyed eating a variety of fruits and vegetables (a beautiful "rainbow") for a real Earth Day snack! We look forward to May and learning about insects and taking our class trip to Elmwood Park Zoo!

First Grade:

The first grade teachers heard all about the Spring Break adventures as everyone returned refreshed and ready to learn. When we returned from Spring Break, we began our study of Green Efforts in Science. The first grade students are learning all about our environment and ways to keep our planet clean. In Social Studies, we are studying African literature while looking for common characters or traits in the stories we read.

Everyone had a great time at the Trike-a-Thon. The children were very excited to sponsor a pre-k student and cheer for him while he rode his trike through our gym. What a fun and exciting way to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital! The American Red Cross visited first grade in April to teach the children about first aid basics. The children learned how to care for minor cuts, scrapes and burns and other emergencies. ALL first graders are counting down the days till the Spring Fair and are very excited for an evening of fun!

Second Grade:

Although April was a short month, second grade packed in many activities and lots of learning. We have been studying the solar system in science. Students have learned the difference between rotation and orbit, gravity and atmosphere. We are studying the individual planets, as well as the sun and moon. Students each wrote mnemonics to help them learn the order of the planets. This unit will prepare them for the next social studies unit, History of Flight. Our current social studies unit, Immigration, is coming to a close. Students are sharing information about an older person they interviewed. It was interesting to compare and contrast their lives with our students' at the same age. Second graders will be presenting their final Book Shares. They have made great progress in the written reports, projects and in the oral presentations! The second grade teachers are proud of them! Members of the STAR group from Conestoga will be visiting for a final time. The lessons they have planned and taught to our students have consisted of anti-bullying, cheating, and showing respect. We are all looking forward to our field trip to the Keswick Theater in May to see Ramona Quimby! How quickly the end of school is coming!

Third Grade:

April has gone by quickly but has been full of fun and exciting events in third grade. Students seemed to be rejuvenated after Spring Break and got right back on track with such programs as the PTO sponsored "Science in the Movies" assembly and our St. Jude's Spirit Week. Students also enjoyed supporting fellow V.F.E students in the Trike-A-Thon on April 12th. Third grade's big event this month was our "Pennsylvania Play" on Wednesday, April 25th. Students did a wonderful job of sharing all that we had been learning about during our Pennsylvania unit in social studies. It was great to see so much support from parents and family. Our students did an outstanding job! This month we continued our Family Life unit in health. We also started our new plant growth and development unit in science.

May will be a busy month with the Spring Fair on May 4th, Bee Man coming on May 9th and our Pennsbury Manor trip on May 22nd. We look forward to finishing up this fun school year with many more exciting activities and learning opportunities!

Fourth Grade:

The month of April started with our Spring Break. Everyone came back refreshed and ready to learn. We would like to thank the PTO and the Cultural Arts Committee for having "Thomas Jefferson" come to visit the fourth grade. Thomas Jefferson gave us the inside scoop about how he was picked to write the Declaration of Independence and the impact he made on our young and growing country.

We had a wonderful time sponsoring and helping with the Trike-A-Thon. We want to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication and give a big thank you to Mrs. Swetkowski for coordinating.

The field trip to Valley Forge National Park was a huge success. We want to thank Mrs. Narcisi and the rangers that were our tour guides while we were at the park. The rangers, who took us on our bus tours, provided great insight on what life was like for the Continental Army when they encamped there during the winter of 1777-1778. They taught us how important the wintering at Valley Forge was for our young army.

The PTO did another wonderful job on the Ice Cream Social and the fourth grade students had all their P.A.L. projects on display for everyone to enjoy. The culminating activities for Electric Circuits from science were also on display



May Events

- 5/4 PTO Spring Fair Mrs. Kravitz Class to Special Olympics
- 5/9 3rd grade Bee Man
- 5/10 4th grade Lewis & Clark Show
- 5/14 Kindergarten Trip to Elmwood Park Zoo
- 5/15 Principal VFMS meet with 4th Grade Parents Spring Concert
- 5/16 Volunteer Breakfast 4th grade to visit VFMS
- 5/17 1st grade Concert
- 5/20 4th grade Chorus to Freedom Foundation
- 5/22 2nd grade to Keswick Theater
3rd grade to Pennsbury Manor
4th grade to Conestoga Relays
- 5/23 Retirement Party
- 5/24 Health Food Fair
1st & 2nd grade Field Day
- 5/25 3rd & 4th grade Field Day
- 5/28 Memorial Day—No School
- 5/30 4th grade Chorus to Devon Manor
- 5/31 1st grade Water Safety

