



VFES MONTHLY REPORT

February 2012–Team Updates

Kindergarten:

The Kindergarten woke up February by wearing pajamas, eating yummy pancakes and reading Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie DePaola! The groundhog also woke up and predicted six more weeks of winter! We are still waiting for the snow!

The Kindergarten presented our festive Valentine Musical on February 10th to our proud parents and grandparents! Our performance was curriculum based as we sang about our country, friends, money, planets, stars, Presidents, and of course Valentine's Day! The children had been practicing the songs in their Music classes – thank you, Mrs. Bove!

Our kindergarten students and parents had the opportunity to join other TE kindergarten families at New Eagle for a Kindergarten Math Night this month. The children and parents had a fantastic time as they worked through various math stations using lots and lots of hands on materials, thank you to our Math Support teachers!

The month ended with writing letters to our grandparents and/or special friends. We look forward to the month of March and the beginning of Spring!

First Grade:

February was one day longer this year, but it flew by in first grade. Our month started off with a visit from our dental hygienist, Mrs. Forlano. She taught our first graders about how to care for their teeth in honor of Dental Health Month.

In reading, the children learned the importance of asking questions before, during and after reading. Asking questions helps readers stay connected to their reading and comprehend more. On our "trip" to Africa, we visited Kenya. The children had a great time learning about this new land and comparing and contrasting it to their own world.

Our rainforest murals gained many more additions this month. Each child created their own stuffed animal and colorful toucan to add to our mural. In addition to animals, the children studied and created insects to add to our murals.

February was also Black History Month. Our first graders learned about famous African Americans by participating in a round robin where each first grade teacher presented a lesson that taught the children about a famous African American.

The most LOVED event in February was Valentine's Day! The children had a fabulous time at our Valentine's Day parties. Thank you to all of our parents who help plan such great memories! Spring is on the way!!!

Second Grade:

Second graders began the month of February with the first lessons of our science Soils unit. We are studying three parts of soil: sand, clay, and humus. Students have been conducting soil tests to determine the various characteristics of soil. They will use what they have learned to draw conclusions regarding what soil combinations are best for planting. We are learning about worms and how they make soil better.

We have created a second grade compost bin. After five weeks, we will open the bin to discover what has happened to the vegetables and newspaper that was placed in the bin along with the soil and worms. Bits of plastic were also added. We will find out if that will decompose. As the control, there is a compost bin without worms.

As part of our on-going Go Green unit, second graders participated in a Toy Exchange. The exchange was to illustrate the reuse aspect of recycling. It was a big success and lots of fun for all!

Second Grade (continued)

Students are discovering explorers in our Exploration of the Americas unit. Lessons include the land bridge from Asia to North America, Viking settlement of North America, Marco Polo and his influence on Columbus.

Teachers and students have been enjoying the Book Share presentations. The projects have been interesting and creative.

Mark your calendar for the second grade Spring Concert on March 27th and the field trip to The Franklin Institute on March 28th.

Thanks to all the parent volunteers for the wonderful Valentine parties. We had so much fun and enjoyed all the tasty treats!

Third Grade:

February was a fun-filled month in third grade. Students enjoyed Valentine's Day and the PTO sponsored the Art Goes to School program.

The highlight of the month, however, was the Pennsylvanian Biography Reports given on February 23rd. Students researched a Pennsylvanian of their choice over the month of February and then dressed up and gave speeches as if they were that Pennsylvanian. The students did a fantastic job and so many friends and family came to V.F.E to watch and support our students as they gave their speeches. It was an accomplishment the children should be very proud of.

This month third grade students also created bird drawings that will be displayed at the John James Audubon Center over the entire month of March. Students worked very hard to mat and frame their work as part of our ongoing partnership with Mill Grove.

Third grade started our chemical testing unit in science this month. Students are creating reactions and identifying properties of common household chemicals.

In social studies we are continuing to learn about William Penn and Pennsylvania.

We hope the warm weather continues and that the month of March is as exciting and fun-filled as February!

Fourth Grade:

We started the month by having two of our fourth grade students record their broadcast for Valley Forge Elementary School on TETV News. The broadcast was televised during the month of February, and the students did a fantastic job informing TESD Community Members about all the great activities we had during the first half of the year!

We also want to thank the Dental Hygienist, Mrs. Laura Forlano, for reviewing dental safety and reminding us how to take care of our teeth.

Next, we want to thank all the parent volunteers who helped make our classroom Valentine's Day Parties huge successes. The students, faculty, and the parents seemed to have a wonderful time at their classroom parties.

We want to thank the Cultural Arts Committee, and the PTO for bringing Art Goes to School here to VFES. The students had a wonderful time learning about some of the master artists, like Vermeer.

Finally, we want to thank the Kindergarten Teachers for inviting the fourth graders over to their classrooms to help their students with a writing assignment. The fourth graders worked with both AM and PM kindergarten students, and they helped all the kindergarteners with writing their thank you letters to family members and friends.

Special & Support Area Updates

Music



Music is the key to open children's minds for critical thinking, creativity, imagination, and innovation. In January our fourth grade students explored Garage Band. Our first week they experimented with making as many different sounds by using the keyboard or musical typing. The second week students practiced recording different sounds and adding musical tracks. Finally they created a piece of music and burned a CD of their project. This project was about the process of exploring Garage Band, creating a piece of music and burning a CD. The work was outstanding in the fourth grade! In February, fourth grade explored different classical pieces related to the elements of the Earth. We listened to parts of Ritual Fire Dance, The Moldau, Symphony 6 "Pastoral", New World Symphony and Rainbow Body. Fourth Grade will continue to explore this music during March as related to tone colors.

The Kindergarten classes presented their Patriotic/Valentine Program for their parents at the end of February. The songs were an integration of topics learned in Kindergarten.

All grades were learning about Musical Form and Harmony through singing, moving, and playing instruments. Kindergarten - Fourth sang patriotic music, Valentine music, and spirituals. The First Grade learned songs about Japan while the Second Grade learned songs in Chinese. Our Third Grade sang songs about composers. In Musical Form, we learned about AB, ABA and Rondo forms. In Harmony, we learned the difference between melody and harmony, about rounds, ostinato patterns and partner songs.

March is a very busy month. March is Music in Our Schools Month. The theme for 2012 is Music Lasts a Lifetime. In March, we will be learning about tone color in our general music classes. We will use our singing and speaking voices, listen to environmental sounds, play classroom instruments and listen to orchestra/band instruments. First grade will review Japanese songs and sing songs from Africa. Second grade will sing songs from different countries as well as songs about the Wonders of our Earth. Third grade will sing songs about Pennsylvania. Finally fourth grade will sing a variety of songs about tone color.

Band is meeting every Wednesday at 8 a.m. and Chorus is meeting every Thursday at 8 a.m. We are preparing for our Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. This program will feature our school band, school orchestra, and chorus.

Other upcoming events are the following. Second Grade will present their Americans All program on March 27, Tuesday, at 2:30 p.m. Third Grade will present their Pennsylvania Program on April 26, Thursday, at 2:30 p.m. Fourth Grade will present their Lewis and Clarke program on May 10, Thursday, at 2:30 p.m. Finally First Grade will present their Spring concert on May 17, Thursday, at 2:30 p.m.



March Events

- 3/1 1/2 day
PTO 4th Grade Bake Sale
No Kindergarten
- 3/2 No School In-service
- 3/5 Bucket Filling
1st Grade Dr. Seuss
Round Robin
- 3/6 Band Group to Kimmel
Center
Group Picture Day
- 3/7 4th Grade to VFMS
Musical
Wizards Assembly
- 3/8 4th Grade REACH
- 3/9 1st Grade Red Cross
Scrubby Bear
- 3/13-3/20 PSSA Testing
Grades 3 & 4
- 3/14 1st Grade Products of
Rainforest
- 3/15 Kindergarten Green
Day
- 3/24 PTO Adult Social &
Silent Auction
- 3/27 Cultural Arts Show
2nd Grade Concert
- 3/28 2nd Grade Field Trip to
Franklin Institute
- 3/30 No School In-service

