



VFES MONTHLY REPORT

December 2021 – Team Updates

Kindergarten:



What an exciting month in the kindergarten classrooms! Gingerbread men and snowmen were the creative focus this month. We read many versions of the Gingerbread man story and compared story elements. We practiced retelling the stories as well. Our hallway is alive with some very creative Gingerbread people.

In Science, the students finished the unit on agriculture and learned about different animal coverings such as scales, feathers, and fur. The students practiced identifying different animal coverings by using their sense of touch and sight to feel fur, scales, feathers, shells, and then to guess what animal it may have come from.

In Social Studies the students listened to the Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa books from the Holiday curriculum.

Our kindergarten mathematicians learned about measurement and the concepts of more, less, and the same. They used several nonstandard units such as unifix cubes, paperclips, and popsicle sticks to measure objects.

We had fun playing coding games in celebration of the Hour of Code. This global movement strives to bring awareness to and interest in computer science.

We ended the month with our winter party! The children had fun making snowmen, playing games, and listening to a story.

We have seen incredible growth since September and are so proud of all the kindergarten children! We are thankful for the Valley Forge community and wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!

First Grade:

December is a fabulous month to work in an elementary school. Between holiday celebrations and Winter break approaching, the children are filled with joy and excitement fills the virtual air!

Our first-grade students participated in Hour of Code this month by exploring coding through many apps. Angry Birds and Moana were great programs to allow the kids to experience coding. We encourage our first graders to continue practicing!

In reading, our first graders completed unit 2 of Wonders. During this Unit, the first graders practiced short e and u as well as digraphs and blends through our phonics lessons. We then learned about the story elements and finding the main idea while reading both fiction and non-fiction stories. At the end of unit 2, the children had the opportunity to write their very own fantasy story!

In math, the students are learning about the strategies you can use to add and subtract bigger numbers. The children are getting very good at mentally solving problems. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts at home.



We completed our unit on weather in Science class. The students are experts on predicting our upcoming winter weather. Ask your child about the tools meteorologists use to predict and report the weather. In January, we will begin our next unit on Magnets...so exciting!

Our first graders are enjoying their study of Japan. They are busy learning all about this island country and the Japanese culture.

As we counted down the days until Winter Break, the first graders enjoyed participating in our Spirit Week. Adding a special clothing touch to each day made the time even more exciting!

Before Winter Break, the first-grade teachers planned exciting parties for our first graders. Thank you to our homeroom parents for helping make these parties a success. The children had a great time wearing their Winter PJs and welcoming Winter!

The first-grade teachers would like to wish all VFE families a happy, healthy, and safe new year! See you in 2022!

Second Grade:

December has been a busy month for the second graders!

During the month of December, we had the opportunity to participate in the hour of code. The Hour of Code is a chance for our students to be introduced to computer science and computer programming.

In Language Arts, the students completed Unit 2 in Wonders.

In science, the students are busy learning about the states of matter. The children are learning about why liquids can turn from a solid to a liquid to a gas.

In Social Studies, the students began to learn about China.

The 2nd grade students have been busy making a lot of fun winter crafts! We enjoyed our winter parties and look forward to bringing in the new year! We are wishing all our families a wonderful winter break and looking forward to many more exciting learning opportunities when we return in January!



Third Grade:

December was a month full of fun activities for VFE third graders!

The students were very excited to participate in the “Hour of Code” this month. Students were able to select activities from a variety of websites and apps on the iPads to explore the concept of writing code. This was a highly enjoyable activity for all students!

Many third grade students participated in the Winter Concert which featured our orchestra and chorus students. Ms. Poll and Mrs. Mertz did a wonderful job leading our musical groups!

This month in Reading, we focused on identifying theme, author’s point of view, and reviewing main idea. We also continue to practice looking back in the text to answer comprehension questions and formulate written responses to the text that include restating the question, citing text evidence, and summarizing our answer. In Writing, we completed our expository writing piece and took some time to work on writing some poetry, specifically limericks.



In Social Studies, we are continuing our study of the Indigenous People of North America and how they use their natural local resources to provide for all their basic needs. Each 3rd grade class has started to learn about a specific tribe as well that they will share about in January.

In Science, our students continued their study of land and water through experiments and data collecting.

In all Math classes, students have been busy solving word problems. We are asking the students to read the problems carefully and look for key words to help them decide which operation is needed to solve the problem. Using bar models to represent their thinking is a great way to conceptualize their problem solving. Some classes have also been working on multiplication while others are working on improper fractions.

We finished up the month with class parties and winter activities! We are extremely proud of the hard work our students are putting forth this year and look forward to a great 2022 with these awesome third graders!

Fourth Grade:



It was a December to remember for us! Fourth graders were so excited to participate in The Hour of Code that took place this month. Each class took time to let the kids explore various coding apps and websites.

We finished Unit 2 of Wonders. In unit 2, students studied poetry. We read many poems about animals and discussed how poets are inspired by these unique animals. We studied how poets use figurative language in their poems to help readers create images in their mind. Students wrote their own poems about animals using what they

learned. In the new year, we will begin Unit 3 of wonders and continue to study different types of genres in both reading and writing.

In social studies, we are learning all about the causes of the American Revolution. After this, we will be learning all about the battles that took place as part of the American Revolution.

In science, students have been studying electricity. They learned about the different types of lightbulbs and discussed which lightbulbs are best for them to use at home.

It has been a great few months in 4th grade! We hope that everyone enjoys this well-deserved break. We want to wish everyone the best as we look forward to 2022!



Special & Support Area Updates

Music:

What a wonderful few months it has been in music! Students from all grade levels have been studying about music from around the world as well as learning about new instruments.

Kindergarten has been exploring pitch and rhythm over the past few months. They also have been learning how to play xylophones and drums to a steady beat! They are now busy preparing some Valentine's Day music.

First Grade has been enjoying learning about their voices in pitch exploration as well as learning differences in tempo, high vs. low sounds, and dynamics. We have learned games and songs that leave us all singing in the hallways!

Second Grade has been focusing on learning the notes of the musical staff, musical form, and music from around the world. In their studies, the Second Graders are learning folk songs in many different languages.

Third Grade students have been focusing on meter and scales. We are using our studies of different scales to study, sing, and play music from other parts of the world.

Fourth Grade students have been focusing on rhythms, note reading, world music, and composers. We have studied composers of the many eras of music and will soon study women in music as well as musical genres that these composers used.

Third and Fourth Grade string, band, and choir students have been practicing very hard these past few months and leave us impressed every day! On December 14th, we had our Winter Concert that featured both the Encore Orchestra and the 3rd/4th Grade Chorus! We are extremely proud of all our students involved!

