



VFES MONTHLY REPORT

February 2019 – Team Updates

Kindergarten:

We opened February with Groundhog Day on which we learned a poem and made a puppet.

In math, we worked on the concepts of time to the hour and counting to 100.

We enjoyed being art detectives as we learned about different artists from the Art Goes To School program.

We celebrated Valentine's Day and President's Day with special books and activities. Our Valentine's Day program was fantastic! The children loved standing up performing for the families. They got to see what hard work and practice can produce. It was a fabulous performance and the audience loved it! We all got to enjoy some special games and crafts at our parties. Thanks to the parents for planning such wonderful celebrations.



We finished the month by celebrating our 100th day of school doing many activities related to the number 100.

First Grade:

February was a lot of fun in first grade. There were many important events to learn about and celebrate. We started the month with Groundhog's Day. The kids had a great time making predictions about our upcoming weather. This year Groundhog Phil did not see his shadow and that means Spring will be here soon! Will Groundhog Phil be right?? The month of February brought us a few snow days and delayed openings but hopefully March will bring some spring weather! We also celebrated the 100th day of school! The children had a great time celebrating 100 days of learning and fun! How quickly the time flies when we are having fun!

Love was in the air in the first-grade hallway as every first-grade class celebrated Valentine's Day. The children had a LOVELY time playing games, creating crafts, and sharing valentines with classmates. We also spent time this month learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Everyone enjoyed the long weekend thanks to these two famous presidents. An African American History Month Round Robin was the perfect way for our first graders to learn about important African Americans in history. The children learned about famous African American inventors, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Ruby Bridges, and Barack Obama.



The Academy of Natural Sciences visited the first graders of VFE in February. The children had a great time learning all about the animals of the rainforest. Thank you to the PTO for providing us with this amazing opportunity.

Our first graders were also fortunate to have "Art Goes to School" visit us in February, too. During this visit, the children had the opportunity to observe and learn about different styles of art by visiting an "art museum" in our large group room. The children learned about various artists and paintings through presentations from community members.

Now that February is over, first graders are waiting to find out if March will come in like a lion or a lamb??? The teachers are hoping the groundhog was right. . . come on Spring!

Second Grade:

February has been a very busy month for VFES second graders. Students have been continuing to progress through our reading themes that focus on whole group and small group instruction. Students learn to make reading connections through whole group that they then incorporate during small group instruction.

Reading, writing, and spelling are components we love to watch grow as our students develop month by month! The students had an opportunity to visit Art Goes to School. The children really enjoyed learning about different artists and their work! This month in social studies second graders learned many exciting new facts about China. The students also participated in a round robin learning about many important African Americans in our history. In science, students began learning about green efforts and recycling. We are excited for March and all the fun learning activities the new month will bring!



Third Grade:

The third grade had a super month of February! We have moved our Science focus from land and water to our next unit about chemical tests. Students will complete a variety of tests on each chemical unknown to see if they can figure out which chemical is which!

In Social Studies, we are wrapping up our unit on the Lenni Lenape and will next focus on William Penn and the Quakers.

Students have also been working hard in their whole groups and small groups during reading. We are wrapping up theme eight “Predicting Nature’s Hazards” and learned a lot about crazy weather! Third graders continue to practice answering text-dependent questions and citing evidence in their written responses. Thank you for supporting the students at home as they are practicing this on their homework as well! In writing, students spent time working on imaginative narrative pieces which asked them to write about a topic in the genre of realistic fiction or opinion pieces and then asked students to support his or her opinion with multiple reasons. Feel free to ask your child how OREO applies to writing! Next in writing we will work on how-tos where students will be asked to write out the steps needed to complete a task.

Math classes continue to focus on problem solving and are working in units around the topics of fractions and customary and metric measurement.

On February 1st, staff from the John James Audubon Center came to teach the students about John’s life and his talent for drawing birds. The students were given the opportunity to draw their own bird and did a phenomenal job. The drawings will be displayed at the Audubon Center in April. More information will follow.

Special activities this month included our Valentine’s Day movie and festivities and 100th day celebrations. We also spent time this month celebrating African American History Month. We watched and/or read about the civil rights movement and famous African Americans. We also heard famous quotes from some of these famous African Americans during morning announcements.



Third grade looks forward to a great month of March with more exciting learning opportunities yet to come!

Fourth Grade:

February has been a fun-filled and busy month for us in fourth grade. Once again, the students enjoyed learning about different artists and pieces of artwork during the Art Goes to School week.

The kids also enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day this month, handing out their Valentines, wearing their PJs, and watching *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* together.

We are continuing to practice using different reading strategies in language arts. This month we are starting to focus on using fix-up strategies while reading. Some of these strategies include reading on, using context and picture clues, and using phonics.

Speaking of reading, the fourth graders presented their Cereal Box Book Reports this month and they are now on display in the fourth grade classrooms and hallway. The students all did a great job putting together their boxes and commercials for the class and we had a blast watching them!

Also on display this month was our final project for the Electric Circuits Science unit. In the Science lab, the kids were working hard on the culminating project for the Electric Circuits unit which was a home or building made with real working lights. It was an interesting project to work on and the students did a great job! We are looking forward to starting the next unit, Motion and Design.

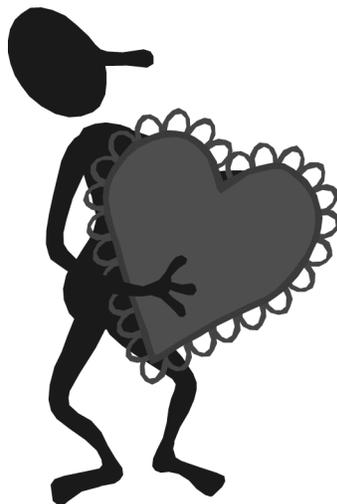


In Social Studies, we are continuing our study of The American Revolution. We are learning about the Declaration of Independence and how George Washington led the Colonial Army to victory with help from the French.

This month, the fourth graders learned about why we celebrate President's Day in the month of February as well as the important contributions made by African Americans in history. To celebrate Black History Month, the kids were each given a different African American to research. After reading about this important person, they filled out a pennant flag with the interesting facts about that person's life. We strung the pennants together to make one nice long flag to display in our classrooms and hallway. They look wonderful!

Finally, we would like to thank the PTO for providing the International Games Day this month. The students really enjoyed participating and learned a lot about new games from other countries and cultures.

As you can see, we were a busy group this month and we are looking forward to the spring weather and more fun learning opportunities ahead!



Special & Support Area Updates

Library



Kindergarten students are enjoying both books that tell stories and books that convey facts. They're continuing to develop visual literacy by paying special attention to the pictures in books and "reading" what the illustrator is saying.

Library students in first grade just finished a unit on kamishibai stories from Japan. These "paper theater" stories have provided a wonderful vehicle to discuss Japanese culture, folktales, and storytelling.

Through read alouds, second graders are learning the distinctions between various literary genre. We continued explore the sections of the library and identify where they could find the types of books they wanted for pleasure reading and research.

Third graders are continuing to demonstrate their abilities to utilize the catalog to locate books in the library. We are beginning a unit on biographies. Once students have located, read, and taken notes from a biography about an author, they will share what they've learned through a short written report using Word.

Fourth graders are just concluding our state research unit. Recently, students created short PowerPoint presentations about a state and shared them with their classmates. In preparation for the upcoming PAL project, we are continuing our work on identifying and utilizing reliable resources for research.

Students at all levels have heard or read books from the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards list and are gearing up to vote for their favorite.

The VFES library has circulated almost 17,000 books to students, staff and faculty. We've added over 600 new and donated books to our collection. Thanks to the community for the continued support of our library program.

