



# VFES MONTHLY REPORT

*February 2021 – Team Updates*

## Kindergarten:



It appears as though the groundhog was right when he saw his shadow . . . we certainly have had winter weather this month! February seems to have gone by so quickly between all the snow days and our special days this month. We celebrated Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, and our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school!

Our Wonders topics this month were Fresh from the Farm, Trees, and Seasons. We listened to and read stories related to these topics and worked on comprehension strategies. We learned the sight words are, he, with, is, little. The letters we practiced were f, r, l, b.

In Social Studies, the students learned about Chinese New Year and President's day.

In science, the children learned about landforms such as mountains, valleys, streams, etc. They also learned about earth materials such as rocks, sand, and soil.

We celebrated Kindness month by doing random acts of kindness and listening to stories about kindness. Many kindergarten students showed kindness by being helpful at home and at school!

Our mathematicians worked on comparing sets and combining sets this month. They also learned about ordinal numbers and sequencing.

The children have made such wonderful progress and continue to navigate both hybrid and virtual learning with such enthusiasm. We are so proud of them!

## 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 a challenge. In February, we take the time to celebrate kindness. Our first graders were challenged to do at least one act of kindness every day. Have you been the recipient of any of these random acts? We hope to have high totals at the end of the month!

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we learned all about Groundhog's Day. The kids had a great time making predictions about our upcoming weather. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we found out that Groundhog Phil saw his shadow and that meant 6 more weeks of winter. According to our February weather, Phil was right! Hopefully March will bring some spring weather!

We also celebrated the 100th day of school in February! 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 and creating crafts in a virtual Valentine's Day party.

In the month of February, we also spent time learning about famous African Americans who exemplified positive character traits in their lives. First graders strive to show these positive character traits in what they say and do each day.

In Language Arts, we have been busy learning about animals. The kids are reading many stories and practicing their reading skills and strategies while learning amazing animal facts.

Graphs and data collecting is our new unit in math class. The children will learn how to read and plot data on a graph. Although we have taken a short break on adding and subtracting, please continue to practice facts at home. As we approach addition and subtraction with larger numbers, it is important that your child know their basic facts.



Our Science unit is on the Rainforest. The children are learning all about the amazing rainforest animals while understanding the importance of the rainforest in our world.

Our Social Studies trip to Japan is almost complete as we finish up our unit on Japan. The children are enjoying the lessons and learning all about Japanese culture and traditions.

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

## Second Grade:

February has been a fun-filled and busy month for us in second grade! We began the month of February anxiously waiting to find out if Phil saw his shadow. Even though Phil predicted six more weeks of winter, we all had fun with this tradition. We also celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day! The children loved listening to stories, playing games, making crafts, and sharing valentines with classmates on our virtual padlet.

To celebrate Black History Month, teachers at VFES read stories about African Americans in history and identified some of the character traits that each person portrayed. February is also Random Acts of Kindness month. The students listened to a story about being kind and then the children shared a random act of kindness they completed on our VFES virtual padlet.

In Science, the students have continued to learn about different soil components. We have looked at how seeds grow in sand, humus, and clay. We learned about what soil components are best for certain climates and how we can identify different parts of soil.



In Social Studies, we continue our unit on China. The children really enjoyed participating in a virtual round robin. The rotations included learning about shadow puppets, calligraphy, and rice. The students were able to create their own shadow puppets, practice calligraphy writing, and learn how to use chopsticks! Thank you to the PTO for organizing this great event and for the teachers involved in making it a memorable day for our students.

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

## Third Grade:

The third grade had a busy month of February!

We have continued our Science unit: Land and Water and began lessons in our Health/Life skills curriculum.

In Social Studies, we are learning about the life of Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn, and the Quakers.

Students have also been working hard in their whole groups and small groups during reading. We are working through theme seven, "On Moving Ground", and learned a lot about earthquakes, volcanoes, sinkholes, and landslides! 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!

Additionally, in Writing students spent time finishing up their Something Beautiful piece and began to work on writing a friendly letter.

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



Special activities this month included our Valentine's Day festivities and 100<sup>th</sup> day celebrations. We also spent time this month celebrating African American History Month. We have listened to specialists read stories and talk about the character traits of some amazing heroes.

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. The kids enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day this month. Each class celebrated through a virtual party by doing Valentine's Day themed crafts and dancing.

We are continuing to practice using different reading strategies in Language Arts. Speaking of reading, the fourth graders presented their Cereal Box Book Reports this month. The students all did a great job putting together their boxes and commercials for the class and we had a blast watching them!

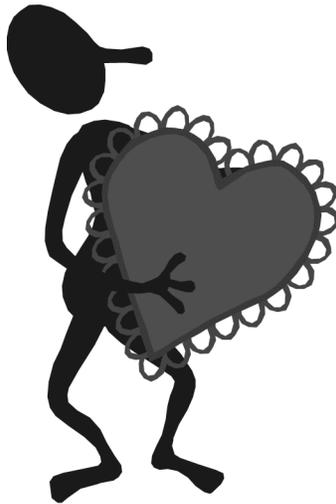
In Science, we are wrapping up our ecosystem's unit. We are looking forward to starting the next unit, Motion and Design.



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.

Finally, 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.

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

### Physical Education

VFE students kicked off the month of February by completing our Basketball Unit and beginning our Jump Rope Unit. Students also participated in the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Warm-Up!

During our Basketball Unit, Kindergarten students worked on ball manipulation skills such as using a drop and catch and visual tracking and also learned the cues of dribbling with control. They had the opportunity to shoot during the activity Spot Shot!

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders worked on ball handling skills and learned the cues of dribbling with control. Students challenged themselves by using their dominant and non-dominant hands during various dribbling challenges. They also learned the cues of using a lay-up and shooting a basketball. Many activities were participated in such as BASKETBALL, King & Queen of the Court, and PIG.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders began by participating in ball handling challenges further developing, refining, and enhancing their hand-eye coordination. Students reviewed the cues of using a dribbling, using a lay-up, and shooting a basketball. Many activities were participated in such as Around the World Laps, HORSE, and Never-Ending Knock-Out.

Within these activities - students displayed sportsmanship, teamwork, a positive attitude, respect, and safe play.

During our Jump Rope unit, Kindergarten students began by learning why jump roping is a very hard skill to learn, to always try their best, and to never give up! Students learned how to size a jump rope and enjoyed several jumping activities. They have even begun to turn and jump over their rope!

Grades 1-4 have begun working on single jump rope skills while enhancing agility, coordination, rhythm, and cardiovascular endurance. I have enjoyed watching the students challenge themselves at their own pace by using our Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Trick Chart Poster in the gym. An optional activity this year is the Jump Rope Ninja Challenge! Students have been able to earn different colored belts, based on a certain number of consecutive jumps.

They have felt a great sense of accomplishment through these challenges and activities and Mr. Johnson and I have enjoyed watching them persevere!

