



VFES MONTHLY REPORT

February 2022 – Team Updates

Kindergarten:

We are wondering if the groundhog was right when he saw his shadow...we have had some very nice weather this month! February seems to have gone by so quickly. Maybe it's because we were so busy in our kindergarten classrooms. We celebrated Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school, President's Day, and "Twosday"! Wow, that kept us busy.

Our Wonders themes centered around living things, what they need to grow, and how they change as they grow. The sight words we learned were "he" and "are" and we reviewed other sight words we've learned. The letters we practiced were Ee, Ff, and Rr. We continued to practice identifying the letter sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of a word.



We learned about symmetry as we practiced cutting out our own hearts to decorate the hallway for the month and added a sentence about something we do to be kind. We were so proud to be able to perform our Valentine's Day Program on video to share with our families. The children loved watching themselves on the video.

In Social Studies, the students learned about the Lunar New Year and President's Day. We read stories about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We then followed it up with an art project of George Washington. In addition to those topics in celebration of Black History month, we also watched many videos created by the VFE students and staff highlighting important African American authors, athletes, scientists, ballerinas, and more.

In science, the children learned about living and nonliving things, rocks, and the parts of a tree. We listened to videos, read stories, and explored these topics.

Our mathematicians worked on shapes, both solid and flat shapes. Our biggest challenge was trying to figure out how many small triangles and hexagons could fit into a larger triangle. We moved from shapes to numbers up to 20. Using 10 frames, we practiced counting larger groups of objects by putting them into a group of 10 then counting on from there. This also helps the children to see that 14 is made up of 1 group of 10 and 4 ones and written as 14.

The children have made such wonderful progress. Their resilience as they continue to navigate the school year with such enthusiasm is commendable. 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 per week throughout the month of February. Have you been the recipient of any of these random acts? We hope to have high totals at the end of the month!

On January 31st, we learned all about Groundhog's Day. The kids had a great time making predictions about our upcoming weather. On February 2nd, we found out that Groundhog Phil saw his shadow and that meant 6 more weeks of winter. Despite Phil's prediction, February's weather has brought us some beautiful winter days! Hopefully, March will continue to bring us 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 during our Valentine's Day party. Ask your child about our Chocolate Factory Escape the Room!

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.

Double digit addition and subtraction is the topic for our new math unit. Please continue to practice facts at home. Knowing basic facts, will make adding and subtraction big numbers much easier!



Our science unit is currently on the Rainforest. The children are learning all about the amazing rainforest animals while understanding the importance of the rainforest in our world. All of this learning will culminate with the painting of our amazing rainforest murals.

Our Social Studies trip to Japan continues with many lessons on Japanese culture and traditions. They are even learning a little bit of Japanese!

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.

To celebrate Black History Month, our classrooms learned about many influential people through a student-made Flipgrid, scholastic magazine, and literature.

The children had a virtual lesson on "Kindness" taught by the Conestoga High School Peer Mediation Team. The children created a paper chain on kindness and received a keychain as a memento.

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 continued our unit on China. The children really enjoyed participating in a round robin. The rotations included learning about shadow puppets, calligraphy, paper cutting, 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 completed our science unit: Land and Water and began Chemical Testing!

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 wrapped up Unit 3 and are beginning to work through Unit 4. Our essential questions for this unit are: "How can you use what you know to help others?", "How do animals adapt to challenges in their habitat?", and "How can others inspire us?" 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 are working on using the OREO format to write an opinion piece.

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



Special activities this month included our Valentine's Day festivities, 100th day celebrations, and "TWOsday" fun! We also spent time this month celebrating African American History Month. We have listened to peers share stories and talk about the character traits of some amazing heroes. We also enjoyed the King's Dream Assembly and Master Chen's amazing cutting skills this month.

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 with a pajama party and an escape room challenge! Students had to solve clues to discover a secret word to unlock the chocolate factory!

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!

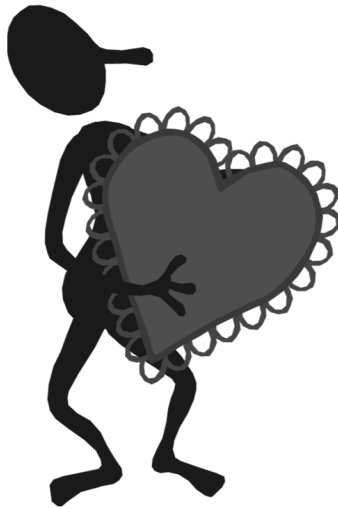
In science, we are wrapping up our electric circuits' unit. If you stop by the 4th grade hallway, you will see the students' final projects displayed. Each student wired and decorated a room using a shoebox. We are looking forward to starting the next unit, Motion and Design.



In social studies, we are continuing our study of The American Revolution. We are learning about the first battles of the Revolutionary War and the steps that the 13 colonies took to become the United States.

Finally, to celebrate Black History Month, the fourth graders learned 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 participating in a Basketball Unit and a Floor Hockey Unit. Students also participated in the 100th Day of School Warm-Up!



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

1st and 2nd 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 HORSE, King & Queen of the Court, as

well as station work.

3rd and 4th 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 competitive 3 vs 3 games.

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



During our Floor Hockey unit – Kindergarten had their first opportunity to use Pillow Polo Sticks. Students learned how to use this long-handled implement and strike a ball. Their focus was on dribbling with control, keeping their eyes up, and shooting with accuracy.

Grades 1-2 continued to work with Pillow Polo sticks while grades 3-4 were began working with floor hockey sticks. All students worked to enhance their hand-eye coordination, dribbling, passing, shooting, and communication skills. Many activities were participated in such as Hockey Pin Head, SHARK, and competitive small-sided floor hockey games.

Mr. Johnson and I appreciated the fact that students took the initiative and responsibility to keep each other safe by always being in control of their body and hockey stick. We will be beginning our Gymnastics unit next!

