



# VFES MONTHLY REPORT

March 2022 – Team Updates

## Kindergarten:

We were so excited to welcome Spring this month!

Our Wonders Themes were all about weather, seasons, and animals. Our classroom literature connected to those themes and our comprehension strategies were “visualizing” and “rereading the text”. The skills we focused on while reading were sequencing and comparing and contrasting. We continue to work on handwriting, learning our kindergarten sight words, and our phonological awareness skills. Our literacy skills were embedded in the theme of St. Patrick’s Day. Our hallway was adorned with some tricky leprechauns. We worked on direction following skills to put together a leprechaun and practiced our writing skills by completing sentences about the leprechaun.

In math, we used 10 frames and cubes to help us put together and take apart groups of numbers to 20. These activities prepared us for our next math concept of adding numbers!

In science, we learned about energy from the sun, the water cycle and weather!



## First Grade:

Happy Spring!

Our first graders have been very busy as they eagerly await the arrival of Spring weather.

March is Women’s History Month. We spent some time learning about important women and the impact they have had on our world. March is also National Reading Month. The children had a great time participating in our school spirit week and listening to different VFE teachers read their favorite books.



At the end of the month, first graders participated in an author study about Jan Brett. They learned all about her life and read many great books that she wrote and illustrated. At the end of the unit, the first graders will select the book that they thought was the best and write an opinion essay based on their favorite Jan Brett book. The children love learning about Jan Brett and reading her books. Please visit your local library and take out other books written by this great author.

In Language Arts, we concluded our Unit 4 in Wonders. The children are excited to see what stories they will be reading in our next unit as we practice various phonics skills and reading strategies. First graders LOVE to read. Please include reading in your nightly routines.

During Math class, our first graders have been learning all about standard and nonstandard measurement. The children learned how to weigh, measure, and compare.

Our new unit in Social Studies is Africa. The children are learning where Africa is located and the size of this continent. Our “suitcases” are packed and the children are very excited to see where our new adventure will take us.

In Science, we are learning about the rainforest. All first graders are SO excited for our mural day. We will transform our first-grade hallway into a tropical rainforest!

April showers bring May flowers . . . may our showers be few and our flowers plenty!

## Second Grade:

The month of March has flown by and the second graders have been busy!

The genre study in Language Arts this month focused on expository texts and poems. The key concepts in the literature we read focused on how the earth changes and poems about nature. The students really enjoyed writing their own realistic fiction and spring poems!

This month in Science, students finished their study on soil. The second graders loved looking at different soil mixtures, learning about worms, and learning about photosynthesis. Then the students began the next unit on the Solar System. Students will be learning about the sun, the moon, neighboring planets, and the concept of distance and space. The solar system unit is always a popular and fun unit for our young learners.



In Social Studies, the second graders continued to learn about Ancient China. The students are excited to begin our Immigration unit.

As we prepare for Spring Break, we look forward to all the fun learning opportunities April will bring. We hope everyone enjoys the time off with family and we are excited for warm weather, spring projects, and an exciting third marking period!

## Third Grade:

This month Valley Forge third graders have been busy learning and reviewing reading strategies and applying skills. They have learned to better understand passages and answer questions based on the text. We are proud of the efforts the students have put in all year to be close and careful readers and also more resilient math problem solvers!

In Language Arts, we have been working on a variety of topics such as: verbs, context clues, figurative language, point of view, and compare and contrast. Also we have been carefully working on not only providing text evidence in our responses, but also supplying our analysis which helps completely answer the question being asked.

In writing, third graders focused on friendly letters. Students have been working on creating their own flat twin that will travel through the mail just like our inspiration, Flat Stanley. We are so excited to see where all our flat friends will go and what they will return with!

In Science, we wrapped up our Chemical testing unit. Students learned how to perform a variety of tests to determine the identity of an unknown substance. The heat test was certainly a favorite of many students!



In Social Studies, we learned all about William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, and started to learn more about our great state! Students were introduced to an assignment that asks them to research a famous Pennsylvanian or American at home. We look forward to seeing all they learned when they become this person on May 12<sup>th</sup>! Information has been sent home and posted on Schoology.

As a grade, we look forward to warmer weather and even more exciting learning adventures to come!

## Fourth Grade:

The fourth graders are enjoying the sunshine that March is bringing!



In science, we started the Motion and Design unit. They have built their racer cars and are now experimenting with Newton's Three Laws of Motion.

In social studies, we are studying how the United States gained independence after writing the Declaration of Independence.

In writing, students are researching famous women in history and writing a Narrative Non-Fiction story about one of them. It has been great seeing how much students are learning about these important women and how these women influenced our lives.

In language arts, we are studying the historical fiction genre. The students are enjoying reading stories and passages from this genre study.

The P.A.L. (Personal Achievement in Learning) Project has kicked off and is in full swing. Each student has chosen a topic that they are researching. They are very excited to learn more about their selected topic and will present it to us later this year. The teachers really enjoy learning from the kids during these presentations!

We are looking forward to spring and the warmer temperatures! There is so much for the fourth graders to look forward to in the coming months!

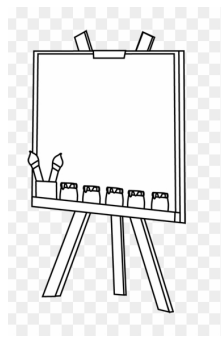


## Special & Support Area Updates

### Art

Recently in the art studio at VFES we have been exploring narrative, identity, movement, materials, and humor in art.

Fourth grade students have been hard at work creating Pop-Art inspired plaster sculptures. These humorous works have taken the form of everything from pencils to Hershey's Kisses to toothbrushes complete with pipe cleaner bristles!



Third grade recently wrapped up tonal tempera paintings based on the principle of Rayleigh Scattering and will be moving onto clay tiles inspired by Italina sculptor, Luc Della Robbia.

Second grade began an exploration of identity in art in preparation for our Spring mural project and have been creating short, direction-heavy pieces to get ready for the intense work of the mural.

First grade students had a blast creating action paintings in the style of Jackson Pollock.

Kindergarten friends learned that artist Eric Carle created the materials he used to make illustrations for his many books. Using their own handmade paper, students will be collaging cut pieces of it into a variety of animals of their choice.

