



VFES MONTHLY REPORT

May/June 2018 – Team Updates

Kindergarten:



The kindergarten classrooms have certainly been busy buzzing during May and June. We learned all sorts of cool facts about insects. In our classrooms, we got to watch the amazing metamorphosis of butterflies and ladybugs. The butterflies arrived as caterpillars, formed a chrysalis, and emerged as beautiful painted lady butterflies. The ladybugs arrived as larvae, formed a pupa, and finally emerged as ladybugs! After a few days of observation, we let



them go so the ladybugs and butterflies could live in their natural habitat! We also learned about habitats in preparation for our trip to the zoo. We learned about the animals and plants in the woodlands, grasslands, ponds, and wetlands.

In Science, we moved from insects to magnets to floating and sinking. In math, we learned about addition and subtraction number stories and number sentences. We also covered measurement and fractions.

We had a fantastic time visiting the Elmwood Park Zoo! We also participated in Move-Up day. We will close the school year by finishing our study of habitats. We hope all the kindergarten students and their families have a wonderful, safe summer!

First Grade:

We made it! June is here and our days together are winding down. Despite our year coming to an end, first grade continues to fill our days with learning and fun!

Our large group reading lessons are coming to an end as we spend time reviewing all the reading strategies we have learned this year. Although “official” reading and spelling homework has concluded for the year, we continue to read every day and hope that this habit will continue throughout the summer vacation.

During our last month, we ended our Social Studies unit on Africa. The children completed their first research projects on African Animals. Our first graders did an amazing job presenting the information to their classmates. Some of us even spied some of our African animals at the Philadelphia Zoo. The children have learned an amazing amount of information. In June, we spent time learning how to play an African game called Mancala and took a look at the literature of Africa. Look out for our suitcases full of souvenirs from our “trip”.

Our latest Science unit on Organisms has brought “pets” to our classrooms. The children created terrariums with Bess beetles and Pill bugs crawling around. They also created aquariums with guppies and snails.



For the last two weeks of school, the first grade teachers have planned fun and engaging activities to help make our last days together memorable, educational, and FUN!!

The first grade teachers are so proud of our students. They have learned and grown so much! Our beautiful flowers are in full bloom! Thank you for your support this year. Have a safe and happy summer. See you in September!

Second Grade:

Second grade has been busy wrapping up the school year in May and June.



Second graders had their “Writer’s Celebration” on Friday, May 18th and it was a huge success! Student writing was on display and all parents and teachers were extremely proud of their writing progress made throughout the school year!

On May 22nd, second grade traveled to the Irvine Theatre to see the show *Dragons Love Tacos*. It was a fun morning and was a great connection of literature to live theater.

Second grade also enjoyed Field Day on May 24th. The day was filled with fun games, competition, sportsmanship challenges, and team building activities. The day was such a success because of the hard work of the countless volunteers who helped run the stations!

As we close out the school year, we are excited about the progress and growth our students have made! We encourage our students to continue their reading and writing over the summer and to enjoy time with friends and family. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Third Grade:

VFE third graders have had a very exciting end to the school year! May and June have been full of special events and activities!

On May 7th, students shared their Famous Person/Pennsylvanian projects. Students worked hard to research a famous person, shared their information with their classmates, and then later in the afternoon with their families at our Wax Museum! The students did a fabulous job and felt very proud of themselves! We were very proud of them as well.

This year, we had the privilege of having the Bee Man visit VFE on May 8th. The Bee Man ties in with our Plant Unit in Science specifically the pollination portion. Our students loved listening and interacting during the whole group assembly and then later enjoyed breaking off by classes for center rotations to further their learning. The highlight of the day was making a candle out of beeswax! Thank you to all the parent volunteers that were able to help.



On Wednesday, May 9th, some of our students participated in the Spring Concert. The orchestra did a wonderful job playing their instruments and the chorus sounded awesome with all their fun songs.

Then on May 25th, the third graders had a gorgeous day for Field Day! We had a fabulous day of fun participating in all the exciting activities Mr. Johnson and the many volunteers helped set up and run! The overall favorite seemed to be the Leaky Barrel, a new game for third graders! Thanks for making Field Day one of the best memories of the year!

Our last theme in Language Arts focuses on making laws and government. We were very lucky to be able to have PA State Rep. Warren Kampf come and visit the third grade on May 29th to talk about his role in this and to share even more facts about our state of Pennsylvania!

On Wednesday, May 30th students enjoyed our first field trip to the Colonial Plantation in Ridley Creek State Park. What a fun day! Students got to learn about the Pratt family, see the old farm house, learn about the wells and how they carried water, meet the animals, learn and try the process of carding sheep’s wool to remove seeds and twigs, play colonial kid games, work together to saw a log, and hand dip candles. It was such a neat and educational experience!

Our second to last week of school was a busy one filled with an exciting field trip, our last Digital Citizenship lesson, and our PA Play. On June 5th and 6th, students visited the Audubon Center. Students explored the creek and learned about the birds which John James Audubon drew. They even got to go bird watching and learn about beak adaptations. On June 7th Mrs. Lukens came to teach our last Digital Citizenship lesson on internet safety. The students have learned a lot from her this year!

After much preparation, our Pennsylvania show on June 8th was a huge success! All students who had a speaking part did a super job reciting their lines and the whole third grade did a wonderful job singing our Pennsylvania themed songs! The play was a great way to wrap up all of the things we have learned about our great state!

We have loved watching our students grow and learn this year and are so proud of all they have accomplished! We know they are in for more success in fourth grade and beyond! Thanks for a special year, enjoy your summer (keep reading closely and practicing those math facts) and we look forward to meeting the new third graders in September!

Fourth Grade:



We can't believe that the year is already coming to an end! It's always a bittersweet time in fourth grade as we send the students off to middle school. There are so many fun and exciting things to end the year with including Field Day, the Spring Concert, the Talent Show, Career Day, the Glenhardie Pool Party, our Philadelphia Field Trip, and the 4th Grade vs. Faculty Basketball Game! Each event was a huge success and the students and staff will have these fun memories to think back on for years to come!

The fourth graders are also still busy in the classroom! We have ended our Motion and Design science unit. The students enjoyed the final design challenge project where they got to work in teams to design a specific type of vehicle that had to travel a certain distance in a specified amount of time. Each group worked hard to try and make this happen!

In social studies, we are traveling westward and learning about Lewis and Clark, the California Gold Rush, and the War of 1812. The students have sure learned a lot about their country's history this year!

The fourth graders have also been working on a realistic fiction piece in writing. The teachers have seen the students really grow as writers this year!

Parents - be sure to check out Valley Forge Middle School's website for some helpful information for next year. You will find a 5th grade supply list and summer reading list among many other resources! Again, the required reading for 5th grade is Wishtree by Katherine Applegate.

We are so proud of our 4th graders and we will miss each one of them as they move on to 5th grade. Here's to a fun and safe summer for all!



Special & Support Area Updates

Art:

Kindergarten turned a simple pinch pot into a clay bell by pulling a handle from the base. We added designs with clay tools and painted it with watercolors after firing. Add a small bead of clay with string and you have the cutest sounding bell!

First grade artists are painting lions for our Africa unit. We used simple shapes to draw a lion's head and added fur in a radial pattern blending our paints to make his mane.

Second grade artists are blasting off to space with collage paintings. We made space shuttles blasting off and planets floating in a speckled universe we created by splattering paint in a box. We added dimension to our planets by making "doughnuts" of scrap paper to pop them off the background.

Third grade artists are working on amazing castle drawings. We used parallel lines to begin our castles and thought of cylinders and cones to make towers and details.

Fourth grade artists are working on flower prints inspired by Andy Warhol. We made many lines on a Styrofoam square to create "grass" and printed on colored paper. Next class we dipped flower-shaped pool noodles in different colors to make flowers on top of the grass background.

