



# VFES MONTHLY REPORT

May/June 2021 – Team Updates

## Kindergarten:

The kindergarten classrooms have certainly been busy buzzing during May and June.

Our Wonders topics were about things we see in the sky, how things change, what good citizens do, how things in nature can be used to make something new, and working together! We continued to work on learning our sight words, developing our sound spelling in our writing, and practicing using our reading strategies. Our phonics lessons focused on long vowels and spelling patterns that make the long vowel sounds.



In math, we learned to recognize the four coins - penny, nickel, dime, and quarter - as well as their value. We practiced using our addition skills to add up groups of coins. From money we moved to measuring length, height, and weight.

We also participated in Move-Up day and outdoor fun days during Phys. Ed. We loved having the first grade teachers visit our classes and are looking forward to some fun activities in First Grade!

We are just amazed at how quickly this school year went by. The children showed incredible resilience and determination as we navigated this unusual school year together.

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 skills we have learned this year. Although “official” reading groups are winding down, we must continue to read every day and hope that this habit will continue throughout the summer vacation.



During this month, we are wrapping up our Social Studies unit on Africa. The children completed their first research projects on African Animals. The children have learned an amazing amount of information about Africa.

Our latest Science unit on Organisms has brought many smiles to the faces of our first graders. The children enjoyed learning all about living things and have become great scientific observers.

For the last two weeks of school, VFE teachers have planned some 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:



We have been as busy as bees, or perhaps butterflies, in second grade! Our last science unit was the study of the life cycle of the butterfly. We all watched carefully as our caterpillars went through the process of metamorphosis. It was exciting when our beautiful butterflies emerged from their chrysalises. The study culminated with the release of the Painted Lady butterflies.

In social studies, we studied immigration to America. Our year ended with lessons regarding the history of flight. The students enjoyed learning about these units!

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. 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 14<sup>th</sup>, students shared their Famous Person/Pennsylvanian projects. Students worked hard to research a famous person and shared their findings with their classmates through a first-person speech. The kids did a fabulous job and felt very proud of themselves! We were very proud of them as well.

During the week of May 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, students participated in outdoor fun activities during Physical Education class! They had a lot of fun participating in all the exciting activities Mr. Helsel set up for them to do! What a great adaptation for this very different school year!



On May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, students enjoyed our first virtual field trip to Pennsbury Manor! During their session, they got to learn more about William Penn, his home, and those that lived and worked at the manor. They also had the opportunity to learn about and make a remedy that they may have used to fight a headache. It was such a neat and educational experience!

Students are looking forward to celebrating the end of the year with our virtual class parties on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>! No better way to end off the year than to have some fun times together as a class! A huge thank you to our homeroom parents for planning our virtual parties this year!

On June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, many third graders will be taking the ELA PSSAs. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, they will be taking the Math PSSAs. We know the students have been working so hard all year! We are extremely proud of the effort our students put into learning, practicing, and reviewing the curriculum. We know that they will apply all the test-taking strategies and knowledge they have learned this year.

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 (very different) year, enjoy your summer (keep reading closely and practicing those math facts), and we look forward to meeting the new third graders in September!



We can't believe that our school year is coming to an end!

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders did a wonderful job presenting their PAL (Personal Achievement in Learning) projects in the months of May and June. A lot of hard work went into putting these presentations together.

In science, we are wrapping up our final unit, Food Chemistry and Nutrition.

In social studies, we are learning about Westward Movement.

In language arts, we learned about nonfiction text features and practiced identifying the different text structures authors use in their writing. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have come a long way this year and we are very impressed with how they are applying the strategies in their reading and writing as well.

We had a fun virtual field trip to Historic Philadelphia in June where students were able to see some of the historical sites they learned about this year.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade talent show was a huge hit. We are so impressed with how talented our 4<sup>th</sup> graders are!

There were so many memorable learning experiences and events that occurred this year for our kiddos. We hope that everyone has a relaxing summer and we will miss them as they move up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade in a few short months!



## Special & Support Area Updates

### Physical Education:

VFE students kicked off the months of May by completing our Frisbee Unit. While we were unable to have a traditional Field Day this year, students had a blast participating in our Outdoor Fun Unit!

During our Frisbee Unit, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders learned how to grip and throw a frisbee using proper form. Students worked on their hand-eye coordination by practicing the two main ways to catch a frisbee: Alligator Snap or Crab Claws. Classes worked on throwing to stationary targets as well as “leading” their partner while throwing to a target in motion. Many activities were participated in such as Frisbee Hooplah, Frisbee Golf, and Cross the River.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders began by participating in throwing challenges working on aim, accuracy, and distance. Students reviewed the proper ways to catch a frisbee and practiced under several conditions further developing, refining, and enhancing their hand-eye coordination. Many activities were participated in such as Frisbee Endzone Ball, Frisbee Golf, Keep Away, and Ultimate Frisbee.

During our Outdoor Fun Unit, Kindergarten students learned how to run a relay race and had a blast participating in our races! Grades 1-4 participated in several activities over two class periods attempting to earn as many points as they could as a class. Teams could be awarded bonus points if they showed proper sportsmanship, teamwork, a positive attitude, respect, and safe play. Many of the activities included specific sports skills that we have been working on all year. Some of the activities participated in were the Egg Spoon Relay, 50 Yard Fitness Frenzy, Dizzy Dribble, Bunny Hop Relay, Cup Stack Relay, Cross the River, and Day at The Beach Relay.

Students showed great teamwork and sportsmanship within all the activities. Mr. Johnson and I were very proud of how the students conducted themselves during the entire Unit!

I hope you all have a wonderful Summer - Do not forget to get outside and exercise!

