

VFES MONTHLY REPORT

October 2018 – Team Updates

Kindergarten:

October was a busy month in the kindergarten classrooms. We had a visit from Mother Goose who provided us with an interactive lesson that combined Mother Goose rhymes with the alphabet. She is very entertaining and educational at the same time. The children could hardly contain their laughter throughout her program. Thank you to the Cultural Arts committee for providing us with that.



We learned all about fire safety through our visit from the Berwyn Fire Company! We were reminded of how important it is for us to remember to get out and stay out when there is a fire and to have a meeting place outside once we are out of our houses. It was really fun to see all the cool tools on their truck!

We had fun singing and dancing with Alex and the Kaleidoscope and watching the fourth graders perform their own songs at the end of the week. We were inspired by Audrey Vernick as she shared how she goes about writing and publishing her stories.

In language arts we continued working on our letters and sight words. We began working on stretching and writing words in our Writer's Notebooks.

Our hallway is beautifully decorated with our scarecrows. The children used their fine motor skills and direction-following skills to complete the scarecrow.

Science was exciting as we learned about different types of farms and about all the things we get from a farm.

In math we learned about numbers, the concepts of bigger/smaller, taller/shorter and practiced writing numbers.

We had fun visiting the Book Fair and topped off the month with Scary Gym and our very fun Halloween parties!

First Grade:

October is so much fun when you are in first grade! We celebrated fire safety month with a visit from the Berwyn Fire Company. Firefighters came to our school to teach the children about fire safety. The children had the opportunity to see a fire truck and learn about the equipment on the truck. The teachers then continued the study of fire safety in the classroom. Each first grade student was able to pretend to be a firefighter with a paper-made firefighter hat!



In reading groups, the children have been working on creating images and determining important information as they read. Readers who can determine important information, create images, visualize, and make connections better understand what they read, so please practice the strategies when you are reading at home.

In spelling, we have been focusing on short vowels. For the month of October, we covered short u and short i words. Every spelling unit introduces a new phonics skill or word family. The children love to be detectives and figure out the skill of the week when they receive their spelling list each week.

Our Science unit on the Solar System is in full swing. The children have enjoyed learning about the planets, stars, sun, and moon. With each lesson, the children created a project that coincides with what they have learned. Be on the lookout for a souvenir from our trip to the moon.

We finished our Social Studies unit on Maps and Communities. The students will now use these map skills as we "travel" to Japan. The children will learn about the geographical location of Japan as well as the culture of Japanese people.

In Math, our first graders are busy learning different strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems. The children are getting very good at finding different ways to solve math problems. We encourage our first grade families to practice math facts at home...practice makes better!

While October consisted of many exciting lessons, the most anticipated events were connected to the end of October. The Book Fair, Scary Gym, Halloween parade, and classroom parties all added to our exciting month. The children had a fantastic time celebrating! The first grade teachers had a great time "looking for the good" in all of our first graders!

Second Grade:

During the month of October, the second grade was able to attend an author visit from Audrey Vernick, watch the 4th grade performance with Alex and the Kaleidoscope, and learn about fire safety from our local fire department. We are ending this month with the school Book Fair and Halloween parade!

In math, our students have been working on regrouping in the ones, tens, and hundreds using addition and subtraction. We are excited to announce that the second grade has had the opportunity to use a program in math class called ST math. ST math is a visual math program that helps students to build problem-solving skills.

In science, our students finished a unit on balancing and weighing and have moved on to our new unit on sound and vibration.

In Social studies, the second grade has begun working on their dinosaur research project. Each student has had the opportunity to study a dinosaur of their choosing and create a dinosaur research project.



In Language arts, our students are building reading skills by learning comprehension strategies. In whole group lessons and small group lessons, we have been making connections and learning new vocabulary. We have been exploring the genres of fiction and nonfiction books and connecting our spelling list with our reading program.

We are excited to finish another great month full of exciting activities and new learning!

Third Grade:



October was a fantastic month in third grade! Students had the pleasure of visiting the Duportail House in Chesterbrook where they learned the history of the house, the Federal Barn, the Jones Log Barn, and also learned how to dance in traditional colonial style. In addition, students designed their own paper quilt squares that will be made into colonial quilts which will soon be on display in the halls of the school for all to view! We thank the members of the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust and their volunteers for welcoming us. Back in the classroom in Social Studies, third graders are transitioning from our Maps and Globes unit to learning about the Native Americans of Pennsylvania as well as other tribes of our country.

In our Science unit, Rocks and Minerals, our students have been performing some exciting experiments using twelve different minerals to discover which ones they are! They made great observations and took precise notes to make their hypotheses. The culminating activity will soon take place in the classrooms where students will present their own collection of rocks and explain their findings after many exciting tests were performed on them.

Students have also been working very hard during whole and small-group reading. We completed Theme 3 which focused on how to make inferences when reading based on the theme, "What is Light?" They read various fiction and non-fiction pieces about light, shadows, and the science behind rainbows. Third graders are learning how to answer text-dependent questions and citing text evidence in written responses.

And last but not least, third graders participated in the annual Halloween Parade in the morning on the grounds of the school strutting their creative costumes for all to see. In the afternoon, the children continued the celebration with fun classroom parties of crafts and games. Craft donations for the classroom parties by parents are very much appreciated!

October is always an exciting time at VFE! The fourth graders loved visiting the book fair with their class and had a blast selecting new books. Scary Gym and the Halloween parade and parties were also super spooky and fun. Thank you to our PTO and all of the volunteers for making each of these events so memorable!



Our fourth grade hallways are lined with haunted house advertisements and subject predicate spiders. Soon we will see beautiful fall poetry leaves hanging. The fourth graders are currently working on their personal narratives which will be published in our publishing center.

In reading, we are focusing on the comprehension strategy of “determining importance” which helps our readers decide important information vs. unimportant but interesting information in a passage. This helps build our summarizing skills as well as locating the main idea in a reading selection. In our small reading groups, we are continuing to work on this strategy with both fiction and non-fiction pieces.

In the science lab, we have wrapped up our Ecosystems unit and had an exciting visit to the Adventure Aquarium! It was interesting to see how the different types of pollution affected our terrariums and aquariums. We will soon begin our next unit, Electricity.

In social studies, we are continuing our study of the early colonies. The students are learning how the colonies were established and are working in groups to make brochures and presentations for five of the early settlements.

Last, but certainly not least, for the second year in a row the fourth grade participated in a super exciting and memorable residency with Alex and the Kaleidoscope. The students learned a lot about diversity, working together as team, collaborating, rhyme scheme, brainstorming, the process of composing music, and so much more! We all enjoyed watching their special performance.

As you can see, we have been very busy and are looking forward to the fun and exciting things to come in fourth grade!



Special & Support Area Updates

Physical Education—Ms. Inch, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Ryan

What an exciting October in Physical Education! All grades, K-4, worked on kicking, passing, and dribbling.

Kindergarten and 1st grade focused mostly on skill work and learning the main concepts of soccer. We even started to discuss the differences between offense and defense and how to move to open space.

2nd-4th grade began with some skill refreshers and then were able to start putting the main concepts of soccer into practice. Many of the skills and concepts that were demonstrated can be applied to many other aspects of their sport, life, and other physical activities. Some of the major concepts we demonstrated and discussed were teamwork, communication, overcoming adversity, winning and losing, problem solving, moving to smart open space, and passing.

The recess laps program is starting up and will continue for 3 weeks. The recess laps will begin in order to train for our huge Falcon 5k fundraiser on November 11th and give students another opportunity to improve their cardiovascular endurance. All students are encouraged to participate so they can learn to find a speed and pace that will work for them during the fun event. Please support the school by having the entire family come out and get some fun exercise!



Please encourage and remind your student to wear or bring sneakers to their Physical Education class. For safety reasons it is imperative that students wear the proper attire and footwear when they come to P.E. class.

Have a fun, fitness filled, fall everyone!

