



# VFES MONTHLY REPORT

February 2018 – Team Updates

## Kindergarten:

We opened February with Ground Hog day on which we learned a poem and made a puppet. In math, we worked on the concepts of time to the hour and counting to 100. We also began the Family Life lessons. These lessons will be completed in March.



We celebrated Valentine's Day and President's Day with special books and activities. Our Valentine's Day program was fantastic. The children worked hard to learn the songs and get up and stay up on the risers as well as get down from the risers. It was a fabulous performance and the audience loved it! We all got to enjoy some special games and crafts at our parties. Thanks to the parents for planning such wonderful celebrations. We finished the month by celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school doing many

## 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 off with Groundhog's Day. The kids had a great time making predictions about our upcoming weather. This year Groundhog Phil saw his shadow and that means we are in store for 6 more weeks of Winter. Will Groundhog Phil be right?? For now we are enjoying the warm temperatures and hoping that Spring Fever doesn't happen early!

We also celebrated the 100th day of school! 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, creating crafts, and sharing valentines with classmates. We also spent time this month learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Everyone enjoyed the long weekend thanks to these two famous presidents.

An African American History Month Round Robin was the perfect way for our first graders to learn about important African Americans in history. The children learned about famous inventors, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Ruby Bridges, and Barack Obama.



The Academy of Natural Sciences visited the first graders of VFE in February. The children had a great time learning all about the animals of the rainforest. Thank you to the PTO for providing us with this amazing opportunity.

We are sad to see our visit to Japan come to an end. Japan was a wonderful unit that was enjoyed by all. We will soon be packing our bags for Africa!

Now that February is over, first graders are waiting to find out if March will come in like a lion or a lamb??? The teachers are hoping the groundhog was wrong. . . come on Spring!

## Second Grade:

During the month of February second grade has been very busy. Students have been continuing to progress through our reading theme units that focus on whole group and small group instruction. Students learn to make reading connections through whole group that they then incorporate during small group instruction. Reading, writing, and spelling are components we love to watch grow as our students develop month by month!



This month in social studies second grade has transitioned from our unit on China to exploration. Students learn about famous explorers such as Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, and many more. Mapping skills and the broad understanding of the world around us helps make this unit fun and exciting for the students.

In science students have continued to study 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.

This month also allowed second graders to celebrate Valentine's Day through a grade wide round robin event. Students in second grade rotated from room to room to do fun activities and crafts.

We are excited for March and all the fun learning activities the new month will bring!

## Third Grade:

The third grade had a super month of February! We have moved our science focus from land and water to our next unit about chemical tests. Students will complete a variety of tests on each unknown chemical to see if they can figure out which chemical is which! In social studies, we are wrapping up our unit on the Lenni Lenape and will next focus on William Penn and the Quakers.

Students have also been working hard in their whole groups and small groups during reading. We wrapped up theme nine which focused on having students compare and contrast information with a theme of "Factory to You." We are currently working on theme ten which focuses on the concept of money. Students will read a variety of pieces about saving, earning, and spending money and reflect on the author's purpose in each. Third graders continue to practice answering text-dependent questions and citing evidence in their written responses. In writing, students spent time working on imaginative narrative pieces which asked them to write about a topic in the genre of realistic fiction. Next in writing, we will work on how-to's or opinion pieces where students will be asked to write out the steps needed to complete a task or to state their opinion then support it with evidence.

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



On February 1<sup>st</sup>, staff from the John James Audubon Center came to teach the students about John's life and his talent for drawing birds. The students were given the opportunity to draw their own bird and did a phenomenal job. The drawings will be displayed at the Audubon Center in April. More information will follow.

Special activities this month included our Valentine's Day movie and festivities and 100<sup>th</sup> day celebrations. We also spent time this month celebrating African American History Month. We watched multiple BrainPOP videos about the civil rights movement and famous African Americans. We also read some famous quotes from these famous African Americans and the children had an opportunity to interpret and discuss them in groups.

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. Once again, the students enjoyed learning about different artists and pieces of artwork during the *Art Goes to School* week. The kids also enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day this month, handing out their Valentines, wearing their PJs, and watching Charlie and the Chocolate Factory together.

We are continuing to practice using different reading strategies in language arts. This month we have been focusing on using fix-up strategies while reading. Some of these strategies include reading on and using context clues, picture clues, and phonics. Speaking of reading, the fourth graders presented their Cereal Box Book Reports this month and they are now on display in the fourth grade classrooms and hallway. The students all did a great job putting together their boxes and commercials for the class, we had a blast watching them!

Also on display this month was our final project for the Electric Circuits science unit. In the science lab, the kids were working hard on the culminating project for the Electric Circuits unit which was a home or building made with real working lights. It was an interesting project to work on and the students did a great job! We are looking forward to starting the next unit, Motion and Design.

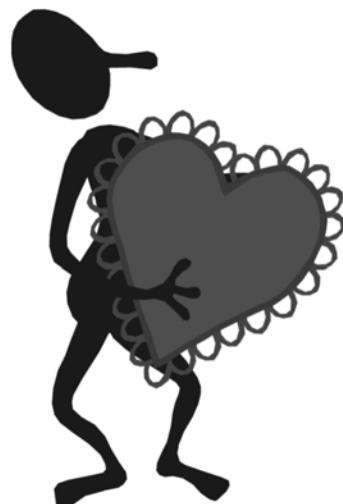


In social studies, we are continuing our study of The American Revolution. We are learning about the Declaration of Independence and how George Washington led the Colonial Army to victory with help from the French.

This month, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders also had a visit from the REACH Conestoga students. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders loved watching the older kids put on skits to teach them about making good choices when it comes to peer pressure, drugs, and alcohol. After the skits, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders wrote letters to the seniors urging them to make good choices this year and at their upcoming senior prom.

Finally, the fourth graders learned about why we celebrate President's Day in the month of February as well as the important contributions made by African Americans. To celebrate African American History Month, the kids were each given a different African American to learn about. After reading about this important person, they filled out a pennant flag with the interesting facts about that person's life. We strung the pennants together to make one nice long flag to display in our classrooms and hallway. They look wonderful!

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

We have had a great month of February! Kindergarteners are continuing to work on spatial awareness, locomotor skills, and even got to participate in the VFE Winter Olympics! First and second graders also participated in Winter Olympic events such as the luge, speed skating, curling, cross-country skiing, and even the bobsled! In addition to the Winter Olympics, students in third and fourth grade worked on cooperation, social skills/responsibilities, and more advanced fitness concepts. All parents are encouraged to practice basic fitness concepts with their children. Jogging, running, climbing, and strengthening exercises are great family activities to do together!

### DON'T FORGET!



just another reminder - please don't forget to send your child to school with play clothes and sneakers on PE days so that they can participate. For safety reasons, students need to wear sneakers that can be laced up or velcroed. Snow boots, flip flops, "Crocs", dress shoes, or "Ugg" type boots can not be accepted.

