



# Bird's



# Eye View

*Committed to Christ*

*Grounded in Truth*

*Equipped for Life*

## Cornerstone Preschool with Mrs. Woods

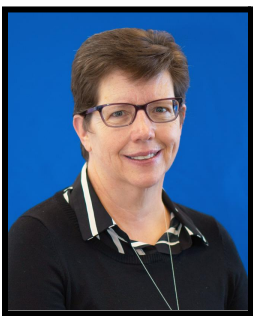
*April showers bring May flowers...*

*Mistress Mary, quite contrary. How does your garden grow?*

These rhymes come to mind at this time of the year since we planted sunflowers. One of the helpers' jobs has been to water our sunflowers daily. It was exciting for everyone when we came back from Spring Break to see they all had sprouted! We hope the moms enjoyed them for a Happy Mother's Day.

There were other plant activities we also liked: *Here we go round the mulberry bush*, putting sunflower picture cards in order from root to flower, and, being sunflowers ourselves:

feet=roots  
body=stems  
arms=leaves  
head=flowers



It was a beautiful day when we trekked to the high school for Agriculture Day. We started off by counting to twenty a few times while shaking the bag of milk, salt, and maple syrup until it became ice cream that we could lick from our spoons. We also enjoyed two kinds of rides. An FFA member drove us around on a



tractor for a hay wagon ride but we were also able to pedal other tractors ourselves. Lots of fun!



## CVCS Kindergarten with Mrs. VanderWindt & Miss DeGraaf

(Written by Ms. Boelens)

### It's a Boy!

Mrs. VanderWindt and the VanderWindt family welcomed baby Chester on May 9! Welcome Chester! Since spring break, the kindergarten class has been busy learning with Ms. DeGraaf who is covering Mrs. VanderWindt's maternity leave.



The kindergarten class has been busy reviewing sight words and working with word families. They have been playing matching games and building their confidence as they gain more reading skills. They have been writing sentences and drawing pictures in their journals as they explore more of God's world and respond to reading and writing prompts.

In science, they have been learning about oceans and ocean animals. When interviewed about oceans this is what the kindergarten class had to share:

### What is your favorite animal?

Charlee: **Dolphins** because they are mammals.

Everett: **Eels** because they look like snakes and I like snakes too.

Addie: **Dolphins** because they are cute.

Maisie: **Jellyfish** because they glow in the dark.

Benny: **Stingrays** because they can sting.

Ambrose: **Dolphins** because they look cute!

James: **Whales**, they jump and then go back into the water.

Eli: **Sharks** because they bite hard.

Rowan: **Sea Turtles** because people can ride on them and I've never done it, but it sounds really fun!



### What else can you tell me about the ocean?

Charlee: Sometimes daddy ocean animals carry babies like seahorses.

Addie: Sharks lose teeth and new teeth take their place.

Ambrose: Oceans have underwater volcanoes!

Everett: Oceans have seaweed.

Maisie: There are animals in the oceans.

Benny: Oceans have super cool seaweed and seagrass.

Rowan: Cookie Cutter sharks make perfect holes in their prey.

Eli: Whales are big.

James: There are a lot of islands in the ocean.



## Grades 1 & 2 with Mrs. Rheaume



The first and second graders have sprung into spring. A few weeks ago the class gifted some of the flowers they planted from seed earlier in the year. The students were diligent about watering and making sure the plants were properly cared for in order to have healthy marigolds and dahlias by Mother's Day.

As part of the all-school exploration unit, the class has been sharing their collections of their ocean discoveries. Students enjoyed taking a look at the variety of shells and other objects that they have collected from the beach. They also enjoyed an all-school ocean exploration presentation that was given by Mrs. Rheaume and Mrs. Dubois.

Recently, to celebrate the warmer weather, the class enjoyed some water activities! Students were able to take a little break from their normal routine and played lots of water games. They especially enjoyed the slip and slide!



On Friday, May 12th, the class joined our very own CVCS dad, Bill Van De Weert for some Agricultural Day activities at the Vergennes Union High School. They had a blast making homemade ice cream, racing pedal tractors, running a farm obstacle course, exploring the tractors, and enjoying a hay ride.



The next week, on May 17th, the first through fourth graders took a field trip to the [Shelburne Museum](#). They were able to participate in a few of the organized activities and walk through many of the exhibits. Students learned about morse code, predators and their prey, and the idea of trading in the old country store. The first and second graders especially enjoyed a tour of the Ticonderoga, the blacksmith shop, and the old jail cell.

During the week of May 22nd, Mrs. Rheaume's class baked cookies and made cards of appreciation for the Vergennes Police Department and [Bixby Memorial Free Public Library](#). The class was able to connect with some of the local police officers and librarians on the 25th. Even though the purpose of the adventure was for the class to express their appreciation, our local officers kindly gifted our students with teddy bears and badges in return for the cookies and cards they received. *(See photos below.)*

What a busy, yet productive spring it has been in Mrs. Rheaume's first and second grade class!

*At the Vergennes Police Department*



*At the Bixby Memorial Free Public Library*





## Grades 3 & 4 with Mrs. Van De Weert

Just as we've seen the view change and things begin to grow outside our classroom window, the same has been happening inside our classroom!

In Bible class, we've been growing in our faith as we continue to read our way through the Old Testament. We read about God giving the Israelites the 10 Commandments and other rules for living and worship. We asked lots of hard questions and discussed how these passages still apply to us today. Just as the Israelites looked forward to settling in the Promised Land, we can look forward to eternity in heaven because Jesus was the final and ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Thank you, Jesus!

In Math class, we continue to practice our multiplication and division facts and have practiced identifying and measuring angles.

We read about the antics of a mouse named Ralph, a boy named Keith, and their love for motorcycles in The Mouse and the Motorcycle. We are also close to finishing our next book and finding out who wins The Gollywhopper Games!

In writing, each student wrote about what they think makes a good friend. According to their writing, the most popular characteristic that our class values in a good friend is honesty.

In these last few weeks, we've also managed to pack in some fun and field trips. We had a turtle as a class pet for one week. One sunny day, we made our own ice cream! One snowy day, we walked all over the grounds of the Shelburne Museum.

We thank God for all of these opportunities to learn and grow, and we anticipate packing in as much as we can in these last couple weeks!





## Grades 5 & 6 with Mrs. Dubois

The fifth and sixth grade class has had a busy few weeks. We organized a food drive and collected almost 500 items that we delivered to the [Vergennes Food Shelf](#). We took a field trip to [Maple Meadow Egg Farm](#) where sixth grader Tucker gave us a tour of his family's farm. In addition to learning about the chickens and egg production, we also got to meet a couple of donkeys and some entertaining goats.



From there, we went to the [Robert Frost Trail](#) in Ripton and to [Texas Falls](#) in Hancock. It was a chilly day but felt great whenever the sun peeked out from behind the clouds. Our next stop was the [UVM Morgan Horse Farm](#), where apprentice Ryley gave us a great tour of the farm, taught us about the history of the Morgan and of the farm, and introduced us to many of the horses, including four babies. It was a great day of seeing God's creation through animals and nature. Vermont in the spring is such a beautiful place.



Back at school, students have been working on researching explorers and making Google Slides presentations that they will share with their classmates. Along with the seventh and eighth graders, they have been learning about Jesus' ministry with lesson topics like Jesus Casting Out Demons and Jesus Calms the Storm. We are currently reading *The People of Sparks*, the sequel to *The City of Ember*, an enjoyable novel that I read aloud to the students previously. We're continuing to progress through our math curriculum with students working on a variety of topics. It is hard to believe the school year is coming to a close soon, and I am grateful for the wonderful year that I had with this crew.



Answer: Ms. Diane Koontz

## Grades 7 & 8 with various teachers

### Humanities with Mrs. Dobson



**If you were there...** “It is the December after the presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore. For weeks, people have been talking about whether the votes can be recounted by hand. The race was too close to call on election night, and now the candidates are involved in a court case that will decide who the next president will be. How would you solve the problem of recounting votes?” (HMH U.S. History 490)

We have entered a new millennium in our history curriculum. As we end the school year, we have covered the presidencies of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump. We looked at the unforgettable attack on September 11, 2001 and our nation’s response to terrorism over the past two decades.

In March, we read the heartfelt story of *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Gratz is a historical fiction author who takes events of the past, intertwining them with current events. In April, students selected their own piece of literature to read and write about in a book report. To end the year, we read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R Tolkien.

While our last paper for the year was an argumentative piece on whether a four-day school week or a year-round school schedule would be more beneficial, students spent the month of April writing creative narratives. Here are a few excerpts below:

*“The morning was bright in Helena, Montana as I got out of bed and put on my sweat set and went outside to go feed the horses. The grass was wet with dew as I walked through it to get to the barn. The horses were delighted to see me. I gave each of the six horses three flakes of hay and a scoop of grain. When I got back in, I ate pancakes, eggs, and bacon and asked Mom if Dad was still writing his paper. ‘Hey Dad, when are you going to bring me to school?’ I asked.” ~Audrey D.*



*““Stop that engine right now!’ yelled the officer. Waluigi panicked, he notched back the reverser and opened the regulator all of the way, and noticed that his pressure was going down. Waluigi started frantically shoveling coal into the fire. This was a mistake. All of the coal started to smother the fire. There is a method to shoveling coal into a steam engine, the fire has to be even so that you can get the most heat out of it. Dark black smoke started to pour out of the chimney, this made Waluigi panic more. The police cars were catching up.” ~Matthew B.*

*“The next few months were a blur of field training and studying at the army base on Poland’s northern coast, but what I remember the most is the look of pride on my family’s faces when I graduated from the military academy. Ever since, I have felt that I need to earn those looks, like I did not deserve them. I was eventually stationed near the border with Germany on August 4, 1939. There, I would mainly watch the border to see if anyone was crossing illegally.” ~Izaak W.*



*“There was no light in the shed besides from the window which illuminated a small lantern. John took out his lighter and used it to light the old lantern. The lantern quickly lit making it easy to see around the shed. John looked around until he saw a large map that took up half of one of the walls. As he walked closer he realized this was a strange map with paths where there were no paths, just as he finished his thought a creak came from behind him.” ~Rhys R.*

*“He turned to a wall and waved his hand and a door appeared. He led me through it to a room the size of a football field. Torches were being lit around the area. He walked me down a set of stairs that disappeared behind us. About five hundred people filled the seats.” ~Cole B.*





## Science with Mrs. Lavalla

In science, us middle school students have finished the study of the human body (*my favorite*). Then we moved on to learning about sound. Specifically the different properties of waves and sound technology. We also learned a lot about light, such as the electromagnetic spectrum, light interactions, and mirrors and lenses.



Our final study has been on earth's water. We have learned about water's properties, some refreshment on the water cycle, surface and groundwater. Now we are finishing up with the excitement of the ocean and its waves, currents and the ocean floor.

For more pictures and information about CVCS, please go to our website: [www.cvcsvt.com](http://www.cvcsvt.com)  
For CVCS' Facebook page, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/cvcsvt>

## Grades K-8 PE with Mrs. Lavalla

We have been good and active in PE here at CVCS! Most of which was our Fitness Unit. We measured individual aerobic capacity, muscular endurance & strength, and flexibility, through the Cooper Institute's Fitnessgram Assessments.

We also committed to using skills we learned for jumping rope (*individual, partner, long rope*) for the duration of an hour to raise money for the American Heart Association through the Kids Heart Challenge. *We raised over a thousand dollars!*



Team sports we have enjoyed are basketball, floor hockey (*a favorite for many students*), volleyball, and now baseball.

Once in a while, we enjoy participating in a day of cooperative learning, such as getting groups of people safely across "toxic rivers" with limited stepping stones.



## Grades PreK-8 Art & Enrichment with Mrs. West



### Art (PreK-8):

The preschoolers and kindergarteners spent the last few weeks learning all about plants and their pollinators! We learned about seeds and how they grow into plants, we even planted some of our own! We also learned all about bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and how they help our gardens!

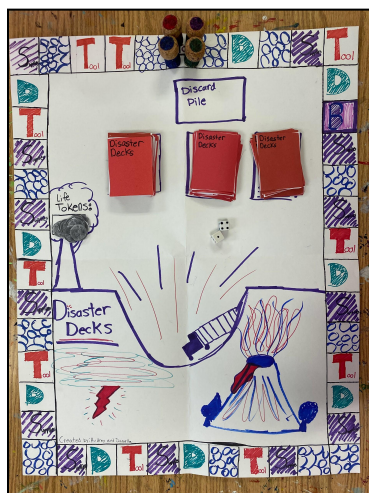


The first through eighth graders did lots of spring-themed art that included plenty of blue skies and colorful flowers. Then we started to learn about some famous artists. We learned about Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet! I am excited to continue teaching them about more amazing artists and sculptors next year!



### Enrichment (3-8):

The third through eighth graders have been working hard all trimester to finish up their board games and they have finally finished! We have renditions of *Sorry*, *Candyland*, *Masterpiece*, and more! Some are trivia, some need dice, some need cards, and some need a combination!



## Bolton Valley



Bolton Valley 2023 was one of the best years yet! Participation was at an all-time high with a mix of beginners and seasoned riders and skiers. Those first-timers caught on quickly and by the second or third session, everyone had mastered the chairlifts and the night-time trials. I think we have some new enthusiasts for years to come. It's always great to see all of the kids compare notes on trails, snow, and jumps. Thanks to all our parents, grandparents, and friends for transporting to and from Bolton. It was such a fun four weeks and if you didn't try it this year, I'll bet if you asked any CVCS student who went, they'd tell you to come too! Looking forward to next year already!

## Boston

### Day 1 - Franklin Park Zoo & Museum of Science

On Monday morning, we drove about four hours to get to Boston. When we got there, we immediately went to the [zoo](#); we first went to the shaggy donkey. After we looked at all the animals, we went to the zoo's restaurant, the Giddyup Grill. Before we left the zoo, we went to the gift shop. Next, we drove to the [Museum of Science](#) and went to an exhibit about transportation which mostly talked about trains. Also, we saw exhibits about mind games and puzzles like a maze and optical illusions. There was also an exhibit about space where we got to see inside a replica of Apollo 11.

"One thing I learned was that gorillas don't like to be in the sunlight with people around. I also learned that a bed of nails is actually comfortable." ~Audrey



"One thing I learned was that people have discovered frozen water on Mars." ~Cole

"My favorite part of the Franklin Park Zoo was when we saw the shaggy donkey. The donkey was brown with dreadlocks and was the size of a horse. At the science museum, my favorite part was that we got to see a whole bunch of animals that were stuffed; some of the enclosures had smells of the natural habitat. Most of them smelled disgusting." ~Audrey

"My favorite part of the zoo was when we saw the goats. The goats were brownish with some different colors on their heads and sides. At the Museum of Science, my favorite part is seeing the mission to Mars activity. The mission to Mars activity was to look around the room with a flashlight and try to find information about Mars to survive." ~Cole



## Day 2 - Boston Harborwalk, New England Aquarium, Historic Boston Harbor Cruise, and Mike's Pastry



On Tuesday, we walked around Boston where we saw many things, such as trees and a wheel attached to a pole which was from a bike that had been kidnapped. When we walked back to the [aquarium](#), we saw seals; and they were very fat. Inside the aquarium, there were fish and penguins from the penguin nation. We also saw a triangular fish who we named Ricardo. Then we went to the shoreline and waited for a while before boarding a [boat](#) and going in a big circle around Boston Harbor. Afterwards, we went to Mike's Pastry where we got pastries.

"I learned that 75% of Boston's shoreline is man made. I learned that seals are very cute and funny. I also discovered my new stuffed seal, Craig, in the giftshop of the aquarium. I learned that aquariums are just a bunch of fish in tanks. I learned that penguins look goofy when they are swimming. On the boat tour, I learned that Boston used to be so dirty that a company lost a bulldozer to the trash piles."

~Matthew

"I learned that boats are rocky and fun to ride, and that fish can be triangular. Also, penguins look like planes underwater



and that there was an island of trash because Boston dumped all of their trash on a small island called Spectacle Island. The island was covered in dirt even though the trash was 80 feet high." ~Rhys



"My favorite part of the trip was the penguins and going on the boat because boats are big and strange and funny. The penguins were cute because they looked like planes under the water." ~Rhys

"My favorite parts were getting my new friend Craig the seal, and seeing the real seals, and getting a slice of mousse cake from Mike's Pastry. I also loved the boat tour" ~Matthew

## Day 3 - Swan Boats, Freedom Trail Walking Tour, Bunker Hill Monument, and USS Constitution

On Wednesday, we started the day off by going on a ride on the [swan boats](#) to wait for a tour of the [Freedom Trail](#). The swan boats moved via pedals at the back that were moved by the driver who steered with ropes attached to the rudder. The boat took us around a small pond in the Boston public park. Afterwards, we started the tour of the Freedom Trail. The tour guide was clad in attire that was consistent with a person from colonial times. The tour guide took us first to an area where Puritans would punish Quakers. He took us next to the first underground railway in America. Afterwards, we walked to a cemetery where John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin's parents, and Robert Treat Paine are buried. Once we left the cemetery, we went to the Old State House and the site of the first public school in America. We walked for a bit



longer, and we got to the site of the Boston Massacre. Our last stop was next to the new state house and Quincy Market. Once the tour ended, we had lunch at Quincy Market before we continued the rest



of the Freedom Trail. There was a lot of walking, but we did see the Paul Revere House and a statue of Paul Revere. When we got to the [Bunker Hill Monument](#), our legs were tired; and we were not very enthusiastic about climbing it. Although when we did get to the top, the view was very



rewarding. Afterwards, we had very limited time to walk to the [USS Constitution](#). The *USS Constitution* had three decks accessible to the public, but there was still a lot of space on the ship. After we went to the *USS Constitution*, we stopped and got ice cream for the last thing we did in Boston.

“I learned a lot of things while we were at the Freedom Trail and at the *USS Constitution*. The first thing is the *USS Constitution* is the oldest commissioned warship in the U.S. Navy. Another thing is that Paul Revere was considered very rich at that time. A third thing I learned is that the coastline of Boston was much farther inland than it is now.” ~Izaak

“My favorite part of day three in Boston is probably eating at Quincy Market.” ~Izaak 😊



## More pics from Ag Day at VUHS



## CVCS Alumni Throwback

This one goes back a few years. How many do you know? (*Answers are below.*)



Kneeling (l to r): Lisa Fales, Dirk Jay Smits, Teena Buzeman, Dan Fales.

Sitting (l to r): John Beenen, Jr., Rebecca VanDyk, Todd Goodyear, Michael (Mike) Roorda, John Nop, Frank Visser.

Standing (l to r): Tom Roorda, Nathan Kletzing, Mark Visser, Janet Dykema, Ken Visser, Jeff Gosliga.

Back row (l to r): Sarah VanDyk, Michael (Mike) Dykstra, Steve Dam, Christine DeGraaf, Howard VanderWey, Aaron Schondube, Dirk Visser, Jr.

Everyone is present.

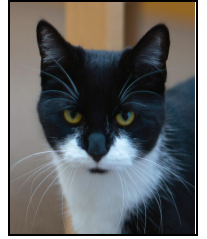
Source: Sarah (Van Dyk) Barnes

*(Bonus points if you know the teacher's name! Answer is located somewhere in this newsletter.)*

## Tacoma Returns

Photos taken by various staff members

The return of warmer weather has brought about the return of Tacoma, who has re-started her duties of being the official school greeter. Pets and smiles abound as she greets everyone who comes to the front door and tries to sneak into the building. I don't know how she does it but somehow she convinces a staff member (*or two*) to let her join in the classroom and playground activities. (*To be honest, it doesn't take much.*) As one staff member said, "Tacoma makes me happy."



(Look out, Mr. Stapleford! You might have a new TA in your class next year!)

