

# F.N. Brown Newsletter

## April 2016

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Kate Curren

### Dates to Remember...



**Fri., 4/1- 12:30 Dismissal**

**Mon., 4/4- Fri. 4/8 Spring Vacation- No School**

**Tues., 4/12-** SCA Pasta Lunch  
Board of Ed Meeting – VHS, 8pm

**Tues., 4/12- Fri, 4/15-** PARCC (Grade 3)

**Thurs., 4/14-** SCA Pizza Lunch



**Sat., 4/16-** Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am

**Mon., 4/18-** SCA Meeting 7pm

**Mon., 4/18- Fri, 4/21-** PARCC (Grade 4)



**Thurs., 4/21-** SCA Chicken Lunch  
B-Line Articles Due

**Tues., 4/26-** Board of Ed Meeting – VHS, 8pm

**Thurs., 4/28-** SCA Bagel Lunch  
Spring Vocal Concert 7pm (Grades 3&4)



To add/edit/correct write-ups please contact:  
**Melissa Watkins**, B-Line Editor  
at [melissaLwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:melissaLwatkins@gmail.com)

### B-Line News

**Busy Bee Bucks** – The big \$25 grocery gift card giveaway is still going on! Any family that buys at least \$100 in Busy Bee Bucks during March, April or May will be entered to win a gift card worth \$25 to one of the participating grocery stores. We all buy groceries every month, but when you use a Busy Bee gift card for your monthly shopping, you are generating money for our school without costing you anything extra.

Our program is super simple - buy gift cards at face value and use for your monthly grocery shopping, filling your car with gas, shop for clothes, shoes, office supplies and more. Gift cards are available to hundreds of retailers. For a complete list of retailer, please visit [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)

April order forms will be coming home soon. Orders will be due on Tuesday the 19th.

Complete the order form, write a check to F.N. Brown SCA, place in an envelope labeled Busy Bee Bucks and send it in your child's backpack.

This program is open to all friends and family members, so please feel free to share the order forms. For tracking purposes please ensure you include the students name and classroom on each order form.

Questions?  
Please contact Kate Curren [973-857-8663](tel:973-857-8663)  
or [katefullercurren@gmail.com](mailto:katefullercurren@gmail.com)

### Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: April 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 29.

**Please remember all lunches must be preordered.**



# Birthday Boys and Girls

## April

Mia Viganola, Leo Andrade,  
Juliet Alkaysi, Caitlin Eng,  
Gavin Fuentes, Joseph Phelan,  
Emma Shaw, Nicholas Byrne,  
Lauren Parsons, Eleanor Thurston,  
Jordan Dunn, Sarah Komninos,  
Laura Baglieri, Daniel Frenklakh,  
Joseph Abello, Ethan Fuhrer



In honor of Secretary's Day, the SCA, students and entire staff of F.N. Brown would like to extend a sincere **thanks** to **Mrs. Alina Dugan**. We truly appreciate all you do for us. **Happy Secretary's Day!**

### Box Tops for Education

Please remember to send in your box tops! We earn 10 cents for FN Brown for each box top that's collected. Just clip, save and send them in. Thanks!



### And A Special Thank You Goes to...

#### \*The Half Day Snack Committee!

Thanks to Shannon Palmer and all the other volunteers who help make Half Day Snack run smoothly.

F.N. BROWN- THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!



## More B-Line News

**Note from the Treasurer** – For those submitting expenses for various programs and would like reimbursement please place your receipts in an envelope along with your name, a filled out reimbursement form and the receipt with the program name written on it. For example: Jane Doe: Hospitality Committee \$15 – refreshments for Back to School night; John Smith: Fun Fair Committee \$15 – game prize purchase. For those handing in deposits please make sure the money is sorted and all forms are filled out. Each deposit needs a summary form, a deposit and breakdown form filled out along with a bank deposit slip (3-4 forms per deposit). Also please contact me to arrange for a drop off or pick time so that I can get all the forms and money. All forms can be found in the main office or online. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Garthwaite at 973-768-1291 or [janicegarthwaite@gmail.com](mailto:janicegarthwaite@gmail.com).

**SCA Nominating Committee** – The F.N. Brown SCA Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to fill leadership positions for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. Many of the committees are a one-time event for the year and require very minimal in school participation. We hope you will carefully consider the SCA positions list that was sent home and volunteer to serve. Please contact Antonia Castner (973-571-1288) or Kate Curren (973-857-8663) if you have any questions.

# FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL

VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

125 GROVE AVENUE

TELEPHONE: (973) 571-6753 FAX: (973) 571-6769

ANTHONY V. LANZO, Ed.D  
Principal

April 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to April! Our Kindergarten Parent Orientation took place on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Kindergarten screenings will occur over the next few weeks.

### **Standardized Testing**

Our third and fourth grade will be taking the PARCC this month. Please check the testing schedule that is posted on the district website.

### **Visitor Sign-In**

All visitors are reminded to sign in upon entering our school. All visitors must be announced first before entering any classroom. Parents are asked not to drop in on teachers during the instructional day. This causes an interruption to the instructional flow. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **Brick Legacy Fundraiser**

Please consider purchasing a brick including an engraving. Bricks will be installed on our school property – butterfly walkway or around the flagpole. Please contact the main office if you need further information.

Happy spring!!

Very truly yours,

*Anthony Lanzo*

Anthony Lanzo

*April 2016*

*Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents*

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

As the snow finally starts to melt and flowers start to bloom, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting Spring!!

F.N. Brown families enjoyed a homework and activity free night on March 23<sup>RD</sup> for VMAC's district wide Family Night. Families were encouraged to take a break from their hectic schedules and enjoy quality family time!!

The Nominating Committee forms for next year have been distributed and are due back by April 15th. Please review the forms and consider being an active participant in SCA activities. We can't do it without you! Our SCA activities enhance our children's learning experience and the funds raised allow us to keep up all of our wonderful F.N. Brown traditions! Please contact Mindy Frey, Nominating Committee Chair (mindyfrey@gmail.com) with any questions.

We are very proud of our current and budding Peer Mediators! Thank you to Dr. Lanzo and the Character Education Committee for leading our students through this program at F.N. Brown. The training is exciting for the students and they use their mediating skills throughout the halls of F.N. Brown to resolve conflicts now and as they graduate to new adventures in the future – it's a win, win for all.

April 27<sup>th</sup> is Administrative Professional Day. The SCA would like to thank Mrs. Dugan for all of her support and commitment to the parents and children of F.N. Brown is amazing. Her assistance to the SCA is invaluable!

The spring vocal concert is on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Thank you to Mrs. Szybist for your dedication to the children of F.N. Brown!

Thank you to all who volunteer with our ongoing needs: library, art office help, half day snack, and the lunch programs. Your time and effort is appreciated!

*Upcoming dates to remember ~*

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Staff Appreciation - Breakfast and Luncheon

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Field Day – (rain date: May 10<sup>th</sup>) and Nurse's Day

**May 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 4<sup>th</sup>** Grade Spring Instrumental Concert

**May 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 4<sup>th</sup>** Grade HBW Visitation

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fun Fair 4pm-7pm

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Book Fair 4pm-7pm

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Donuts with Dad

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – Open House/Art Show/ Eco-Fair

Please join us for our last SCA meeting of the year on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the FNB Library.

*Happy Spring!*

*Antonia Castner and Kate Curren*

## **ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL**

### **KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA**

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!! March began with the Read Across America celebration throughout the school. Children took the Readers' Pledge at the all-school assembly and enjoyed listening to the story, "The Cat In The Hat", read by the entire staff.

The kick-off for "Nim's Island" gave a brief overview of the story that each member of the F.N. Brown community read throughout the month. A video of the author's thoughts was shown to explain how the book was made and a flash mob dance was held by the teachers. Thanks to Mrs. Walker for organizing all the fun!

In Math, the classes have been composing and decomposing numbers to 19. How many ways can we show one number? There are many.

The Kindergartners enjoyed their class trip on the school bus to a hands-on children's museum, Imagine That! The children were able to freely experience different activities that they were interested in, such as, art projects, music and pretend centers.

As always, the St. Patrick's Day leprechaun came to visit the Kindergarten classrooms and, as usual, he left some telltale signs of his visit. He even left a pair of socks in Mrs. Orsini's classroom. The bad news there was no gold to be found. Enjoy the Spring Break!!!

### **FIRST GRADE – ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA**

Wow! We can't believe that March has come and gone! This school year is surely flying by! The first graders are so pleased with their individual growth as readers thus far in first grade. They truly enjoy picking out books both at their reading level, yet they also like the challenge of harder books as well. Fluency, comprehension, and decoding continue to be skills that the first graders are working on. We appreciate all the help that you are giving your child at home when it comes to reading. Reading together as a family is so very important. Please continue to ask your child questions about their reading both before and after the story. If you would like a list of questions that you can ask your child, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to send some questions home!

In math, the students have learned how to both add as well as subtract tens from a two-digit number. They got to use manipulatives as well as play some math centers for this fun topic. They also learned how to use a hundreds chart to assist them in this process as well. The first graders are beginning to realize that sometimes in math, there are a few different ways that they can solve a problem. Some students were even able to use mental math to add and subtract tens as well! We have just started a short unit on length. Using both non-standard and standard means of measurement the students liked estimating how long they thought a given object was before actually measuring the item. These two concepts were stressed within the unit. Please don't forget to do basic addition and subtraction skill and drill at home with your child as well. We can't stress enough how important that is.

Writing has taken on its own flare as well. The students have enjoyed listening to some persuasive mentor texts as well as writing some persuasive letters/essays on their own. They were taught the "OREO" strategy as a means to help them write. Ask your child about that fun strategy and see if he/she can tell you about it! Remembering there is a world at the end of each pencil continues to foster the love of writing in first grade. We are looking forward to starting our Poetry writing unit next.

In Science, Mrs. Collins class has been working on plants, the different parts of a plant, and have even planted kidney beans. Mrs. McKenna's class has been talking about Communities, community helpers, needs versus wants, and will be hosting a career day in April. There are many fun and exciting things happening in first grade! Don't forget to ask your child what they are learning about! Happy Spring everyone! The first graders are looking forward to lots of fun and exciting activities as the school year winds down!

## **SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO**

Spring has sprung...finally!! After a long winter we are overjoyed to welcome the warmer weather of spring. Second graders started the season off by exploring poetry in both reading and writing. We are noticing how poetry is different from fiction and non-fiction books and looking at things with a poet's eyes. We are creating many of our own poems utilizing line breaks in interesting ways and choosing words and punctuation carefully. We are reading poetry from Jack Prelutsky, Bob Raczka, Barry Louis Polisar, and Laura Purdie Salas. We are planning to create our own spring poems to celebrate the season.

In Math, we have finished up a unit on Geometry. We had a lot of fun exploring solid and plane figures. We played guessing games and made our own three dimensional figures to help identify faces, flat surfaces, edges, and vertices. Next, we are moving on to Money where we will be counting collections of coins and adding and subtracting money. Please be sure to practice identifying coins and their values at home as well as counting out groups of coins.

We are having fun as second grade astronomers as we study The Solar System in Science. We have explored day and night, the seasons, the planets, and the moon. It's great to use what we learned in Star Lab to help us with the experiments and concepts in this unit. For instance, second graders were able to see how the Earth moves by tracing their shadows on the blacktop at different times of the day. It was fun to see how our shadows change and to prove that the Earth is always rotating.

We have had a blast being deserted on an island with our friend Nim and her friends! We have had many classroom discussions about Nim's adventures in the book. We enjoyed visiting the blog in class to see what everyone has been saying about each chapter. Some of them left us on the edge of our seats. As we finish up, we look forward to the Camden Aquarium's visit as well as a viewing of Nim's Island, the movie.

## **THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO**

The month of March came in like a lion, and went out like a lion as well! As we anxiously await Spring-like temperatures, student learning is in full bloom! Students have become avid readers and engage in rich book discussions about their reading experiences. Nim's Island was a wonderful way to unite and share our thoughts across the district! April is National Poetry month and forms of poetry will be explored, along with fiction and nonfiction literature selections. Persuasive writing, in Writer's Workshop, is giving student writers a fun way to express their opinions, and provide support for their ideas.

In Math, students are applying multiplication and division skills to understand the world of fractions. We are also exploring customary units of measure, using them to determine area and perimeter of shapes and regions.

In Science, we are piloting a new STEM unit in Motion and Design. Students are immersed in the discovery of Newton's Laws of Motion, and putting them into action. Students designed, built, and tested their own model cars. They also created technical drawings of their designs, and used color coding, to aid in reconstruction of their original vehicles. Next, they followed a technical drawing to build a "standard" vehicle. These standard models were used for further trials and experiments. These investigations led students to experiment and discover how forces, weight, and friction affect motion.

Our study of Immigration and the Titanic, in Social Studies, is coming to a close. This fascinating event in history, gave students a rich understanding of how America became a melting pot of cultures and traditions. Through this unit, students enjoyed gaining insight into their own family history as well! Next, we will head west to learn about the remaining Western regions, their development and features, up to present day.

Standardized testing, to gather information on student academic growth, will be administered in the coming weeks as the PARCC returns. We are confident and fortunate in Verona, to know our students are well prepared for this challenge by what they learn on an everyday basis.

Continued use of Google Classroom and Chromebooks, allows students to expand their knowledge, beyond the classroom walls. These devices have transformed the way we learn! Websites, that connect to, and expand, concepts taught in the classroom, foster independent learning. Students are curious and inspired to grow beyond what they have learned within the school day. It is encouraging to see student learning activity

occur during after school hours, weekends, and over holiday breaks! We continue to look forward to enriching learning experiences in the months ahead.

#### **FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL**

Students at F.N. Brown have been focusing on practicing honesty, fairness and citizenship and realizing that “honesty is the best policy” is the way to go. Our fourth graders’ characters are truly shining through developing a wonderful sense of respect and responsibility. They realize that the best and most important reward you can receive is the feeling you get inside when you do your best to treat others fairly. Bravo!!

Writer’s workshop is fully underway. Students are discovering the characteristics of feature articles. This unit of study is designed to introduce students to a new genre for writing nonfiction texts. Students are immersed in reading feature articles, the kind of pieces we usually find in magazines and newspapers that give us information on a topic as seen through the lens of the writer’s particular perspective, or angle. The writing style of feature articles is the ability to connect facts that are woven into a story. In this particular informational writing there is an emphasis on interviewing people which takes students beyond books and internet sites.

Our fourth graders are continuing their study of non-fiction books in Reader’s workshop. Through the reading of many texts they have practiced identifying text features and structure. They have learned how features, such as captions or headings can guide their reading and deepen their understanding of non-fiction texts. Rich discussions are on-going comparing and contrasting the skills required for fiction and non-fiction reading.

In science we are studying about the rock cycle and how igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are formed. We are also delving into the process of how weathering and erosion affect rocks. Students have learned about the different types of soil as well as their horizons.

In math students are working on learning the skill of understanding fractions. Students are learning how to identify fractional parts of a region and dividing them into equal parts. They are learning that a fraction describes the division of a whole into equal parts and can be interpreted in more than one way. We just completed using common denominators and equivalent fractions to order fractions with unlike denominators. Our next topic entails the adding and subtracting of fractions and will be well on our way to learning about decimals.

In Social Studies, our students have completed TWO amazing projects related to our last units of study. Kudos to our fourth graders who transformed into various famous New Jerseyans! They shared why New Jersey is a special state, rich in history. Their presentations were well received by our K-3 students and visiting fourth grade parents. In addition, fourth graders are completing studies on Essex County. They are in the process of submitting a poster that depicts, “Why Essex County is Unique”. The posters will be submitted to the Essex County Clerk’s Office for judging, and the top 25 submissions county-wide will be selected for a 15 month calendar. We are very proud of our fourth graders as we evaluate and reflect on their progress and commitment.

#### **VOCAL MUSIC – JUDY SZYBIST**

The music department continues to look toward the busy spring performance schedule ahead. We are planning many spring and all district concerts, as well as a variety of school events and assemblies.

This year the third and fourth grade students will perform their Spring Concert on Thursday, April 28, at 7:00 pm. Students are hard at work with preparations and we are looking forward to an evening full of possibilities. In addition to preparing for performances all students will be discussing the topic “What makes a good audience member?” Please take a moment to ask your child what they have learned about audience etiquette.

We are anxiously awaiting the Spring season at FN Brown and look forward to seeing you soon.

#### **ESL – NANCY BEATTIE**

The English as a Second Language students continue to increase their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The month of March was filled with English language activities that focused on the holidays of Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day. Stories were read about the holidays, vocabulary was taught through pictures, definitions, and assistance from "Siri". Brainpopjr.com videos were watched to provide students with information about these traditional American celebrations. Students engaged in conversations to encourage the use of their speaking and grammar skills. The younger students continue to learn a new letter sound each week as well as rhyming skills while the second grade students review vowel sound combinations, spelling words, and ABC order of vocabulary words. The students have been writing sentences using proper capitalization and punctuation while the older students have been writing paragraphs about various activities using transition words.

During the month of March, the E.S.L. students in grades 1-12 completed an on-line assessment called ACCESS 2.0. The kindergarten test was administered via paper and pencil. This test assesses the students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in the areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies. The assessment is used to measure a student's progress in English throughout the student's involvement in the E.S.L. Program. It is amazing to witness the students' acquisition and progress they have made with their English language skills! Happy Spring!

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL**

This has been a very exciting year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The children have been working very hard on their sportsmanship and teamwork skills and the difference from the beginning of the year until now is amazing. I am so proud of how they are learning to work together as part of a team. I can only hope that this is rubbing off on all aspects of their lives. I said in my earlier articles that I couldn't wait to see how the children progressed throughout the year and I could not be happier with the results.

The children have already been through so many different sport and fitness units and I can't believe it is April already. They have been through football, soccer, basketball, and hockey as sport units. The children have also had an opportunity to play many scooter games and tag games to work on their chasing, fleeing and dodging skills. I can safely say that the children have gained much more confidence in their physical abilities and I hope that they continue to pursue their interests outside of physical education.

In addition, I look forward to the upcoming Field Day in May here at F.N. It will be a very fun-filled and exciting event for all involved. Once again parent involvement and assistance is greatly appreciated. I am so happy that I have already had volunteers return their forms to me and I hope to receive a few more in the days to come. This year has been a pleasure teaching your children and I look forward to watching them grow and excel in the future. Once again if you ever need to contact me my e-mail address is [rhill@veronaschools.org](mailto:rhill@veronaschools.org).

### **SPEECH – GILLIAN BETCHER**

Great speech and language skills are blooming at F.N. Brown! Students working on their articulation are becoming more intelligible in the speech room as well as in their classrooms. Great times to practice articulation at home are during nightly reading and at the dinner table. Playing games like 'Go Fish' with picture cards with the target sound are easy to make and fun to play. Students enjoy playing 'I-Spy' and searching for items that have their sound in it. Writing target words with chalk or incorporating them into hopscotch are great ways to practice articulation outside this season! Students requiring development in pragmatic language continue to work on "social thinking" skills, which will help them to be better communication partners. Students are learning to ask questions and make appropriate comments in order to improve the quality of their peer interactions. We are having fun learning Spring idioms. The students are using them to make their language and writing even more interesting. Happy Spring!

### **HEALTH – MARIA RODGERS**



Spring is finally here! Spring means flower buds and blooming trees, but for many students it also means sneezing, wheezing and watery eyes or allergy season. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, talk to your pediatrician. Your doctor will be able to provide you with information regarding how best to treat your child and nip those allergies in the bud! Also with the warmer weather comes more outdoor activities. As always our goal is keeping the children safe. Playground safety is a priority. The shoes your child wears to school are an important aspect of their safety. So, please be mindful of the proper shoe attire for outdoor fun. Sandals, clogs, flip flops, shoes with open toes or open backs are not safe at school. Sneakers and shoes with a close back are the safest and most practical choice for outdoor play. This will help minimize unnecessary injuries while enjoying outdoor recess.

Health lessons are always fun for me because it allows me to see the students in a different setting and I enjoy the classroom interaction. The first graders completed their health lessons which included a lesson on washing away germs with proper hand washing, healthy eating choices using the My Plate guidelines, personal hygiene, and 911 tips.

The fourth graders learned about the circulatory and respiratory systems and how making healthy choices impact heart and lung health. In May, I will return to the classroom to discuss changes in their growth and development. I have been sharing health information on proper hand washing, covering coughs and making healthy food choices in the Kindergarten classes. We will conclude our kindergarten health lessons with a discussion on food allergies and bone health. The students have seemed to enjoy all the health topics that were introduced and I have been impressed by their knowledge and inquisitive minds.

The third graders will have the opportunity to learn about fire safety, burn prevention and fire escape techniques through a fun, safe, fire safety house tour when the Saint Barnabas Medical Center Fire Safety House comes for a visit in May. There will be a letter sent home with more information as we get closer to the assigned date.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact the nursing office if you have any questions or concerns.

## **LIBRARY – CORISA WALKER**

We had so much fun with our One District, One Book program! Reading as a town community has been so rewarding. Nim's Island was such a wonderful story, and the students did some fantastic thinking, as well as made great connections with this book. We learned all about marine life and gained some interesting knowledge about the animal characters in Nim's Island. We also had a fantastic day when the Camden Adventure Aquarium visited F.N. Brown. We got to pet a shark, a horseshoe crab, and a sea star! Thank you to our parent volunteers for teaching us all day long. Special thanks to the Verona Foundation for Educational Excellence and the SCA for sponsoring this program. We appreciate all families that have made reading aloud to your children a commitment for the duration of this project. April is also National Poetry month, so we kicked off this special literacy celebration with our March Madness Poetry Tournament. Students compared poems by their favorite poets to determine their favorite. Some of our favorite poets are Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, and Douglas Florian.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping to keep the library a fun and organized place of learning!