

F.N. Brown Newsletter

March 2016

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Kate Curren

Dates to Remember...



- Tues., 3/1-** SCA Pasta Lunch
- Wed., 3/2-** Grade 4 – Parent Orientation at HBW – 7pm
(snowdate 3/3)
- Thurs., 3/3-** SCA Pizza Lunch
- Fri., 3/4-** **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snack
- Sat., 3/5-** Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10:00am
- Mon., 3/7-** SCA Meeting – Library 7:00pm
- Wed. 3/9** – CogAT Testing for Grades 1,2,3
(March 9, 10, and 11)
- Thurs., 3/10-** CogAT Testing for Grades 1,2,3
SCA Pancake Lunch
- Fri., 3/11-** CogAT Testing for Grades 1,2,3
- Tues., 3/15-** Verona Bd. of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
Kindergarten Trip – Imagine That!
(9:15am - 1:15pm)
Report Cards
- Wed., 3/16-** Assembly- 9:30 am
“Amazing World of Turtles”
- Thurs., 3/17-** SCA Bagel Lunch
- Tues., 3/22-** **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snack / Conferences
- Wed., 3/23-** **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snack / Conferences
- Thurs., 3/24-** SCA Chicken Lunch
B-Line Articles Due
- Fri., 3/25-** School Closed
- Tues., 3/29-** Verona Bd. of Ed. Mtg.
VHS 8:00pm
- Thurs., 3/31-** Incoming Kindergarten
Parent Orientation - 7pm



B-Line News

Busy Bee Bucks – Do you want to win a \$25 grocery gift card? 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

March order forms will be coming home on March 7. Orders will be due on Friday the 11th. 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.

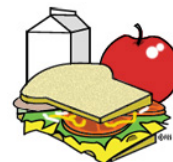
This program is open to all friends and family members, so please feel free to share the order forms. For tracking purposes please ensure you include the students name and classroom on each order form.

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

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: March 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 28, 29 and 30.

Please remember all lunches must be preordered.



To add/edit/correct write-ups please contact:

Melissa Watkins, B-Line Editor
at melissalwatkins@gmail.com

Birthday Boys and Girls March

John McEnerney, Isabella McMillan,
Sebastian Molina, Katherine O'Farrell,
Vidhl Parekh, Molly McCabe,
Maile O'Neill, Dominic Houck,
Nicholas Testa, Ella Rosinski,
Addisyn Garthwaite, Gus Stocker,
Jeremy Williams, Jaeden McHugh,

Liliana Garcia,
Jaye Auriemma,
Mia Viganola



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.

Half Day Snacks – On March 4th, 22nd & 23rd, the SCA will be sponsoring Half Day Snacks for all students. The snacks must be pre-ordered so please make sure you send in your money. We will offer a variety of half day snacks. All snacks come with a water. Watch your Wednesday packets in March for sign up details. Please direct any questions to Shannon Palmer at Palmerkidz3@yahoo.com

And A Special Thank You Goes to...

*The Valentine's Day Project Committee!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the parents who donated the decorations as well as the teachers and students who helped make the project possible. Heidi Dunphy and Traci Dunn – You did a fabulous job organizing the Valentine's Day Project.

The recipients were thrilled to receive the beautiful cards our F. N. Brown children created for them.



Tae Kwon Do & Yoga – Thanks to the SCA F.N. Brown offers a Tae Kwon Do and Yoga Program as an alternative activity for recess. Dates are as follows.

March Dates-	<u>Tae Kwon Do</u>	<u>Yoga</u>
	March 7	March 2
		March 9

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can get outside again soon!

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!



F.N. BROWN –
THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!

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

March 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to March! "Spring is around the corner" is a phrase that most are very happy to hear as winter closes. We are "busy bees" at FNB. Please note the following March highlights.

Read Across America – March 2nd

Read Across America is approaching! This is a special day to honor the work of Dr. Seuss and it promotes the importance of reading. We will be celebrating the week of February 29th. We have activities planned for each day. Please join us for our assembly on Tuesday, March 1st at 9:15 am.

Friday Folder

Please remember to check the district "Friday Folder" on the district website (www.veronaschools.org). This folder contains district and/or building announcements posted by the Superintendent's office.

Pre-K Registration

Please remind neighbors, friends and relatives that live in the FNB community to register their child(ren) for kindergarten 2016 as soon as possible.

Pomptonian Lunch

Please note that Pomptonian is no longer accepting late lunch orders. Please review the monthly due date and plan accordingly. Late lunch orders will be returned.

One District, One Book

Thank you to Mrs. Walker for spearheading the ODOB initiative again. Each child will receive a book (which will be revealed at our ODOB assembly on Wednesday, March 2nd at 9:15) in order to participate in the daily readings. Daily blogging will be an option as well.

Report cards will be issued on Tuesday, March 15th. We will also have Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, March 22nd and Wednesday, March 23rd. Thank you for your support! Happy spring!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo



March 2016 ~ Message from F.N. Brown SCA Presidents

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

Spring will hopefully arrive soon with little flowers and warmer temperatures! We would like to extend a thank you to all of our executive board, committee members, class parents and other volunteers who always help out when needed. We value our F.N. Brown community and the way our teachers, staff and families make our school a better place for our sprouting children to grow and learn. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy lives to volunteer time and support SCA activities.

An easy way to support our school is through SCA sponsored Busy Bee Bucks program. The SCA sells gift cards at face value to stores like ShopRite, Foodtown, Stop and Shop, Whole Foods and many more. We hope you will consider getting involved in this program – please look out for the March flyer coming home soon.

Thank you to everyone who is participating in Shoparoo and Box Tops. These are also great ways to contribute to the SCA at no cost.

On Wednesday, March 2nd there is a 5th Grade Orientation and HB Whitehorne at 7 pm. All 4th grade parents are encouraged to attend to see what's in store for our 4th graders next year!

We will be once again kicking off One School, One Book on March 3rd!! We are all excited for the big reveal of the book we will be reading!

We will have Half Day Snack on Friday, March 4th! Thanks to Shannon Palmer and the committee for arranging delicious snacks for the kids!

Our 2nd Pre-K Workshop will be on Saturday, March 5th. It's a great way to get little ones ready for their first day of Kindergarten in September!

VMAC is sponsoring Family Night on March 23rd! No homework or extracurricular activities! It's a night for some well-deserved family time! Look for coupons from local business for discounts on dinner!

We hope the students enjoyed the Tae Kwon Do and the Yoga program for indoor recess during the last few winter months. The SCA thanks the staff at Talium of Cedar Grove and Grace Dance & Yoga of Verona.

The Nominating Committee will be distributing information regarding positions for next school year. Joining a committee is a positive way to experience your child in their school community. All of the students at F.N. Brown benefit from the events, activities and fundraising work that is run by the SCA. Volunteers are vital to keep the programs in place and running during the next school year. Without volunteer support from parents, there could be no SCA lunch program, special assemblies, Fun Fair, Bingo Night, Book Fair, or fundraising for events like Fourth Grade Farewell and so on... there are so many benefits that our children enjoy – please consider joining a committee to help the process.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring ☺
Antonia Castner and Kate Curren, SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

MS. CONNALLON'S CLASS

I cannot believe that Spring is just around the corner! We have been working so hard in class! To celebrate Read Across America we had a great time decorating our classroom door. We used a Dr. Seuss theme of **The Places You Will Go**. We created a writing sample about what we want to be when we are older and we had our picture placed in a 'hot air balloon'! We have learned that we are capable of great things and we can become whatever we want! Our door looked AWESOME!

In writing we also just completed our "All About" where we got to write about ourselves, our families, our school, and our favorite things! We had so much fun sharing as a class and getting to know even more about each other!

Math: We have been working with the 100's chart in math. We have been practicing counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's. We have also used our "magnifying glasses" to examine the 100s chart to discover 1 more/1 less and 10 more/10 less. Our next math topics include adding and subtracting with 10s and 1's. Please continue to practice skip counting (up and down), and applying touch points to successfully complete addition and subtraction problems.

Language Arts: We continue to review suffix s, digraphs, and welded sounds. While you are reading to us please encourage us to notice the welded sounds (all, am, an, ing, ang, ong, ung, ank, unk, onk) in words. Identifying these sounds will help us when we are reading.

While your child is reading with you at home please encourage him/her to use the super hero reading strategies when they come across an unfamiliar words. Continue to ask questions during reading to check for comprehension and ask your child to retell the important events that took place.

Kindergarten: We have just about finished learning the entire alphabet! We have learned that each letter makes a sound and we have been able to provide examples of words that start with a specific letter. We have a great time practicing our handwriting, learning numbers 0-30, and we have almost mastered our sight words! We have been learning so much!

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

Our Kindergartners reached a huge milestone in February: the 100th Day of School! It's hard to believe we are well into the second half of our school year. We are all so proud of ourselves and one another for everything we have accomplished so far and we're enjoying every step of the way. In Math we learned about subtraction. Reading Workshop helped us explore all kinds of nonfiction. February was jam-packed with special days. We started the month anxiously awaiting what the groundhog would predict and were so happy to hear Spring is right around the corner and that was right before a big snowstorm! Valentine's Day and 100th Day were the same week which was a big reminder of how much we LOVE our families, friends and school! How exciting to experience Starlab! We learned awesome things about the night sky, stars and constellations. Remember to look up when it's dark and try to find Orion. The end of the month brought the beginning of our Read Across America Week with so many fun activities planned. Kindergarten is looking forward to their 3rd and final class trip on March 15th to Imagine That. Spring is right around the corner and we can't wait to enjoy the outdoors again!

FIRST GRADE – ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

With February came a love for learning in First grade! We were very busy with Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, the 100th Day of School, Star lab visits and learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Thank you to the Class Mothers for a fun 100th day activity. Wow, what a month!!

In Math, the students have finished topics seven (skip counting) and topic eight on tens and ones and their values. Students were asked to show what the number 46 looked like, using tens and ones. This was a fun topic because the students really enjoyed using their tens and ones and playing fun games.

In Social Studies, the first graders learned about our first president, George Washington and our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. They discussed the similarities and differences of the two presidents by using a Venn diagram. The students also had an opportunity to listen to some great biographies and other Non-Fiction stories about these two presidents. Ask your child about some of the fun facts they learned about Washington and Lincoln and how they both contributed to our country's history.

In Reading, the first graders have been hard at work during reading workshop. They have been reading either independently, with a partner, or as a guided group. They are responsible for responding to the story they have read by writing two sentences or more or through a discussion.

In Science, the children had an opportunity to visit Star Lab twice. We have a few budding astronomers! They were in awe of this dome shaped planetarium surrounding them. Learning about the Greek myths of how a constellation was placed in the sky kept their interest and curiosity wondering. The students learned about the Big and Little Dipper, the North Star, and even heard some of the stories about the different constellations such as Medusa. When it gets nicer outside, do a little stargazing and see if your child can point out the Big Dipper and Polaris.

In Writing, the first graders have been busy integrating science and writing together. The students learned about the six different animal groups: mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, birds, and fish. They then voted on animals that they wanted to do "research" on and in either five or six different groups they were asked to write an "All About" book on their animal. It was decided what information they would be looking for, such as: what does your animal eat and where can we find your animal in the world. A big thank you to all of the parent volunteers that helped with the art portion of this project. We couldn't have done it without your help!

Please continue to use math in practical ways at home as well as listen to your child read as often as possible! Thank you!

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? Second graders will be tracking the weather this month to see if March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, like the saying goes. In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, we will be celebrating Read Across America at F.N. Brown. We will learn about Dr. Seuss and read many of his books in class.

In Reading Workshop, we are finishing up non-fiction and moving onto the genre of poetry. This unit will help students learn and apply specific reading skills and strategies that unlock the meaning of poems and build their understanding of poetry as a genre. It will also address the challenges of reading poetry, as well as ways to work through difficult texts. We will be reading poems from authors such as, Jack Prelutsky. We will also be applying concepts that we learn to write our own poems in Writing Workshop.

In Math, we are beginning a topic on three digit addition and subtraction. We will revisit regrouping and solving problems in the expanded form. Continue practicing basic facts at home as it will be important to master these skills as the math curriculum becomes more challenging. Be sure to spend time reviewing the word problems on daily homework sheets since this is an area that many of us are trying to improve.

The classes have been sharing their home-school connections based on Conflict Resolution. We are having fun as we learn about I Messages, Reflective and Active Listening, and Cooling Off Strategies through lessons taught in class. We will also practice and role play scenarios with our Fourth Grade Peace Pals.

We have finished our visits to the Star Lab and are beginning our study of the planets, Earth, and moon as we learn about space and Science.

Second graders have been learning more about Google Classroom during Technology and in the new classes made by their teachers. We would like to continue spending time on classroom assignments on the computer, as the year progresses. The students have been having a lot of fun using the website Spelling City to review weekly list words. Look for a new list each week and feel free to use this great resource at home.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

Spring will soon be here, a time for rainbows, shamrocks and good luck! In Reading Workshop students have become more aware of how Non-Fiction text features help them gain understanding of what they read. Using reference texts, we've explored many interesting topics like chimpanzees and great white sharks. Through biographies, students gained knowledge about inspiring, and interesting people in our history. Chronological details were noted, in order to chart important events throughout the story, and construct a timeline of important events. . All third graders are utilizing the chromebooks on a daily basis in reading. The students have begun using Lyrics 2 learn and Zing during Reading workshop. Lyrics to Learn is a reading passage that is sang to them as they read it over a 3 day period, to strengthen their comprehension and fluency. They also take an assessment each day and complete their reading with a reading extension that is similar to an open ended question based on the passage. Zing, is an online reading program, where students read books that are on their level or guided reading level. They have the ability to respond on post it notes right on the book as they read. The students love reading on the chromebooks. While small groups are meeting with the teacher, the rest of the class has been utilizing technology to enhance and enrich their reading. Students have asked the teachers even on the weekends to assign more stories to Lyrics 2 learn and Zing. Both sites, provide the students with rich literature as well as an interactive assessment that provides feedback on their reading comprehension, analysis and written expression.

In Math, students are learning how to name, identify and compare fractions, as well as how to place fractions on a number line. The concepts of area and perimeter have also been introduced. We continue to develop problem -solving strategies for multi-step word problems in all four operations. These skills are essential in real world problems. The practice has also benefitted students as they take the new PARCC test this month. Students have been introduced to an online program called Khan Academy. The students are utilizing this site in conjunction with Matific. Students practice various skills that we are learning in class to improve and strengthen their knowledge. The students love the fact that they can earn points, watch tutorials, have hints, earn badges and create cool avatars. The teachers love the fact that the students are spending their time learning math skills during their free time in school and at home.

Our field trip to the Liberty Science Center was a highlight of our year so far. The students were all amazed at the artifacts that were brought up from the Titanic, the stories shared of the survivors and those that perished. Our Titanic/Immigration study is a favorite each year. Culminating activities included students receiving a boarding pass of an actual passenger on the famous voyage, and tracing the journey of that passenger from start to finish. Students learned about the lifestyles in the early 1900's, and the differences between social classes during that time. They researched the differences between traveling in 1st class, 2nd class, and 3rd class. Students will come to school dressed as passengers to embark upon a day of final day of learning experiences about this epic journey. The final fate of the passenger whose boarding pass each student holds, will be revealed. Writing activities will include having students write a series of journal entries. They will write as if a passenger, recording their experiences of the journey day by day. There will even be Titanic math! This unit is always a third grade favorite, and one that students and teachers both enjoy.

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Our fourth graders have been very busy bees working hard to their writing and reading skills. In writing students are about to immerse themselves in writing feature articles. These articles will serve to truly give students a vision of what their writing will look like at the end of the unit. They will represent a range of the kinds of topics (person, issue, subject area) that are often written about in feature articles. Students will learn to develop their own topic "angle" and then organize, develop, revise and publish their own feature articles.

The fourth graders are also continuing our non-fiction study in Reader's Workshop. Through 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 ongoing comparing and contrasting the skills required for fiction and non-fiction reading. We are also incorporating guided reading into our program. Guided reading enables students to practice strategies leading to

more independent reading. Through this activity we provide a range of reading experiences and instruction necessary to help our students become better readers.

In Math students are developing fluency in dividing by one-digit divisors. Students are finding whole number quotient and remain with up four digit dividends and one-digit divisors. Students are solving multistep word problems using the four operations including problems in which remainders must be interpreted. .

Our students continue to impress us with their skills in dealing with conflict.

Students are able to identify the problem or problems that have caused a conflict and understand the other person's point of view. Students practice brainstorm cooperative solutions to problems and decide on the solution that is acceptable to everyone involved.

In Science we are continuing our study of the rock cycle and how weathering and erosion help shape Earth's surface and how soil is formed. Students are learning how to evaluate relationships of science, technology and society. In Social Studies, the fourth graders have been exploring the question, "What makes Essex County unique?" They are at the point of depicting their answers through a poster contest organized by the Essex County Clerk, Christopher Durkin, and his office. The students are also preparing for our school's first ever wax museum! They will be dressing up as a famous New Jerseyan, and presenting a speech that represents their character's accomplishments. Get ready to learn about New Jersey's rich history!

ESL – NANCY BEATTIE

The English as a Second Language students continue to increase their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English through a variety of activities. The E.S.L. students have been learning about the various holidays celebrated in February including Groundhog's Day, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, and President's Day. A variety of stories were read and discussed on these topics to familiarize the students about these holidays celebrated in the United States. A variety of videos on these topics were shown to compliment the English language instruction. Writing assignments, grammar, and vocabulary activities focused on the February holidays. The students had a lot of practice with their speaking skills as many questions and great discussions occurred on the topics of February holidays.

During the month of March on a specific date, the E.S.L. students will be taking a test called ACCESS 2.0. This test assesses the student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in the areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies. The test for grades 1-12 will be on the computer, similarly to how the PARCC test is administered. This assessment is strictly to see how much growth a student has made in his/her English language skills.

LIBRARY – CORISA WALKER

March is my favorite month! We kicked off March with celebrating Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. We had special dress up days and a great Read Across America Assembly. We sang Green Eggs and Ham and the staff did a reading of the classic Cat in the Hat. We are ending our Dr. Seuss celebration with a special reading themed election. Courtesy of Chris Durkin and the Essex County Clerk's Office, F.N. Brown students each had an opportunity to cast their vote in a real, authentic voting machine. Thank you Dr. Lanzo for arranging this special day! March also brings my favorite program, One District, One Book. The entire town of Verona will be reading the same book at the same time! Special thanks to the SCA for purchasing the books for each family. As a culmination to our One District, One Book program, the Camden Adventure Aquarium will be visiting F.N. Brown for Aquarium Day, where we will bring our book to life by learning about ocean ecosystems and animals. Thank you to VFEE for supporting Aquarium Day through an educational grant. Thanks to all families for their support of the library program, especially our parent volunteers!

TECHNOLOGY – JEN HOGAN

Welcome Spring! In Technology, Kindergartners have been learning how to type using Microsoft Word. Students had to type the beginning letter sounds for words. They also had to try and match clip art

pictures to the word with the correct spelling, learning phonics and how to arrange digital images in the process. For math practice, students used virtual gumballs to complete basic addition problems and had fun playing some online addition games. We celebrated Valentine's Day by using paint buckets and text boxes to create pictures, and we celebrated the 100th Day of school by completing online math activities using numbers up to 100!

In First Grade, students used Word to edit sentences by adding correct capitalization and punctuation. First Graders also brushed up on their math skills by manipulating virtual tens and ones blocks to make and add numbers. The Second Grade classes learned the basics of computer animation using Pivot. Students shared some very exciting ideas with the class. Second grades classes were also introduced to Google Slides and learned to create a "Where I Live" slide show.

The third and fourth grade classes were introduced to Sumopaint, a beginning graphic design program, and were able to generate pictures using multiple layers in their designs. Students utilized their own faces to create fun pictures. Third grade classes celebrated President's Day by creating an informational poster about a president using information from **reliable** online databases and websites. During Star Lab week the fourth grade classes completed a Start Lab Web Quest, exploring seasons, moon phases and constellations.

Finally, as part of F.N. Brown's ongoing Character Education, classes played "Cool School"; this is a favorite to most classes. The students travel through a virtual school building, solving conflicts and earning letters, making the school a better and kinder place for all. The link to this game can be found on my school website. <http://www.veronaschools.org/Page/3052>.

VOCAL MUSIC – JUDY SZYBIST

It's hard to believe that Spring is just around the corner! The music department continues to look toward a busy spring performance schedule ahead. We are planning for many spring and all district concerts, as well as a variety of school events and assemblies.

This year the third and fourth grade vocal students will perform their Spring Concert on Thursday, April 28. Students are hard at work with preparations and we are looking forward a great evening.

I would like to request "nice" dress for the evening, no jeans, shorts or t-shirts please. A skirt/dress or pants and shirt/blouse would be appropriate. Also, please keep in mind that footwear should be sensible and appropriate. I can tell you from personal experience that flip-flops on choral risers can be disastrous.

We are anxiously awaiting the Spring season at FN Brown and look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

ATTENTION THIRD GRADE PARENTS: Verona Summer Music is the best place to get started on a band instrument. Next year, many of your children will want to play a band instrument. Those that get started in summer, are the students that usually progress the furthest and the quickest during the school year.

Since I only see them once a week during the year, that head start in summer is very beneficial. They meet half as many times in the summer, as I will meet with them during the entire school year. And since it is every day, the comprehension and retention is much greater. Get more information about this amazing program at: veronasummermusic.org.

FOURTH GRADE STUFF: The instrumental students are working on new skills and learning new notes and rhythms. Our concert is fast approaching and it requires a lot of work. This is a very daunting task and the key to success is following through at home. A short and daily practice routine is essential in turning these concepts into good habits of mind in their instrumental studies. It is the daily work that is the most beneficial way for students to improve both more thoroughly and efficiently. At this point in the year, students should practice for 15 minutes a day, and it is that every day part that is crucial. A long period of time on the weekend is not the same, and can actually be detrimental since young students don't have enough stamina to sustain a long practice session. If there is only time for five minutes of practice, don't skip thinking it isn't enough. A little daily work is the key.

There are many songs for this concert. Some are short and are the ones we use to introduce and develop our concepts and notes. (You should recognize "Old MacDonald", "Skip To My Lou", and "Bingo" among

others). Some are full band arrangements that incorporate these elements. This is a much more demanding concert than the first and as such, students need to spend as much time at home working on this material as they can. Some students will be working on a solo or duet performance as well. This music is in addition to their band songs, and needs to be practiced equally along with the others.

We have our school concert, and we also have the town-wide elementary band concert. This concert combines all four elementary schools into one giant band to perform on the big stage at VHS. There is also a performance by the high school jazz band, known as Verona Jazz & Beyond. It is very exciting!

Verona Summer Music is a terrific way for students to improve on their instrument, start a second instrument, or begin an instrument. The entire music staff highly recommends students attend this program. In addition to playing daily, it's a time when students don't have other academic demands and are able to really embed the correct concepts into their musical skills. We teach all band instruments in addition to piano, guitar, bass guitar, music theory, concert band, and choir. We accommodate scheduling conflicts with other town programs. For information on what is available for students, please visit our website: veronasummermusic.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our two performances. Remember, 15 minutes a day.

READING INTERVENTION – HEATHER ANDERSEN

“You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!”

In Reading Intervention, the first grade students have spent a great deal of time working on short vowels. The students are becoming much more comfortable using the Orton-Gillingham strategies to learn, practice and apply reading concepts. We have been learning about long vowels with a silent “e” at the end. In addition we have practiced two-syllable compound words.

The second grade students have been working hard on learning “vowel teams.” They are doing a wonderful job with this skill. In addition we have been practicing “r-controlled” vowels. The students continue to increase their reading comprehension skills!

The third graders continue to grow as readers! They have been working hard to learn and review beginning and ending blends of words. In addition we have practiced word syllables. The students have been reading fictions and nonfiction passages and using comprehension strategies to understand the text.

The fourth grade students are busy developing critical thinking skills, as well as identifying main ideas and key supporting details. Students have been using evidence from the text to support their answers and thoughts.