

# F.N. Brown Newsletter

## October 2016

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Kate Curren & Suzanne Giarrusso

### Dates to Remember...



<b>Mon. 10/3-</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Tues., 10/4-</b>	Spirit Wear Sale Begins SCA Pasta Lunch
<b>Wed., 10/5-</b>	Walk To School Day
<b>Thurs., 10/6-</b>	SCA Pizza Lunch Dine to Donate – Eight Hills
<b>Fri., 10/8-</b>	Fall Festival Wrapping Paper Sale Ends
<b>Mon., 10/10-</b>	½ Day Snack <b>12:30 Dismissal</b> New Family Tea 7pm (Library) SCA Meeting 7pm (Library) Verona Fights Hunger Week Begins
<b>Tues., 10/11-</b>	Board of Ed Meeting 8pm (VHS)
<b>Wed., 10/12-</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Thurs., 10/13-</b>	SCA Bagel Lunch
<b>Fri., 10/14-</b>	Spirit Wear Sale Ends
<b>Thurs., 10/20-</b>	SCA Chicken Lunch Used Book Sale Begins Kindergarten Class Trip –Turtle Back Zoo VMAC Family Night
<b>Fri., 10/21-</b>	Used Book Sale Ends
<b>Mon., 10/24-</b>	1st Gr. Trip – Farmstead Estate 9-2pm B-Line Articles Due
<b>Tues., 10/25-</b>	Board of Ed Meeting 8pm (VHS)
<b>Thurs., 10/27-</b>	SCA Pancake Lunch
<b>Mon., 10/31-</b>	Halloween Parade 9:00am <b>12:30 Dismissal</b>



### B-Line News



#### Used Book Sales –

**Thursday October 20 and Friday October 21**

*In the FN Brown Library*

Students and parents will have an opportunity to purchase gently used books. All proceeds will benefit the programs provided by the SCA. Any unsold books will be donated to schools in need. If you would like to donate books, please bring them to the office by Friday, October 14th. If you would like to volunteer to help at the sale, please email Dana Wynne at [wynne5614@gmail.com](mailto:wynne5614@gmail.com). Your support is appreciated!

#### Busy Bee Bucks –

Thank you to all those who placed orders for cards in September. Congratulations to Tina Houck, the winner of the back-to-school night raffle of a \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift card!

Busy Bee Bucks are a great way to earn money for our school without costing you anything extra! Buy gift cards at face value through Busy Bee Bucks and use them for your monthly grocery shopping, for new fall clothes for the kids, for a dinner out with the family and more. Gift cards are available to hundreds of retailers, including most local grocery stores.

Want to win a \$25 grocery gift card? Each family that purchases a grocery card for at least \$100 through November is entered into a raffle to win a \$25 grocery card of choice. Only those stores available in our program are available for selection.

To order, please utilize the monthly order form sent home OR go onto [veronaschools.org](http://veronaschools.org)-> F.N. Brown -> community -> Busy Bee Bucks to print an order form. Simply 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.

**\*\*\* All order forms must be sent in by Wednesday, October 19th. \*\*\*** Cards will be distributed via backpacks no later than Thursday, October 27nd.

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 or [katefullercurren@gmail.com](mailto:katefullercurren@gmail.com)

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

**Melissa Watkins**, B-Line Editor  
at [melissaLwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:melissaLwatkins@gmail.com)

# Happy Fall y'all

## More B-Line News

### Yard Sale-

The F.N. Brown SCA invites you to our yard sale on **October 29th from 9am-1pm** on the front lawn of the school. Here's your chance to sell your old treasures *and* shop for great bargains! Table rentals are \$25 each and can be reserved by sending in a check with the reservation form by October 20th. Rental fees are a donation to the F.N. Brown SCA. **You keep 100% of your profits**

### *Have stuff but cannot participate in the yard sale?*

Clean out your closets for a good cause. All proceeds support the F.N. Brown SCA. To make a donation, please submit the donation form no later than October 20th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kate Curren (katefullercurren@gmail.com) or Janice Garthwaite (janicegarthwaite@gmail.com).

### Amazon Smile-

*Do you shop on Amazon?* Now you can support the F.N. Brown SCA while shopping on Amazon. Simply using [simple.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and select FN Brown.

### Wrapping Paper Sale -

We are using a new company called **Charleston Wrap**. The wrapping paper is excellent, very durable, with a wide variety of patterns and choices. They also have great gift ideas for upcoming holidays. Families may order through the order for or online. There is an option to have it shipped to the school or you can pay for shipping. Here is an online link that you can use to access online orders.

**Our school online code is 10487.**

<http://charlestonwrapstore.com/shop-now.php>

Any questions, please contact Megan Pellegrino at [mpellegrino@veronaschools.org](mailto:mpellegrino@veronaschools.org) or 201-618-6943

**Art Helpers**– If you would like to help out with one of your child's art classes please contact Mindy Frey at [mindyfrey@gmail.com](mailto:mindyfrey@gmail.com) or Kate Curren at [katefullercurren@gmail.com](mailto:katefullercurren@gmail.com) for more information.

## B-Line News Continued

### Verona Fights Hunger Week –

Beginning Monday, October 10 and running through October 14, our school will be participating in a town-wide food drive called Verona Fights Hunger Week. This food drive will benefit the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair and is being organized by the Junior Woman's Club of Verona. Families are encouraged to contribute non-perishable, non-expired food, such as cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, baby formula, and Ensure/Glucerna nutrition drinks. Donations of NEW socks, underwear, toiletries, and diapers are also very much needed. Donation bins will be located in the front hallway outside the main office.

For more information about Verona Fights Hunger Week, please go to [www.veronajuniors.org](http://www.veronajuniors.org) or [veronafightshunger@veronajuniors.org](mailto:veronafightshunger@veronajuniors.org). Thank you for your support!



### Message from the Treasurer –

Welcome back to another year at F. N. Brown! 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, summary, deposit and breakdown forms are all filled out and handed in together.

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 are chairing a long event please try to make sure that you periodically hand in the money, especially checks so that we can make sure that they are deposited in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please contact Janice Garthwaite at 973-768-1291 or [janicegarthwaite@gmail.com](mailto:janicegarthwaite@gmail.com).

### Pomptonian Lunches

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: October 5, 7, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26 and 28.

**Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered online.**

Please visit <https://verona.pomptonianmenus.com/order> to place your October order.

# Birthday Boys and Girls

## SEPTEMBER

Emmerson Garrett, Gabrielle Latino, Stormy Cohen, Michael Siclari, Charles Crinion, Ella Albertine, Matthew Isidor, Erin Tevlin, Lilianna Nigro, Braden Bailey, Chloe Wynne, Jessica Hernandez, Emma Wetterberg, Henry Hayter, Iyana Best, Hannah Crinion



## OCTOBER



Brigid Rowbotham, Nora Elshazly, Sienna Pellegrino, Lewis Cheng, Avery Gaffney, Trevor Giarrusso, Anthony Palma, Isabella Zarfino, Jayden Nigro, Daniel Mahon, Cole Quigley, Iris Colon, Jenna Papocchia, Leah Bachan, Gianna Sweeney, Jessica Carsillo, Isabella Lambo, Jack Schoenkopf, Amy Sandoval

## More B-Line News

### SCA Lunches –

Each year, the SCA sponsors special lunches for the students of F.N. Brown. Please remember that these lunches **must be pre-ordered**, and cannot be purchased on the day of the lunch. If you have any questions, please contact the committee members indicated in the SCA booklet or website. Please note these lunches are not associated with the Pomptonian lunch service.

### F.N. Brown Spirit Wear -

Get ready to show your Verona and F.N. Brown spirit! The SCA is proud to present new spirit wear items, which will go on sale October 4th. Items include sweatshirts, t-shirts, pants, car magnets and more! Information will be coming home soon.



### Box Tops for Education –

Please remember to send in your box tops! We earn 10 cents for our children's school. That's \$1.00 for each 10 Box Tops collected. Just clip, save and send them in! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Byrne at [lstaikos@yahoo.com](mailto:lstaikos@yahoo.com), or Kari Baureis at [karia911778@hotmail.com](mailto:karia911778@hotmail.com). Thanks!

### FNB Legacy Brick Fundraiser

The F.N. Brown Elementary School SCA is excited to offer you an opportunity to become a permanent part of our school! We invite you to participate in our yearly beautification project through the donation of a legacy brick. By donating a brick, not only are you commemorating your time at F.N. Brown, you are contributing to the success of F.N. Brown students and the future of our community. All donated bricks will be installed at the front of the school. (butterfly garden walkway, surrounding flagpole, etc.) Orders for the legacy bricks will be taken throughout the year, with the installation taking place each summer after the current school year order is complete.

To place an order or for more information, please visit <http://www.thatsmybrick.com/fnbrownelem>

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

The Class Basket Committee would like to thank those who attended back to School Night and participated in the Class Basket Raffle. Congratulations again to the winners!

Thank you to all who have participated in the various SCA activities such as preparing the first day of school packets and picture day. Your time and energy for our children at FN Brown is truly valued and appreciated.

F.N. BROWN – THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!



## **F.N. Brown School**

125 Grove Avenue  
Verona, NJ 07044

Dr. Anthony Lanzo, Principal

Phone: 973-571-6753; Fax: 973-571-6769

October 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to October! I hope this letter finds each family doing well. Our Back to School Night was a huge success. Many families attended this annual event, visiting classrooms and attending the general meeting. The Class Basket Committee did a fine job organizing the class baskets for Back to School Night. A big thank you to our SCA Co-Presidents, Mrs. Kate Curren and Mrs. Suzanne Giarrusso and the SCA Treasurer, Mrs. Janice Garthwaite for their help with the SCA beginning of the school year activities. They have been very busy with a variety of SCA tasks. We are very lucky at FNB to have such a strong home-school partnership. Also, a special thank you to the parent volunteers for organizing the First Day Packet, Kid Stuff, School Pictures, and the Wrapping Paper fundraiser. October brings many special programs to our school.

### **Walk to School Day**

The annual "Walk to School Day" is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The goal of this activity is to promote healthy habits for students by walking to school. Walking to school offers students exercise. It also protects the environment since the use of motor vehicles is not needed, therefore, less fumes enter the air. We will begin to assemble at approximately 8:10 am on the corner of Linden Avenue and Grove Avenue (on the F.N. Brown side of the street). Staff members and I will be meeting those families that choose to participate.

### **Halloween**

The Verona Public Schools has scheduled a curriculum workshop for the staff on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon; therefore, our parade will take place in the morning. Please take note of the following procedure for the Halloween 2016 parade:

- Students should enter school dressed in their costumes.
- Students **only** enter classrooms while parents may begin to assemble on the field behind F N Brown.
- Parade begins at 9:00 am.
- Once the parade is over, the students will return to their classrooms.
- Instruction will take place at approximately 9:30 am and conclude late morning.
- Classroom parties will begin approximately at 11:45 am and conclude shortly before dismissal (class parents will be contacted by teachers to finalize the details).

**New Family Tea/ SCA Meeting**

I look forward to meeting our new parents at the New Family Tea on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the school library. Also, all parents are welcome to join us for our first SCA meeting of the school year at 7:30 PM.

Thank you for supporting our programs. Have a wonderful day!

Very truly yours,

*Anthony Lanzo*

Anthony Lanzo



## Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents October 2016

Dear F.N. Brown Families:

We are glad to see new faces and old friends at F.N. Brown this year and hope everyone is off to a great school year. The SCA sends a warm THANK YOU to all the teaching, administrative and custodial staff for preparing F.N. Brown Elementary School for the arrival of our students.

The F.N. Brown SCA has many dedicated volunteers to thank for heading up our committees and being this year's SCA Board Members - Mindy Frey, VP of Programs, Raiza Czupak, VP of Membership, Janice Garthwaite, Treasurer, Lauren Besante, Recording Secretary, and Kristy McCabe, Corresponding Secretary. The time and effort that all of our SCA committee members take to work on the committees that raise funds and provide additional services for the school is so very valuable.

We thank all of the volunteers who give their time and energy to the F.N. Brown SCA throughout the year - so many extra benefits for the school would not be possible without the dedicated family of volunteers that make up our committees:

First day packets went out and share important information to the school in early September - Thank you to Mindy Frey for leading the committee this year and all who helped assemble and distribute! Please visit the SCA's website at [veronaschools.org](http://veronaschools.org) or our Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/FNBSCA/](https://facebook.com/groups/FNBSCA/)) for forms and updates.

Back to School night was an opportunity to meet the teachers and to view your child's classroom. Maggie Lambert and the Basket Committee did a wonderful job and congratulations to all the lucky winners!

Thank you to Karen Papocchia for distributing and organizing the Kid Stuff coupon book fundraiser this September.

Picture Day went well and a special thank you to MaryAnn Siclari and Joanne Medina for making it run so smoothly this year.

New this year is Charleston Wrap - a very special thank you to Megan Pellegrino for managing this new collaboration. Please check out all the great products available.

Our Spirit Wear sale starts October 4<sup>th</sup> - we have a variety of fun apparel options for the whole family to wear. It is a great way to support the SCA and to show off your FNB and Verona pride. Thank you to Monica Cleary for coordinating this fundraiser.

The SCA Hot Lunch program also begins on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Available to grades 1-4, students look forward to parent volunteers serving pizza, bagel, pasta, chicken and pancake lunch. Thank you Mindy Frey and Jennifer Marchese for coordinating this program and to all the highly valued lunch committee members who tirelessly serve with a smile.

Walk to School Day is October 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting on the corner of Linden Avenue and Grove Avenue at 8:10 am. Please join us.

The Fall Festival takes place on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Each student will select their own pumpkin to bring home. There will be a bake sale after school with many delicious treats contributed or baked by F.N. Brown families. Thank you to Joan Testa for organizing the Mum Sale and coordinating the event. Many thanks to all the bakers who will be contributing tasty seasonal treats!

We invite all new parents to meet at 7pm for the New Family Tea in the F.N. Brown Library on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following will be the first SCA meeting of the school year. We hope you can join us.

The SCA's used book sale is back again this year! Gently used books will be sold on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the F.N. Brown Library. Please consider donating and come peruse the selection of books with your children and add a few "new" selections to your family library.

A new event this year- the SCA is hosting a Yard Sale! The yard sale will take place on the front lawn at FN Brown on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm. The SCA is renting table for \$25 or accepting donations of stuff to the sell. The deadline for table rentals is October 20<sup>th</sup> and the flyers can be found on our website.

The Busy Bee Bucks fundraiser got off to a great start at Back to School Night. Thank you to the many families participating! The program is easy to slip into your shopping routine while it makes a valuable contribution to the F.N. Brown SCA. This program enables users to easily put in a monthly order or print gift cards at home while the F.N. Brown SCA earns valuable funds at no cost to families. Please sign up by using the forms found on our website or contact Kate Curren [katefullercurren@gmail.com](mailto:katefullercurren@gmail.com) to get started.

For all those who use the Shoparoo App to raise money for the F.N. Brown SCA, we say thank you! And isn't it fun? It's a simple way to help the school and fun to watch our points go up and up!

Thank you to Monica Cleary and Renee Codey for coordinating this year's Buzz Book. This book is a great resource to have on hand all year.

Congratulations to Ryley Capra, the Box Tops Summer Challenge winner! Please keep clipping those Box Tops, it is an easy way for you to help our school earn cash.

Please sign up to help out in the Art, Library and Technology (kindergarten only)- it is very helpful and the students really enjoy seeing their parents help out.

On behalf of the F.N. Brown SCA Executive Board, we wish you all the best this school year!

Sincerely,  
Kate Curren and Suzanne Giarrusso  
SCA Co- Presidents

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

### **KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA**

Welcome to Kindergarten and F.N. Brown! We are off to a good start! We are learning our daily routines. All students are adjusting to their new environment, new teachers, staff and new friends.

In the eighteen days of school, the children have completed their first topic in Math, numbers 0-5. We are recognizing the parts of a book and what an author and illustrator do to complete a written piece of literature. We have been exploring in both reading and writing.

Most importantly, the children are learning to follow rules, listen to directions and taking turns through interactive play and modeling.

We all smiled for Picture Day. We took a moment to remember our community helpers on Patriot's Day.

Continue to assist your child in completing his/her homework and preparing for the next day. Happy Fall.

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

September is here with all its cheer. The first graders are adjusting very well to their new routine and longer day. They are still somewhat tired in the afternoon, so we do take advantage of classroom gym time weather permitting.

In Reading, we are immersing the students with the printed word by using big books, baggie books, selected poetry, writing workshop, reading workshop, speaking aloud, Foundations, ( a handwriting and phonics program) journal sharing interactive writing small group guided reading and whole group and so much more. Spending this quality time reviewing and practicing is very helpful as we progress into more sophisticated reading and comprehension skills.

Please remember to take the time to read to your child. Reading aloud can make the difference in your child's interest and love for reading. Non-fiction reading is encouraged as well. Children enjoy reading and listening to stories that are true. Ask your child what a given story makes him or her think of, or what the author's purpose in writing the story is? Make your child think the way we as adults think when reading, always questioning before a read, during a read, and after a read.

In math, the students were introduced to Touch Points for the numerals 1-9 and learned where to place the points on each numeral as well as learned how to use these points to help with addition. The concept of touch points is to better help your child "add up" from the larger number first making the touch points or dots on the lower number. For example:  $8 + 3 = 11$  so start with 8, then touch and draw the three dots on the 3 while counting up 9-10-11. Also, the students continue to learn the part, part whole relationship between numbers used when adding two groups together. It is critical this concept be clearly understood for future math learning. Please use everyday household items to help your child visualize addition with ease. Counting "on" or counting "up" were strategies taught to your child and should be encouraged. Finger counting is not an appropriate strategy, unless it is the only strategy understood at this point. We want our students to be able to use alternative methods before finger counting.

Please continue to check your child's backpack daily. One side pocket of their Home Folder is for notices and finished work for your review and should be emptied nightly, while the other side pocket is for their daily homework. Please help your child keep this organized. Also, all homework needs to be returned the following day unless otherwise noted in their Homework Pads. Please initial their Homework Pad daily. Comments are welcomed as well. Thank you!

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

Welcome back to school! September flew by as we have been learning our new routines and expectations in second grade. It was so nice to see so many of you at Back to School Night. We are looking forward to a wonderful year together with your children.

Every morning in second grade is full with Language Arts and Reading and Writing Workshop. We start this time with a Foundations lesson where we drill sounds of letters and learn spelling and phonics strategies through new concepts. We practice a Word of the Day and do fun activities.

We are currently launching our reading program, Reader's Workshop, which is new to our grade level this year. Each unit begins with a variety of mentor texts that are read aloud to introduce students to a reading skill. Mini lessons follow in which these skills are practiced and mastered. In Launching, a few of the books we have read are All About Sharks, Miss Brooks Loves Books!, and A Story for Bear. Some of the concepts we have learned through these stories are how to build good reading habits, getting to know ourselves as readers, and taking notes to track what we are thinking when we read. We are all getting to know what a "Just Right" book is for us and building book boxes in class to house a variety of interesting books.

In Writer's Workshop we are launching with Fiction and will be focusing on small moment and fictional story writing. Students will learn skills to help them organize their writing. We will also focus on building stamina when we write and working with partners to do our best work. We look forward to many celebrations of the pieces we create this year.

In Math we are reviewing strategies to help us add and subtract basic facts up to 20. We are using doubles, ten strategy, and doubles plus one to name a few. Please help your child by practicing facts at home for speed and accuracy. Some ideas are to play games, make flashcards, or download an application for an electronic device at home.

In Science we will be starting the first of our new science units, Changes. In this unit, students are introduced to the concept that matter exists in three states--solid, liquid, and gas--and that substances in each of these categories can be described by their unique properties. We will learn about the processes that result in changes of state, including freezing, melting, evaporation, and condensation. The students will also have the opportunity to predict results, plan and perform simple tests, and interpret their results. Our second grade scientists are excited for all the great experiments to come!

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

Welcome back to school and welcome to third grade. The beginning of the school year was a very smooth transition for our second graders becoming third graders. The students were as excited to become third graders as we were to have them in our classes. Third grade is a very fun, exciting and challenging year! Over the next month, we will be focusing on fine tuning our addition facts in math, becoming more fluent in our reading and composing detailed sentences in preparation for paragraph writing. The first few days of third grade, the students became familiar with the expectations of third grade. The students received their new textbooks and prepared all of our notebooks and folders for the school year. Each class did several "get to know you" ice breakers the first few days of school.

In Reading, both classes spent several days learning the routines, structure and components that make up Reader's workshop. The students brainstormed what "good readers" look like and how they act. The students are focusing on building reading stamina during their independent reading time. Third graders are learning how to find the "Just right book" to read during reading workshop. During our minilessons in class each student has been practicing the stop and jot technique when reading. All classes examined how to read a book and expand their thinking as they read. The book Thank You Mr. Falker and Chalkbox Kid were wonderful mentor texts that allowed the students to practice the concepts/skills taught in our mini lessons. Through partner sharing and turn and talk the students shared their reactions and thoughts of the story as well as jotting down their thoughts in their writer's notebook. We are very excited as are the students for the reading adventures we will take this year.

In mathematics, the classes all learned about numeration. We focused on standard form, expanded form, word form, rounding to the nearest 10/100 and utilizing number lines for patterns. The students are using our smart boards and are actively engaged throughout each lesson. Our mathematics program is very rigorous. We are entering Topic 2, Number sense addition and subtraction. It would benefit all students if they practiced their addition and subtraction facts.

In writer's workshop, all students are focusing on how to write personal narratives. During writing, third graders were taught strategies for brainstorming including making lists and sketching their ideas prior to writing. We focused on writing about a special person, place and thing. Then the students zoomed in on a particular memory or small moment with that person or place and are drafting their first story. At the end of September, each class learned the qualities of a good personal narrative writing. We discussed that it is important to write a little seed story and not to write all about a watermelon topic. That will allow the students to zoom in to tell the most important parts of the story.

We are looking forward to the coming months of learning in all aspects of the curriculum. We wish all families a healthy, happy school year at FN Brown!

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

We welcome our fourth graders to a new and exciting school year. As being leaders of the school they have found that many new responsibilities lie ahead.

In math students are learning that numbers have different uses, classifications and representations. They can be used for different purposes, and can be classified and represented in different ways. During the course of the year students will learn that math involves a variety of processes, which include problem solving, reasoning, communicating, connecting and representing.

In writing we have started the year by helping our students realize that the small moments in their lives and their thoughts are worth writing about. We teach children a number of strategies they can draw on in order to generate their own ideas for writing, and we set them free from a dependency on the teacher. In our first unit we are helping our students celebrate the fact stories of significance can be found in the smallest and most ordinary occasions.

We are in full swing of implementing Reader's Workshop into our classrooms. Reader's workshop provides students with a supportive environment that involves them in authentic reading. It helps children develop strong reading skills through the use of a mini-lesson, shared reading, read aloud, conferencing, independent reading, paired reading and literature response. The basic philosophy behind Reading Workshop is to allow students to spend an extended amount of time reading books that interest them on a daily basis and to provide opportunities to talk about literature. The ultimate goal of a Reading Workshop is always to develop life-long passionate readers.

In social studies students are in the midst of exploring New Jersey! They have identified its' four regions and what makes each one unique. They are discussing how the landscape and resources of our state affects people's decisions on lifestyle and business.

The science curriculum begins with a study of rocks and minerals. Students are asked to explore the differences between them by observing the properties of rock samples, and sorting them based on those properties. Students also investigate minerals, on which they perform tests similar to those conducted by geologists to determine luster, hardness, color, and the ability to transmit light, strengthening their ability to conduct experiments and record and interpret their data.

We look forward to a wonderful year filled with enthusiasm and learning.

#### **LIBRARY- CORISA WALKER**

We are so excited to get back into full swing at the F.N. Brown Library. Each class visits the library once a week for book selection and information literacy instruction. The month of September was focused around the question "Who am I as a Reader?" Students explored the library to get a sense of what kinds of books interest them, what their favorite genres are, and what they may want to try reading this year. We also worked on how to select a "just-right" book from the library and how to take care of our library books. During

the month of October, we will begin author studies on some of our favorite authors, including Kevin Henkes, Patricia Polacco and Mo Willems. We will also read some election themed literature such as Grace for President, President Squid, and Duck for President. Of course, October is also a time that we will share our favorite fall stories. Some of our favorite fall books are The Fierce Yellow Pumpkin by Margaret Wise Brown, Applesauce Season by Eden Ross Lipsten, and The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll. Parents are an essential part of our library program. Thank you in advance to all of our parent volunteers. We look forward to you helping us “fall” into our favorite books!

### **ESL – NANCY BEATTIE**

Welcome back to all the returning English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) students and welcome to the new families to F.N. Brown School. The E.S.L. students have been busy developing and improving their English language skills through reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. The students in the lower grades have been learning a new letter/ sound each week through a foundations approach. They have been learning new vocabulary words that begin with the weekly featured letter sound as well as vocabulary associated with a specific theme. The students have been discussing and sharing information about themselves through an “All About Me” topic. The students in the upper grades also receive academic support in their classrooms. The E.S.L. students are excited to learn English and about the American culture. I wish all F.N. Brown students a happy and successful school year!

### **VOCAL MUSIC – JUDY SZYBIST**

Welcome Back! We are off to a noteworthy start in vocal music. Third graders received their recorders during the second week of school and in just a few short classes are starting to make some great progress. Practice at home is encouraged...a few minutes 2-3 days a week can help students make amazing strides in their playing ability. The choirs have already started preparations for the upcoming winter concert, which is just around the corner. Details will be forthcoming over the next few months.

We will continue to review and add to our repertoire using music through singing and playing to reinforce music literacy and show our FNB spirit. We look forward to sharing that “F.N. Brown Feeling all over town!”

### **ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI**

Greetings from the Art Room at F. N. Brown! Mrs. J is so happy to be back with her amazing artists. To start off the year, our awesome school population participated in a school-wide mural titled “Peace”. We reviewed the Elements of Art: line, color, and shape to name a few. Along with these we explored the Principals of Design, some of which are pattern, contrast, and unity. Next, we observed the artists Romero Britto, and Peter Max and studied their artistic styles that have inspired our modern pop-art style mural.

This collaborative mural is currently displayed across from our main office and includes the artwork of each and every student. The rest of the building is overflowing with artists’ works ranging from first through fourth grade. Some of these works have been scaffolding from the previous school year to the present as students’ skill-sets grow.

Currently, at F. N. Brown, we are working on a “Name Design” project in conjunction with studies of fall landscapes, and traditional Halloween collage projects for October. “Keep On Creating”!!!

### **KELLY CONNALLON’S CLASS**

Welcome back to school! I can’t believe we have already been back in school for a month! I am so excited for this school year and to share it with you! The children have been off to a great start this school year! We have created our own classroom rules, became familiar with our classroom library, and began our curriculum. In language arts, our second graders are busy reviewing previously learned concepts that include: digraphs (th, sh, ch etc) and welded sounds (all, an, ing) and suffix s. Our first graders are busy mastering

letter/ sound identification and identifying the initial and final sound in spoken words. In second grade math we are reviewing our doubles facts and reviewing strategies of addition. In first grade math, we are learning how to take apart numbers and gaining some basic number sense, including one to one correspondence.

Please read to or with your child each night. While you are reading ask questions to check for understanding. Please continue to master the doubles facts and to practice each evening.

## **RESOURCE ROOM – DANA CASALE**

Happy September! I am so excited to be back at FN Brown! The resource room has been super busy! We have reviewed classroom procedures, reward systems, and most importantly, created our I CAN cups! I CAN cups are used to promote positivity all year long. Students are reminded that they CAN do anything if they make an effort and never give up. Positive notes from our friends can also be found in our I CAN cups. Even a note from the teacher! We also took a reading survey and got to know our classroom library! We started Foundations as well as Reader's and Writer's Workshop in the replacement program. Students are eager to find the "Just Right" book and add them to their book bags!

Every student received a yellow folder. Please look for notes from me or any work students have completed in the resource room.

Below you will find more about what we are learning in the resource room:

- We are reading to Miss Casale to check for fluency and understanding.
- We are applying our Orton/Wilson strategies when reading and segmenting sounds.
- We were introduced to red words (Sight words) - words that *cannot* be decoded.
- We were introduced/reviewed digraphs - 2 letters that make 1 sound - /sh/, /ch/, /ck/, /th/, /wh/
- Short and long vowels - ALWAYS REVIEW with our VOWEL TENTS
- Started our interactive reading notebooks

## **JEAN SAPIENZA'S ROOM**

Thank you so very much to the F.N. Brown staff, students and parents for welcoming me so warmly! I am happy to be teaching here this year!

It has been a busy start to the school year. Within our classroom students were introduced to all classroom materials, procedures, and routines. The students created personal portraits and wrote about themselves to help me learn more about each one of them. It has been wonderful to get to know a new class and I am sure this will be an amazing year for all of us!

I have been working with students to help each develop a personal "toolbox" - reference points in the classroom and simple strategies to aid learning and make tasks manageable. Examples of these "tools" include personal charts of ways to choose "Just Right" books and a personal chart with number words spelled out to eliminate frustration during math.

In our classroom we are expanding Writer's Workshop to include writing as a method of communication. We talked about ways to "tell" a story-through a verbal telling, through symbols, through pictures, and finally through written text. Our class is currently working on the writing process by writing personal narratives. Another classroom tool that students are encouraged to use is an interactive word wall. This bulletin board contains rings of "trick" words that students are allowed to use during Writer's Workshop to help with the spelling of words that do not follow predictable spelling patterns.

Although we have not been in school for very long, I have observed positive interactions between my students. They are very considerate and encouraging to each other. They have been great listeners and hard workers! The year is off to an amazing start!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH – ROB HILL**

My name is Robert Hill and I am the physical education teacher here at F.N. Brown. This is my ninth year teaching and coaching in Verona and I can honestly say that it is a pleasure to work here. We are off to a

wonderful start this year in the gymnasium and I can't wait to get to all of the fun and exciting activities that I have planned for your children.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The two main concepts that the children will be focusing on throughout their elementary physical education experience are sportsmanship and teamwork. I know that not every child is going to be a professional athlete but it is very important to me that they do learn these key concepts that will help them throughout their lives. They will hopefully display these great character traits in October during our first two sport units of soccer and football and then carry them on for the rest of the year. I am excited to see how the children develop throughout the year because they are already off to such a great start with these concepts.

The third and fourth grade students have been participating in their pre-tests for the USMC Fitness Tests throughout the month of September. The skills being assessed are push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups or flexed arm hang, standing long jump and a 300 yard shuttle run. These pre-tests will help us with goal setting and helping the students to improve on their overall physical fitness levels throughout the year.

Our Kindergarten, first and second grade students will be focusing on moving safely around the gymnasium and understanding the concept of personal space. They have also learned various warm-up exercises and are working on locomotor movements as well. These skills are laying the foundation for our upcoming chasing, fleeing and dodging games that are played throughout the year. I hope that the students are already starting to demonstrate some of their newly learned exercises at home.

As a reminder, please remember to make sure that children have sneakers that are safe for them to participate in on physical education days. There is nothing harder for me to do then to tell a child they can't participate because they don't have proper or safe footwear.

## **HEALTH**

In addition to teaching physical education I also split the health teaching responsibilities with the school nurses in the district. I only teach certain sections and the classes vary by school year. The children will be learning various concepts regarding topics such as avoiding risks, making healthy choices with their diets, proper hand-washing techniques and how to handle stress. If you have any questions regarding the physical education or health education programs or need to contact me for any reason my email address is [rhill@veronaschools.org](mailto:rhill@veronaschools.org). Thank you.