



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The start of the school year has just been incredible! Our building looks and feels amazing! The children really LOVE all of the changes. This month flew by and there have been so many wonderful September highlights including our tremendous Back to School and first SCA meeting turnouts and our recent Discovering Difference Day celebration.

The teachers completed all of their reading assessments and are anxious to begin to differentiate instruction based on the data that they accumulated from this one to one testing. Feel free to contact your child's teacher to find out what your child's "just right reading level" is and how you can support your child at home.

To learn more about our reading and writing programs, I encourage you to attend our district "Family Literacy Night" at FN Brown from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. There will be multiple breakout sessions that you can sign up for to learn about everything including: The Common Core Standards and PARCC Testing, Tips for Parents to Support Reading at Home, Reading Intervention, Just Right Books, Guided Reading, Book Clubs and more! It is going to be a very informative evening and I am hoping to see many of you there!

To help this year be a truly amazing one, I encourage you to get involved. There are lots of SCA committees that could use your help! I look forward to seeing you at Laning!

All the best,  
Julie DiGiacomo  
*Principal*

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Week of Respect** – October 6-10
- **Walk to School Day** – October 8
- **Fire Truck Visit** for Pre K, K, 1 & 2 – October 13
- **Laning Kids Help the Hungry/Verona Fights Hunger Week** – October 13-17
- **Verona Family Night** – October 16
- **Bingo Night** – *Family Fun Night* – October 24
- **Family Literacy Night** – October 28 – F.N. Brown School from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
- **Halloween** – October 31 (parade and sing along from 8:45 AM-10:00 AM) – 12:30 PM Dismissal

## A Message from the Laning Avenue SCA President

Dear Laning Families:

I hope everyone is settling in and getting back into the swing of a new school year. While we were relaxing and enjoying our summer vacation, Laning was alive and getting ready for another school year! Some of the hallways that did not get painted last summer were painted and all of the trim work received a fresh coat of paint. The multipurpose room was painted and new sound panels were installed and the hallways received brand new carpets. The school looks wonderful!

Before the doors of Laning Avenue School opened, many people were already gearing up for the new school year. Our sincere thanks go out to:

- The outgoing and incoming Board Members, who worked together developing the 2014-15 budget.
- Outgoing Board Members Joanna Breitenbach, Anthony Gardner and Lisa Freedman for helping our incoming Board with all of the transitions. The same goes for the 2013-14 Committee chairs who worked with our new 2014-15 Chairs to teach them their new roles and logistics for the programs.
- Class Parent Coordinators Pat Chesney and Meggin McElroy and Board Members for a successful class parent selection process in June and for ensuring our Class Parents have all of the materials they need to start the year.
- VP of Program Sarah Latson, for a wonderful job gathering info for the 2014-15 Joint SCA Program and Calendar (a.k.a. the "Pink Book"). It was a great coordination effort with all the schools and various committees.
- VP of Membership Peggy Kenrick for putting together the First Day Packets.
- Lori Radigan and Peggy Kenrick for their hard work changing over our bank accounts and for their wonderful job as treasurers.
- Webmaster Venus So for updating the Laning website and for keeping it current with important information.
- Supermarket SCRIP coordinators Tara Imbriano and Marlo Spina for launching a new year of fundraising.
- Kitchen supervisor Jacki Flannery for securing our vendors for our SCA Hot Lunch and putting together the schedule of volunteers and hot lunch schedule
- Publicity Chair Cindy Kramer and Lisa Nazzaretto for the new hallway bulletin board.
- Mrs. DiGiacomo and Mrs. Buro for their support in helping us with all that we needed to get our SCA year underway.

September was busy and filled with so many wonderful events. I would like to thank:

- Susan Nogales and Amy Adornato for a very successful Back to School Night. Many thanks to the parent volunteers who assisted with the evening's activities. It could not have been possible without you.
- Laura Cleaver and Kerri Egan for another successful Mum and Bake Sale! Many thanks to the parents who baked and helped sell all those tasty treats.
- Rosa Toriello, Rachel Bernard-Moore and committee for the daunting task of coordinating all the children for school photos. What a wonderful job you did helping the kids look picture perfect!
- Cheryl Kaulback and the Laning Spirit Wear Committee for a wonderful job in selecting and selling awesome Laning apparel. Can't wait to hear the final outcome of the sale!
- All those who attended our first SCA Meeting of the year on September 9.

- The Junior Woman's Club of Verona for stocking our shelves so that children who forget their snacks have something to eat.

If you are new to Laning and are interested in volunteering your time or would like to learn more about the wonderful programs the SCA has, you can find the full list of SCA committees and the SCA calendar of events on pages 26-30 of the "Pink Book" (sent home on the first day of school in backpacks).

Please mark your calendars: Our next SCA meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Laning Library. All Laning parents are welcome.

I am honored to serve as your President and look forward to working with you on another successful school year.

Sincerely,  
Dana DeMars, [danaleigh\\_13@yahoo.com](mailto:danaleigh_13@yahoo.com)  
Laning SCA President, 2014-20145

## Laning SCA Announcements

### Laning Kids Help the Hungry



The Laning Kids Help the Hungry Food Drive will kick off on Monday, October 13, and run through Friday, October 17. Please note: These dates are different than those in the SCA pink book. That's because we want to coordinate our efforts with those of the Junior Woman's Club of Verona, which is organizing a town-wide food drive called Verona Fights Hunger Week.

Here at Laning, our collection process will be the same as always: We will place baskets throughout the building for your donations of non-perishable food items, which will be given to the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair. This extraordinary program was first implemented in February 2008 by a Laning mom who found a way for the students to make a difference.

#### What specifically could they use?

The Human Needs Food Pantry collects any and all non-perishable, non-expired food, such as cereal, pasta, sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly and crackers. In addition, soap and shampoo are helpful donations, as well as brown paper grocery bags. (What a great way to recycle!)

During Verona Fights Hunger Week, local schools, businesses, civic organizations, charities and religious groups will collect donations. On Saturday, October 18, volunteers will bring those donations to Verona Town Hall. The Junior Woman's Club will then transport everything to the Human Needs Food Pantry.

Four percent of Verona's households live below the federal poverty level, according to a recent report published by the United Way of Northern New Jersey. Another 20 percent of households struggle to make ends meet and cannot always afford groceries and other basic necessities. For more information about Verona Fights Hunger Week, please email [veronafightshunger@veronajuniors.org](mailto:veronafightshunger@veronajuniors.org).

Thank you for your support!

#### Author Visit

On October 20, Laning Avenue School will welcome illustrator Meilo So. Meilo has illustrated such books as "Brush of the Gods" and "My Mom is a Foreigner, But Not for Me." There won't be a book sale associated with the visit, so don't get worried when you don't see an order form.

### **Laning Supermarket Gift Card (SCRIP) Fundraiser**

Last year we had just over 50 families and 4 staff members participate in this fundraiser and were able to raise an all-time high of \$6,000. Currently, we have less than 40 families and staff that have signed up to participate this year. We lost quite a few families whose children have moved on to the middle school. Please consider signing up for a monthly amount or even a one-time purchase to boost our profits for the year.

As you know, Laning is always in need of new technology and with your support in this “no-cost” fundraiser we can purchase new equipment for our school. Laning earns 5% on all gift cards purchased through the SCA.

### **Gift Card Fundraiser Quick Facts:**

When you buy gift cards through the Laning SCA, we earn 5% of the total amount sold!!! For example, purchase \$200 in ShopRite cards and the Laning SCA earns \$10. This can really add up!

Buy only what you need! Buy from one store or buy from all four! Change stores or change amounts each time you buy! If you sign up for a monthly commitment but need to skip a month, we can do that too, just let us know.

### **Here's how it works:**

**The gift cards work like cash:** For example, if you buy \$44 in groceries, use \$50 in gift cards and you still have \$6 on your card for your next shopping trip.

**Orders are delivered through your child's backpack:** Fill out the order form that can be found on the school's website under backpack flyers and return it in your child's backpack in an envelope marked Supermarket Gift Cards.

If you haven't already signed up for SCRIP or made a one-time purchase this year, please consider doing so in October.

Thank you for your support! As always, participation is optional.

Marlo Spina ([marspin68@yahoo.com](mailto:marspin68@yahoo.com) or 973-857-4409)  
Tara Imbriano ([taraimbriano@gmail.com](mailto:taraimbriano@gmail.com) or 973-239-2396)  
SCRIP Co-Chairs

### **Verona Student Educational Assistance Association**

Angela Manley, the President of the The Verona Student Educational Assistance Association (VSEAA), and Charity Dacey, the Laning Avenue Chair, would like to thank the generous Laning families who contributed at Back to School night.

The Verona Student Education Assistance Association (VSEAA), established in 1939, helps Verona High School graduates with financial assistance in order to continue their post-secondary education. A student may borrow up to \$18,000 for tuition costs only. No interest is charged while the student is in school. Loan repayments are made at reduced rates. The VSEAA is trying to raise awareness about the program, so spread the word to Verona families with college age students who may be interested.

To apply for a loan, obtain a loan application form from the principal or guidance department of the Verona High School.

## **Mum and Bake Sale**

Laning's Mum and Bake Sale had another profitable year, along with a beautiful day!

On behalf of the Mum and Bake Sale Committee, we would like to personally thank all the parents who helped make the sale a success. To all the parents who provided baked goods - we truly appreciated it! A special thanks to Dana DeMars, Branka Kurta, Lisa Freedman and Trish Moore who gave their time to assist in the sale.

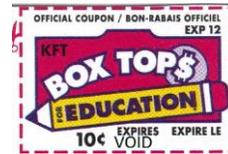
The support from our Laning parents is what makes this sale happen! Thanks again!!

Laura Cleaver and Kerri Egan  
Mum and Bake Sale Co-Chairs

## **Family Fun**

Bingo Night will take place Friday, October 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:15.

## **Box Tops for Education**



Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! As many of you know, Laning Avenue continues to participate in the Box Tops for Education Fundraiser each year. BoxTops for Education is an easy fundraiser to earn money for our school simply by clipping the box top(s) from participating products that you purchase and sending them into the school. The money earned through Box Tops goes directly to the SCA to help with school trips, school supplies or other special activities that happen throughout the school year.

Our goal for the 2014-2015 school year is to raise \$1,000 for Laning Avenue. Last year we raised about \$932.00!

You can send in your clipped Box Tops at any time by placing them in a bag or envelope in your child's backpack or dropping them off in the bin marked "Box Tops" in the main office. Our next submission date is November 1, 2014. So send those Box Tops in so we can reach our goal!

Please also visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and quickly register to see participating products, clip money savings coupons, earn bonus box tops and track our school's as well as other schools' earnings.

Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the Box Tops for Education or Labels for Education programs. Thanks for your time!

Laurel Brolly, [laurel.brolly@gmail.com](mailto:laurel.brolly@gmail.com)  
Sophia Yanniotis, [smyanniotis@gmail.com](mailto:smyanniotis@gmail.com)

## Labels for Education



**eLabelsForEducation.com**

Earn points for Laning Avenue School by not only clipping labels, but by registering your frequent shopper card online. In our area, ShopRite is a participating retailer. It is a very simple and easy way to earn extra points for our school. Encourage all your family and friends register to help us earn even more!

## How It Works



Electronically collect an additional 1 point for each participating *Labels for Education*® product purchased when you use your shopper card at [participating retailers](#). You can still clip and redeem UPCs to earn the face value of the *Labels for Education* points.

1. **REGISTER.** Go to [eLabelsForEducation.com](#). Create your profile, enter your shopper card number from a participating retailer, and then select the school(s) you would like to support. [Sign up now](#).\*
2. **SHOP. SWIPE. EARN.** Each participating product that you purchase from your favorite participating retailer will earn 1 point that will be credited to your school's *Labels for Education* account automatically.
3. **REDEEM.** Your school can redeem points for FREE educational merchandise!
  - UPCs with face values higher than 1 point will only be counted as 1 point with the *eLabels For Education* program. Remember, *eLabels for Education* supplements the regular *Labels for Education* program, so you can still clip and redeem participating product UPCs to earn the face value of the *Labels for Education* points.

Any questions, please contact Sophia Yanniotis, [smyanniotis@gmail.com](mailto:smyanniotis@gmail.com)

## Environmental Committee

Now that school is back in session, we want to mention simple things you can do this Fall and beyond to help reduce, reuse, and recycle.

1. Zero Waste Lunch: Pack drinks and food in reusable containers and use cloth napkins along with washable cutlery.
2. Walk to and from school as frequently as possible.
3. Halloween is almost here! Make yourself re-usable trick-or treat bag. You can use an old pillowcase or shopping bag and decorate it with markers or paints.
4. Turn your pumpkins into yummy treats or compost them when their time as decorations ends.
5. Try making some creative Fall decorations that you can use again year after year.

6. Be sure to close your doors completely when coming and going from your home.
7. Extend the life of your beautiful mums by planting them in the ground. They will often rebloom the following year.

*Laning's environmental committee is dedicated to educating students and their families about small and big steps we can take to preserve our planet. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, please contact Sonia Sequeira at [Sonia.nyire@gmail.com](mailto:Sonia.nyire@gmail.com) or Courtney Russell at [courtney.russell@pkt.com](mailto:courtney.russell@pkt.com).*

### **Verona Environmental Commission**

Entries to the 6<sup>th</sup> annual VEC Poster Contest are due October 8. The contest is open to Verona public school students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. This year's theme is "Sustainable Verona."

Requirements are as follows:

- Posters should be letter -size or under 11x14 inches.
- Include your name and grade on the back.
- Drop your poster in Laning's collection box on or before Walk-to-School Day.
- All posters will be displayed in participating schools.

Winners will receive \$50 and an award certificate from Verona's mayor.

**Did you know?** Living sustainably is about living within the means of our environment and ensuring that our lifestyle doesn't harm others. Walking or biking to school, turning off cars while parked, buying locally, recycling and using reusable water bottles are just a few ways to make Verona more sustainable!

For more information, please visit [www.veronaec.org](http://www.veronaec.org).

The next Laning SCA meeting will take place on  
November 4, 2014, at 7 p.m. in the Library.  
All Laning parents are welcome!



## What's Happening in Our Classrooms

### **Kindergarten – Mrs. Kristy McCabe and Mrs. Kimberley Nochimson**

5-4-3-2-1 BLAST OFF! We have another AWESOME group of kindergartners filling up KM and KN this year! We are incredibly proud to say that all of the children are walking down to class all by themselves each morning and quickly adjusting to kindergarten life. ☺ We spent the month of September getting familiar with our school and all of the amazing teachers within it. We are learning all of the important rules to keep us safe and help us be the best we can be each and every day! We played lots of fun games to get to know our fun-loving new classmates. We are realizing that there is so much to learn and that we must always have our listening ears on! We were mathematicians counting everything we could get our hands on! We practiced our fine motor skills with lots of coloring, cutting and gluing. We have been observing the beauty of the change of season as we happily welcomed fall. We also wrote about our favorite things to do in the fall and learned all about the legend of Johnny Appleseed as we celebrated his birthday! We are enjoying Reading and Writing workshop! We have learned our workshop routines and look forward to this special time each day! We have already sketched our very first stories! Each day is a brand new adventure in kindergarten! **We cannot wait to watch our littlest Laning learners grow!**

### **Grade 1 – Mrs. Nancy Apisa, Mrs. Kristine DePoe, and Mrs. Anne Marie Ruggiero**

The first graders are off to a super start at Laning. We have launched ourselves into Reading Workshop and have been learning all about the important workshop procedures that make our classrooms run smoothly. Recently, we read the book, BORN TO READ, by Judy Sierra, and we practiced making connections from our lives to this story. In writing, we are stretching our stories, learning to sketch and label more vigorously during our writing process. The strange sounds emanating from the First Grades are not to be feared but to be encouraged. It is merely the sound of children writing...invented spelling during Writing Workshop is in full swing, and the children are sounding out everything!

We have begun a weekly fluency exercise where we practice reading one poem for several days in order to read more smoothly. It's so exciting! Plus, we've been practicing our handwriting and letter sounds daily.

Through games and manipulatives, the students are building math awareness and math skills. We have already completed our first math topic on understanding addition, and the children have been very busy with subtraction, too. The children are being prepared for the concepts which will be introduced this year.

The school year is off to a great start!

### **Grade 2 – Mrs. Pamela Banta and Ms. Jennifer Kirby**

The second graders were eager to start a new school year and have been adjusting to their new routines. They spent the first week of school getting to know one another through a series of morning meetings and getting to know you activities.

Students spent the first month of school reviewing addition concepts in math and launching their first writing workshop unit. They were very excited to continue writing workshop from first grade! In social studies, students have been learning how to use their new materials, such as atlases and maps. In science, they have been learning how scientists use their five senses to help with investigations. They then put those senses to work in a series of investigations involving pennies.

The newest addition to the second grade curriculum is Reading Workshop. Students learned about who they are as readers and how that impacts their choice in books. They had a great time interviewing a parent at home about their childhood reading memories. They also learned several strategies that readers use to help them understand text. Students are working to build reading stamina both in class and at home with nightly reading.

Mrs. Banta and Ms. Kirby are proud of their hard-working second graders and look forward to a productive year filled with lots of learning and fun!

### **Grade 3 – Mrs. Sage Nardi, Mrs. Jaime Ricci, and Mr. Brian Samples**

The third graders of Laning Avenue School are excited to start another school year! They came to school ready to take on the responsibilities and academic challenges unique to third grade.

We have started off the year reviewing sentences and fragments, as well as some everyday word work through the use of our Foundations program. In Reading Workshop, students have been exposed to a variety of genres while thinking about their “just right” books in new ways and recording important thoughts as they read. Writing Workshop has also launched, and students are doing a wonderful job creating personal narratives about important moments in their lives.

In math, the third graders have focused on place value, rounding, and using addition and subtraction to estimate sums and difference.

In science, the third graders are excited to start learning about the scientific method, inquiry tools for experiments, and the characteristics of living things. We will begin to focus on plant and animal cells and life cycles as we move in to October.

In social studies, our main focuses have been the usage of tools, such as globes, maps, and atlases. We have also spent time getting more acquainted with map features, specifically the map key.

Our third graders are excited to discover the new skills they will be learning about this year across all subjects. We know that all the third graders at Laning Avenue will have a happy, healthy, and successful academic year.

### **Grade 4 – Mrs. Lesley Carter and Mrs. Pamela Solomon**

The school year is off to a fantastic start and the students have done a terrific job of settling into fourth grade! Classmates got to learn more about one another through our fabulous bio-poems and by sharing summer memories. We have quickly learned that everyone’s exceptional personalities and unique interests not only make our students stand out as individuals, but make the fourth grade a great place to learn and grow together.

We were excited to begin our first math unit. Students reviewed the properties of multiplication and practiced mastering their multiplication and division facts.

The students are enjoying our Reading Workshop Program. During reading times, children are exposed to high-quality literature, engage in meaningful conversations about books, and choose their own just right books to read. We are teaching 4<sup>th</sup> graders to be independent with their choice of books as we foster a love of reading. As part of the workshop model, students get daily mini-

lessons that focus on learning reading skills, followed by 30 to 40 minutes of independent reading. Learn more about this model of learning during Literacy Night on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

During Writers' Workshop students have begun the launching unit. During this unit, students learn to live like real writers and engage in authentic writing practices. In order to do this work, students set up their own writer's notebook and practice writing daily. We learn strategies that writers use to find stories (our me bags), then, we choose one story to focus on publishing. During this stage, writers work on revising and editing their story. We will soon have our finished narratives!

In social studies, students have begun to explore the wonderful state of New Jersey. Building on the students experiences, we have discussed places in New Jersey the students have visited. We will look at the New Jersey Regions and identify where each exciting place is located.

Our fourth grade scientists enthusiastically began our first science unit, *Earth's Changing Surfaces*. Students are learning about rocks, minerals, landforms, and fossils. The students were fascinated to learn there are over 4,000 minerals, but only three types of rocks.

### **Verona Pre-School Program**

#### **Pauline Jennis, Maryann Bifulco, and Grace Minervo- Buneo**

We welcomed our returning students and our new students to the Verona Preschool Program. The preschool children transitioned beautifully to their new classroom experiences, friends and teachers.

To start the school year off we covered "Introduction to School", "All About Me" and My 5 Senses" as our themes. "Introduction to School" was a time for the children to get to know their environment and to feel safe being away from their families (some for the very first time!). We toured the inside of our school, went outside to the playground and walked around the outside of the school.

"All About Me" let the children notice how we are the same and how we are different. They learned each others names and greeted each other during group circle time, they learned the ins and outs of sharing through our free play time, and they learned how they can use classroom materials through our free art and structured art time. Books that discussed how we are the same and different supported our discussions. The children created an "All About Me Book" at home with their parents. They enjoyed talking about their books and showing us the pictures.

As an extension to our "All About Me" theme, we explored our "5 Senses". The children listened and created their own music with instruments, touched a variety of sensory materials and came up with words to describe what they were feeling (bumpy, soft, sticky, wet etc.), smelled spices and herbs, talked about different tastes determining their likes and dislikes and explored how we use our eyes to see everything around us.

The children are beginning to make friends and to look forward to each and every day at the Verona Preschool Program. For language arts they are learning to ask and answer questions about a story, understand concepts of print and the mechanics of reading a book. For math they are learning about shapes, positional concepts, sorting, patterning and measurement.

## October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6 Week of Respect	7 Brick Paver Sale Begins Week of Respect	8 Walk-to-School Day Week of Respect	9 Week of Respect	10 Week of Respect	11
12	13 Laning Kids Help the Hungry/Verona Fights Hunger Week Fire Truck Visit for Pre-K, K, 1 & 2	14 Laning Kids Help the Hungry/Verona Fights Hunger Week	15 Laning Kids Help the Hungry/Verona Fights Hunger Week	16 Laning Kids Help the Hungry/Verona Fights Hunger Week VMAC Family Night	17 Laning Kids Help the Hungry/Verona Fights Hunger Week	18
19	20 Author Visit	21	22	23	24 Family Fun Night	25
26	27	28 Family Literacy Night	29	30	31 Halloween Parade Class Parties ½ Day	

## November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 SCA Meeting Ice Cream Cake Sale Begins ½ Day	5	6 Schools Closed	7 Schools Closed	8
9	10 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	11 Laning Kids Help the Hungry Red, White & Blue Day/Veterans Day Assembly	12 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	13 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	14	15
16	17	18 Parent/Teacher Conferences ½ Day	19 Parent/Teacher Conferences ½ Day	20 Parent/Teacher Conferences ½ Day	21 Ice Cream Cake Sale Ends	22
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Feast School Spirit Day ½ Day	27 Schools Closed	28 Schools Closed	29

*If you have any questions or comments about the Laning SCA Newsletter, please contact Sarah Latson at [sarahlatson@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlatson@gmail.com) or 973-433-7637.*