

# F.N. Brown Newsletter

## February 2014

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

### Dates to Remember...



- Mon., 2/2-** SCA Meeting 7:00 pm (library)
- Tues., 2/4** SCA Pasta Lunch  
Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
- Wed., 2/4- Report Cards Issued**
- Thurs., 2/5-** SCA Pizza Lunch  
Valentine's Day Projects
- Fri., 2/6-** Star Lab Begins (2/6-2/20)
- Sat., 2/7-** Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am
- Tues., 2/10** Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
- Thurs., 2/12-** SCA Bagel Lunch
- Fri., 2/13-** No School
- Mon., 2/16-** No School- President's Day
- Tues., 2/17 – No School**
- Thurs., 2/19-** SCA Sub Lunch
- Fri., 2/20-** Star Lab Ends  
B-Line Articles Due
- Tues., 2/24-** Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
- Wed., 2/25-** Gr. 4 HBW Parent Orientation 7pm  
(snowdate 2/26)
- Thurs., 2/26-** SCA Chicken Lunch



### B-Line News

**Hearts of Hope** – Once again the hearts are beautiful and made with such love. Thanks to our students and teachers we have created almost 300 hearts and messages of hope that will be delivered to patients at St. Barnabas and surrounding facilities during a special Valentine's Day event. Please take a moment the next time you are at school to view the photos of our artists and their hearts and to read the touching notes of thanks that come in every year. For more information on the Hearts of Hope program see Mrs. J or visit [www.ourheartsofhope.org](http://www.ourheartsofhope.org). Thanks again to everyone for your support with this project.

**Gertrude Hawk Chocolates Fundraiser**– Help support our school and satisfy your sweet-tooth at the same time by participating in the Gertrude Hawk Chocolates Fundraiser. Look for information being sent home on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be placed online at [www.gertrudehawkchocolates.com](http://www.gertrudehawkchocolates.com). Please contact Joan Testa at [Jmtesta@me.com](mailto:Jmtesta@me.com) or Deanna Barry at [fryebunni@gmail.com](mailto:fryebunni@gmail.com) for more information.

**Tricky Tray**– On Wednesday, March 18, 2015, the F.N. Brown SCA will be hosting, "A Magical Night with F.N. Brown", our bi-annual Tricky Tray. This year's location is The Westmount Country Club on 728 Rifle Camp Road in Woodland Park. The doors open at 6:00 pm. Admission is \$55 per person and includes dinner with one sheet of level one tickets. Please submit all table reservations as soon as possible, as ticket sales are now open to the public. You do not need to have a full table to purchase a ticket. We are truly grateful for all of the class basket and family donations that have come in so far, and are looking forward to all future donations. A flier will be going home with the dates of the bundle and grand ticket pre-sale. Please contact Mindy Frey at [mindyfrey@gmail.com](mailto:mindyfrey@gmail.com) or Kristen Mautone at [krismautl@verizon.net](mailto:krismautl@verizon.net) with any questions.

**Note from the Treasurer** – For those submitting expenses for various programs, please place your receipts in an envelope along with your name and a short explanation of the expense. All reimbursement checks will be returned to the SCA mailbox in the main office within 24-48 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Mautone, [krismautl@verizon.net](mailto:krismautl@verizon.net).

### Contact Us

B-Line Editor: Melissa Watkins

Email: [melissalwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:melissalwatkins@gmail.com)

### Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: February 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25 & 27. Please remember all lunches must be preordered.

# Birthday Boys and Girls

## February



Anthony Nigro, Molly Hayter,  
 Anthony Palmer, Michael Villani,  
 Daria Gebbia, Isabella Medina,  
 Devyn Quigley, Juliette Fernicola,  
 Samuel Besante, Wei Li Chen



**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.

February Dates-	Tae Kwon Do	Yoga
	Feb. 5	Feb. 6
	Feb. 12	Feb. 20
	Feb. 19	Feb. 24
	Feb. 26	Feb. 27



## More B-Line News

**Busy Bee Scrip Program** – The Busy Bee Bucks fundraising program is red hot, generating close to \$1300 for our school!! Thank you to everyone who is participating and supporting FN Brown through this program. February orders are due on Friday the 13th and will be sent home in backpacks before the 20th. Need a card before the 13th? eCards are available. *Questions?*

Please contact a Busy Bee Bucks committee member: Kate Curren ([katefullercurren@gmail.com](mailto:katefullercurren@gmail.com)), Stephanie D'Andrea ([dandreast@hotmail.com](mailto:dandreast@hotmail.com)), Florence Caldera ([floc71@comcast.net](mailto:floc71@comcast.net)) or Diane Griffin ([jde14@hotmail.com](mailto:jde14@hotmail.com)).

**Oliver's Labels** – With the colder temperatures come layers of clothes. Utilizing Oliver's Labels is a practical and smart way to ensure your child's belongings do not get lost. The labels are waterproof and the tags are made of high-performance, scuff-proof materials that are dishwasher, microwave and washer/dryer safe. Customize and preview your labels instantly with your name and choice of over 70 colorful designs! Visit [www.oliverslabels.com/fnbrown](http://www.oliverslabels.com/fnbrown) today! F.N. Brown receives 20% of all purchase.

**Shoparoo** – The easiest fundraiser at FN Brown, Shoparoo is a app made for your smartphone or iPad. All you need to do is take pictures of your grocery receipts with the Shoparoo app. It doesn't matter where you shop or what you buy - every receipt submitted results in a donation to our school! So, what are you waiting for? Simply download the free app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store by searching 'shoparoo' and then select our school as your chosen cause. Since there is no limit to how much money we can raise with Shoparoo, be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join in – every receipt counts!

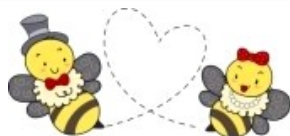
**Art Helpers** – If you would like to help out with one of your child's art classes please contact Diane Egan-Griffin at [jde14@hotmail.com](mailto:jde14@hotmail.com) or Doris Luftglass at [dorislutglass@verizon.net](mailto:dorislutglass@verizon.net) for more information.

### 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!



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

### \*The Bingo Committee!

A big thank you to Val Balogh and Alice Poueymirou. You did a fabulous job organizing and running Bingo. It was a great success thanks to you!

Also, a sincere thank you to all the parent and teacher volunteers who helped to make Bingo Night run smoothly while still being fun for our children!



# FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL

VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

125 GROVE AVENUE

TELEPHONE: (973) 571-5763 FAX: (973) 571-9889

ANTHONY V. LANZO, Ed.D  
Principal

February 1, 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to February! Thank you to our wonderful SCA! We appreciate all of the time ALL of our volunteers put forth each day at our school. Thank you to Mrs. Poueymirou and Mrs. Castner, SCA Co-Presidents and Mrs. Kristen Mautone, Treasurer, for their efforts in successfully leading our SCA. We appreciate their countless hours of volunteer work. There are many activities that are taking place over the next few weeks. Please continue to check the weekly packet for “all of the happenings”.

### **Friendly Reminders:**

- The side lot should not be used at any time (including Kindergarten dismissal at 12:30) for pick up/drop off. Also, please inform family members and family friends that may be picking up/dropping off your child of this protocol.
- Report Cards will be available via Genesis/Parent Portal on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. Hard copies will only be available to those families that have made this request in writing to the main office.

### **Looking Ahead: Special Activities...**

Classroom teachers will be preparing lessons that focus on the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School, Groundhog Day, Presidents’ Day, and Valentine’s Day. Our SCA will be sponsoring our annual Valentine’s Day project. Students will create Valentine’s Day cards that are distributed to local nursing homes. Mrs. Jasterzbski, our art teacher, is completing the *Hearts for Hope* project with all of the students during art class. Staff members had the opportunity to paint a heart as well. Approximately 300 hearts will be delivered to St. Barnabas Hospital for cancer patients. Thank you to the SCA for funding this annual project. Also, thank you to Mrs. Matta, Mrs. Frey and the numerous parent volunteers for their assistance with this meaningful project.

### **Star Lab 2015**

Star Lab will be here soon! We at FNB have the wonderful opportunity to experience Star Lab at our school beginning the week of February 9<sup>th</sup> and it will conclude on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Star Lab is a planetarium that is set up each year at each elementary school in Verona. Each elementary school has the pleasure of utilizing the lab for the same number of days. Each class at FNB has the opportunity to visit the Star Lab. The number of visits and the curriculum varies based on grade level. Our Star Lab will be set up in our school auditorium. Star Lab offers our students “an outside experience looking into the sky” while fostering opportunities to acquire new knowledge, related to the skills in the area of astronomy while being inside the lab. Our Star Lab teachers will be Mrs. Orsini, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Hiscano, Mrs. Pellegrino, and Mrs. Sabatino. Star Lab teachers receive specialized training for the teaching of the Star Lab units.

Thank you for supporting our programs! Happy February! Happy Valentine’s Day!

Very truly yours,

*Anthony Lanzo*

Anthony Lanzo

*February 2015~Message from  
F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents*



Dear F.N. Brown Families,

Happy February! We are quickly approaching the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. A sign that the school year is already more than half over! The SCA is having a great school year so far and we look forward to all the fun activities that Spring will bring!

Bingo Night was a great opportunity for the students to put down the video games and enjoy a fun night of numbers and prizes!! Thanks to the committee, Dr. Lanzo, and the teachers for helping out!

A **BIG** thanks to Mrs. J for having our students create Hearts of Hope that will be delivered to St. Barnabas Hospital. The SCA is so proud of our children and Mrs. J for providing these special gifts to cancer patients. Thank you to Chantal Matta and Mindy Frey for all of your time with helping Mrs. J and the students.

Thanks to Heidi Dunphy and Tracey Dunn for organizing the Valentine's Day Card Project. This is a lovely way for our children to bring some joy to the residents of area Continuing Care Centers.

Pre-K Workshop will begin this month. Thank you Kristy McCabe and Doris Luftglass for planning the activities that will welcome our youngest students to F.N. Brown.

**4<sup>th</sup> grade parents**, please mark your calendar for February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., HBW parent orientation! It is hard to believe that our babies will be off to the middle school next year.

**A Magical Night with FN Brown Tricky Tray** will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup> at The Westmount Country Club! Tickets to the event are \$55.00 and are available now! Reserve your seats and look out for sale dates for basket tickets and 50/50s. It is always a fun night and a great way to win prizes while raising funds for FNB!! Thank you to co-chairs Kristen Mautone and Mindy Frey and all the Tricky Tray committee, as well as Maggie Lambert and the Class Basket committee.

We would like to thank all the parents who volunteer for ongoing SCA activities including the lunch program, library, art, technology, weekly packet assembly!! The SCA could not run without your time, dedication and support!

We invite you to attend our next SCA meeting on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Happy Valentine's Day ~**

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou  
SCA Co-Presidents

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

## **MS. PASSAGE'S CLASS**

To ring in the New Year, as a class, we began our non-fiction reading unit! During these cold winter months, we have embraced the cold and continue to warm up to great non-fiction books! We have begun to learn about the various text features in non-fiction books and how we can use them to help us learn about the topic.

In writer's workshop, we have begun our "how to" writing student. Students have identified an activity and written step-by-step directions on how to complete the activity. The students have also written introductions and a conclusion to their how to's.

In Kindergarten math, we have learned numbers 0 to 100. We have practiced labeling, writings, and counting each number. We have also practiced skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. In first grade math, we have begun adding and subtracting using Touch Math. We have also begun skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

We are looking forward to counting up to the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school at F.N. Brown!

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

Although we haven't had a chance to go outside lately due to the cold weather, we have had many fun activities to keep us busy inside. We kept the New Year celebration going by wearing pajamas to school to celebrate P week. We also wore purple and pink for P, and red for letter R week. It was fun to paint with Q-tips during Q week!

We learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and why we celebrate his birthday. It was very interesting for the students to hear about how different life was and the positive changes Dr. Martin Luther King helped bring about.

Our School Spirit Week kept us quite busy and active! The kindergarten students already have a whole lot of school spirit for FN Brown. We dressed in bee colors to acknowledge our school mascot, maroon and white to celebrate our school, red to participate in Rainbow Day and red, white and blue for a kindergarten spirit day. We partied with the rest of the school during our all school dance – so much fun!! Conflict resolution has become an important component of our curriculum. An "I Message" gives the students the power to create a "win-win" situation for one another whenever a conflict arises. Encourage your children to use these strategies at home as well.

In Reading Workshop we are learning all about the different types of non-fiction books. The kindergarteners have become teachers as they write their "How-To" books in Writing Workshop. We are all learning how to pack a backpack, get ready for school, bake a cake and draw a bee just to name a few!

Math has kept us very busy learning numbers to 100. This knowledge prepared us well for BINGO Night! It is also a reminder that the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School will be here very soon!!

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

January's blast of cold weather kept all first graders wide-awake and ready to learn many new concepts. For starters, part of our Nystrom Social Studies Curriculum involved comparing the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr. before and after they became laws. Many great questions were asked by the students to ponder and decide whether or not fairness prevailed. His famous speech, "I Have a Dream" was watched and heard via the Smart Board in the classroom. Our purpose was accomplished as their young eyes sparkled with great admiration and respect. We also had the students write about a dream of their own inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speech.

In Science, animals and their classification, environments and adaptations has been our focus. The students love this unit because they can really identify with it. They are amazed to think they too are a type of mammal known as a HUMAN BEING!

In math, the students have learned how to apply their addition and subtraction strategies to a given word problem. Searching for the key words like: how many fewer or how more signifies to subtract while how many in all or how many altogether tells us to add. Also writing word problems has been a useful task. Students are being taught to include three steps in their word problems. For Example: 1.) Mary has 15 butterflies. 2.) Jan has 18 butterflies. 3.) How many more butterflies does Jan have than Mary? The students are expected to be able to write a word problem and to draw a picture to represent their word problem. Also the study of tens and ones has begun.

In writing “How To” stories were the focus this month with the use of sequence words and illustrations. Making their stories readable continues to include proper spacing, legible letter formation, better spelling attempts and better use of punctuation. Additional resources were given to the students to assist in this process.

Lastly, we have been reading so much! This does not only include the teacher reading to the class, but it also includes silent/independent reading as well. The children are learning what good readers do when they read and are trying to apply those strategies in class. The use of a sticky note can help a student figure out what does not make sense by placing the note near the problem area and waiting to see the teacher for help. Why continue reading a passage when something did not sound right or make sense? In doing this we are teaching the students to question while reading. Please continue to read to your child, read with your child, and listen to your child read to you. Practice, practice, practice! That is the best way to build successful readers and students. Please allow your child to question when the text does not make sense. We appreciate all your help and support.

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

It is winter and we are warming up with Non-Fiction in Reading Workshop. Some of the mentor texts we are using to introduce this new genre are: Are You a Grasshopper?, Look Out for Turtles!, Follow the Dream-The Story of Christopher Columbus, Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids, Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum, and Nothing But Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson. These books have been teaching us about the three different types on Non-Fiction books: reference, biography, and literary non-fiction. Some of the skills that we will be using to help us read our just right books independently are using text features to help build meaning, context clues to help with new vocabulary, and author’s purpose.

In Math, we are finishing up Subtraction with Regrouping and will be moving on to Place Value to 1,000. We will be working with larger numbers to add, subtract, and compare. As always, the students should be practicing basic math facts for accuracy at home.

In Writing, we are working on our own non-fiction stories using Gail Gibbons as our mentor author. We are exploring over a dozen of her books and modeling our own writing after hers. Many of her books focus on holidays, animal, and nature topics. We will be writing a few stories that focus on the same ideas.

February is also full of fun days to celebrate. We are looking forward to the hundredth day of school. We have been counting down and will be participating in special activities to celebrate the day. We will focus on two very important presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will read biographies and create timelines of the important events in their lives. Valentine’s Day and Groundhog’s Day are always fun days to celebrate. We are hoping for an early spring as we follow the events in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania as Phil, the great prognosticator, comes out of his burrow to check the weather. We will visit the website and follow real time video of his prediction.

## **THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO, KAREN SABATINO AND KIM SAVOLSKIS**

These past few weeks have been focused on respecting one another’s differences. We learned about Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and other important leaders that fought for equal rights for everyone, regardless of race. The third grade honored the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. through

various classroom activities. We identified him as an important figure in history and summarized his famous speech. Students developed an awareness of the struggle of African Americans throughout U.S. history, gained an understanding of the Civil Rights/Equal Rights movements, and explored the meanings of discrimination, segregation, and prejudice.

We have recently begun our unit on Nonfiction for Reading Workshop that focuses on Literary Nonfiction, Biographies, and Reference Texts. We are learning how text features can help us navigate informational texts. Students are learning how to interact with a text to deepen their understanding of a topic. Skills include using structural elements, determining importance, visualizing, making inferences, and making connections/using their schema.

The third graders lived like realistic fiction writers as they celebrated their final writing pieces. We realized that characters have motivations and obstacles that get in their way and that solutions in the story are generally those that the characters bring about themselves. Realistic fiction writing was a big hit! We are moving on to nonfiction writing this month as we concentrate on Biographies and Informational Texts.

In Math, we have been focused on Division as the inverse operation of Multiplication. Fact families have been used to learn Division facts. (A fact family has one or two multiplication facts and one or two division facts that use the same three numbers. The children are learning to divide by the numbers 2 through 9 and to follow rules for 0 and 1). Students will use patterns and known facts to find unknown Multiplication facts and master Division facts by thinking about a known Multiplication fact. A solid understanding of Division will lay the foundation for Fractions as we explore representing parts of wholes. Multiplication and Division will continue to be critical components of our third grade math program throughout the year.

In preparation for February's Star Lab, students are learning about the Solar System, identifying the relative positions of the planets and the similarities and differences between these planets. Students are learning about the effect of the different angles of sunlight on Earth as well as what causes the seasons and what causes day and night. The Earth and Moon have a unique relationship with each other as they are discovering, unveiling the mysteries of the moon's phases and the unique occurrences of solar and lunar eclipses. (The winter sky presents a unique opportunity for star gazing!)

We are very proud of our third graders as we evaluate and reflect on our first half of the school year. We wish everyone an enjoyable February break!

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

Life would be pretty boring if we always agreed with each other. In Peace Pals with our kindergarteners and second graders, our students are learning that the diversity of our thoughts and opinions makes it interesting to listen to each other and gives us opportunities to learn from one another. Students are practicing to listen without judgment to what other students have to say. We are very pleased with our students' receptiveness to this very important skill. Bravo!

Writer's workshop is full under way. Students are growing in their repertoire of strategies. Students have moved from personal narratives to realistic fiction. This writing focuses on the "sense of the story". Because problem-solution is critical to this genre, students describe the struggle characters face in resolving a problem. Plot and character development are two elements most important in writing fiction. They have been studying and creating leads and discovering how they can be a link to the heart of the story. Students are also sharing and conferencing with their peers becoming "writing teachers" Celebrations of stories has become a highlight enabling students to share their writings with pride.

The fourth grade is working on the study of non-fiction 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 on-going comparing and contrasting the skills required for fiction and non-fiction reading.

In math students have learned to multiply up to four digits numbers using strategies based on place value and the properties of operations. Students have also learned to solve two-step problems posed with whole numbers and having whole number answers using the four operations. Students have now completed a topic using mental math to divide, estimate quotients using compatible numbers and dividing with remainders.



In science we are studying about the rock cycle and how igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are formed. We are also delving into the process of how weathering and erosion affect rocks. In Social Studies, our students are discovering Dutch settlement of New Jersey and about the transfer of power to English control. Do you know how New Jersey got its name? Ask our fourth graders to find out! We are very proud of our fourth graders as we evaluate and reflect on our first half of the school year.

### **ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI**

Winter Greetings from the art room. We have been very busy redecorating the auditorium for the school spirit assemblies and every child participating by making a colorful bee. Hearts of Hope is underway and we will be delivering the hearts to St Barnabas Hospital in February. All classes are busy bees creating group collages that will be framed and auctioned off at the Tricky Tray in March. The students are creating collages in the style of Eric Carle and there is a different theme for every grade level. Best of luck on winning one of them! Every student will make their mark - a fingerprint on our school wide painting of Mickey Mouse. See you there!

### **RESOURCE ROOM – SARI SANTORO**

The New Year brings us to review our goals for this school year. In September, all the students agreed that becoming a better independent reader was a goal for this school year. In order to accomplish this they resolved to practice reading daily, ask questions, and listen in class and most importantly not to give up! We reviewed these resolutions in January. Your students should be reading nightly for twenty minutes and responding to what they have read. We recently started reading non-fiction. They should continue to respond by making a connection, asking questions, inferring or summarizing what they have read. We review this nightly work in the Resource Center daily. We are currently reading a novel together that is a biography. While reading our biographies, we reviewing non-fiction text features and learning more strategies for non-fiction reading.

In Math, students in third grade have completed their study of multiplication and have moved on to division. They should still be memorizing their multiplication facts. It is a long process to memorize all the facts but a necessary challenge. Fourth graders have learned that a lot of their math learning involves knowing the multiplication facts. Fourth graders have recently finished their unit of study on multiplying two digit numbers. We are currently learning long division.

### **SPEECH – GILLIAN ALDWORTH**

Students are having fun working on their articulation and learning winter vocabulary. Students requiring development in pragmatic language continue to work on "social thinking" skills, which will help them to be better communication partners. We are always working on building stronger social skills and peer interaction through game play. Siblings and parents are great speech models for students! Students are learning to ask questions and make appropriate comments in order to improve the quality of their peer interactions. Reading stories and discussing movies are a great way to develop stronger language skills. You can discuss the main idea, favorite characters, the sequence of the story, the major problem and how it was solved! Stay warm!

### **SPANISH – LUISA WITTER**

Hola de la clase de español! Felicidades (Congratulations) for a job well done by the students in grades 1-4 in singing the F.N. Brown Feeling song in Spanish at the Spirit Assembly! Excelente job to all of you! Students in first grade have been learning the words hot, cold, small, medium, and large and using it in sentences by participating in a Goldilocks and the Three Bears unit. Through various activities, students were able to identify small, medium, and large, hot and cold, and were able to act out parts of the story in class. Second graders have been learning the days of the week by learning it through a song, verbal and guided practice, and through games. Third graders have been learning classroom objects



through songs, games, and different activities to reinforce those concepts. Fourth graders learned how to tell time in Spanish along with places in the community through a variety of activities. Students have begun on a unit of family and will be doing a project on family as a culminating activity. Keep up the good work en español! I am so proud of all of you and the progress that you are making en español!

### **READING INTERVENTION – KELLY FLYNN**

In Reading Intervention, the students have been practicing skills and strategies to help them become the best readers they can be. In first grade the students have been working on the glued sounds ank, ink, onk and unk. The students have used magnet boards to manipulate these sounds in words and have played games to work on tapping out words. In second grade, the students have been reviewing the magic “e” and have started to work with the vowel teams ai and ay. In third and fourth grade the students have been working on comprehension strategies. Students have been using evidence from the text to support their answers and thoughts. The students have even gone a step further and are working on writing a response using this evidence. They are using the prompt RACE (Restate, Answer, Cite, and Explain) to help guide them write their response.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL**

This has been a great year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have just completed their scooter unit and are also keeping track of their own fitness goals in preparation for the upcoming USMC fitness tests. The Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are continuing to work on various locomotor skills, pathways and levels in addition to having completed their own scooter unit.

More importantly all of the children have been working very hard on their sportsmanship and teamwork skills. The difference from the first week of school until now is amazing. I am so proud of how they are learning to work together as part of a team. I can only hope that this is rubbing off on all aspects of their lives. I am excited to see the ongoing development of these skills this year.

Just a friendly reminder for all parents, please make sure that your children have sneakers on days that they have physical education. There is nothing worse than having to tell a child that they can't participate because they don't have safe footwear on. The days that students need sneakers are posted on my website. Thanks.

P.S.- If you have any questions or need to contact me, my e-mail address is [rhill@veronaschools.org](mailto:rhill@veronaschools.org).

### **HEALTH – MARIA RODGERS**

In addition to my school nursing duties, caring for the health and safety of the students, I also have the pleasure of teaching health education to several grade levels. As January began, so did health lessons in the fourth grade. The fourth graders have welcomed me into their classrooms to learn about the circulatory and respiratory systems. They have been both attentive and enthusiastic learners. In an effort to emphasize the importance of heart and lung health, other topics have included “How to take your Pulse” and “Smoking: Say No to Tobacco.” The common theme to these lessons is the promotion of health and wellness. It has been exciting to see the students in the classroom setting as opposed to the nursing office. Teaching health lessons has provided me with the opportunity to get to know the students better and meet students who I haven't yet met.

I will begin teaching four health lessons to our first grade students starting in February. I am excited to instruct them on 911 Emergencies, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette, and Nutrition using the My Plate guidelines to learn about the five basic food groups. Later in the school year, I will be looking forward to teaching health lessons to the Kindergarten classes. Health education at an early age will help give students the tools to make healthy choices and it promotes health and wellness throughout one's life time.