

F.N. Brown Newsletter

November 2014

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

Dates to
Remember...



- Mon., 11/3-** SCA Meeting 7:00pm (Library)
- Tues., 11/4-** **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snacks
Election Day Bake Sale
- Thurs., 11/6- & Fri., 11/7** **NO SCHOOL**
Teacher's Convention
- Tues., 11/11-** SCA Pasta Lunch
Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
- Thurs., 11/13-** SCA Pizza Lunch
Sterling Mine Trip 4th grade
(8:45-2:00pm)
- Mon., 11/17-** *Report Cards Issued*
- Tues.- Thurs.- 11/18, 19 & 20** **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snacks
Parent Teacher Conferences
(11/20- Evening Conferences)
- Fri., 11/21-** B-Line Articles Due
- Tues., 11/25-** Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
- Wed., 11/26-** **12:30 Dismissal**
Thanksgiving Feast 11:30
- Thurs., 11/27- & Fri., 11/28** **NO SCHOOL**
Happy Thanksgiving!

B-Line News

Election Day Bake Sale –

Calling all bakers!!! Tuesday, November 4th is another of our great fundraisers. We ask for donated baked goods which are sold throughout the day to Election Day patrons. The sale will end at 1:00. Any questions please contact Dana Wynne, wynne5614@gmail.com.

(NOTE: DUE TO ALLERGIES, PLEASE DO NOT BAKE WITH PEANUTS OR NUTS.)

Thanksgiving Feast –

Our annual Thanksgiving Feast is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26th at 11:30. This is a great day for our students, but in order for it to be a success we need your help. Class parents will contact you with details on what is needed, so please mark your calendars now. It's a great way to kick off your holiday. Be sure you don't miss out and keep a look out for more details coming soon. If you have questions please contact Amy Aiello, amyaiello@yahoo.com.

Busy Bee Scrip Program –

Thank you to those who have supported this program so far this year. We have profited over \$350! With the holidays quickly approaching, we hope you will consider utilizing this super simple program as you prepare for Thanksgiving. Not only do we offer cards from local grocers such as FoodTown, ShopRite, Stop and Shop/Peapod and Whole Foods, but retailers to help with all your hosting needs like Bed Bath and Beyond, Macys, Target. Gift cards make great birthday gifts too! November order forms will be coming home soon and are due back on the 12th. Need a retailer that is not on Novembers form? All of our order forms are available on the F.N. Brown website under community or by contacting Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973.8857.8663

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

Contact Us

B-Line Editor: Melissa Watkins

Email: melissawatkins@gmail.com





More B-Line News

Shoparoo –

There is no easier way to raise money for our school. We have raised over \$100 so far this school year by simply taking pictures of our shopping receipts with the Shoparoo app! It does not matter what you buy- every receipt submitted counts. So what are you waiting for? You can either download the free app from the Apple AppStore 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!

Stop & Shop A+ Rewards –

Do you shop at Stop & Shop? Now you can make money for our school by simply grocery shopping now thru March 19, 2015. You can log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus and choose “Register Your Card” from the A+ menu on the left to register your card online OR email Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com and provide your Stop and Shop loyalty card number. This program is open to all friends and family of the F.N. Brown Community so please ask your friend, neighbors and family. Once a card is registered under our school, each time you shop at Stop & Shop using your loyalty card, you will earn CASH for our school!

Half Day Snacks –

On November 4, 18, 19 & 20 the SCA will be sponsoring Half Day Snacks for all students. The snacks must be pre-ordered so please make sure you send in your money. We are now offering a new half day snack which is a soft pretzel from the Philly Pretzel Company in Livingston. All snacks come with a water. Watch your Wednesday packets in October and November for sign up details. Please direct any questions to Janice Garthwaite, janicegarthwaite@gmail.com.

SCA Membership –

Thank you to all the families and faculty who have paid their membership dues this year. The membership dues help to fund some of the wonderful activities and materials the school needs. Membership dues are \$10.00 (cash or check made payable to FN Brown SCA) per family and can be sent into school to the attention of Janice Garthwaite, SCA Membership.

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, krismaut1@verizon.net.

Fall Festival –

The Fall Festival Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our Fall Festival this year. It was a great success. Our bakers really outdid themselves by providing the most delicious and festive treats. The children and adults were delighted with all the goodies and beautiful fall decorations. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered to help set up, clean up and sell on the day, especially Mr. Louis Cerretta and Mr. Iggy Joswik, our fabulous custodians. We could not have done it without all of you!

Wrapping Paper Committee –

Thank you to all who participated in the Wrapping Paper Sale. What a great success! Wrapping paper orders will arrive in early November. Large orders will be packed in boxes and smaller orders will be packed in bags. Please keep a look out for more details to follow in the weekly packets. REMEMBER- YOU CAN CONTINUE TO ORDER ON INNISBROOK.COM throughout the year and we will earn revenue. Thanks again for your continued support!

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates:

November 3, 5, 10, 12, 14, 17, 21, 24 and 25.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered.





Birthday Boys and Girls



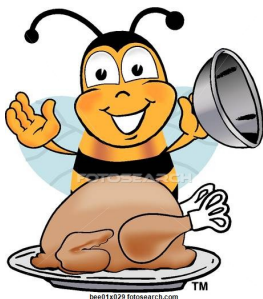
November

Olivia Plath, Matthew Medina, Illan Haque, Maren McCabe,
Samantha Rizzi, Isabella Garcia, Eleanor Battersby, Nia Pilauri,
Joshua Fourez, Dylan Frey, Brady Watkins, Liam McEnerney,
Isabella Gonzalez, Victoria Valesse, Kyla Pavia, Alexander Rodriguez,
Olivia Codey, Sophie Hacker



Box Tops for Education

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



And A Special Thank You Goes to...

The Wrapping Paper Committee! What a successful and great fundraiser. It would not have been possible without the efforts of Nicole Onofrietti.

The Buzz Book Committee! Everyone can set up some playdates now thanks to Melissa Watkins and Diana Garmont.

The School Pictures Committee! Great job Chantal Matta.

**F.N. BROWN – THE BEST
SCHOOL IN TOWN!**

FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL

125 GROVE AVENUE
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

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

ANTHONY V. LANZO, Ed. D
Principal

November 2014

Dear Parents,

I can't believe it is November already! The school year is moving quickly. We have many wonderful events occurring at F.N. Brown each day, as I am sure your child has shared at home. Thanks to all of our FNB parents for the tremendous support given to our school programs on a daily basis. A strong home school partnership is critical in fostering a positive experience for all of our students. Also, thank you to the various parent volunteers for helping us provide all of the extras for our students.

Report Cards – PLEASE NOTE

Report cards will be issued to students in grades 1-4 on Monday, November 17th. All report cards will be accessed on-line via Genesis/parent portal. Parents may request to receive a hard copy of the report card in writing by sending the main office an email: adugan@veronaschools.org. All parents should have received the parent portal access information. If you have not received the information, please contact our main office.

Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 18th, 19th, and 20th. Each teacher will share your child's social and academic progress thus far. Teachers will also focus in on areas that are in need of growth during this school year. **Please note that we will have a 12:30 dismissal on all three conference dates.**

Thanksgiving Feast

We look forward to our annual feast on Wednesday, November 26th @ 11:30 AM. Thank you to our generous SCA for organizing and funding this special tradition that our students and staff truly enjoy. Reminder: We will have a 12:30 dismissal on Wednesday, November 26th and school will be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Math-A-Thon

This year, the F.N. Brown elementary students will be given the opportunity to participate in Math-A-Thon, an education-based fundraising program that benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and its lifesaving work. We participated in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon two years ago and raised close to \$9,000.00. Math-A-Thon is an optional fundraiser that all students will have the opportunity to participate. The program is designed to teach our students the importance of helping others while they practice their math skills.

Grade level assemblies will be held for each grade level on Tuesday, November 11th to explain to the students about the fundraiser, what it involves, and the benefits of doing it. On this day, your child will receive a parent consent form and a Math Funbook. If your child chooses to be involved in the fundraiser, the provided consent form must be signed and returned to their teacher by Friday,

November 21, 2014. The students will then obtain sponsors such as family and friends to make donations either on a monetary amount per problem (example: 10 cents or 20 cents per math problem that is done and correct) or pledge a flat donation amount. We recommend that students do not go door-to-door to solicit sponsors. Parents need to be involved in the process of soliciting donations from family and friends. Students then complete their provided Math Funbook which is to be completed at home independently. Included in the book is an answer sheet near the back so parents can participate and help check answers. There is also a tally sheet so parents can add up your child's points. Students then collect and return pledges to their teacher by Friday, December 5, 2014. All profits and donations will be submitted to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to help treat children with illnesses and cancers. Each participant will receive a certificate of appreciation and based upon the amount raised, there will be prizes given. Students will benefit from this fundraiser because not only will they raise money to help other children, but their math skills can be practiced in a fun and educational way.

Please look for additional information about the Math-A-Thon during the upcoming weeks. In the interim, you may contact any of the committee members if you have a question – Mr. Hill, Dr. Lanzo, Mrs. Pellegrino and Ms. Witter.

Conflict Resolution

Children in the early years are faced with a number of problems in a typical day. Learning to solve them is a desirable skill to teach children. Solving problems involves critical thinking, which carries over into academic areas as well.

What we are doing in school: *Conflict Resolution*

Our students are taught the "Win – Win Guidelines" at school.

1. Take time for cooling off if needed. Find alternative ways to express anger.
2. Each person states their feelings and the problem as they see it using "I Messages".
No blaming, no name calling, no interrupting.
3. Each person states the problem as the other person sees it.
4. Each person says how they are responsible for the problem.
5. Brainstorm solutions together and choose a solution that satisfies both – a Win/Win solution.
6. Affirm, forgive or thank your partner.

At F.N. Brown school we view problems as opportunities to learn. Helping your child solve problems increases his or her independence. Capable children solve problems effectively. Conflict Resolution began as a school initiative a couple of years ago at our school. We are very proud of our work up to this point and we are viewed as the district pioneers with this approach. A committee of staff members, representing each of the other elementary schools, is currently signed up for the Conflict Resolution training sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. This is the same training that our school committee attended. The goal for the other elementary schools this year is to explore, learn and apply this initiative at each Verona elementary school respectively. This is very exciting! FNB will continue to work on this initiative and implement the next phase focused on *Peer Mediation*.

Our Character Education committee spearheading the Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation approaches is comprised of the following staff members: Mrs. Collins, Mr. Hill, Dr. Lanzo, Mrs. Tully, Mr. Waibel and Ms. Witter.

How home and school can continue to work together:

You can support problem solving at home by using the steps listed above with your child. In addition, you can help by giving your child space to solve his or her problems wherever possible. Acknowledge when you see your child effectively solving a problem and label it as such. When you allow your child to solve problems, you are communicating your confidence in his or her abilities and competence.

Literacy Night for Parents

On a closing note, thank you to those parents that attended our first district Literacy Night (K-4). It was a huge success! Over 200 parents joined us for a very informative evening. Numerous elementary teaching staff members and administrators volunteered their time researching, planning and presenting the various components of a balanced literacy approach. I had the pleasure of presenting background information focused on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the upcoming standardized assessments - The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as your child's school principal. Enjoy the rest of fall!

Sincerely,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

F.N. Brown SCA November 2014

Message from SCA Co-Presidents



Autumn is in full swing and the F.N. Brown SCA has many wonderful events underway as well as coming up in November and beyond. We would like to thank all the families that baked for the Election Day Bake Sale on November 4th along with Dana Wynne and the committee members who organized the sale. We also extend a hearty thanks to the Half Day Snack committee for setting up and delivering a special snack to our students on half days! We are looking forward to the new Hot Pretzel Snack this month!!

October was bursting with successful SCA activities made possible by all the volunteers who continue to support our students with their efforts. The Fall Festival began with pumpkin picking for the students and ended in homemade Fall treats. Thanks to all who baked and helped at the event. The SCA Hot Lunch Program is underway and providing pizza, bagel, pasta and chicken lunches with a smile. Many thanks to Sandy Colon and Leanne Costigan for organizing and doing all the shopping for the SCA Hot Lunch program. The Buzz Book showcases student artwork within the directory of F.N. Brown student families. Thank you to Melissa Watkins and Diana Garmont for organizing the artwork contest, the printing and the distribution of the Buzz Book! The Busy Bee Bucks Scrip program is going strong by providing a variety of new gift card options this year. The SCA sold Fun Stuff books and had the Wrapping Paper Sale in October which all bring in cash for F.N. Brown students. Please continue to support the SCA by purchasing your Holiday Gift Cards through the Busy Bee Bucks program. The Wrapping Sale has concluded and delivery will take place before Thanksgiving. Thank you to all who worked hard on these committees to make the sales so successful. Our 1st Used Book Sale was an overwhelming success!! Thanks to all who donated, volunteered and purchased books to support FNB!!!

Please continue to support our ongoing fundraisers including: Shoparoo, Busy Bee Bucks, Oliver's Labels, Box Tops, Target and Stop and Shop.

As we transition through the seasons, the SCA begins to plan for the **Thanksgiving Feast, the Adult Social, Holiday House, and Holidays are for Sharing.** We look forward to the Holiday Concert as well and all of the joy that the season brings for our hard working students and their families.

We would like to wish the Faculty, Staff and the families of F.N. Brown a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou ~ SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

What an extremely busy autumn it has been! Kindergarten began the month of October with a ride on the school bus to Turtle Back Zoo. Everyone had a great experience visiting with the animals and sharing their adventure with their new friends. The very next day marked F.N. Brown's Fall Festival. All the Kindergartners wandered around the school pumpkin patch choosing their favorite pumpkin and being very careful not to pull their stems off. Thank you S.C.A.!

This month in Math we have just completed work on counting, reading and writing numbers 0-5. In Writing Workshop, the children have been sharing personal narratives and drawing pictures of true stories with a beginning, middle and ending. Reading Workshop has just completed the Launching Unit. Both Reading and Writing are hand-in-hand in producing short stories and the skills involved in book making.

Throughout the month we have discussed what respect means within our homes and school. We will continue throughout the year to follow through with why rules are important and how to communicate with others in a respectful manner.

The F.N. Brown community celebrated Halloween with an all-school costume parade for children and parents. Class crafts and holiday parties were enjoyed throughout the day.

We all look forward to our Thanksgiving Feast next month. Turkey and stuffing and corn bread, oh my!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

October has been quite a busy month for our first graders. They are now ready for the full day and have stopped asking, "when is it time to go home or how much longer until the day is over?" The adjustment has been made by most of them. We are trying to go outside as often as we can to get rid of some of their excess energy!

They have all enjoyed their very first Writer's Celebration as first graders. Each class got to read their first published piece to the other first grade class. Listening to others stories encourages speaking in front of others as well as help some write better or even try new topics. Both classes had a wonderful time sharing. They enjoyed using the light speed sound amplification systems as well! The next writing unit is on "Small Moments" where students will write with more detail about one given situation, feeling, time or memory. This is such an interesting time in writing to watch them progress as authors. The students begin to realize writing is a communication tool and is actually quite fun! Please help your child by reminding him or her of some of the wonderful experiences just from this past summer to jog their memories. Personal narratives are always so exciting for them to write and share. Some children have written these ideas down in their homework pad, which is a great idea.

In math we have finished a unit on subtraction and are starting a unit about five and ten relationships. Students need to have a firm handle on addition to be able to see the relationship to subtraction. Please review these concepts by looking over your child's daily math skill sheet. We have been focusing on math vocabulary in class as well as "key words" especially when it comes to word problems. Some vocabulary words you may hear your child use are: join, part-part-whole, addend, difference, equals, and many more.

In science, both first grade classes have finished up a unit on matter and have learned about the different types of matter such as: solids, liquids, and gases. They are learning to be scientists and by taking on that role they had to make predictions and really think about the outcome of some of the fun experiments that were done. These experiments really helped to spark their science curiosity.

Reading as a whole group as well as individuals has kept our reading time very interesting. The students love to choose their own reading materials. This acts as a motivation for some and a challenge for others. Students are being encouraged to read information that interests them as well as be assigned specific reading materials to learn a given skill. Reading using context clues, making predictions and using cause and effect have been taught to show what good readers do when reading.

In Foundations, the children have reviewed all 26 of the letter sounds as well as have reviewed the short vowel sounds. They have learned what a CVC word is and that in most cases the vowel in the middle makes a short vowel sound. Your child has also learned what a digraph is. If you do not know what a digraph is, please ask your child to see what they remember. Digraphs are: th, wh, sh, ch, and ck. All of the students learned that ck will only ever come at the end of a word after a short vowel sound. They also learned that wh will only come at the beginning of a word. There are lots of spelling “rules” that your child is learning to become an independent speller. This is a process and it does take time.

At home you can continue to help your child become an independent learner by asking him or her to make connections to their reading, remind them of the Golden Rules and remember to have patience. Thank you!

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

We have had a fun start to fall in second grade! Our first trip was to The Morris Museum. The students enjoyed two programs: NJ Nature Walk and Prehistoric Earth. Students had the opportunity to explore the museum and take part in hands on activities based on the topics they learned. We all had fun being able to touch and explore genuine animal artifacts and fossils.

In Reading Workshop we have moved from our Launching Unit into a Fiction Unit. We will be learning about the different genres of fiction including- realistic fiction, fantasy fiction, and traditional literature (folktales). We continue to work on our stamina, confidence, fluency, and comprehension. We have read some great stories such as Tony’s Bread, Little Red Riding Hood- A New Fangled Prairie Tale, and A Sick Day for Amos McGee. We have worked on our retelling skills after reading our own “just right” books. It is important to practice retelling while reading at home as well.

We are having a great time in Writing Workshop as we explore writing realistic fiction stories. The students have come up with characters just like themselves and are writing a story based on the fictional writing format: characters, setting, problem, and solution.

In Math we have just completed our review topics on addition, subtraction, strategies and word problems. Many students still need to practice their basic facts up to 20 for speed and accuracy. Please continue to review these facts at home often. We are currently working with equal groups by looking at repeated addition and arrays. After that, we will move on to Place Value to 100.

We continue to learn about Energy in Science. We have just completed the chapter on Light and Heat and we are moving on to Sound. We will learn about how sound travels, what causes sound, and different types of sounds. We will be conducting experiments to explore all of these concepts.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO, KAREN SABATINO AND KIM SAVOLSKIS

The students are having a wonderful start to the year as they become more adjusted to third grade routines!

In Math, we have been working on adding and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and the relationship between addition and subtraction. Students should continue to practice their addition and subtraction math facts nightly so that they are mastered. Multiplication is right around the corner!

Reading Workshop is currently focused on the Fiction genre. Students are developing an understanding of various forms, features, and purposes of fiction. They are reading and studying different types of fiction pieces including fantasy, traditional, and realistic fiction. The students’ reading of fiction is enhanced by an understanding of the narrative structure, story elements, and themes associated with each particular type of fiction writing. Students are learning specific reading skills and strategies that will enable them to visualize, infer, identify the author’s message, and engage with the texts they read.

Students should use their thinking stems when responding to reading and incorporate all of the elements of story in their reading responses.

Students are finalizing their first Narrative Writing assignment which is focused on the quality of writing. Incorporating their Grammar Usage and Mechanics (GUM) lessons, students are challenged with forming complete sentences, creating strong leads in their “seed” stories, using powerful vocabulary and strong verbs, demonstrating proper paragraphing, and using correct punctuation and capitalization. Emphasis is placed on self-editing and revising, as students review their work to create a cohesive narrative. We are proud of the strides the students have already made this year in Writing Workshop.

In Science, students are learning about how all living things are made of cells which are the basic structure of all living things. They will be able to identify and compare characteristics of living and nonliving things and describe parts of the cell. They will also be able to describe the life cycles of plants and animals at the completion of the unit. Reading skills in this unit focus on comparing and contrasting as well as sequencing the changes of living things (i.e, plant and animal life cycles). Students should continue to incorporate the reading skills of inference, visualizing, and questioning into this non-fiction subject area.

Social Studies lessons have been focused on Map Skills as students learn about the regions of the United States. Being able to identify the states within a particular region as well as being able to effectively use cardinal directions is critical to student understanding. This regions unit will pave the way for our next unit focused on Native Americans.

Although students have recently begun cursive handwriting, they should continue to practice legibility in both print and cursive across the subject areas. Please continue to emphasize the importance of writing carefully and double checking work with your child when they are through with an assignment. As the first marking period comes to a close, we look forward to seeing everyone for Parent Teacher conferences. We wish everyone a safe and healthy start to the holiday season!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Readers of all ages are drawn to fiction and it very well be the genre that students are most likely to choose as they search their library or bookstore. Fiction encompasses many different types of stories – fantastical, magical, historical, mythological and realistic. Part of the magic in any unit of study is exposing students to possibilities within a genre. By reading and studying different types of fiction students will develop an understanding of various forms, features and purposes of fiction.

Writer’s workshop is full under way. Students are growing in their repertoire of strategies. They are continuing to collect entries, which inspire them to create a story. 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.

In math, fourth graders have begun Topic 4. Students are learning how to use mental math to add or subtract, estimate sums and differences of whole numbers and subtracting across zeros. Students are also practicing how to solve multistep word problems posed with whole numbers using the four, including problems in which remainders must be interpreted.

Students are continuing to examine NJ’s four regions and their specific characteristics. Their upcoming class trip to the Sterling Mineral Museum will have them travel through three of the four land regions of New Jersey. They have also began to find points on a map using latitude and longitude coordinates as well as practice other map reading skills.

In science students are concluding our study of understanding ecosystems. We discovered that ecosystems are complicated systems with many interactions among living and nonliving things. We also learned that human and natural forces can interact with ecosystems to cause changes. We are now in the midst of learning how energy transfers into ecosystems, the roles of living things and how they get their energy.

Our Peace Pal program is in full gear. Fourth graders are leading our kindergarten and second graders in activities devoted to learning how to get along better with classmates as well as learning to talk about their thoughts and feelings in a group. Students are also learning how to solve problems and make healthy choices.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL

This is shaping up to be a very exciting year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The 3rd and 4th graders have already completed their soccer unit and have finished their pre-tests for the USMC fitness tests. I am excited to watch our students set their own fitness goals and have them learn that through hard work they can achieve these goals. The Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders are working on various locomotor skills, pathways and levels and have been utilizing these skills during various games and activities.

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.

TECHNOLOGY – JENNIFER HOGAN

We have had a great start to the school year! The new Kindergartners were very excited to begin Technology Class. They have learned the lab rules and can identify the parts of the computer. Students have begun mastering their mouse skills while completing activities that help reinforce the letter, number, and pattern concepts they are learning in class. The first grade classes have graduated and now “log in” to their own screens. They have studied the parts of the computer, created name collages and completed virtual science lab activities about the states of matter.

In second grade, students practiced keyboarding and editing while typing and decorating October poems. Students enjoyed our lesson on energy and the virtual experiments that we completed. The second grade also learned about communities and used Google Maps to explore Verona.

Third graders learned about patriotic symbols of America and came to Technology class and completed a Patriotic Symbols Web Quest. Third grade also learned how to type and edit poems in the proper format using Microsoft Word. Students learned how to create Boards on the Discovery Education website. The fourth grade classes have been practicing their keyboarding by typing poems and completing typing activities. Fourth grade also learned to complete story maps with story elements using Inspiration software. There is so much more ahead for Technology, it is going to be a great year!

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Art Room News: We have been busy bees in art class. All classes created fall textured landscapes and fun Halloween projects in October. We also designed artwork for the Original Artworks school- wide fundraiser. We are beginning color theory projects in all grades k-4 and we will be making our annual collage turkeys for Thanksgiving in the lower grades. In December we will design and sculpt holiday decorations for the students to give as gifts to all of their families. It's all about caring, sharing and learning at F.N Brown. Enjoy your family during these special months and always. Keep on creating!

SPEECH – GILLIAN ALDWORTH

Great speech and language skills are developing at F.N.Brown! Students are having fun working on their articulation while building stronger social skills and peer interaction through game play. Great times to practice articulation at home are during nightly reading and at the dinner table. Playing games like 'Go Fish' with picture cards with the target sound are easy to make and fun to play. Students enjoy playing 'I-Spy' and searching for items that have their sound in it. This game can be played while food shopping, taking a walk or playing around the house. Siblings and parents are great speech models for

students! Students requiring development in pragmatic language continue to work on "social thinking" skills, which will help them be better communication partners. Students are learning to ask questions and make appropriate comments in order to improve the quality of their peer interactions. We are off to a great start and I am looking forward to a fun and successful year in speech! Happy Autumn!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

Our 4th grade band students have been hard at work learning how to hold their instruments, shape their mouths (embouchure), where to place their hands and fingers, and how to use their air. For all wind instruments, the students should not be puffing cheeks. If you see this, just give them a gentle reminder. Along with all that they must learn to read the letters (pitch) and the counts (rhythm). This is a very daunting task and the real key to success is following through at home. A short but *daily* practice routine is the most beneficial way for students to get better both more thoroughly and efficiently. Students are only asked to practice for 10 - 15 minutes a day, but it is the *every day* part that is crucial. A longer period of time on a couple of days is not only less helpful, it can actually be detrimental since beginning students don't have enough stamina to sustain a long practice session.

For our first concert, all students are working on these songs: *Hot Cross Buns*, *Au Claire de la Lune*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, *Lightly Row*, *Good King Wenceslas*, & *Jingle Bells*. Hopefully you are hearing (and recognizing) them often. We will also be having various solo and duet performances. As always the students are very excited and we look forward to our first performance. Dress is black pants or skirt, with a white shirt or blouse. Boys wear a tie of any style and design. Any shoes are acceptable.

SPANISH – LUISA WITTER

Hola de la clase de español! These past two months (septiembre y octubre), students have been learning a lot in Spanish and have transitioned nicely back into español for the year. First grade students all got a Spanish name this year that they will be using in Spanish class. First graders have been learning basic greetings in Spanish including being able to answer How are you in Spanish, What is your name, say Hello, Goodbye, etc. For Hispanic Heritage Month, students got to see different instruments from Spanish speaking countries and had the opportunity to play the instruments to Spanish merengue and salsa music. Students will be comparing and contrasting the holiday Halloween (Dia de las brujas) to Day of the Dead (Dia de los muertos) that is celebrated in México. The first graders are off to a wonderful start with their first year of Spanish!

Second grade students are practicing greetings but are building to their knowledge by having mini conversations with each other in Spanish using basic greetings such as Hello, What is your name, How are you, See you later, Goodbye, Good morning, etc. Whereas in first grade, students were expected to just be able to answer the questions in Spanish, second grade students are practicing to ask the questions as well to apply it to have a mini basic conversation with someone in Spanish. Students are beginning a unit of numbers. Second grade students will be learning numbers up to twenty through song, various class activities, games, and both verbal and written practice.

Third grade and fourth grade students started off the year by brainstorming ways of why Spanish is so important to know in today's society and how knowing Spanish could help them as an adult when they have their own jobs. They came up with some great answers! Students have been expanding their knowledge of greetings and have learned additional ways to greet someone and the differences between greeting someone who is around their age as opposed to greeting an adult. Students presented group dialogues in class and did a great job with them. It was a wonderful opportunity to get students to practice speaking en español! Third grade students are currently working on their Hispanic Heritage projects using boards on discovery education. It is a great way of incorporating technology into español. Based on information researched at home, students are presenting it using some basic Spanish sentences! It was a great project for them to realize that so many of their favorite artists, baseball players, singers, actors, football players, soccer players, are Spanish or who have a background of Spanish! In addition, it is a great opportunity to practice typing as well! Fourth grade students are working on a Hispanic Heritage Month scavenger hunt for them to realize how important the Spanish language is to our society. Some missions consisted of going to a Spanish restaurant and ordering Spanish food, interviewing someone who is Spanish, finding a river, state, or city that comes from a Spanish word in the United States, locating

signs locally that are in Spanish among many other missions! Fourth grade students also practiced the date, weather, and counting the number of days in school up to 100. Felicidades to the fourth grade students for doing a terrific job saying part of the announcements en español!

READING INTERVENTION – KELLY FLYNN

I'm excited to say that Reading Intervention started this month at FN Brown! Reading Intervention groups will meet on Thursdays for half hour sessions. The goal of the program is to help students strengthen their reading skills and gain confidence in their reading abilities. Groups from grades 1-4 are working on phonemic awareness, fluency and/or comprehension strategies. The students have been using magnet boards to reinforce Foundations skills. The program is off to a great start and children are eager to learn!!