

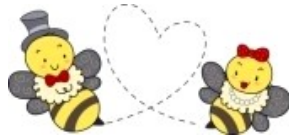
F.N. Brown Newsletter

February 2016

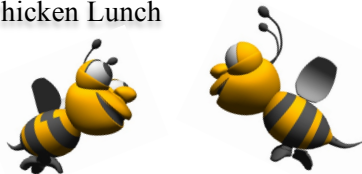
Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Kate Curren

Dates to Remember...



- Tues., 2/2** SCA Pasta Lunch
- Wed., 2/3-** Valentine's Day Projects
- Thurs., 2/4-** SCA Pizza Lunch
- Sat., 2/6-** Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am
- Mon., 2/8-** Star Lab Begins (2/8-2/19)
- Tues., 2/9** Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm
- Thurs., 2/11-** SCA Bagel Lunch
- Fri., 2/12-** No School
- Mon., 2/15-** No School- President's Day
- Thurs., 2/18-** SCA Pancake Lunch
- Fri., 2/19-** Star Lab Ends
B-Line Articles Due
- Wed., 2/24-** Grade 3 Class Trip
Liberty Science Center
(8:45am to 2:30pm)
- Thurs., 2/25 -** 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. 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. The sale will run from February 8th through the 19th. Orders can be placed online at www.gertrudehawkchocolates.com. Please contact Joan Testa at Jmtesta@me.com for more information.

Note from the Treasurer – For those submitting expenses for various programs and would like reimbursement please place your receipts in an envelope along with your name, a filled out reimbursement form and the receipt with the program name written on it. For example: Jane Doe: Hospitality Committee \$15 – refreshments for Back to School night; John Smith: Fun Fair Committee \$15 – game prize purchase. For those handing in deposits please make sure the money is sorted and all forms are filled out. Each deposit needs a summary form, a deposit and breakdown form filled out along with a bank deposit slip (3-4 forms per deposit). Also please contact me to arrange for a drop off or pick time so that I can get all the forms and money. All forms can be found in the main office or online. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Garthwaite at 973-768-1291 or janicegarthwaite@gmail.com.

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: February 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26 & 29.

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

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

Birthday Boys and Girls



February



Molly Hayter,
 Dante Palmer, Michael Villani,
 Daria Gebbia, Isabella Medina,
 Devyn Quigley, Juliette Fernicola,
 Brandon Healy, Samuel Besante,
 Jelainny Henriquez, Wei Li Chen

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



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!



More B-Line News

Busy Bee Bucks – Thank you to everyone who has been helping raise money for our school by purchasing gift cards through Busy Bee Bucks.

This month, every family that orders at least \$100 of gift cards through Busy Bee Bucks will be entered to win a \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift card!

Our program is super simple - buy gift cards at face value and use for your monthly grocery shopping, filling your car with gas, shop for clothes, shoes, office supplies and more. Gift cards are available to hundreds of retailers. For a complete list of retailer, please visit shopwithscrip.com

February order forms will be coming home during the first week of February. Orders will be due on Thursday the 11th. Complete the order form, write a check to F.N. Brown SCA, place in an envelope labeled Busy Bee Bucks and send it in your child's backpack.

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

Questions?

Please contact Kate Curren 973-857-8663 or katefullercurren@gmail.com

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. 1	Feb. 3
	Feb. 8	Feb. 10
	Feb. 22	Feb. 17
	Feb. 29	Feb. 24

And A Special Thank You Goes to...

*The Bingo Committee!

A big thank you to Deb Salanon and Stacie Ackerman. 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!

February 1, 2016

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. Curren and Mrs. Castner, SCA Co-Presidents and Mrs. Janice Garthwaite, 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 Tuesday, February 4th at noon. Hard copies will only be available to those families that have made this request in writing to the main office.

Star Lab

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 8th and it will conclude on Thursday, February 18th. 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.

Looking Ahead: Special Activities...

Classroom teachers will be preparing lessons that focus on the 100th 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 our parent volunteers for their assistance with this meaningful project.

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

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

*February 2016~Message from
F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents*



Dear F.N. Brown Families,

Happy February! We are quickly approaching the 100th 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 Deb Salanon and Stacey Ackerman and the rest of the committee and staff volunteers for help 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 all who helped Mrs. J and the students.

Thanks to Tracey Dunn, Deb Salanon and Chrys Gaffney 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 Linda Byrne and the committee for planning the activities that will welcome our youngest students to F.N. Brown.

4th grade parents, please mark your calendar for March 2th 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.

Some of our 4th Grade Peer Mediators were selected to attend the Board of Education Meeting on January 26th to present a skit on what Peer Mediation is all about. They also answered questions from the Board of Ed members. Congratulations to Ellie Battersby, Michael Castner, Aeryn Curren, and Dominic Houck for a job well done!! You represented FN Brown well and we are proud of you! You can view the entire presentation of the Verona Schools website.

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 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day ~

Antonia Castner and Kate Curren
SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

Welcome 2016! This month we began with the letter “P” for Letter of the Week. The classes wore pink, purple, polka dots, plaid and pajamas to start the New Year.

We participated in our first School Spirit Week wearing homemade bee headbands and enjoying an all-school assembly celebrating “F.N. Brown, Best School in Town”. We love yelling those words ☺.

In Math, we began the operation of addition. We learned how to join objects that represented numbers together. In Writing Workshop, we have enjoyed creating our very own Pattern Books in class. Once again, the children have been both authors and illustrators. Here’s an example to what a pattern book is:

Pattern Books:

I can think of an idea to write about.

I can draw pictures.

I can write words.

I can make a pattern book.

In Reading Workshop we continue to take home our “Just Right” books. We have been working on reading strategies this month. It’s 2016 and we are off to a very exciting year!

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 use a hundreds chart. They learned about columns and rows and how to find patterns on the hundreds chart. The students also enjoyed skip counting by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s. Lastly, they listened to songs about skip counting on the Smartboard.

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. Towards the end of the unit, students enjoyed having their parents come in and watch them actually do their how-to. Both first grade classes got to enjoy watching as well as listen to their classmate’s stories. It was a blast for all!

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

We are looking forward to February since we will have lots of holidays to celebrate. There will be the 100th Day of school, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, and Presidents Day. Be sure to check out next month's newsletter to find out about all the fun and exciting activities centered on these special days. In January, both classes learned about equality and fairness by studying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The students enjoyed learning about Dr. King and the history of the time when he lived. Several stories were read and we discussed how unfairly African Americans were treated.

The second graders enjoyed three visits from Officer Martin from the Verona Police Department. His lessons focused on safety, stranger danger, and what to do in case of an emergency. Please ask your children about all the new information they have learned and about what you can do to be safe at home.

In Math we have finished subtraction with regrouping. This was a challenging skill for some that should often be revisited and reviewed at home. Next, we move on to numbers up to 1,000 and we will be adding and subtracting as well as identifying place value and number sequence. Continue practicing addition and subtraction facts at home for speed and accuracy.

In Science we are moving on to exploring Space and Weather. Both classes will be visiting the Star Lab with Mrs. Hiscano to learn about our place in space, the constellations, and the Solar System in motion. The students will enjoy hearing the exciting Greek myths behind the constellations. Star Lab will be a great addition to this Science unit in which we will explore the planets, the reasons for the seasons and day and night.

In Writing we are working on writing like the author Gail Gibbons. She is a non-fiction writer and illustrator who has written books on various topics such as holidays, animals, and places. Students are creating their own holiday and animal books and making illustrations that look similar to those of this mentor author. The books look great! Check them out in the main hallway.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

Love is in the air, a love for learning! Third Grade welcomes the arrival of Star Lab, which brings our Earth Science unit to life. Students gain a deeper understanding of the causes for day and night, and the seasons. Models simulate Earth's 24-hour rotation, and demonstrate how the Earth's tilt and orbital path, throughout the year, cause the seasons. Moon phases, the lunar cycle, and the types of eclipses will also be explored. Students will apply their reading skills, using non-fiction text features, to learn more about the Solar System and the planets. They will apply fact-finding skills to compare and contrast traits of the inner and outer planets.

Math focuses upon Division as Sharing. Concepts connect the relationship of multiplication and division, and reinforce basic facts for computation, and problem-solving strategies for multiple step problems.

In Social Studies, students will learn about immigration to better understand their own heritage, and appreciate the multi-cultural aspects of the making of America. We will explore the various waves of immigration from the early 1900's to the present time. Fiction and nonfiction literature selections, about the Ellis Island, the Titanic, and the 1920's, will provide high interest discussion and class activities. At the end of the month, a field trip to the Liberty Science center will awe students as we tour the Titanic exhibit! Students gain a great understanding of the times and an awareness of the differences in social class. This mini unit is an annual crowd pleaser, and makes for an unforgettable third grade experience! Both Science and Social Studies topics are perfect for inspiring great ideas for Writing Workshop, where our focus is informational writing.

It is always amazing to see student minds blossom and grow through these studies, just in time to welcome Spring!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

“In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” Learning about Dr. Martin Luther King was a topic that lent itself to our conflict resolution program. In Peace Pals

students reviewed lessons on bullying versus normal conflict. Students were reminded that the least a bystander can do is not join in in the bullying/teasing behavior, but that expectation is to demonstrate inclusive behavior.

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 how energy transfers in ecosystems, what the roles of living things are as well as how living things get their energy. Students learned how energy moves through food chains and food webs. In Social Studies, our students are discovering Dutch settlement of New Jersey and about the transfer of power to English control. They also have begun to compare Native American and European culture to discover differences of each culture. They are also independently researching a famous New Jerseyan in preparation for our first ever living wax museum! Students will dress up and pretend to be a famous New Jerseyan while explaining what they did that was noteworthy. We are excited to see their final product.

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Winter greetings from Mrs. J's art room. We jumped into the New Year making Hearts of Hope for cancer patients at St. Barnabas Hospital. This is a school-wide community service project we do every year. A "big" shout out to all the incredible parents who volunteered their time so lovingly. Thank You! I also want to thank the SCA for supporting this project every year. A photo of every child holding their hearts will displayed by the main office.

The 4th graders created 3D paper sculptures which are on display for the month of February in the showcases by the office. Third graders are painting symmetrical masks and will be incorporating mixed media on them. Second graders created a winter landscape and still-life paintings.

The building is buzzing with beautiful creations:

First graders created symmetrical blotto prints with a Valentine theme. They really loved the surprise when they opened their hearts to see what was revealed. Kindergarten created winter penguin scenes and Valentine paper art bees that say "Be Mine". When you are in the building take a minute to see all these beautiful creations!

Keep warm and keep on creating with your kiddies at home. It's so great for their fine motor skills and its wonderful together time.

SPANISH – LUISA WITTER

Hola de la clase de español! At the beginning of enero (January), students learned about the holiday Dia de los Tres Reyes or the Feast of the Three Kings celebrated on January 6th. Students learned about the traditions that children in Spanish speaking countries do to celebrate this holiday. In certain countries, they leave grass or hay in shoes or in shoe boxes on January 5th. On January 6th, the camels have eaten the grass or hay and the three kings leave small gifts for the children. Children wake up to find the gifts on January 6th. It was a fun celebration for students in grades 1-4.

This month, students in first grade continue to practice greetings. They also began a unit on animals using TPR (Total Physical Response). Students associate the Spanish names for the animals through actions or sounds instead of direct translation. Students also were able to describe what animals they like and dislike using *Me gusta* and *No me gusta*. Students also used adjectives of size to use the animals in a sentence. Students created their own sentences and other students were able to circle the correct answer based on the created sentence.

Students in second grade have also focused on animals as well, but with a longer list of animals. Students are using colors and sizes as adjectives to expand on their sentences. Students also use TPR (Total Physical Response) to help them remember as well.

Third grade students have focused on a unit of classroom objects, days of the week, weather, and numbers. Students reviewed colors and are able to describe the classroom objects using colors. Using TPR (Total Physical Response), students are able to demonstrate verbs and are then able to describe what they need in Spanish. Part of this unit will carry over to febrero (February) as well.

Fourth grade students have focused on a unit of places in the community. Students are also able to describe where they like to go and where they do not like to go using *Me gusta ir* and *No me gusta ir*. Students are also able to describe what is to the right of something and what is to the left of something.

I am very orgullosa (proud) of all the students and their progress en español. It is a pleasure working with your child (children) as they gain an appreciation of the Spanish language!

RESOURCE ROOM – SARI SANTORO & DANA CASALE

Ms. Casale: *December/January Skills – Happy 2016!*

Two sounds of letter C (hard and soft c)

Suffixes – plural s, -ing, -ed

Three sounds of –ed (/d/, /id/, /t/)

Doubling Rule (skip becomes skipping) –Double the final consonant after a short vowel.

Vowel Teams

S blends and L blends with all short vowels

FSZL rule

Compound Words

Mrs. Santoro:

Happy New Year! The New Year brings a change in genres for us in reading. We have moved into non-fiction reading. Third graders are reading *Who is Jane Goodall?* and fourth graders are reading *Who was Thomas Alva Edison?* We are reviewing and developing reading skills previously studied. Inferring, connecting, visualizing, summarizing and determining importance will be reviewed as skills to use when reading non-fiction. We have already discussed text features and text structures as important aspects of non-fiction reading. We will begin the skill of developing questions as we read to enhance our understanding of the novel we are reading. The students are very interested in learning about these famous people.

In math, second graders have just learned how to regroup (borrow) in subtraction. They all did a great job with this challenging skill. We are moving to completing addition and subtraction computations with three digit numbers. Third graders are working hard to memorize and understand the multiplication facts. Fourth graders are currently learning how to multiply two digit numbers. Lots of hard work is being done in math with some major math skills!

SPEECH – GILLIAN BETCHER

Speech/language students continue to improve their articulation as well as their communication skills through motivating drill activities and group language building tasks. Students are practicing correct sound production in words, phrases and sentences. They are building towards correct sound production in their spontaneous conversational speech. A fun game for students to play is “I Spy”. Take turns locating things that have the target sound in them. This is also a great game to work on using descriptive words (ex: it’s small and

fluffy). For students who are successfully producing the target sound in single words, phrases and sentences but continue to work on carryover into conversational speech, a good time to practice correct sound production is during nightly reading. Students requiring development in pragmatic language are working on "social thinking", which will help them be better communication partners. They are learning that their words and actions affect others and affect the way that others view them. Have a wonderful winter!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL

This has been a great year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The 3rd and 4th 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, 1st and 2nd 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.

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

HEALTH – MARIA RODGERS

As January began, so did health lessons in the first grade. The first graders have welcomed me into their classrooms to learn about germs and the prevention of germs through proper hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and personal hygiene. They have been both attentive and enthusiastic learners. We are building upon topics taught in kindergarten and it has been nice to see how much they know and remember from kindergarten. Teaching health lessons has provided me with the opportunity to get to know the students better in a different setting. Nutrition using the My Plate guidelines to learn about the five basic food groups and 911 emergencies will be upcoming topics in the first grade before moving on to kindergarten and fourth grade health.

As a reminder to stay healthy during flu season, here is a list of some recommendations by The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Get a yearly flu shot.
- Students should stay home when they are sick. This will help prevent others from catching their illness.
- Stay home at least 24 hours after no longer having a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever reducing medicine.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice respiratory etiquette. (A topic discussed in health class) Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away after use and wash your hands. If tissues are unavailable cover your mouth and nose with your sleeve, not your hand.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap/water is unavailable, use an alcohol based hand gel.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects touched frequently and especially when someone is ill (our custodial staff are meticulous at trying to keep our school clean).

The above suggestions will help keep all our students safe and decrease the incidence of illness during flu season. The most helpful thing staff, parents and students can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to wash their hands frequently. For more information on flu go to www.cdc.gov.

Please feel free to contact the nurse by phone or email if you have any questions or concerns. Again, Mrs. Casalino is here on Wednesday and Fridays and Mrs. Rodgers is here Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Let's all do our part to help stay healthy.