F.N. Brown School News

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo **SCA Co-Presidents: Mrs. Pam Priscoe & Mrs. Antonio Castner**

B-Line News

Mark Your Calendars – The Tricky Tray this year will be at Il Tulipano on **Wednesday, March 20, 2013.** The doors open at 6:00 pm for Sweets and Treats! – one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We hope everyone will come out and support the F.N. Brown SCA while indulging in a fabulous night out filled with fun and prizes. We welcome and encourage donations from our F. N. Brown families. We can use baskets and unused gift items you may want to donate. These items are appreciated as well as are finished baskets or gift certificates. When several families work together to create a basket, the possibilities are endless! We ask that each basket have a minimum value of $40. Admission for this event is $55.00 per person, which includes dinner and 1 sheet of level one tickets. Pre-sale tickets packets will be available for purchase for $50.00 (a $75.00 value) and the Super Grand Prize this year is a trip to **Walt Disney World**! The first two weeks of ticket sales are for F.N. Brown families and staff. After February 12th tickets will go on sale to the public. Book your table and get ready to have a wonderful evening out. Thank you for your continued support! Do you have questions? Please contact **Antonia Castner (973)571-1288 or Pam Priscoe (973)396-7415.**

February 2013 Dates to Remember...

Sat., 2/2 -	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop
Mon., 2/4 -	***Report Cards Issued***
Tues., 2/5 -	SCA Pasta Lunch
Thurs., 2/7 –	Valentine's Day Projects SCA Pizza Lunch
Mon., 2/11 -	3rd Grade Trip to SOPAC
Wed., 2/13 -	Be A Peacemaker Assembly 9:15
Thurs., 2/14 -	SCA Mexican Lunch
Fri., 2/15 thru Mon., 2/18 -	***NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK***
Tues., 2/19 -	**12:30 Dismissal** ½ Day Snack
Thurs., 2/21 -	SCA Pizza Lunch
Fri., 2/22 -	B-Line Articles Due
Wed., 2/27 -	4th Grade Parent Orientation @HBW 7pm (snowdate 2/28)
Tues., 2/28 -	SCA Chicken Lunch

Contact Us
B-Line Editor: Mrs. Valerie Balogh
Email: fnbrownsca@veronaschools.org

Birthday Boys & Girls

February

Dermot Badman, Tyler Coppola, Vincent Eremita, Juliette Fernicola, Alejandra Fraga-Perez, Daria Gebbia, Molly Hayter, Nicholas Jacobsen, Ava Keating, Collin Knight, Isabella Medina, Anthony Nigro, Emma Triggiano, Michael Villani

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: February 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 20, 22, 25, 26 and 27.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered.

More B-Line News...

Oliver's Labels – The FN Brown SCA is offering a new fundraiser with Oliver's Labels. Oliver's Labels offers a variety of products for clothing, shoes, pantry, school supplies and more! Please visit www.oliverslables.com/FNBrown to see the variety of products and to order. The school receives 20% back on all orders!

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 when 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. They are right outside the office. For more information on the Hearts of Hope program, please see Mrs. J, Chantal Matta, or Mindy Frey, or visit www.ourheatsofhope.org. Thanks again to everyone, especially our art helper moms, for your support with this project. If you would like to help out with one of your child's art classes please contact Mindy Frey at mindyfrey@gmail.com or Chantal Matta at matta_chantal@msn.com.

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

Note from the Treasurer, Dawn Mulligan- 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 call Dawn Scott Mulligan @201-247-2604 or e-mail her at jifclaims@comcast.net.

Don't Forget!!

IF ANY CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED, SUCH AS CELL PHONE OR EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE MAIN OFFICE AND YOUR CHILD'S CLASS PARENTS.

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, 2013

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. Priscoe and Mrs. Castner, SCA Co-Presidents and Mrs. Dawn Mulligan, 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 Monday, February 4th at noon. 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 100th Day of School, Groundhog Day, President's 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, Mrs. Matta and Mrs. Frey 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 2013~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 the many exciting activities that remain!

A ***BIG*** thanks to Mrs. J for having our students create almost 300 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 April Hussar and Heidi Dunphy who have organized the Valentine's Day Card Project that will be done on February 7th. 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 to all the committee members for planning the activities that will welcome our youngest students to F.N. Brown.

4th grade parents, please mark your calendar for February 27th 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.

Sweets & Treats ~ Tricky Tray will take place on March 20th at Il Tulipano; doors will not open until 6:00 p.m. Tickets to the event are $55.00. This event sells out and tickets go on sale to the public on February 12th, so please book your table prior to Februay 11th. Thank you to all the Tricky Tray and Class basket committee members, your help is greatly appreciated.

The SCA is looking at dates to reschedule Bingo night. We will send out a notice once a new date is set.

We would like to thank all the class parents and all the parents who always volunteer for ongoing SCA activities including the lunch programs, library, art and technology volunteers, class parent organizer, weekly packet assembly, BOE Liasion and all the SCA officers!! The SCA could not run without your time, dedication and support to our children! So **THANK YOU~~~**

We invite you to attend our next SCA meeting on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day ~

Pam Priscoe and Antonia Castner
SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KARA PASSAGE'S CLASS

To ring in the New Year, as a class, we set individual New Year resolutions for 2013! During these cold winter months, we have embraced the cold and warmed up to our new favorite non-fiction author, Gail Gibbons. We are exploring various parts of her texts, such as the cover, headers, definitions, diagrams, illustrations, and text, and applying them to our writing. We have also begun to read about non-fiction. We have practiced using graphic organizers to help us compare and contrast two different things.

We also learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and the impact he had on us today! Our class watched a brief video and read a mini-book about Dr. King's life. We also acted out different scenarios' related to segration. To culminate the unit, each student identified what their dream is for a better world!

In math, we review key words to help us identify if we are to add or subtract in word problems. We have also continued to build on our addition and subtraction strategies.

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

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

Brrrr! Winter is definitely here! It has been too cold to go outside most days; however, we are definitely keeping busy with lots of fun activities inside.

Star Lab arrived at FN Brown in January. We were so excited to experience it for the first time! Thanks to Mrs. Orsini for making it fun and helping us learn about the constellations.

Martin Luther King Jr's birthday gave us another opportunity to talk about treating each other with respect. During our Peace-Pals lesson, we made a peace quilt and discussed his message of peace.

Everyone is moving along through their sight word lists and we have so much fun playing Sight Word Baseball! Keep practicing!

During Pp week, we celebrated by having a Pajama Party!! We LOVED coming to school in our pajamas. In Math we explored addition and now we are learning about subtraction.

We are looking forward to some special days in February, such as Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School! Stay Warm!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

The first graders have been busy at work during the month of January. In Science, we have moved on to an additional unit about penguins. Thank you to all the helpers. We were also lucky enough to go to Star Lab again this year. Thanks to Mrs. McKenna for doing such a great job teaching the kids new things about the Earth, constellations and myths.

In math, we have learned many different strategies we can use while subtracting. The number line, mental math, fact families, and related facts were all introduced and very helpful. Counting using number patterns has also been taught. Recognizing patterns in numbers proves quite successful for a student's understanding of numbers. Skip counting by 2, 5, and 10's was lots of fun too!

January brought about a lot of creative writing to the first grade wing. The first graders had the opportunity to write about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and what their dreams are for the world. They also got to write snowmen stories and decide whether or not their snowperson was a night time adventurer or a day time one. Writing workshop stories concentrated more on readable text and learning how to make a piece readable. Peers helped one another check over their writing before showing the teacher. Readable stories must contain: 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 their 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.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

Both classes learned about equality and fairness by studying about 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 during our Reading lessons.

The second graders enjoyed a visit from the Montclair Junior Women's Club. Puppets were used in various skits highlighting such topics as disability awareness and anti-bullying strategies. This built upon many of the topics that have been presented during Peace Pals this year. A special thank you to the Montclair Junior Women's Club for a wonderful presentation.

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.

In Science we are working on exploring Space and Weather. Both classes visited Star Lab with Mrs. Hiscano two times and learned about or place in space, the constellations, and the Solar System in motion. The students especially enjoyed hearing the exciting Greek myths behind the constellations. Star Lab was a great introduction to this Science unit in which we will explore the planets, the reasons for the seasons and day and night.

We had an excellent time on our first field trip to The Museum of Early Trades and Crafts. Students went back in time to learn about the life of an early American child through a role play activity. They also became apprentices to the village Tinsmith as they learned the trades of yesteryear. Through hands on activities, students were able to make a set of marbles out of clay and a pie tin with a heart design. Thank you to the SCA for funding this educational experience that works so well with our Social Studies curriculum.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

Third Grader's at F.N. Brown have been busy bees already in 2013 We started 2013 with a lot of enthusiasm learning many new concepts as well as finishing up several units of study.

In Math, the students continued to work on their multiplication facts. The students learned various techniques and strategies to assist in the memorization process. The students learned many rhymes and are creating rhymes to remember the product, such as 6 and 7 made a reservation for 2... 6x7=42. We focused on many multiplication properties such as identity, associative, zero and distributive property. We encourage all students to continue studying their facts at home using flash cards, getting quizzed by family members, memorizing the rhymes learned and visiting www.multiplication.com to play some great games. Our next unit of study is division which knowing your multiplication facts is essential.

In Reading, both classes finished their fiction unit of study and began a unit on non-fiction. This ties in perfectly with our Social Studies unit on Immigration and Titanic. The students have marveled at the historical facts that they learned about 1912 and the Titanic using two non-fiction books as well as a fiction novel. The students learned all about the three main types of Non-fiction stories, Reference (or informational) texts, Biographies and Literary non-fiction. Through our unit of study the students were introduced to what text features are in non-fiction and how to utilize them to better understand a text.

In writer's workshop, both classes are revising and editing their personal essays and preparing to type their book reviews on tweentribune.com!

In Science, our space suits have been on as we have been navigating through space in our Solar System unit. The students were thrilled to be able to experience Star Lab 2013. The concepts in third grade are very interesting and scientific. The students were able to understand the reasons for the seasons

and observe the sun rising and setting in star lab during winter and summer. Students analyzed the path of the sun and discussed their findings the position of the sun and the two seasons. The lunar phases was another exciting lesson in Star Lab. The students were able to view the different phases of the moon and tracked the moon phases at home as well. Our final day in Star Lab the students reviewed the winter constellations and their stories.

We wish all FN Brown Families a wonderful 2013 full of happiness and health.

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE, KIM MATERNA & LOU WAIBEL

The fourth graders lived like fiction writers last month. 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 writing essays this month which will be built around a thesis/belief statement the students are passionate about. The students will support these essays with details to persuade their classmates to consider their individual opinions.

We also just completed our Fiction unit for Reading Workshop that included realistic fiction, myths, and folktales. Students worked on the five elements of story as well as theme, mood, and tone. We are now focused on the three different types of Non-fiction (Literary Non-fiction, Reference Texts, and Bibliographies) and 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.

We have just completed our unit on Division and are now concentrating our studies on Geometry where we will be describing, classifying, and analyzing geometric figures by their attributes. Students have already learned the language of geometry which is critical in identifying lines, angles, and shapes. Real-life connections are continually used to strengthen students' understanding of key concepts and terms. Multiplication and division continue to be critical components of our math program overall.

Earth Science continues to be a focus as we move on to identifying and describing major landforms and how they develop. We will also be examining Earth's structure and the natural forces that change its surface. Comparing and contrasting and cause and effect remain critical skills that we'll be concentrating on in this unit.

In Social Studies, students are beginning to study battles of the American Revolution focused around New Jersey (i.e., Trenton and Princeton). The students will learn New Jersey's role in turning the tide to gain independence.

Students in study skills have been practicing for the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (N.J. ASK). The text we are presently using is customized to the tested New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Language Arts Literacy and will help students prepare for the test. Students are learning how to think about the test and develop test-taking strategies.

Life would be pretty boring if we always agreed with each other. In Peace Pals with our 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!

We are very proud of our fourth graders as we evaluate and reflect on our first half of the school year.

RESOURCE ROOM – SARI SANTORO

The Resource Center students have been very busy reading! Reading Workshop has been a great program that has encouraged all students to read daily. New books have been purchased, (thanks to the SCA) as the students explore their interests and different authors; *Judy Moody*, *Stink*, *Jake Drake* and *The Lightning Thief* inspired by the Greek myths! Students have been exposed to traditional literature and folktales and have learned many important lessons about fictional story elements.

In Math, the third graders have begun multiplication and are working on memorizing their facts. Fourth graders have covered the topics involving two-digit multiplication and long division. First graders have learned tough math addition and subtraction as a good strategy for accurate computation.

Students are working hard and are applying the strategies learned in the Resource Center in their general education classrooms.

SPEECH – GILLIAN ALDWORTH

Speech/Language students continue to improve their articulation as well as their communication skills through drill activities and 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 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.

SPANISH – LUISA WITTER

Feliz Año Nuevo! Happy New Year! This past month, students learned all about the cultural holiday Dia de los Tres Reyes which is Feast of the Three Kings. Students learned that this is the holiday when people living in Spanish speaking countries do their gift exchange. A simulation experience was done for students in grades 1-4 where they left the shoes filled with either real or fake grass and then the next day, they received something from the Three Wise Men. First graders this past month completed a unit on shapes and colors through songs, games, and independent practice. First graders have begun a unit of opposites such as cold and hot and big and little through the listening of the story Ricitos de Oro which is Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Second graders have begun a unit on animals and being able to describe animals using adjectives in complete sentences through visual, auditory, and the use of creating sentences with individual whiteboards. Third grade students have completed a unit on weather and days of the week and will soon be beginning a unit on clothing. Fourth grade students have begun to audition for the end of the year play which is Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. Students will be beginning a unit on places in the community. Fourth grade students have reviewed days of the week, weather, and numbers up to 100. Keep up the good work! Muchas gracias!

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Happy Healthy New Year to all our F. N. Brown families. The new year started off with our annual school-wide community service project 'Hearts of Hope". Every child and teacher created a special painted ceramic heart. The teachers and children worked together to write their messages of caring. Thank you to all the hard working art helper mothers who organized, created, bowed, packaged and photographed the beautiful hearts. F.N Brown is sending approximately 250 hearts to local hospitals for Valentine's Day and throughout the month of February. Every heart will touch 1 life and we should all be so proud of our students for putting so much love into their creations.

We have been discussing the idea of community and doing selfless good deeds for others. The students and teachers have grown to enjoy and look forward to this activity each year. We have touched over 1000 lives through hearts of hope. Extra special thanks to Mrs. Matta and Mrs. Frey for their huge commitment to the art program, organizing the art helpers, for packaging, ribboning and taking all the photos that will be displayed shortly. One more big thank you to the SCA for supporting and funding our hearts program. Creatively yours, Mrs.J.