F.N. Brown School News

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

B-Line News

Tricky Tray Committee - The Tricky Tray is HERE! The Tricky Tray this year will be at Il Tulipano on **Wednesday, March 20, 2013** and doors open at 6:00 p.m. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and we hope that everyone can make it for a fun filled evening. Please feel free to continue to send in donations. We could still use simple contributions of baskets, ribbons, or monetary gifts; all are appreciated as much as a finished basket or gift certificate. Please contact **Antonia Castner (973) 571-1288 or Pam Priscoe (973)396-7415** with questions or inquiries.

ShopRite Gift Cards – Please consider purchasing ShopRite Gift Cards through the FN Brown SCA - It is one of the easiest ways to help our school. The process to purchase and receive your ShopRite Gift Cards is very simple and costs nothing extra – just the value of the gift card. The SCA will earn 5% for the school and we have set up a system for the certificates to come home with your child. Please send in your ShopRite Gift Card order form or call Alice Poueymirou @ 239-3559 to get started.

March 2013
Dates to Remember...

Sat., 3/2 -	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop - 10am
Mon., 3/4 -	SCA Mtg. - Library 7:00pm
Tues., 3/5 -	SCA Pasta Lunch
Thurs., 3/7 -	SCA Pizza Lunch
Fri., 3/8 -	Bingo Night Gr. K,1 -6:15-7:00pm, Gr. 2, 3, 4 -7:15-8.00pm
Wed., 3/13 -	4th Grade Trip Sterling Museum 8:45-2:15
Thurs., 3/14 -	SCA Mexican Lunch
Fri., 3/16 -	**12:30 DISMISSAL** ½ Day Snacks
Wed., 3/20 -	FNB Tricky Tray at Il Tulipano 6:00pm
Thurs., 3/21 -	SCA Pizza Lunch Kindergarten Trip– Imagine That! Museum 9:45-1:30
Mon., 3/25 -	B-Line Articles Due
Wed., 3/27 -	Verona Family Night
Thurs., 3/28 -	SCA Chicken Lunch
Fri., 3/29 -	**NO SCHOOL- Good Friday**

Contact Us
B-Line Editor: Mrs. Valerie Balogh
Email: jayb41@verizon.net

Birthday Boys & Girls

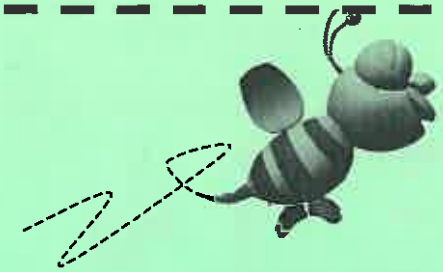
March

Jaye Auriemma, Wyatt Coyle, Alex Hernandez, Dominic Houck, Isabella Hussar, Dominick Latino, Ava Marchetta, Sabine Matta, Molly McCabe, Maile O'Neill, James Piccirillo, Thomas Sabo, Augustine Stocker, Andrew Trapani, Mia Viganola, Jeremy Williams, Emily Wynne

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

And a Special Thank You Goes To...

The Valentine's Day Project Committee: April Hussar and Heidi Dunphy. You did a wonderful job organizing this project. We're sure the recipients were thrilled to receive the beautiful cards our children created for them.



More B-Line News...

A Note from the 4th Grade Farewell Committee

The 4th Grade Farewell Committee thanks everyone who has been sending in pictures. We have almost all of the baby and kindergarten-age photos and we've collected a lot of nice group and special activity shots as well. If you still need to send in photos, please email them to dana12694@aol.com. You can also turn in pictures on a flash drive.

Memory Boxes- watch your child's take home folder for a note about this fun end of the year project.

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: March 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26 and 27.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered.

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) 571-6753 FAX: (973) 571-6769
Anthony V. Lanzo, Ed.D.
Principal

March 1, 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome to March! "Spring is around the corner" is a phrase that most are very happy to hear as winter closes. We are "busy bees" at FNB. Please note the following March highlights.

Read Across America – March 2nd

Read Across America is approaching! This is a special day to honor the work of Dr. Seuss and it promotes the importance of reading. We will be celebrating on Monday, March 4th – Wednesday, March 6th. I was very excited to approve these activities that were developed by Mrs. Walker with input from the teachers.

Monday, March 4th

We will have an assembly on Monday, March 4th at 8:45 AM in the auditorium. Please feel free to join us. Students will take a "Reader's Oath" at our assembly. We will also have preselected fourth grade students read aloud various poems that promote reading. The staff will join me in a round robin reading of the Dr. Seuss classic "The Cat in the Hat". Mrs. Szybist will lead us in the song "Green Eggs and Ham". We will also have two D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) sessions during the day. Everyone will be prepared to read a book for pleasure when the announcements are made. We will conclude our day with an all school sing along of "Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!"

Tuesday, March 5th

We have various guest readers joining us throughout the day. The list of guest readers includes the following Verona staff members:

- Dr. Sumit Bangia, Supervisor of Humanities
- Dr. Nicole Santora, Supervisor of Math/Science
- Mrs. Gina Venezia, Supervisor of Special Education
- Mr. Steven Forte, Superintendent of Schools
- Ms. Elizabeth Jewett, Director of Instructional Studies
- Mr. Howard Freund, HBW Assistant Principal
- Mr. David Galbierczyk, VHS Principal
- Mrs. Libby Skinner, Director of Special Services
- Ms. Yvette McNeal, HBW Principal

The Verona Police Department will also be sending an officer to read to a grade level.

Wednesday, March 6th

We will have "Class Reading Buddies". Classes will buddy up to read favorite stories with a partner or small group.

Please note the following Dr. Seuss Dress Up Days:

- Monday, March 4th:
  Fox in Socks Day: Wear "crazy" socks
- Tuesday, March 5th:
  One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish Day: Wear red and blue
- Wednesday, March 6th:
  Oh the Places You'll Go Day: Wear a college sweatshirt/t-shirt or a special destination shirt.

Developmental Reading Assessment

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA 2) will be administered to all K-4 students by the classroom teachers during the month of March. The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA 2) is a quick, accurate, research-based assessment that helps teachers target instruction for student success. The research-based and validated Developmental Reading Assessment by Joetta Beaver and classroom teachers assists teachers with pinpointing students' strengths and abilities as readers in a quick, one-on-one conference. The results of the assessment are used by teachers while developing future lesson plans for whole group, small group and one on one instruction. Classroom teachers are released from the classroom for one full school day in order to conduct the assessment. The assessment takes place in a quiet location in the building. Substitute teachers are secured to cover the individual classrooms while the teachers conduct the assessment.

Friday Folder

Please remember to check the district "Friday Folder" on the district website (www.veronaschools.org). This folder contains district and/or building announcements posted by the Superintendent's office.

Pre-K Registration

Please remind neighbors, friends and relatives that live in the FNB community to register their child(ren) for kindergarten 2013 as soon as possible.

Pomptonian Lunch

Please note that Pomptonian is no longer accepting late lunch orders. Please review the monthly due date and plan accordingly. Late lunch orders will be returned.

Thank you for your support! Happy spring!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

March 2013 ~ Message from F.N. Brown SCA President

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

This year is going so fast and it is nice to know that Spring is around the corner. We would like to take this moment to thank all of our executive board, committee members, class parents and others who just help out when needed. Life seems to be so busy and crazy at times and we truly appreciate everyone's efforts in making F.N. Brown a better place!! So thank you all for taking time out of your busy life.

We hope the students enjoyed the Tae Kwon Do and the Yoga program for indoor days during the last few months. The SCA thanks the staff at Talium of Cedar Grove and Grace Dance & Yoga of Verona.

As always, we would like to thank all of the parents who volunteer for all of the ongoing SCA activities including the lunch programs, library volunteers, class parents, Wednesday packet assembly. The SCA could not run without your time and support!

The Nominating Committee will be distributing information regarding positions for next year. ALL students at FNB benefit from the events & activities run by the SCA. It is our goal to have every Mom and Dad volunteer during the next school year. *Your children and their friends* are the ones who will benefit from us meeting this goal.

TRICKY TRAY ~ SWEETS AND TREATS ~ Wednesday, March 20th. The tricky tray has been sold out and the committee members have been working months to make this night a very successful evening, we hope everyone comes home a winner!!!

Our next SCA meeting is on March 4h at 7:00 p.m. We hope that you can join us.

Upcoming SCA events to remember ~

March 8th ~ Bingo Night
March 27th ~ VMAC Family Night

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring ☺

Pam Priscoe and Antonia Castner
SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

We are 100 days smarter! The Kindergartners reached the 100th day milestone on February 19th. The children celebrated by making a one hundred link chain out of pipe cleaners, printing 100 things they love, creating a 100 inch snake and drawing what they will look like at 100 years old.

The classes decorated beautiful Valentines to be sent to a local nursing home. It was good to know that we were able to make others smile. ☺

Throughout the month, an emphasis has been on grammar. We have been discussing punctuation, nouns and adjectives. Noun books have been created and punctuation has helped our personal journal entries. We are learning that a sentence is created with words that make a complete thought, having a particular beginning and end.

The Letter of the Week, "Tt", comes to a close enjoying Teddy Bear Day, leaving us with six letters of the alphabet to work on through print, pictures and phonics.

Hopefully the groundhog was correct in his prediction and we will be feeling the beginnings of spring very soon! We miss our playground!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

With February came a love for learning in First grade! The First graders were very busy with Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, the 100th Day of School, and learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Wow, what a month!!

In Math, the students have finished topic nine in which they learned how to compare and order numbers to 100. They learned how to use a hundreds chart, to look at the tens and ones in a two-digit number and put them in order from least to greatest and vice versa, as well as used a number window to locate 10 more, 10 less, 1 more, and 1 less.

In Social Studies, the first graders learned about our first president, George Washington and our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. They discussed the similarities and differences of the two presidents by using a Venn Diagram. The first graders also enjoyed watching videos about the presidents on Brain Pop Jr as well as taking the online quiz! They had an opportunity to listen to some great biographies and other Non-Fiction stories about these two presidents. Ask your child about some of the fun facts they learned about Washington and Lincoln, you will be amazed at what they learned!

In Reading, the first graders have been hard at work during reading workshop. They have been reading either independently, with a partner, or as a whole group and then they are responsible for responding to the story by writing two sentences or more. Please remember to read to or with your child every night for at least 15 minutes. We can't express enough how truly important that is as they grow as readers. Also remember to ask questions before, during, and after reading. Comprehension is key!

In Science, the children had an opportunity to do a fun extension project on penguins. We read numerous amounts of books in class, Mrs. Walker spoke about and did a little project with the kids during library, and we even had parents come in and assist the children with research projects and a craft. They are truly penguin experts! Thanks again to the parents that helped out! We could not have done such a wonderful activity without your help!

Please continue to use math in practical way at home as well as listen to your child read as often as possible! Thank you!

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

Can you believe we are more than halfway through the school year and over a hundred days have passed?! The second graders celebrated the 100th day of school on February 19th with special stories, math problems, and fun activities. We had a great time in Reading during Mystery Week. We shared book projects and Mystery Boxes with each other. The students became honorary detectives while they searched for Mystery Desks and Mystery Numbers each day in class. They also searched for clues to help Nate the Great solve mysteries in class novels that were read together.

Up next in Reading, we begin a new unit called "Side by Side". The stories in this unit focus on expanding children's understanding of fairness and cooperation. We will discuss how we can learn and work together throughout this unit. Verbs will be the grammar focus. We will explore action verbs, verb tenses, and subject/verb agreement.

In Writing we will begin narrative writing projects. These projects focus on two areas: personal narratives and nonfiction narratives. The purpose of both is to entertain and inform the reader. A personal narrative is written in the first person. It focuses on a brief episode and includes personal reflection. A nonfiction narrative is written in the third person. The events are factual and told in time order but are woven into a narrative format. Be sure to discuss personal experiences at home with your child. Have them tell you the events in sequence. This will help them practice story telling skills that they will be able to transfer to their writing.

In Social Studies, our classes are beginning a unit called, "Exploring Where and Why". In this unit students will learn where they live as they write their world address including our state, our country, our continent, and our planet. Along the way, students will use maps and map symbols to identify some of the cultural and natural features of our country. They will also learn how people use some of the natural resources used in our country.

In Math, we continue to focus on 3-digit numbers. We will be adding and subtracting these bigger numbers with regrouping. Please be sure to continue practicing basic facts and well as the steps to regrouping at home.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

Spring will soon be here, a time for rainbows, shamrocks and good luck! In Reading Workshop students have become more aware of how Non-Fiction text features help them gain understanding of what they read. Using reference texts, we've explored many interesting topics like chimpanzees and great white sharks. Through biographies, students gained knowledge about inspiring and interesting people. Students created timelines of their lives to be used in writing "Buddy Biographies". Pairs of students interviewed each other to gather information to write a biography about their partner. These skills were also applied to Social Studies. Using chronological details, students charted events in the story of the Titanic, and created a historical timeline. Enthusiasm is growing as students continue to develop skills, transforming them into independent readers. We will explore the World of Poetry in out next unit and practice test taking skills to prepare for NJASK testing.

Writing Workshop gave students the opportunity to share their views on the best books they've read so far. Voicing their opinions, and offering advice on what books to read has been an enjoyable experience. With the help of Mrs. Hogan in Tech Ed, we are hoping to get all students' reviews posted on line with Tweentribune in the near future. In our next unit, we will write and publish our own non-fiction books. It is clear to see that Language Arts classes are full of activity and creative excitement!

In Math, we completed Topics 7 and 8 on Division concepts. In Topic 9, students will apply all mathematical concepts learned so far, to explore Numerical Patterns and Relationships. We will continue to work on multi-step problem solving and reasoning skills in preparation for NJASK.

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our SCA, students attended a field trip to SOPAC Theater in South Orange to see the Super Scientific Circus. This entertaining and educational performance was a perfect way to to kick off our Science unit on Motion. Newton's Laws of Motion, and the concepts of balance, friction and centrifugal force were made part of each act, to the students' amazement. Did you know that the CRACK made by a whip is really a mini sonic boom? This was only one of the surprising facts we learned! The show was entertaining and informative way to bring text book concepts to life and see them in action!

In Social Studies, we are learning about the presidents and the 3 Branches of Government. In technology, students were assigned a president, and using various websites, they located facts and created Presidential mini-posters.

As always, Third Graders are busily engaged in the learning process and look forward to more learning experiences in the remaining months of the school year.

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

We have completed our essay unit in writing. Students have published essays on various topics utilizing persuasive language to influence the reader's opinion. They have incorporated exact details and examples to support their main idea, or thesis statement. Students enjoyed celebrating their writing with classmates. Around the corner will be brochure or informational writing. Students will identify the characteristics included in brochures and possible features that are unique to this type of writing. Social Studies and Writing time will be devoted to researching and creating a brochure depicting various parts of Essex County. This will be an exciting unit full of new learning and informative presentations.

The fourth grade is finishing 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 Social Studies, students have begun learning how NJ developed socially and industrially. The 1800's were an exciting time with inventions and development growing our society. They will examine select inventions and reformers how they shaped NJ and the United States.

In addition, part of their Social Studies' class time has been used to discover facts about Essex County. The classes are researching the question, "What makes Essex County unique?" This research will complement their Writing Workshop unit on informational writing, or brochures. Their research will be used to create a brochure and poster highlighting Essex County's numerous attractions. Their posters will then be submitted in a county wide competition sponsored by the Essex County Clerk's Office.

In study skills students are focusing on practicing for the NJ ASK. We are continuing to learn test-taking tips in the areas of math, writing and reading. Students are using strategies that help them clarify their thinking and display their understanding and reasoning.

In Science, we are investigating what animal tracks tell about the animals that made them. We are learning how to define fossils, tell how they form, and understand the fossil record. Sequence remains a critical skill that we will be focused on. We hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break!

LIBRARY – CORISA WALKER

March is a wonderful month in the Library. We begin the month with our Read Across America celebration. We kicked off our Dr. Seuss week with a great assembly, in which all of the F.N.Brown teachers read the Cat in the Hat together! We continued the week with special dress-up days, and guest readers from all over Verona. We even had Superintendent Mr. Steve Forte, and a Verona Police Officer join us as guest readers. During library time, we

shared our favorite Seuss stories. Check out the 4th grade Truffala Trees from The Lorax in the hallway!

March also begins the start of our very special reading program called One School, One Book. We will ALL be reading the same book at home, at the same time! F.N. Brown families will be asked to commit to reading aloud as a family for 15 minutes each night. Did you know that being read aloud to has many benefits, such as increased vocabulary and better comprehension skills? Each family will receive a book, a reading schedule, and additional information. We are excited for this special project that will unite our school community in a love for reading. As always, thank you to our library volunteers.

TECHNOLOGY – JENNIFER HOGAN

The students have been very busy these past few months in Technology Class. Our Kindergarteners have been working on their mouse and typing skills becoming familiar with the location of letters and numbers on the keyboard. They have been working in Microsoft Word typing in initial sounds for pictures as well as completing number charts. The Kindergarten classes have also been learning about all the different drawing tools and how to create text boxes with Kid Pix.

The first grade classes made pictures of penguins and typed a penguin fact to show off all they learned during their penguin unit. They have also been working on their keyboarding skills and learning how to add clip art to their Microsoft Word documents. For Groundhog Day, the students had to decide whether they wanted more Winter or if Spring should come early, then create a clip art collage based on which season they choose. Looks like our first graders were hoping for an early Spring.

Our second grade classes worked diligently on creating posters for their planet projects. The students had to research a planet using reliable websites, and take notes on important facts about their planet. They then had to type a paragraph about their planet and search for a photo of their planet that they could copy and paste onto their document. Their final posters show all of their hard work.

In third grade we celebrated President's Day by researching facts about our presidents. Students were randomly assigned a number, they had to figure out which president was represented by that number and create a sign that would inform readers about their president. Students learned how to sort through information on the internet in order to come up with bullet point facts they felt were the most important. Thanks to their hard work we have a Hall of Presidents right here at F.N. Brown.

The fourth grade classes have spent time using the internet for researching facts about Essex County and what makes it great to aid them with their upcoming Social Studies project. They have also been practicing their typing skills in Word and creating data tables and converting them into graphs using Excel. All classes are working hard in technology and looking forward to what Spring will bring.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

The instrumental students are working on new skills and learning new notes and rhythms. Our concert is fast approaching and we are excited and a little nervous about all the music we will be performing. This is a very daunting task and the key to success is following through at home. A short but daily practice routine is essential in turning these concepts into good habits of mind in their instrumental studies. It is the daily work that is the most beneficial way for students to improve both more thoroughly and efficiently. At this point in the year, students should practice for 15 minutes a day, and it is that everyday part that is crucial. A long period of time on a couple of days is not the same and can actually be detrimental since young students don't have enough physical stamina to sustain a long, individual practice session. If there is only time for five minutes of practice, don't skip thinking it isn't enough. Five minutes then, are much better than trying to make it up on another day.

There are many songs for this concert. Some are short and are the ones we use to introduce and develop our

concepts and notes. (You should recognize "Old MacDonald", "Skip To My Lou", and "Bingo" among others). Some are full page band arrangements that incorporate these elements. This is a much more demanding concert than the first and as such, students need to spend as much time at home working on this material as they can. As always, some students will be working on a solo or duet performance as well. This music is in addition to their other songs, and it needs to be practiced equally along with the band songs.

Besides our own school concert, we also have the town-wide elementary band concert. This concert combines all four elementary schools into one giant band to perform on the big stage at VHS. It is very exciting! There may even be a special guest appearance by our own high school jazz band known as Verona Jazz & Beyond.

If you are interested in bringing your child to an awesome performance, the high school jazz band plays their own concert on Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30PM. The concert ranges from big band jazz to rock n roll, and is an event that hundreds anticipate every year. It is a great way to inspire your young musician by hearing what is possible as they progress through the Verona music program.

Verona Summer Music is a terrific way for students to begin an instrument, start a second instrument, or improve on the instrument they already play. The entire music staff highly recommends students attend this program. In addition to playing every day, it's a time when students don't have other academic demands and are able to really embed the correct concepts into their musical skills. We teach all band instruments as well as piano, guitar, bass guitar, music theory, concert band, and choir. We accommodate scheduling conflicts with other town programs and usually solve most issues. If going into 2nd grade, a student can take piano, guitar, and choir. Going into 3rd grade: piano, guitar, and choir, as well as music theory. Going into 4th grade, students can take a beginning band instrument. This is highly recommended. Students can also take piano, guitar, bass guitar, music theory, choir, and be in our show "Guys and Dolls". Those going into 5th grade can continue with their band instrument, begin a new one, or take two band instruments if they have already played another band instrument for a year. These students can take piano, guitar, bass guitar, music theory, and choir. If they have already played a band instrument for a year, they can take concert band. Joining the production of "Guys and Dolls" is also an option. More information can be found on our website: veronasummermusic.org

If you go to my school website, I have a play along for "Rock Out" at the bottom of the Elementary Band page.

I look forward to seeing you at our two performances. Remember, 15 minutes a day.