Laning Avenue News
April 2013 Issue

-From the Principal's Desk-

Dear Laning Families,

LANING'S THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS PROGRAM IS IN FULL SWING.

The Battle of the Books program is a reading motivational program. The goals of this program are to encourage the pleasure of reading, increase reading comprehension, broaden reading interests, and recognize students who enjoy reading.

Students are divided into teams of five or six children. The goal for each team (not child) is to read fifteen novels (Grade 4) and twelve (Grade 3) from an assigned list. The list is determined by a team of librarians organized at the State level. A motivational assembly is held to "kick off" the program. Students learn of their team members, their teacher/principal coach, the goals for the program, the time frame, and the rules at this assembly. The school librarian, additionally motivates students at this time by introducing each of the novels.

Teams meet with teacher/principal coaches every other week, after this initial assembly, to accomplish many goals:

- Determine a team name.
- Create a team "battle shield".
- Decide which book(s) each member will read before the next meeting.
- Monitor the progress of the team (How are we progressing toward the team's goal of reading the fifteen novels?)

After ample reading time and team meetings, a battle tournament is organized. Teams are pitted against each other. Each team is asked ten questions related to the fifteen/twelve novels. Teams are permitted 20 seconds to discuss the question and determine an answer. All questions begin with the words, "In which book did……" Correct responses must include the correct title and author. A spokesperson, decided by the team, articulates an answer. The team is awarded five points if they provide the correct title and author.

The tournament progresses until two teams are left. At this time a final assembly is held. Parents and family members attend in large numbers. A school champion is determined at this assembly. At the fourth grade level our winning team may compete against other towns. Several towns near our area participate in this program as well. Since the same book list is used throughout the state we are able to battle other districts as well.

At the third grade level, the Laning School champion battles the winners from each of the other three elementary schools in town. Once again, all parents and other guests are invited

Thank you to the SCA for furnishing the novels to support this program.

Sincerely,

Frank Albano
Principal

A Message from
Laning Avenue SCA Co-Presidents

Dear Laning Families: Welcome Spring!! We are winding down to the end of our school year. We can't believe how quickly this year has flown by.

March was busy with so many events! We would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers:

- Suzanne Welsh and committee for coordinating our Laning Kids Help the Hungry.
- Tracy Bermeo, Lisa Freedman, committee members, and the 2nd grade Brownies, for their help with the Kindergarten Workshop.
- Suzanne Welsh, Damaris Dolan and the Cultural Arts Committee for a wonderful St. Patrick's Day display of Irish step dancing performed by DeNogla School of Irish Dance.
- Nicole Kobernick, Suzanne Welsh, and the Family Fun Committee for a fantastic Family Fun Dance! We loved seeing all the little Taylor Swifts and members of One Direction!
- Jeff Kenny, Linette Mathewson and all those on the Property & Grounds and Environmental Committees for the work they have done to get us ready for our annual Earth Day Celebration. All students are invited to stay after school on 4/12 to help spruce up the grounds around the school. It's a great way for our kids to get involved and show their support for Laning.
- We hope you had the chance to enjoy some family time during VMAC's Family Night on March 27. Our thanks to Laning liaison Laurel Brolly for keeping us posted.
- Pat Chesney and the entire Laning Cares Committee for organizing the second collection of snacks and toiletries for the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Battalion Team. And thank you to all of our wonderful Laning families for once again coming through with their generous donations,
- Kyle Burns and Committee for keeping the library in order.
- Our entire 4th Grade Farewell Committee who have been working hard to prepare for the year-end festivities.
- Jen Vogel for her continuous hard work to helping our kids get that hot yummy lunch on Thursdays. Her success is not without help from her troop of Thursday volunteers. Thank you all for your time!
- Tara Imbriano and Marlo Spina for driving the SCRIP program. We thank you for your tireless hours of work on this program. We know it's no easy task and appreciate all you do.
- Sarah Latson for helping compile all the wonderful information that is included in the monthly newsletters. Thank you for helping our Laning community stay informed.
- Venus So for taking all this information and putting it out on the Laning website. Without you, this information wouldn't get out there. Thank you!

Chairs and Helpers for 2013-14 Committees: Next week we will circulate the 2013-14 Committees and Programs Chairs and Helpers survey. This is your opportunity to step up and volunteer – whether as a Chair or as a Helper. Any and all time and effort you can give will be appreciated!

We're not done yet…we have many wonderful upcoming events planned for April:
4/2-4: 2nd grade NJPASS Testing
4/2-4: 3rd & 4th grade Cogat testing
4/4: SCA Hot Lunch, Pizza

4/5: 2nd Grade Cogat Practice test
4/5: 4th Grade Farewell Bowling Party
4/8-10: 2nd Grade Cogat testing
4/8: 3rd Grade Reading Workshop
4/8: Laning SCA Meeting, 7 p.m., Library
4/8-11: Laning Kids Help the Hungry
4/11: SCA Hot Lunch, Chicken Fingers
4/12: Earth Day Celebration and Spring Clean Up
4/13: PreK Workshop, 10 a.m.
4/16-17: ½ Day for K-4 Students & Parent/Teacher Conferences
4/16-17: Bagel Mania
4/17: 4th grade visits HBW
4/18: SCA Hot Lunch, Pasta
4/18: 3rd& 4th Grade Spring Concert at 7 p.m.
4/19: School Spirit Day
4/22-25: Spring Break, Schools Closed

Our next Laning SCA meeting will be **Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m.** in the Library.

Sincerely,
Lisa Hudson, thehudsons18@yahoo.com &
Joanna Breitenbach, joanna.breitenbach@gmail.com
– Laning SCA Co-Presidents

-Laning SCA Announcements-

Environmental Committee

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR THE EARTH!
EARTH DAY and ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Laning's annual Earth Day Celebration will be held on Friday, April 12, at 2:45 p.m. (Rain date is Monday, April 15.) Please gather with your children on the front lawn after school. Our celebration will last about 45 minutes.

* We will clean up the school grounds, sprinkle grass seed, mulch, and plant flowers. Bring your own gardening gloves.
* Bring your own small container (i.e. yogurt cup) and we will have soil and seeds for you to take home your very own spring planting.
* Enter the raffle! You could win a fun eco-friendly art project, reusable lunch containers, and more.

Participation is optional. For more information or to be a parent volunteer, please contact Linette Mathewson at lin_ellis@yahoo.com / 973-857-8673.

Adult Social Committee

Please save the date! The Laning Avenue School Adult Social will take place on Saturday, May 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Verona Inn. The cost is $35 per person and includes beer, wine, cocktails (excluding top shelf) and hors d'oeuvres. Participation is optional.

Supermarket SCRIP Gift Card Program

Let's buy a new Smart Board for Laning!!!

If we can double the number of families participating in this program we will be able to buy a Mobile Smart Board and laptop for our children and teachers at Laning. Please consider participating in Laning's Supermarket Gift Card Fundraiser if you haven't already signed up this year. If you are already participating, please consider increasing your monthly amount.

Gift Card Fundraiser Quick Facts:

- **Did you know that only 18% of families and 1 staff member at Laning are participating in this fundraiser?**
- **Last year we raised over $4,000 for Laning programs that benefit our children.**
- **This is one of the easiest ways to raise money for Laning.**

Please contact Marlo Spina, marspin68@yahoo.com / 973-857-4409 or Tara Imbriano, taraimbriano@gmail.com / 973-239-2396 with questions or to sign up.

Thank you!
***As always, participation is optional.

Author Visit & Book Fair Committees Announce Dates
Dan Gutman, author of the "My Weird School" series as well as other Battle of the Books favorites, will be visiting Laning Avenue School on May 2. The Book Fair is scheduled for 2:45 to 7 p.m. on May 3 and 10 a.m. to noon on May 4. More details coming soon!

Laning Kids Help the Hungry
This month's collection will be held from Monday, April 8, to Thursday, April 11. Any food donation is greatly appreciated.

Deanna London, director of the Human Needs Food Pantry for 25 years, has retired. We wish her well.

If you have any questions, please email Suzanne Welsh at bscwelsh@msn.com

Verona Pre-Kindergarten Workshops
The SCA is sponsoring pre-kindergarten workshops for children entering kindergarten in September 2013. The workshops are open to children who will be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2013.

The purpose of these workshops is to give children the opportunity to meet their future classmates and to become familiar with the school environment. Parents are invited to stay for refreshments.

Remaining workshops will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on the following Saturdays: April 13 and May 4. Parents who are interested should register in the school district they reside in. For more information about the Laning program, contact Tracy Bermeo at 973-571-1046.

Lunch Aides Needed
Anyone who knows someone that is interested in being a lunch aide at the Laning Avenue School Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. please contact Mr. Albano at 973-571-6755.

The next Laning SCA meeting will take place on
Monday, April 8, 2013, at 7 p.m. in the Library.
All Laning parents are welcome!

-What's Happening in Our Classrooms-

Elementary Special Needs – Mrs. Jessica Jaruczyk
In March we had lots to celebrate. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day. Students read stories written by Dr. Seuss and learned about rhyming words. The children participated in Read Across America and enjoyed listening to a Dr. Seuss book read to them by a policeman, after they were able to ask him questions. For St. Patrick's Day students enjoyed learning about the Irish culture. They participated in Irish dancing while at an assembly and in

class read and created a Limerick. Students worked on measurement and time in math. In science they learned about the weather and created pinwheels and paper airplanes to support their learning.

Kindergarten – Mrs. Kristy McCabe and Mrs. Kimberley Nochimson

We are growing in leaps and bounds in kindergarten! The month of March is always completely MAGICAL! This is the month that we see so much social and academic progress! We kicked off March with Read Across America! Camryn's daddy, Officer Wardrope, was our special visitor! He read Fox in Socks to the entire kindergarten crew WITHOUT getting tongue-tied…not even once! He was AWESOME! We spent the month reading as many Dr. Seuss books as possible and learning some important life lessons from his stories! In Social Studies we learned about Ireland and the legend of the leprechaun. We even made traps to catch the silly little guy! He made a mess out of our classrooms! Unfortunately our traps did not work, BUT he left each of us a piece of lucky leprechaun gold! The kindergarten mathematicians were busy adding and subtracting everything in sight! We finished writing our *How-To* books and learned to do so many new things step by step! We are extremely excited about our new Writing Workshop unit…we are becoming researchers! We have also been busy little scientists learning about how things move! We were intrigued by our magnet investigation! We wrapped up the month welcoming SPRING by writing and reading about it and learning about Passover and Easter too! We sure hope the warmer weather arrives soon! We look forward to more learning adventures in April!

Grade 1 - Miss Marilyn Varallo, Ms. Jenny Kirby, and Mrs. Nancy Apisa

Our First Graders are gaining in computer skills. The students are researching animals and writing reports. The children are also learning keyboarding skills.

The students participated in Read Across America Day. They read Dr. Seuss books alone, and to each other, throughout the day. One of Verona's police officers read a book to the children. He was a great success! Other activities followed, including the making of original rhyming books and poems.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in many ways. The children had been discussing folklore and legends in literature, and the holiday was a perfect segue. Little Leprechaun feet in our doorways lent a feeling of excitement to the day.

During our unit on weather, the students studied the effects of wind on our planet. For a fun, culminating activity, the children made pinwheels and paper airplanes. The planes were flown with great abandon and immeasurable amounts of fun!

Grade 2 - Ms. Sage Seaton and Mrs. Banta

Read Across America is a national effort created to encourage our children to become lifelong readers. This annual event was celebrated on March 1, one day before famous author and illustrator Theodore Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, was born in 1904. Excited parents and guests of 2B and 2S eagerly arrived at Laning to read a variety of picture books to small groups of students. Everyone enjoyed sharing the diverse picture books and meeting family members. Thank you to everyone who was able to read to our wonderful classes! Nightly reading should continue at home to encourage lifelong readers.

Also in March, students participated in an array of activities across the content areas as they learned about the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Numerous stories were read and discussed, which stressed the importance of the environment, culture and caring about others. Students were prompted to add descriptive adjectives to book reports in the listening center. In related activities,

students read paragraphs to follow directions, used word searches to increase their vocabulary and completed picture find to aid perception skills. Using their math skills, students used a coordinate grid to plot the points necessary to draw a shamrock. The unit was filled with a variety of fun activities, while stressing the importance of pride in one's heritage.

With the welcome of an early spring, science classes will study weather. Be sure to discuss the local weather conditions with your child and notice any interesting details about the ever-changing weather in northern Jersey.

Grade 3 – Mrs. Jaime Ricci and Mr. Brian Samples

March has shaped up to be an exciting month for the third graders at Laning Avenue School. Battle of the Books has begun and all of the children are reading up a storm!

NJ ASK is around the corner. The students have written a variety of stories using various poem and speculative prompts. Students also reviewed and put into practice an open-ended question strategy to properly address the open-ended Math and Language Arts questions on the NJ ASK.

In Writing, students are creating and illustrating "buddy biographies" that will be sent out and turned into a hardcover book! The students are extremely excited and can't wait to see the finished product that will arrive sometime before the end of the school year.

In Reading, students have become familiar with the various elements of poetry, and have worked hard to use comprehension strategies presented in class. The third graders have succeeded greatly in expanding their appreciation of poetry in general. In Mathematics, we have finished a unit on Multiplying Greater Numbers. The children are doing a fantastic job with their multiplication facts! Moving in to April, we will look forward to a unit on identifying patterns.

In Science, we are finishing up our chapter on the water cycle. We have learned about the cycle itself, as well as the different states of matter.

We are very impressed by how well all of the third graders did on learning the state abbreviations in Social Studies. Great job, everyone!

Grade 4 – Mrs. Kristine DePoe, Mrs. Kristina Ellenbogen, and Mrs. Pamela Solomon

Our 4th graders started the month of March with a celebration of *Read Across America* by reading to our Peace Pals. The students have been logging their nightly reading throughout this month as part of an effort to raise money for victims of Super Storm Sandy.

Our reading unit in poetry is underway, and the 4th graders have been investigating rhyme, onomatopoeia, and alliteration. Ask them to give you examples! In addition, the students are ready and willing to prove all they know about the 15 books they have read for Battle of the Books! We predict the scores will be very close this year.

In math, students have been immersed in fractions, from conquering simplifying to practicing multiplying. It involves many steps to tackle these fractions, and they are doing a fabulous job!

Our research on the Lenni Lenape has resulted in the writing and creating of top-notch brochures about the tribe's community and culture. Our 4th graders are becoming quite the experts on New Jersey, since they have also been learning all about the state's battle for independence in social studies.

In science, we have been thinking more deeply about matter and the physical and chemical changes that affect matter.

Wow, it's been a busy month in 4th grade!

Verona Pre-School Program
Mrs. Pauline Jennis, Mrs. Maryann Bifulco, and Grace Minerov-Buneo
The preschoolers began the month of March by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and participating in Read Across America. A parent volunteer came in to read to the a.m. classes and Mr. Forte read to the p.m. classes. The children were ready with their red and white "Cat in the Hat" hats and bow ties! For St. Patrick's Day they learned about Ireland and its symbols and created green crafts while watching carefully for any leprechauns! Although the weather isn't cooperating, the children are bringing in the season of spring and learning about the holidays of Passover and Easter and the symbols and traditions that families observe. The p.m. classes continue learning the sounds and letters of the alphabet and simple sight words as they begin the exciting journey into reading!

April Birthdays

Nicholas B.	Samantha L.	Kamdyn M.
Lexia G.	Katelyn M.	Matthew B.
Sarah K.	Marguerite V.	Maria S.
Caitlin C.	Charles F.	Catherine W.
Jack D.	Georganne V.	Sarah C.
Nicholas E.	Alexander B.	Sophia V.
Jonna G.	Alexandre J.	Jessica D.

-Mark Your Calendars-
April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Cogat Practice Test (3rd and 4th Grades)	2 NJ PASS Test (2nd Grade) Cogat Test (3rd and 4th Grades)	3 NJ PASS Test (2nd Grade) Cogat Test (3rd and 4th Grades)	4 SCA Hot Lunch NJ PASS Test (2nd Grade) Cogat Test (3rd and 4th Grades)	5 4th Grade Farewell Bowling Party Cogat Practice Test (2nd Grade)	6
7	8 SCA Meeting 3rd Grade Reading Workshop Laning Kids Help the Hungry Cogat Test (2nd Grade)	9 4th Grade Reading Workshop Laning Kids Help the Hungry Cogat Test (2nd Grade)	10 Laning Kids Help the Hungry Cogat Test (2nd Grade)	11 Laning Kids Help the Hungry SCA Hot Lunch	12 Earth Day Celebration and Clean-Up	13 Pre-K Workshop
14	15	16 Half-Day for Students Parent-Teacher Conferences Bagel Mania	17 Half-Day for Students Parent-Teacher Conferences Bagel Mania 4th Grade Visits HBW	18 Spring Concert (3rd and 4th Grades) SCA Hot Lunch	19 School Spirit Day	20
21	22 Schools Closed	23 Schools Closed	24 Schools Closed	25 Schools Closed	26 Schools Closed	27
28	29	30				

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Author Visit	3 Book Fair	4 Pre-K Workshop Book Fair
5	6 Teacher Appreciation Week	7 Teacher Appreciation Week	8 Teacher Appreciation Week	9 Teacher Appreciation Week Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Go-to-School Night/Art Show	10 Teacher Appreciation Week	11
12	13 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3 and 4	14 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3 and 4	15 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3 and 4	16 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3 and 4	17 NJ ASK Grade 4	18
19	20	21	22 4th Grade Instrumental Concert	23	24	25
26	27 Schools Closed	28	29 All-District 4th Grade Instrumental Concert	30 NOTE DATE CHANGE Grandparents/ Special Persons Day	31 Field Day	