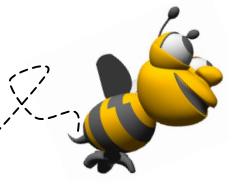
F.N. Brown School News



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

B-Line News

Tricky Tray Committee – It is with much gratitude that we once again thank all the F.N. Brown families who made donations, helped wrap and transport baskets and assisted with set-up. It is these contributions which are truly valued and result in such a great event. As always, the ongoing support we receive from Dr. Lanzo and his staff is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Mrs. J for the beautiful artwork prizes she created. Congratulations to all the winners!

Oliver's Labels – As you prepare your summer plans don't forget to get labels for your kids clothes. Visit oliverslabels.com/fnbrown. We receive 20% on all orders.

V-SEA 2013 Registration Begins - The 2013 Verona Summer Enrichment Academy (V~SEA) registration is now underway. All Pre-K (entering Kindergarten in September 2013) through 8th grade students are invited to take part in this unique, intellectual experience. Students should have already received program brochures in their backpacks. Registration forms and payment should be sent to: Jeff Monacelli at Forest Avenue School, 118 Forest Ave., Verona NJ 07044 as soon as possible. If you have questions, please call Doc Siegel at (973) 571-6753 or Jeff Monacelli at (973) 571-6754. The brochure may also be accessed on the Verona Schools web page. Additional copies of the brochure are available in the school office.

April 2013
Dates to Remember…

Mon., 4/1 -	SCA Mtg. FNB Library 7:00pm
Tues., 4/2 -	SCA Pasta Lunch
Thurs., 4/4 -	SCA Pizza Lunch
Wed., 4/10-	4th Grade Trip to Trenton
Thurs., 4/11 -	SCA Mexican Lunch In-Coming Kindergarten Parent Orientation 7:00pm
Fri., 4/12 -	In-Coming Kindergarten Visitation pm
Sat., 4/13 -	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am
Mon., 4/15 -	***REPORT CARDS ISSUED***
Tues., 4/16 -	½ Day Snacks ***12:30 DISMISSAL*** ***Parent/Teacher Conferences*** 4th Grade Visit to HBW
Wed., 4/17 -	½ Day Snacks ***12:30 DISMISSAL*** ***Parent/Teacher Conferences***
Thurs., 4/18 -	SCA Chicken Lunch Spring Vocal Concert (gr. 3 & 4) 7:00pm B-Line Articles Due
Mon., 4/22 thru Fri., 4/26 -	***NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK***
Mon., 4/29 -	***SCHOOL REOPENS***
Tues., 4/30 -	1st Grade Trip to Theaterworks, Montclair State 9:15-11:30

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

Birthday Boys & Girls

April

Juliet Alkaysi, Neva Anil, Julia Balogh, Kelley Caffrey, Jordan Dunn, Caitlin Eng, Isabella Freda, Sophia Freda, Daniel Frenklakh, Gavin Fuentez, Mackenzie Garmont, Nicole Hagaman, Sophia Josephson, Emily Mautone, Gianna Mecca, Madison Nigro, Frank O'Neill, Jack O'Neill, Lauren Parsons, John Pavia, Emma Shaw, Paul Shaw, Matthew Steitz, Jack Stocker, Sarah Wynne

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

And a Special Thank You Goes to... The Tricky Tray Committee:

Co-Chairs Antonia Castner & Pam Priscoe

Jacqueline Alkaysi, Dana Bachan, Grace Boyle, Lizette Brown, Gabrielle Caprari, Jennifer Coppola, Kate Curren, Mindy Frey, Diana Garmont, Diane Egan Griffin, Tamara Jenkins, Maggie Lambert, Mary Maida, Jennifer Marchese, Kristen Mautone, Alice Poueymirou, Jennifer Stafford, Norma Jean Zecchino

More B-Line News...

In honor of Secretary's Day, the SCA and our children along with the entire staff of F.N. Brown would like to extend a sincere thanks to ***Mrs. Alina Dugan***. We truly appreciate all you do for us. ***Happy Secretary's Day!***

A Note from the Treasurer: The 2012-2013 school year draws closer to the end and all committees have been working hard with our special events throughout the year. I would like to remind all committee members to get your receipts in for reimbursement. Please notify me when you have a deposit ready and email the deposit form to jifclaims@comcast.net. Thank you. Dawn Scott Mulligan

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: April 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 19, 29 and 30.

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
125 GROVE AVENUE
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044
TELEPHONE: (973) 571-6753 FAX: (973) 571-6769
ANTHONY V. LANZO, Ed.D
Principal

April 1, 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome to April! Report cards will be issued on Monday, April 15th. Parent – Teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th and Wednesday, April 17th. This is a great time to discuss with your child's teacher the progress that your child has made this year. Our Kindergarten Parent Orientation will take place on Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 PM. Kindergarten screenings will occur over the next few weeks.

Standardized Testing
Please note the following testing dates that were

- Grade 2 NJ PASS April 2-4
- CogAT (Grade 2) April 5, 8-10
- CogAT (Grades 3,4) April 2-4

Visitor Sign-In
All visitors are reminded to sign in upon entering our school. All visitors must be announced first before entering any classroom. Parents are asked not to drop in on teachers during the instructional day. This causes an interruption to the instructional flow. Thank you for your cooperation!

Spring Vacation
School will be closed April 22nd – 26th. for Spring Vacation. School will reopen on Monday, April 29th. Enjoy!

Happy spring!!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

April 2013 ~ Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

March was a very busy and exciting month at F.N. Brown! The Tricky Tray was outstanding; We hope that many of you had lots of luck!!! A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful committee members: Jacqueline Alkaysi, Dana Bachan, Grace Boyle, Lizette Brown, Gabrielle Caprari, Jennifer Coppola, Kate Curren, Mindy Frey, Diana Garmont, Diane Egan Griffin, Tamara Jenkins, Maggie Lambert, Mary Maida, Jennifer Marchese, Kristen Mautone, Alice Poueymirou, Jennifer Stafford and Norma Jean Zecchino. The night would not have been possible without you, so thank you!! Thank you to Michael Boyle for all the fabulous overnight stays we had to offer! Special thanks to all the moms that helped wrap, transport and set up the baskets. Thanks to the basket committee and the class moms for organizing the class baskets!! A HUGE thank you to Mrs. J for her time creating special artwork with each class for the Tricky Tray. The SCA thanks Lou and Iggy for their help, as well. As always, thank you to Dr. Lanzo and the F.N. Brown Staff for all their continued support to the SCA and to our children.

Thank you to Elizabeth Marano and Jacqueline Alkaysi for their work planning and scheduling Cultural Arts presentations for this year.

April 24th is Administrative Professional Day. The SCA would like to thank Mrs. Dugan for all of her work. Her support and commitment to the parents and children of FNB is amazing. Her assistance to the SCA is invaluable!

A special thank you goes out to Dawn Mulligan, our Treasurer, for keeping track of all of our finances. The Treasurer Position is one of the most important and time consuming of all SCA jobs…We truly appreciate your time!

Thank you to all who volunteer with our ongoing needs-library help, office help, half day snack, and the lunch programs. Your time and effort are appreciated!

The Nominating Committee forms for next year will be distributed this coming week. Please review the forms and your schedules and consider being an active participant in SCA activities. Please contact Kristen Mautone with any questions.

Upcoming dates to remember ~

May 1st ~ Field Day – (Raindate is May 3rd)

May 7th & 8th ~Staff Appreciation - Breakfast and Luncheon – please look for the volunteer sign up form.

May 11th ~ Nurse's Day

May 21st to 23rd ~ Book Fair ~ more information will be sent home.

Please join us on April 1st at 7:00 for a very important SCA meeting. District representatives will attend to discuss the BOE budget with our members.

Happy Spring!

Pam Priscoe & Antonia Castner

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KARA'S PASSAGE'S CLASS

In honor of Groundhogs Day, we studied how to make predictions and what happens if he sees his shadow. While we are waiting for the warmer days of spring, we have continued to build on our reading comprehension skills. For example, we have made predictions, identified characters, setting, and plot. To prepare for our next writing unit of study, Writing Book Reviews, we have begun writing in detail our favorite part of stories we read and why.

We completed our Authors as Mentors with Gail Gibbons unit. To culminate our unit, we celebrated with Dr. Lanzo. Each student had a chance to read their story to the whole class as well as our *special* guest! We have just begun our non-fiction writer's workshop unit. We are learning to describe details we see in photographs and short videos on animals and nature to help us write a non-fiction book.

We celebrated with *The Cat in the Hat* in honor of Dr. Suess' birthday. We loved every minute of D.E.A.R, especially reading with the whole school! While reading many of Dr. Suess' books we practiced our reading comprehension skills by identify characters, setting, sequencing, and themes.

In math, we continue to build on our addition and subtraction skills. We have begun to learn numbers up to 1,000 with our second graders. We have completed our unit on 2- and 3-digit addition. We have just begun our unit on 2-and 3-digit subtraction!

We are looking forward to blossom into spring with blooming knowledge!

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

The kindergartners are so happy to see Spring arrive and look forward to making up for lost time outside on the playground!

We have been busy FN Brown Bees! Our "I Wonder" unit in Writing Workshop was so much fun. We worked in groups to complete our first research projects. Each group contributed to and created a book about things in nature we wonder about. Some of the topics were: Why Pigs Like Mud, How Do Penguins Sleep, What Lives In Shells, and What do Frog Tongues Do?

All of the children worked very hard and enjoyed the process. We were able to celebrate this unit by presenting and reading our books to an audience that included parents and Dr. Lanzo! It was the perfect example of how we integrate different areas of the curriculum to have a fun learning experience.

In Math, we have been working with different ways to make bigger numbers and measurement. We are excited about our Spring vacation, and wish all of you a fun and relaxing time with your families!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

Our first graders have transformed into better writers using revision strategies and writing like a mentor author. Writer's Workshop has taken on a whole new dimension. Students are revising as they write and are attempting to write just like Angela Johnson, Mo Willems and, or Donald Crews. Many literature stories were read aloud to help the students identify with the authors style or craft of writing. Once the students became comfortable with an author they were more willing to try that same style on their own with their very own topic. Wow, the

writing was truly amazing!!

So many new concepts were introduced this past month. In Science, the topic of Weather was covered in Mrs. Collins' class. The study of Neighborhoods was the topic in Mrs. McKenna's class for Social Studies. Students are enjoying reading in these content areas as well and shared their new learning either aloud with the class or by writing a reader's response.

As we continue the Subtraction unit in math, the students are becoming more familiar with the difference between key words used to help solve a word problem. For example: in all and how many now relates to addition while are left and how many more or fewer denotes subtraction. Students are being asked to circle or underline the key words to help them remember. Also, the consistent use of a hundreds chart has visually encouraged the students to see that adding or subtracting 10's without any regrouping is a matter of moving up or down rows on the chart. The challenge was moving up or down and across a column or two when asked to solve a computation problem like 55-32+? More practice at home with this type of computation can only help your child use the hundreds chart more freely and to be more accurate. Actually drawing the tens and ones is a very accurate and visual way to add or subtract the larger two digit numbers as well.

Thank you parents for listening to your child read at home. We totally understand time is an issue, but the benefits are obvious and the students are reading more accurately and understanding more of what they read. Learning to read encompasses everything, so we ask that you continue to read, read, read with your child and ask them to think about or re-tell the story after reading. As always thank you for your continued support.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

Spring is here and the second graders will be composing spring poems to celebrate the season. We will observe changes in the environment and discuss some of our favorite things to do this season. Also in Writing, we are eager to begin a unit on book reviews. Students will get the opportunity to give their opinion about books they have read and to share it with others. We will study examples of different types of reviews including books, movies, and restaurants. We will use these reviews as models when we write our own reviews in class. This should be a fun unit to talk about at home. Have children talk about the books they are reading and what they like about them.

In Math, we are beginning a chapter on Money. We will learn about the coins, their names, and value. We will be counting collections of coins and adding and subtracting coins. Empty out those piggy banks and count up the contents! It will help reinforce the concepts we are learning in class.

In Reading, we are starting a unit called "Ties Through Time", where we will explore family and community traditions and share them with each other. We will discuss things we all do together in the same special way. Some grammar concepts we will focus on are adjectives and adverbs. This will help to make our writing more interesting and expressive. Comprehension skills that we will learn are classifying, theme, plot, and making judgments.

In Science we will be revisiting energy as we study Motion. We will conduct experiments to find out the way things move, what makes them move, and we will also be using magnets to observe how they move things. Vocabulary that can be discussed at home are friction, gravity, attract, and repel.

We are super excited about our One School, One Book activity. We look forward to discussing The Cricket in Times Square each day in class and participating with the rest of the school wide events to celebrate reading.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

Third grade at F.N. Brown is certainly looking a lot like a perfectly dug out garden. The seeds that were planted in early September/October are beginning to bloom into beautifully colorful flowers. The students have grown so much over the past few months and are certainly looking like mature, knowledgeable and responsible students.

In the month of March, the students created book reviews, reflecting on stories and novels through our writer's workshop unit literary essays. The students learned how to analyze a story and write a book review including a brief summary, the theme, a personal life connection to the story, an "I wonder" moment of the story and who they recommend this story to and why. The students thoroughly enjoyed this writing task and have created very detailed and persuasive book reviews. All classes are now working on typing their reviews and creating a scene from the book in Kid Pix. We will be posting them on a website called tween tribune for each class to comment and read the reviews. The students also finished publishing a buddy biography that they will be typing for an informational picture book.

We had our kick off for the Battle of the Books competition. The students are very excited to begin reading their B.O.B. books and have applied many concepts and skills from our reader's workshop when reflecting on each chapter that they read. The students have been divided into teams and are working on reading 9 of the 12 titles among their team to successfully prepare for the upcoming battles in June. The Battle of the Books finals will be held here at FN Brown on June 12th.

In reader's workshop the students have thoroughly enjoyed our most recent unit of study on Poetry. The students are learning to apply specific reading skills and strategies that unlock the meaning of poems and build their understanding of poetry as a genre. Through this unit the students have learned what components make up a poem, the techniques used in poetry (onomatopoeia, alliteration, repetition), how to use context clues for difficult vocabulary and recognizing how a poem makes you feel as a reader. The students have been studying some great poets such as Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky. The students' excitement has even branched out to them creating poetry on their own free time for a poetry book.

In Math, the students prepared for the upcoming NJ ASK that takes place in May. The students practiced their skills with area, perimeter, geometry, polygons, and measurement and reviewed some main concepts learned earlier in the school year. We are very proud of their dedication and achievement and are positive they will take their time on the test and do their very best!

We hope that all FN Brown Families are as ready for the sun and warm weather as we are!!!

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

In math students learned about area and perimeter. They learned that area can be estimated or found using square units and that formulas exist for finding the area of polygons. They also practiced how to find the distance around a given object and the relationship between area and perimeter. We are also beginning our study of fractions. In this topic students learn to divide and express answers as fractions. We are also integrating our NJ ASK review into our everyday lessons.

In writer's workshop our writers are collecting ideas for their creation of informational brochures, which are coordinated with our study of Essex County. Students have chosen and researched specific Essex county landmarks highlighting its history and special features. If you were to pick up one of these brochures you would definitely be given the information you need to visit. Students are also practicing for the up-coming NJ ASK test. Students are learning tips for answering open-ended questions as well as responding to writing prompts.

Reading is always a wonderful experience for our fourth graders. Everyone is totally engaged in our reader's workshop program. Examining what makes a poem a poem. Students are introduced to a collection of mentor texts examining the features and structural elements associated with poetry in order to heighten their understanding when they read in the genre.

We are still in full swing with our Peace Pal program. Fourth and second graders as well as kindergartners talked about the problems that arise when people have trouble accepting other people who are different from them. We tried to get in the "shoes" of people who are different from each other, try to solve problems, and help them discover how to make friends.

In Social Studies, fourth graders discovered the just how much Essex County has to offer its residents and visitors. Essex County has it all, from beautiful parks to great educational opportunities! History had been made

here too! Ask our fourth graders about where Grover Cleveland or Thomas Edison got their start. You guessed it! Right here in good, ole' Essex County!

Recently, the classes have begun to learn about NJ government and history in preparation for our trip to the State House in Trenton, NJ. Students are learning how the three NJ branches work together to provide services to its citizens. In addition, they will follow the process of how a bill becomes a NJ law. Have some fun with our fourth graders and see if you can guess our state fruit, animal, flower, ship, insect, and more. Even better, search for the story on how a fourth grade class played an instrumental part in making our state fruit an official recognized state symbol. You are never too young to be involved in our government!

What's the matter with Science this month? Well, everything is as students learn about the basic properties of matter! Students are comparing the properties of materials, including how they dissolve in water. They are also learning about the atom as the smallest particle of matter and that elements are substances made of just one kind of atom. Determining the main idea (and details) remains a critical reading focus area for students. Many thanks for the continued support that students are receiving at home.

VOCAL MUSIC – JUDY SZYBIST

The music department continues to look toward the busy spring performance schedule ahead. We are planning for many spring and all district concerts, as well as a variety of school events and assemblies.

This year the third and fourth grade vocal students will perform their Spring Concert on Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 pm. Students are hard at work with preparations and we are looking forward to an evening filled with song…..no matter what the weather may bring.

I would like to request "nice" dress for the evening, no jeans, shorts or t-shirts please. A skirt/dress or pants and shirt/blouse would be appropriate. Also, please keep in mind that footwear should be sensible and appropriate. I can tell you from personal experience that flip-flops on choral risers can be disastrous.

We are anxiously awaiting the Spring season at FN Brown and look forward to seeing you on the 18th.

ESL – NANCY BEATTIE

The students in the English as a Second Language Program continue to develop their English skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The upper grades read and discussed a non-fiction/ biography about the life of Helen Keller. The students focused on improving their oral fluency in reading as well as learning new vocabulary, context clues, homophones, and the present perfect tense. The students engaged in conversations about the life of Helen Keller, wrote responses to questions, and were encouraged to make a text to self-connection with the story.

The lower grades read and discussed a non-fiction story called Junior Buddy. The students focused on improving their oral fluency as well as learning new vocabulary, and the simple past tense using regular and irregular verbs. The students also worked on placing vocabulary words in ABC order, rhyming words, synonyms, and antonyms. The children have also been writing responses to questions in complete sentences using proper capitalization and punctuation.

The month of April will be busy as the E.S.L. students will be administered a test called ACCESS for ELLs which assesses growth in their English language skills. They will also be reading and discussing the One School, One Book novel, The Cricket in Times Square.

I wish everyone a Happy Easter, Happy Passover, and a Happy Spring.