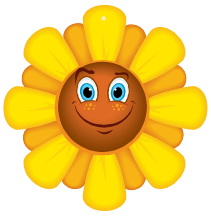
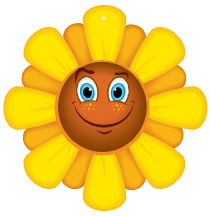
F.N. Brown School News

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





B-Line News

The Book Fair is Coming!

The F.N. Brown Annual Book Fair will be held on Tuesday, May 21st Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd. This is a big event for our students and we want it to be a huge success. We are in need of volunteers. If you can help in any way, please be sure to fill out the form that will be coming home in the weekly handouts. Please call Gabrielle Caprari 239-9103, Daniela Triggiano 571-9408, Alice Poueymirou 239-3559 or Stephanie D'Andrea 239-1540 for more information.

Box Tops for Education –Please remember to send in your box tops! We earn 10 cents per box top for our school. That's $1.00 for each 10 Box Tops collected. Just clip, save and send them in! Thanks

May 2013 Dates to Remember…

Wed., 5/1 -	FNB Field Day – 8:45am (rain date 5/3)
Thurs., 5/2 -	Assembly- Jump For Jill 10:30 SCA Pizza Lunch
Sat., 5/4 -	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop – 10am
Tues., 5/7 -	Staff Appreciation Breakfast SCA Pasta Lunch
Wed., 5/8 -	Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Thurs., 5/9 -	2nd Grade Trip to Montclair State 9-11:30 SCA Mexican Lunch
5/13-5/17 -	NJASK Testing – Grades 3 & 4
Thurs., 5/16 -	SCA Pizza Lunch
Mon., 5/20 -	4th Grade Spring Instrumental Concert – 9:15am
Tues., 5/21 - Thurs., 5/23	Book Fair
Wed., 5/22 -	Donuts With Dad 7:30am
Thurs., 5/23 -	Book Fair/Open House/Art Show/EcoFair 7:00pm
Fri., 5/24 -	**12:30 Dismissal – Professional Development** ½ Day Snacks B-Line Articles Due
Mon., 5/27 -	***NO SCHOOL – MEMORIAL DAY***
Wed., 5/29-	Town-Wide Band Concert @VHS 7:30 pm
Thurs., 5/30 -	SCA Chicken Lunch

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

Birthday Boys & Girls

May

Milo Attal, Kristen Brown,
Amanda Caldera, Samantha Costigan,
Alana Drost, Jackson Garthwaite,
Colin Giarrusso, Julia Komninos,
John McCarthy, Dean Palmer,
Alexia Popolizio, Michelle Salanon,
Veronica Thomas, Michael Wendling,
Marya Zakaria, Alison Zanders,
Daniela Zehnder

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

And a Special Thank You Goes to…

In honor of Nurses' Day, the SCA would like to thank Mrs. Brancato and Mrs. Casalino for their dedication to providing such wonderful care to our children. We are so fortunate to have these two wonderful professionals looking over our children.

More B-Line News…

Cultural Arts Committee –Thank you to Elizabeth Marano and Jacqueline Alkaysi for all the fabulous assemblies they have brought to FN Brown this year.

Half Day Snack Committee –A big thank you to Kate Curren, Janice Garthwaite, Dana Bachan, Sabrina Latino and all those who have volunteered their time to help our students receive their half day snacks. It takes special people to make events run so smoothly at our school.

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.

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: May 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29 and 31.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered.

FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL

125 GROVE AVENUE

VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

TELEPHONE: (973) 571 - 6753 FAX: (973) 571-9889

Anthony V. Lanzo, Ed.D.

Principal

May 1, 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome to May! I hope you and your family had a wonderful spring vacation. The month of May brings many special programs to our school. We are looking forward to Field Day on Wednesday, May 1st. Thank you Mr. Hill for your preparation of Field Day! Please note the following upcoming events at F.N. Brown. Don't forget to check the weekly reminder packet as well!

Standardized Testing: NJ ASK

As a reminder, grades 3 and 4 will take the NJ ASK during the week of May 13th. Grade 3 testing will take place over a four day period (two days for Language Arts and two days for Mathematics). Testing will begin on Monday, May 13th and conclude on Thursday, May 16th.

Grade 4 testing will take place over a five day period (two days for Language Arts, two days for Mathematics and one day for Science). Testing will begin on Monday, May 13th and conclude on Friday, May 17th.

Spring Instrumental Concert

Our *Spring Instrumental Concert* directed by Mr. Max Morden is scheduled for Monday, May 20th at 9:15 AM in the school auditorium. The combined *Verona Elementary Band*, also directed by Mr. Max Morden, will perform at Verona High School on the evening of Wednesday, May 29th at 7:30 pm.

Open House/Art Show/ECO-Fair/Book Fair/Scavenger Hunt

We look forward to seeing you at the Open House on Thursday, May 23rd at 7:00 PM. During your tour of the building, please note the beautiful art work and student projects displayed in the hallways. Our art teacher, Mrs. Jasterzbski has posted a variety of art projects that the children have completed over the past year. Parents will also have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom to review classroom projects as well. Eco-Fair class projects will be displayed in the gymnasium for all to view. Also, we have allocated a block of time for visiting the Book Fair. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in our annual Scavenger Hunt. Many of the special area teachers will also be available in their classroom, so please feel free to make a visit.

Please Note: **Students must be accompanied by an adult at all times during this evening of events.**

It is a pleasure to serve the FNB community! Thank you for your support!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

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

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

We hope that everyone enjoyed the Spring Break and time off. It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over. The next two months will be very busy with fun events.

The SCA would like to thank ALL of our faculty and staff at FNB during Teacher Appreciation Week. We are so grateful for your professionalism, care and amazing level of commitment to our children, your students. We encourage all families to take a moment and thank a teacher. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and Breakfast will be held on May 8th and May 9th. We would like to thank Jodi Brown, Kathleen Keating, Dawn Mulligan and Lisa Jacobsen for their help in planning the events and to all the families who donated and offered their help.

Nurse's Day is May 11th…the SCA thanks Mrs. Brancato and Mrs. Casalino for always looking out for the health and welfare of our children.

The Book Fair is coming!! The Committee Gabrielle Caprari, Daniela Triggiano, Alice Poueymirou and Stephanie D'Andrea have been working together and with Scholastic Book Company to bring some exciting titles and programs to FNB. The committee will be sending out more information. Book Fair dates are May 21st, 22nd and May 23rd

The SCA will support the Field Day events being organized by Mr. Hill and the staff. The SCA will be providing each student with a maroon or white field day t-shirt. Field Day is always a fun day for the children. Field Day is scheduled for May 1st, with a rain date of May 3rd. Thank you to all who offered to help Mr. Hill.

The Nominating Committee will meet and set forth the slate of volunteers for next years SCA programs and events. Thank you to Kristen Mautone for chairing the committee and hosting the meeting at her home. We thank you to all who have signed on to help next year.

Thank you,

Pam Priscoe and Antonia Castner

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

April showers are soon behind us and we anxiously await the May flowers. The classes have been enjoying the outside playground area after a long five months of being restricted to their classrooms.

In Writing Workshop, a study of the author Lois Elhert took place. The children studied the print and illustrations chosen by Ms. Elhert in constructing her fictional stories. She added nonfictional facts to her content, as well as using the form of labeling in her stories. Each child had the opportunity to copy her technique of illustration and print.

We are continuing to discuss Conflict Resolution in our classes. The Kindergartners have been practicing what they have learned by using the "I Message" when they need to state their feelings. Through modeling and instruction they are able to discern the differences and similarities between conflict and bullying and beginning to feel empowered to handle their own conflicts.

We hope everyone enjoyed their spring break. It is very hard to believe we have only two months left to the school year. Put your seatbelts on and get ready for all the fun activities that are coming up. It will be very exciting!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

April has brought on many great challenges in first grade. For starters the One School, One Book kick off assembly energized all at F.N. Brown. The hallways were buzzing with talk about Mario and his cricket, Chester. Part of our day this month has been spent reading the blog messages of students in our classroom. How motivating and interesting to feel the enthusiasm just from reading the blog. Reading as a family has really fostered a new love of the simple things in life… READING!!! Student's in both first grades love seeing and hearing their names and messages read aloud. Thank you to all the parents for getting involved in this great endeavor.

The first graders were so pleased with their individual growth as readers thus far in first grade. The students enjoy reading at their own levels as well as completing group tasks. The reading skills: theme, main idea, and drawing a conclusion have kept the students very busy. When writing a reader's response the students need to find information in the text to help them back up their opinion when writing a response. This is a much more sophisticated skill and takes lots of practice.

In math, we just finished a short unit on Length. Using both non-standard and standard means of measurement the students liked estimating how long they thought a given object was before actually measuring the item. These two concepts were stressed within the unit. Time to the hour and the half hour were also taught. Reading an analog clock may seem so antiquated in today's world, however it is expected to be mastered by the end of second grade. We played games and even made paper plate clocks for home. Presently, we are learning how to graph data on all different types of graphs. Subtraction and addition skills are being tested as well. Students need to be able to use the graphs to interpret information when asked, "How many fewer/more or how many in all?" This is a great review and lots of fun too.

Writing has taken on its own flare as well. The students are enjoying writing how-to stories and all about stories. The use of transition words: first, then, next and last have assisted in the organization of a how to story while non -fiction reading has helped students write all about stories. Remembering there is a world at the end of each

pencil continues to foster the love of writing in first grade. The first graders also had an author's celebration: Mrs. Collins' class got to "celebrate" their stories to the second graders who gave them lots of great positive feedback. Mrs. McKenna's class got to "celebrate" with the fourth graders. The students really enjoyed this last writing topic, which was picking a favorite author and trying to write like them. Please be sure to ask your child to see this writing. They all truly did an excellent job!

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

Welcome back! We hope you had an enjoyable spring break and welcome to May! The second graders have jumped into spring just like our favorite character Chester Cricket. We are enjoying reading The Cricket in Times Square and look forward to school wide and classroom discussions about the book each day. It has been great seeing some excellent second grade responses on the blog. We worked on a special writing project called Meet the Characters. We brainstormed a list of character traits and adjectives and then each student chose a favorite character to write about. Please take look at our display as you enter the building.

In Reading, we continue to read stories in our unit called Ties through Time. Some stories we look forward to reading together are The Rooster Who Went to His Uncle's Wedding, Missing: One Stuffed Rabbit, and Bruno the Baker. We are still working on adjectives and finding ways to use them in our writing. 2G used adjectives to describe themselves and 2H made adjective monsters.

In Math we have been exploring money by counting collections of coins and finding out facts about what is on each coin. The students have had fun using play money to learn this skill. Please continue to practice this concept at home. Coming up we will be adding and subtracting money amounts.

In Science we had two O.D.E lessons with Mr. L that focused around our upcoming unit on Living Things. Presently we are finishing up Motion, then we will move onto Weather, and finally finish up the year with Living Things.

Each week, over the last several weeks, the second grade teachers have been teaching a lesson on conflict resolution. The students have been working to find better ways to manage conflict and their feeling when they are upset. I-Messages tell others how we are feeling and help us to begin to solve problems independently. Through role playing activities and group work we have been enjoying these lessons together.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

Just like spring gardens in bloom, third graders are blossoming and maturing in knowledge, skills and works habits. Our poetry unit in Readers' Workshop expanded reading comprehension skills. Students developed higher level thinking skills by analyzing various types of poems and interpreting their meanings. They were able to use context clues to understand difficult words and phrases. Original poems were written by budding poets, wanting to imitate the style and elements found in their favorite poems.

"Buddy Biographies" are in their final phases and soon going to print. Each student created a timeline of life events, which they exchanged with a partner. Interview questions were created to discover more details about these events in their partner's life. This research was used to write biographies about one another.

As the partner wrote the story, the student created pictures of event in their life. Each student will receive a hardbound, illustrated copy of their life story. This was an enjoyable way to practice skills while getting to know one another better. What a great souvenir of the Third Grade year!

Battle of the Books is underway. Students are enjoying being on teams and reading their books. Excitement is building for our first practice battle. Students are enjoying blogging each night for One School One Book. ***A Cricket in Times Square*** is also one of our 12 Battle titles, so students are fulfilling a second reading requirement in a fun way. It is great seeing so many in our school community being brought together in this reading venture!

Preparation for the NJ ASK has also begun. We are busy strengthening Math skills in geometry, fractions,

calculator usage, probability and measurement. Reading preparation includes reading various types of passages, and writing detailed responses for writing prompts. We are proud of how hard students are working. The best advice is for them to just take their time and do their very best!

In Science, we are concluding our study on Living Things. Students have learned how scientists classify animals, and what the basic needs are for the survival of all species. Flip Books of the traits of vertebrates and invertebrates were created as a closing activity.

In Social Studies, students are concluding their study of Presidents and will soon be moving on to learning about the 50 States and Washington, D.C.

We hope everyone enjoyed their Spring vacation!

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

Our historians visited the State House in Trenton this past month. The fourth grade students applied their knowledge of New Jersey's legislative process. The classes were able stand in the General Assembly, the Senate, the governor's greeting and press room and walk the halls where New Jersey laws are made! They were even able to stand in the same room, the General Assembly, where Abraham Lincoln stopped to speak on the road to accepting the presidency of the United States! The students represented F.N. Brown well by answering many of their tour guide's questions and asking some great ones of their own. The Trenton trip is always a highlight of the fourth graders' years at F.N. Brown! A special thank you to the SCA for providing the coach bus for our class to travel in to Trenton. As we return from spring break, the students will enter studies regarding slavery and the Civil War.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL

This has been a very exciting year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The children have been working very hard on their sportsmanship and teamwork skills and the difference from the beginning of the year until now is amazing. I am so proud of how they are learning to work together as part of a team. I can only hope that this is rubbing off on all aspects of their lives. I said in my first article that I couldn't wait to see how the children progressed throughout the year and I could not be happier with the results.

The children have already been through so many different sport and fitness units and I can't believe it is April already. They have been through football, soccer, basketball, hockey, and volleyball as sport units. The children have also had an opportunity to play many tag games to work on their chasing, fleeing and dodging skills as well as fine tune their locomotor skills. I can safely say that the children have gained much more confidence in their physical abilities and I hope that they continue to pursue their interests outside of physical education. In addition, the third and fourth grade students are once again participating in the United States Marine Corps Youth Fitness tests, while first and second grade is practicing for these same tests. The students are all making huge strides in improving their physical fitness levels.

I look forward to our annual Field Day here at F.N. on Wednesday, May 1st. It will be a very fun-filled and exciting event for all involved. Parent involvement and assistance is greatly appreciated. This past year it has been a pleasure teaching your children and I look forward to watching them grow and excel in the future. Once again if you ever need to contact me my e-mail address is rhill@veronaschools.org.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

The instrumental students are putting the final touches on our band music and some are beginning to work on their solos and duets. Our concert is fast approaching and we can't wait to let you hear how far we have progressed. As always, the real key to success is following through at home. A short but daily practice routine is essential in turning all our learned 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. At this point in the year, students should practice for 15 minutes a day, and it is the 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. Those five minutes then, are much better than trying to make it up on another day.

There are many songs for this concert. You should recognize "Old MacDonald", "Skip To My Lou", "Shoo Fly" and "Bingo" among others. Songs like this are played in unison and are used to reinforce skills we have learned. Some such as "Centurion" or "Royal Oak March", are full page band arrangements that incorporate all of our elements and provide students the additional task of playing parts that are independent of other instruments.

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. Those students that are working on a solo or duet performance, understand that music is in addition to the band songs, and needs to be practiced equally along with the other material.

Besides our own school concert, we also have the town-wide elementary band concert on May 29. This concert combines all four elementary schools into one giant band to perform on the big stage at VHS. It is very exciting! We will also be joined by our very own high school jazz band known as Verona Jazz & Beyond.

Also, 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. Any student going into 2nd grade or higher can participate in the program, and the entire music staff would love to see as many students attend as possible. All students going into 4th grade, can take a beginning band instrument with no previous experience necessary. This is highly recommended for students interested in the band for next year. There is a ton of information on our website: veronasummermusic.org, with lots of FAQs that will answer almost all questions.

By the way, if you go to my school website, I have a play along for "Rock Out" at the bottom of the Elementary Band page. Students will be able to practice this at home all night! :-)

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

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Spring Greetings! We have been very busy in the art room preparing for the art show. Look around F.N. Brown's walls to see all the beautiful creations that your children have made. We have been working on a variety of art history projects, as well as springtime collages. The children have also created self-portraits, tessellations and all sculptures can be found in the library.

The children helped out designing vases with flowers and pictures frames that were raffled off at the tricky tray. They were a big hit! We also created our own notecards which will be arriving at the beginning of June. Fourth graders will be making their memory boxes and participating in the tile wall that will be installed in the cafeteria next year. All children will make a tile that will be hung in the two cafeterias permanently for all to enjoy at the beginning of next year. Thank you to the SCA for funding this project.