Laning Avenue News
May 2013 Issue

-From the Principal's Desk-

Dear Parents:

As we enter May, we find eighty percent of the school year behind us. I would like to congratulate all students, parents, and staff for what I consider an excellent school year. However, it is important to recognize that May and June are critical months in the continuing academic and social development of your children.

The following is a list of activities Laning students will be engaged in as we move through the end of the year:

MAY

5/2 Author Visit
5/3 Book Fair, 2:45-7pm
5/4 Book Fair, 10-12 noon
5/4 Pre-K Workshop, 10-11am
5/6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/9 Laning Avenue Art Show/Go-To-School Night
5/9 Bash The Trash Assembly
5/13-16 Laning Kids Help The Hungry
5/13-16 Third Grade NJ ASK
5/13-17 Fourth Grade NJ ASK
5/14 Grade 2 Field Trip – CCM Planetarium
5/22 Fourth Grade Instrumental Concert – 9:15am
5/23 Grade 1 Field Trip - Theatreworks
5/24 12:30 Dismissal
5/24 Bagel Mania
5/29 All-District Fourth Grade Instrumental Concert – 7:30pm
5/30 Grandparents/Special Guest Day
5/31 Field Day

JUNE

6/3 SCA Meeting
6/4 Field Day (rain date)
6/13 Jackals Night
6/14 Red, White & Blue Day (Flag Day)
6/17 Kindergarten Field Trip- Turtle Back Zoo
6/18-21 12:30 Dismissal
6/19 Fourth Grade Farewell
6/21 Last Day of School

Rest assured that the Laning staff will continue to provide your children with challenging, stimulating activities right up to June 21st. Any way you can support their efforts at home would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frank Albano
Principal

A Message from
Laning Avenue SCA Co-Presidents

Dear Laning Families,

We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing week off with your families. It was a wonderful and much needed break for all. We are now full steam ahead for the remainder of our school year. We have many exciting events planned and we thank all of our chairpeople and committee members for implementing all of our events.

Thank you to the following people for volunteering their time to these events:

- Linette Mathewson and Jeff Kenny for putting together a wonderful Earth Day event! And the Environmental committee and Property and Grounds committee members, as well as all those Laning families that helped to make our Laning grounds look so beautiful: Linette & Ella Mathewson, Kyle, Sebastian, & Astrid Burns, Nancy & Matthew Barnett, Lisa & Timothy Hudson, Trish, Ella & Gavin Moore, Lisa & Dylan Munjack, Kevin, Katherine & Andrew Hunt; Meghan and Griffin Beam, Tara & Dylan Bratek and Cheryl & Christian Kaulback. Special thanks to Ray Farro for securing all the supplies.
- Lisa Freedman, Tracy Bermeo and committee for helping our soon-to-be Kindergarteners feel at home and welcoming them into the Laning family. We look forward to seeing their smiling faces in September!
- Niki Valera, Lisa Szamborski and the 4th Grade Farewell Committee for organizing a successful bowling party for our Laning Ave. 4th Graders.
- Librarian Katey McAuliffe, as well as Denise Infusino, Kristin Shea and the Author Visit Committee for this year's event with Dan Gutman. Dan only makes a few personal appearances a year and getting him to come to Laning was quite a coup! He was terrifically funny and we know the kids really enjoyed his presentation.
- Chairpersons Kristen Shea and Rayna Cole and all the parents who volunteered their time for another successful Book Fair! Special thanks to Kyle, Sebastian, & Astrid Burns, David, Gabriel & Alek Breitenbach, and Anna Shea for their help in breaking down the event.
- Mr. Perry for an amazingly, rocking good time at the 3rd& 4th grade Vocal Concert!
- Jen Vogel and her hot lunch helpers for continuously implementing a well-oiled operation. This is the last month for SCA Lunches and we can't thank Jen and her crew enough for keeping things running smoothly throughout 2012-13.
- Tara Imbriano & Marlo Spina for their tireless efforts for our SCRIP gift cards program.

Our final SCA Meeting for the year will take place on Monday, June 3rd, 7 p.m. in the library.

Thinking ahead to next year…
We want to thank all of the parents who have volunteered to Chair or Help with Laning SCA Committees for 2013-14. What's even more amazing is that 99% have signed up to help with two or more committees. We are truly grateful for your dedication!

At the same time there's ALWAYS room for more! If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time.

Laning SCA's volunteers are made up of moms and dads who are can give different amounts of time on different days of the week. Whether you are a stay-at-home, part-time working, or full-time working parent, you can help.

If you are unsure which committee would work with your schedule, you can contact Joanna Breitenbach, joanna.breitenbach@gmail.com, for a volunteer match.

For more information, the Committee Descriptions and the Committee Sign Up forms can be found on the Laning SCA website's homepage at: **http://www.veronaschools.org/page/1734**

The remainder of the May calendar looks like this:
5/6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week
5/9: Cultural Arts Assembly: "Bash the Trash"
5/9: SCA Hot Lunch, Pizza
5/9: Laning Art Show/Go-To-School Night, 7:15 p.m.
5/13-16 Laning Kids Help the Hungry
5/13-16: 3rd grade, NJ ASK
5/13-17: 4th grade, NJ ASK
5/14: 2nd grade field trip, Planetarium
5/16: SCA Hot Lunch, Pizza
5/18: Laning SCA Adult Social, 7 p.m., RSVP required. Click here for details. Deadline extended! RSVP due May 8
5/22: 4th grade instrumental concert, 9:15 a.m.
5/23: 1st grade field trip: Theatreworks
5/24: Half Day
5/24: Bagel Mania, **NEW DATE PLEASE NOTE**
5/27: Schools Closed, Memorial Day
5/29: All-district 4th grade instrumental concert, 7:30 p.m.
5/30: Grandparents/Special Persons Day, **NEW DATE PLEASE NOTE**
5/31: Field Day

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

-Laning SCA Announcements-

Environmental Committee

Laning's Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration Recap

The weather was beautiful and the participants were busy at Laning's Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration on April 15th. Over 50 students and parent volunteers worked eagerly sprucing up the school grounds. Students picked up debris around the school grounds, sprinkled grass seed on the front lawn, planted brightly-colored pansies in the planters, and covered the gardens with mulch. After finishing all the rotations, students could plant a seedling in a recycled container to take home and enter the raffle. Prizes included eco-friendly art projects, gardening tools, and books. A special thank you to Ray Farro Landscaping for their help.

Reduce Emissions

Let the beautiful spring weather motivate you and your children to walk to school and to/from nearby locations as much as you can. Encourage your children's participation by setting up walking groups with neighborhood friends. When you are in the car, try to consolidate your trips or carpool. As stated in front of Laning, "No Idling" is a good rule to follow whenever you are waiting in the car. An idling car burns more fuel than a simple restart. With the high cost of gas, it also makes economic sense to turn off your car. Even the smallest changes make an impact!

Go to the links listed below to calculate how you and your family impact the environment:
www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html
www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, please contact Linette Mathewson at 973-857-8673 or ellabloom20@gmail.com

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.

Book Fair
The Laning SCA's Scholastic Book Fair was a great success. Thanks to all shoppers and volunteers who supported the in-school event on May 3rd and 4th.

Missed your chance? There's still time to shop! If you were unable to make it to the Book Fair last weekend, you can still shop online at: **http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/laning** until May 11th.

Laning Kids Help the Hungry
This month's collection will be held from Monday, May 13, to Thursday, May 16.

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, June 3, 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 April we discussed Autism Awareness. With the student we talked about the challenges that students with autism often encounter. Students helped cut out puzzles pieces and as a class we read many facts about autism. We celebrated Earth Day and discussed ways that we could help our earth through every day activities. Students read stories about what others do to reduce, reuse and recycle. In writing some of the students made "How to" books a shared them with the preschool class as a guest author. In math we are discussing shapes and the properties of shapes.

Kindergarten – Mrs. Kristy McCabe and Mrs. Kimberley Nochimson

April has been an amazing month for the kindergarteners. We were so excited about the spring and we wrote about our favorite things to do in the springtime. We couldn't wait to get outside and take several walks to look for signs of the changing seasons. In just one week, all the buds we saw had turned into beautiful flowers and leaves! We learned about flowers, their parts, and how they grow, and we also learned about rain and the water cycle because "April Showers Bring May Flowers". The artists in us came out when we created flower puzzles and painted beautiful butterflies. Science was super when we began learning all about our planet, Earth. We began experimenting with water and we had an investigation to see which objects sink and which objects float. In Math we worked very hard practicing the numbers 11 to 19. We learned that each number is one group of ten and then a certain amount of ones. We are math wizards!

The kindergarten reading machines have been reading their way through our sight word lists as well as learning how to write many sight words and use them every day. We had a radical time researching during Writing Workshop. We worked together in our groups to come up with a topic, then we researched each topic using the library and the computer, and finally we wrote our own books using the information that we found! It was so much fun and everyone worked nicely together. We also celebrated Earth Day and wrote about ways we can help reduce, reuse and recycle. We hope everyone enjoys the April break!

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

The first graders integrated science into the Nonfiction Writing Workshop unit this month. After investigating different types of matter, the children then created a nonfiction book on matter. Each book contained a chapter on solids, liquids, and gases, as well as several experiment pages. The students were very enthusiastic and excited to teach their peers all about their knowledge of matter. They were very proud of their finished products.

The students are learning to implement research assignments using the internet in the computer lab. The children worked with a partner to research different animals from each continent. The findings were published by the children at the culmination of the unit.

Grade 2 - Ms. Sage Seaton and Mrs. Pamela Banta

In honor of Earth Day, second graders discussed many different ways to conserve energy and take care of the Earth. Students created an art project that was hung in the hallways displaying their individual promises to the Earth. In Social Studies, students finished studying the seven continents. Students also studied Geometry in Math. They worked with solid figures, plane shapes and also worked to divide shapes into equal pieces. As a culmination to the unit, students used toothpicks and marshmallows to build their own solid figures.

Sergeant Shafer from the Verona Police Department came to both second grades for DARE. He discussed bike safety, stranger danger and street safety. The children practiced letter writing skills when they wrote thank you notes to him. Students also completed a study of Biography writing. They are currently working on creating a biography of Mr. Albano! Our busy month also included a science study of weather. Students observed changes and patterns in weather as well as studied the water cycle.

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

April was a busy and exciting month for the third graders. In Language Arts, students focused on the different components of Writing and Reading Workshop. Students wrote realistic fiction stories, and focused on using the texts of mentors to improve the effectiveness of their stories. The third graders also finished a Reading unit having to do with the many different elements and types of poetry.

In Math, they learned about 2D and 3D shapes, and all types of polygons, as well as how to calculate perimeter, area, and volume. Moving forward in to May, we will be learning all about fractions and measurement.

In Social Studies, students are finishing up their travels across the 50 States! They have succeeded at naming the state abbreviations and the capitals. We will be focusing on the specific locations of the states next.

To commemorate Earth Day, the classes worked together to construct various Earth Day projects illustrating ways they can help protect the planet. Students learned about reducing, reusing and recycling and discussed why it is so important to work to save our environment.

In Science, we are finishing up our study of Matter. The students are now familiar with the three states of matter, as well as properties of matter, such as mass, volume, and density.

We look forward to what's to come in the month of May!

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

One of the many highlights of April was the Spring Concert. The students' performances were amazing! Their hard work and efforts certainly paid off.

Another highlight was our trip to the middle school. On April 17th, the fourth graders walked to H.B.W. Middle School. The students were able to ask questions, take a tour of the building, meet the fifth grade teachers, and get an overview of what to expect next year.

Students have continued to work diligently to prepare for the NJASK test which will be administered in May. Each week they complete practice tests and respond to writing prompts and open ended questions in math, language arts, and science.

In Social Studies, students learned about the American Revolution and the battles that took place right here in New Jersey. Using the knowledge they gained from a variety of text sources, students will create sketches depicting different events that took place during the revolution.

Our fourth grade mathematicians completed the chapter on angle measurement and learned about geometry. Students enjoyed doing a variety of activities related to shapes, symmetry, and angles.

Battle of the Books update: The battles have begun and the competition is fierce! The teams are well-prepared and we have had some very close matches. It will be interesting to see which team is victorious!

Verona Pre-School Program
Full Day Preschool Teacher – Mrs. Grace Minervo-Buneo

The full day Preschoolers are growing like seeds to flowers, soaring like birds in the sky and are as busy as bees!!! Our themes to introduce the spring season this month were Flowers and Planting, Spring Birds and Insects!! What fun we had going for nature walks to see all the changes and to finally wear light weight jackets outside. Our bird watching outside was so much fun as the children searched to find blue birds, robins, woodpeckers and black birds in their natural environment. The children enjoyed reading The Tiny Seed and making beautiful flowers to celebrate the spring and to decorate our classroom. After reading The Very Grouchy Ladybug and other Eric Carle insect books from our library and on the iPad our preschoolers did morning stretches like ladybugs, buzzed like bees, and had fun making ladybug and bee art to "buzz" around our room.

The preschoolers were very proud of the spring bulletin board outside our room that summarizes our busy month and our celebration of spring.

Pre-School - Mrs. Pauline Jennis and Mrs. Maryann Bifulco

Spring has finally arrived! The preschoolers had fun filling the halls with all the signs of spring. There are colorful flowers and chirping birds. We made buzzing bees, spotted ladybugs and fluttering butterflies. We put up our umbrellas when it rained and even made mud. After the spring showers were over the sun came out and a beautiful rainbow appeared. We also celebrated Earth Day and talked about what we can do to keep our planet clean. Everyone is looking forward to spring vacation and spending special time with our families.

May Birthdays

Anand P.
Adriana F.
Dylan B.
Reid B.
Michael G.
Isabella M.
Grace K.
Hannah M.

Julia N.
Marlena S.
Kate A.
Raymond C.
Cassandra C.
George D.
Xander F.
Sophia N.

Astrid B.
Nandi W.
Madison S.
Zachary B.
Sarah G.
Jeffrey M.
Sofia G.
Veronica V.

-Mark Your Calendars-

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6 Teacher Appreciation Week	7 Teacher Appreciation Week	8 Teacher Appreciation Week	9 Teacher Appreciation Week Teacher Appreciation Luncheon "Bash the Trash" Go-to-School Night/Art Show Hot Lunch	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 Grade 2 Field Trip	15 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3 and 4	16 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3 and 4 Hot Lunch	17 NJ ASK Grade 4	18 Adult Social
19	20	21	22 4th Grade Instrumental Concert	23 Grade 1 Field Trip	24 ½ Day Bagel Mania NOTE DATE CHANGE	25
26	27 Schools Closed	28	29 All-District 4th Grade Instrumental Concert	30 NOTE DATE CHANGE Grandparents/ Special Persons Day	31 Field Day	

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 SCA Meeting Laning Kids Help the Hungry	4 Rain Date for Field Day Laning Kids Help the Hungry	5 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	6 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Jackals Night	14 Red, White & Blue Day/ Flag Day	15
16	17 Kindergarten Field Trip	18 ½ Day	19 ½ Day Fourth Grade Farewell	20 ½ Day Teachers End of Year Lunch	21 ½ Day Last Day of School	22