F.N. Brown Newsletter November 2013

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

Dates to Remember…

Mon., 11/4- SCA Meeting 7:00pm (Library)

Tues., 11/5- **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snacks
Election Day Bake Sale
Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm

Thurs., 11/7-
& Fri., 11/8 **NO SCHOOL**
Teacher's Convention

Thurs., 11/14- SCA Pizza Lunch

Fri., 11/15- ***Report Cards Issued***

Mon.- Wed.-
11/18, 19 & 20 **12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snacks
Parent Teacher Conferences
(11/20- Evening Conferences)

Thurs., 11/21- SCA Bagel Lunch
B-Line Articles Due

Tues., 11/26- Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm

Wed., 11/27- **12:30 Dismissal**
Thanksgiving Feast 11:30

Thurs., 11/28-
& Fri., 11/29 **NO SCHOOL**
Happy Thanksgiving!

B-Line News

Election Day Bake Sale – Calling all bakers!!! Tuesday, November 5th is another of our great fundraisers. We ask for donated baked goods which are sold throughout the day to Election Day patrons. The sale will end at 1:00. Any questions please contact Dana Wynne, wynne56@comcast.net. (NOTE: DUE TO ALLERGIES, PLEASE DO NOT BAKE WITH PEANUTS OR NUTS.)

Thanksgiving Feast – Our annual Thanksgiving Feast is scheduled for Wednesday, November 27th at 11:30. This is a great day for our students, but in order for it to be a success we need your help. Class parents will contact you with details on what is needed, so please mark your calendars now. It's a great way to kick off your holiday. Be sure you don't miss out and keep a look out for more details coming soon. If you have questions please contact Amy Aiello, amyjaiello@yahoo.com.

Busy Bee Scrip Program- The Busy Bee Bucks gift card program is off to a great start, offering both a grocery program and various other retailers from restaurants, clothing, movies, gas and more! With all the birthday parties and upcoming holidays, these gift cards make great gifts. Order forms are available on the F.N. Brown website under community or by contacting Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973.8857.8663. It is so easy to support F.N. Brown while you shop!

Oliver's Labels- Oliver's Labels are the practical way to identify all your family's belongings and help keep them out of the "lost-and-never-found" pile. The labels are waterproof and tags are made of high-performance, scuff-proof materials and are dishwasher, microwave and washer/dryer safe. Customize and preview your labels instantly with your name and choice of over 70 colorful designs! Visit www.oliverslabels.com/fnbrown today! F.N. Brown receives 20% of all purchases.

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: November 1, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 22, 25 and 26.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered.

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

Birthday Boys and Girls

November

Antonio Andino, Olivia Plath,
Matthew Medina, Illan Haque,
Samantha Rizza, Eleanor Battersby,
Nia Pilauri, Dylan Frey, Brady Watkins,
Liam McEnerney, Victoria Valese,
Kyla Pavia, Julianne French,
Sophie Hacker

Half Day Snacks – On November 5, 18, 19 & 20 the SCA will be sponsoring Half Day Snacks for all students. Snacks must be pre-ordered. Watch your Wednesday packets in October and November for sign up details. Please direct any questions to Dawn Mulligan, jifclaims@comcast.net.

SCA Membership – Membership dues are $8.00 (cash or check made payble to FN Brown SCA) per family and can be sent into school to the attention of Janice Garthwaite, SCA Membership.

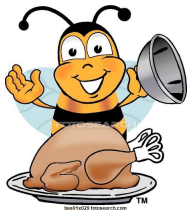
More B-Line News

Note from the Treasurer - For those submitting expenses for various programs, please place your receipts in an envelope along with your name and a short explanation of the expense. All reimbursement checks will be returned to the SCA mailbox in the main office within 24-48 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Mulligan, jifclaims@comcast.net.

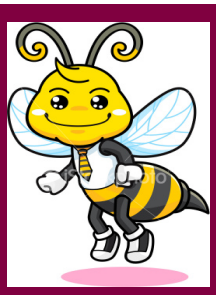
Fall Festival – The Fall Festival Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our Fall Festival this year. It was a great success. Our bakers really outdid themselves by providing the most delicious and festive treats. The children and adults were delighted with all the goodies and beautiful fall decorations. A special thanks to everone who volunteered to help set up, clean up and sell on the day, especially Mr. Lous Cerretta and Mr. Iggy Joswik, our fabulous custodians. We could not have done it without all of you!

Wrapping Paper Committee – Thank you to all who participated in the Wrapping Paper Sale. Sales were over $7,000!! What a great success! Wrapping paper orders will arrive in early November. Large orders will be packed in boxes and smaller orders will be packed in bags. Please keep a look out for more details to follow in the weekly packets. REMEMBER- YOU CAN CONTINUE TO ORDER ON INNISBROOK.COM throughout the year and we will earn revenue. Thanks again for your continued support!

Box Tops for Education
Please remember to send in your box tops! We earn 10 cents for FN Brown for each box top that's collected. Just clip, save and send them in. Thanks!



And A Special Thank You Goes to…



The Wrapping Paper Committee! What a successful and great fundraiser. It would not have been possible without the efforts of Dawn Mulligan and Hilary Moskowitz.

The Buzz Book Committee! Everyone can set up some playdates now thanks to Kristen Mautone and Melissa Watkins.

The School Pictures Committee! Great job Chantal Matta and Mindy Frey.

F.N. BROWN – THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!

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

November 2013

Dear Parents,

I can't believe it is November already! The school year is moving quickly. We have many wonderful events occurring at F.N. Brown each day, as I am sure your child has shared at home. Thanks to all of our FNB parents for the tremendous support given to our school programs on a daily basis. A strong home school partnership is critical in fostering a positive experience for all of our students. Also, thank you to the various parent volunteers for helping us provide all of the extras for our students.

Report Cards – PLEASE NOTE

Report cards will be issued to students in grades 1-4 on Friday, November 15th. All report cards will be accessed on-line via Genesis/parent portal. Parents may request to receive a hard copy of the report card in writing by sending the main office an email: adugan@veronaschools.org. All parents should have received the parent portal access information. If you have not received the information, please contact our main office.

Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 18th, 19th, and 20th. Each teacher will share your child's social and academic progress thus far. Teachers will also focus in on areas that are in need of growth during this school year. **Please note that we will have a 12:30 dismissal on all three conference dates.**

Thanksgiving Feast

We look forward to our annual feast on Wednesday, November 27th @ 11:30 AM. Thank you to our generous SCA for organizing and funding this special tradition that our students and staff truly enjoy. Reminder: We will have a 12:30 dismissal on Wednesday, November 27th and school will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th.

Problem Solving

Children in the early years are faced with a number of problems in a typical day. Learning to solve them is a desirable skill to teach children. Solving problems involves critical thinking, which carries over into academic areas as well.

What we are doing in school:

1. Our students are taught some step to follow when faced with a problem.
2. Describe the problem
3. Give the problem some thought. (What caused it? Who is involved? What can be done?)
4. Look at both sides of the problem. (Consider the consequences. Ask, "What would happen if?"
5. Decide on a solution and follow it.
6. Decide if the solution was a good one.

At F N Brown school we view problems as opportunities to learn. Helping your child solve problems increases his or her independence. Capable children solve problems effectively.

How home and school can work together:
You can support problem solving at home by using the steps listed above with your child. In addition, you can help by giving your child space to solve his or her problems wherever possible. Acknowledge when you see your child effectively solving a problem and label it as such. When you allow your child to solve problems, you are communicating your confidence in his or her abilities and competence.

Enjoy the rest of fall!

Sincerely,

Anthony Lanzo

F.N. Brown SCA November 2013 ~

Message from SCA Co-Presidents

Autumn is in full swing and the F.N. Brown SCA has a cornucopia of wonderful events underway and coming up in November and beyond. We would like to thank all the families that baked for the Election Day Bake Sale on November 5th and the committee members who organized the sale. We also extend a vigorous thanks to the Half Day Snack committee for setting up and delivering a special snack to our students on half days!

October was bursting with successful SCA activities made possible by all the volunteers who continue to support our students with their efforts. The Fall Festival began with pumpkin picking for the students and ended in homemade Fall treats. Thanks to all who baked and helped at the event. The SCA Hot Lunch Program is underway and providing pizza, bagel, pasta and chicken lunches with a smile. A big thanks to Sandy Colon and Leanne Costigan for organizing and doing all the shopping for the SCA Hot Lunch program. The Buzz Book showcases student artwork within the directory of F.N. Brown student families. Thank you to Kristin Mautone and Melissa Watkins for organizing the artwork contest, the printing and the distribution of the Buzz Book! The Busy Bee Bucks Scrip program is going strong by providing a variety of new gift card options this year. The SCA sold Fun Stuff books and had the Wrapping Paper Sale in October which all bring in cash for F.N. Brown students. Please continue to support the SCA by purchasing your Holiday Gift Cards through the Busy Bee Bucks program. The Wrapping Sale has concluded and delivery will take place before Thanksgiving. Thank you to all who worked hard on these committees to make the sales so successful.

As we transition through the seasons, the SCA events to plan for are the Thanksgiving Feast, the Adult Social, Holiday House, and Holidays are for Sharing. We look forward to the Holiday Concert as well and all of the joy that the season brings for our hard working students and their families.

We would like to wish the Faculty, Staff and the families of F.N. Brown a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou ~ SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA

We have had quite a busy but fun month. Our trip to Turtle Back Zoo was enjoyed by all. The weather was perfect and most of the animals were out to say hello!

In Reading Workshop, we have been learning the importance of taking good care of a book, choosing books wisely and thinking about what is happening in the story through illustrations. Please continue to read with your child every day. It is the single most important thing you can do to help create enthusiastic readers and writers!

In Writing Workshop, we are creating lists. Talk about the lists you create and use at home. Make lists together of favorite foods, favorite toys, grocery items, etc. In Math, your child should be able to identify and write numbers to 10, as well as count a group up to 10.

We are looking forward to participating in the FN Brown Thanksgiving Feast for the first time! We all have so much to be thankful for (there's another list!!)

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

October has been quite a busy month for our first graders. They are now ready for the full day and have stopped asking, "when is it time to go home or how much longer until the day is over?" The adjustment has been made by most of them. We have been fairly lucky the weather has been decent so we can go outside more often and use up some of that excess energy.

They have all enjoyed their very first Writer's Celebration as first graders. Listening to each others stories encourages speaking in front of others as well as help them write better or even try new topics. Both classes had a wonderful time sharing. The next writing unit is on "Small Moments" where students will write with more detail about one given situation, feeling, time memory etc. This is such an interesting time in writing to watch the progression of the writing process. The students really begin to realize writing is a communication tool and is actually quite fun. You can help your child by reminding him or her of some of the wonderful experiences just from this past summer to jog their memories. Personal narratives are always so exciting for them to write and share.

In math we just concluded a unit on subtraction. Students need to have a firm handle on addition to be able to see the relationship to subtraction. Please review these concepts by looking over your child's daily math skill sheet. Presently we are working on using a ten frame to show the different pairs of numbers that equal ten in hopes that this visual aid will foster instant recall for adding and subtracting up to ten.

For Social Studies both classes discussed how Christopher Columbus' mistake proved helpful in finding a shorter route to the Americas. Also the study of our community and neighborhood has sparked an overwhelming interest in our students. They are looking through non-fiction look books about communities and community helpers. Together with Mrs. Walker both classes are continuing to study Verona and its many wonderful places to go.

Reading as a whole group as well as individuals has kept our reading time very interesting. The students love to choose their own reading materials. This acts as a motivation for some and a challenge for others. Students are being encouraged to read information that interests them as well as be assigned specific reading materials to learn a given skill. Reading using context clues, making predictions and using phonics/fundations has been taught to show what good readers do when reading.

At home you can continue to help your child by asking your child to make connections to their reading, remind them of the Golden Rules and help your child think of writing topics. Thank you.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO, NANCY HISCANO & LAURA QUINN

Welcome Mrs. Quinn!! The Second Graders had a busy October as we split into three sections. It was a smooth transition for all and the students in 2Q are settled upstairs in their new classroom picking up right where they left off.

In Reading Workshop we have moved from our Launching Unit into a Fiction Unit. We will be learning about the different genres of fiction including realistic fiction, fantasy fiction, and traditional literature (folktales). We continue to work on our stamina, confidence, fluency, and comprehension. We have read some great stories such as Tony's Bread, Little Red Riding Hood- A New Fangled PrairieTale, and A Sick Day for Amos McGee. We have worked on our retelling skills after reading our own "just right" books. It is important to practice retelling while reading at home as well.

We are having a great time in Writing Workshop as we explore non-fiction through the writings of Gail Gibbons, our mentor author. We are modeling our books after hers and are working on including non-fiction text features such as a table of contents, diagrams, illustrations, bold words, and labels.

In Math we have just completed our review topics on addition, subtraction, strategies and word problems. Many students still need to practice their basic facts up to 20 for speed and accuracy. Please continue to review these facts at home often. We will be working with equal groups by looking at repeated addition and arrays in our next topic. After that, we will move on to Place Value to 100.

We continue to learn about Energy in Science. We have just completed the chapter on Light and Heat and we are moving on to Sound. We will learn about how sound travels, what causes sound, and different types of sounds. We will be conducting experiments to explore all of these concepts.

THIRD GRADE – KAREN SABATINO & JENNA TRIPSAS (MEGAN PELLEGRINO)

As the weather outside grows chillier and the days grow shorter, our third graders are quickly discovering that just as much fun can be had indoors, curled up with a good book! We are really getting into the swing of things in Reading Workshop. Our notebook responses are becoming lengthier and more thoughtful, and all students are eager to move onto our second unit: Fiction! Throughout the unit, students will be encouraged to explore the wide variety of sub-genres included under the umbrella of fiction. Some favorites so far have been the always suspenseful Nancy Drew mysteries, the hilarious hijinks of A.J and friends in the *My Weird School* series, and the fantastical tales of Jack and Annie in the *Magic Treehouse* series. Students are developing a wealth of comprehension skills, including inferring, making predictions and identifying character traits in order to develop a deep understanding and connection with the books we read.

Our writing skills, too, have come a long way since September. Students are putting the final finishing touches on our first personal narrative stories, which will soon be ready for publishing! Afterwards, we will move onto our second writing unit: Raising the Quality of Personal Narratives. We will continue to develop skills and strategies to make our writing the best it can be.

A favorite subject for many students thus far has been science! We recently concluded our Unit on the scientific method and inquiry tools. Our students were thrilled to put our new knowledge into practice with some hands-on experiments. How many drops can fit on a penny? Ask your third grade scientist! We are now excited to be learning all about living things, and we are finding out amazing new things about plants and animals every day.

Finally, our Social Studies unit on Patriotic Symbols is beginning to draw to a close. We have all become experts on the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam, the American Flag and the Bald Eagle. We will soon move into our second unit: Early Communities. In fact, Mrs. Hogan has already begun preparing technology lessons on Plymouth Plantation-where students will learn what life was like in an early community. We are so eager to find out!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Respect is having high regard for, to hold in esteem, and treat others with courtesy and consideration. Our students have been keeping track and sharing special acts of respect they are practicing

and experiencing in the class as well as home. Fourth graders created poems and essays regarding their thoughts and beliefs concerning respect. We are very proud of our students' being more aware of the way they treat others by being more considerate of their classmates. Louis Pasteur once said, "When I approach a child. He inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what is, and respect for what he may become".

Writer's workshop is full under way. Students are growing in their repertoire of strategies in narrative writing. Students are continuing to collect entries, which inspire them to create a story. They have been studying and creating leads and discovering how they can be a link to the heart of the story. Students are also sharing and conferencing with their peers becoming "writing teachers". Celebrations of stories has become a highlight enabling students to share their writings with pride.

In math, fourth graders have finished multiplication, up to 4-digit by 1-digit, and algebraic expressions. Students are learning to recognize, describe, extend and create patterns. Students are expected to develop proficiency with basic multiplication and division number facts using a variety of fact strategies and commit them to memory.

Students are in the midst of learning about the four NJ regions. They have explored the Central Corridor and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Next, is the Appalachian Ridge and Valley and the Highland region.

In Science students have recently concluded our study of understanding ecosystems. We discovered that ecosystems are complicated systems with many interactions among living and nonliving things. We also learned that human and natural forces can interact with ecosystems to cause changes. We are now in the midst of learning how energy transfers into ecosystems, the roles of living things and how they get their energy.

Our Peace Pal program is in full gear. Fourth graders are leading our kindergarten and second graders in activities devoted to learning how to get along better with classmates as well as learning to talk about their thoughts and feelings in a group. Students are also learning how to solve problems and make healthy choices.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL

This is shaping up to be a very exciting year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The 3rd and 4th graders have already completed their soccer unit and have finished their pre-tests for the USMC fitness tests. I am excited to watch our students set their own fitness goals and have them learn that through hard work they can achieve these goals. The Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders are working on various locomotor skills, pathways and levels and have been utilizing these skills during various games and activities.

More importantly all of the children have been working very hard on their sportsmanship and teamwork skills. The difference from the first week of school 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 am excited to see the ongoing development of these skills this year.

Just a friendly reminder for all parents, please make sure that your children have sneakers on days that they have physical education. There is nothing worse then having to tell a child that they can't participate because they don't have safe footwear on. The days that students need sneakers are posted on my website. Thanks.

P.S.- If you have any questions or need to contact me, my e-mail address is rhill@veronaschools.org.

TECHNOLOGY – JENNIFER HOGAN

We have had a great start to the school year! The new Kindergartners were very excited to begin Technology Class. They have learned the lab rules and can identify the parts of the computer. Students have begun mastering their mouse skills while completing games that help reinforce the letter and number concepts they are learning in class.

The first grade classes have graduated and now "log in" to their own screens. They have been busy drawing and labeling plants, keyboarding, doing Halloween subtraction and using technology to manipulate Ten Frames to help with their classroom math concepts.

In second grade students were able to refresh their fast math facts by completing fun online math challenges and a pumpkin math word problem task. The classes also practiced keyboarding and editing while typing and decorating October poems. Students enjoyed our lesson on energy and the virtual experiments that we completed. The children loved the small video that we watched and might have had the song "Heat!" in their heads for a while.

Third graders learned about patriotic symbols of America and came to Technology class and completed a Patriotic Symbols Web Quest where they had to find specific facts about symbols. Third grade also learned how to type and edit poems in the proper format using Microsoft Word. Having some fun, students created avatars of themselves and types 10 things about themselves without putting their name, let's see if their peers can figure out who they are!

The fourth grade classes have begun doing research for an upcoming Social Studies project. Students are using online research to find information about a particular region of New Jersey. They are gathering facts about its climate, natural resources, history and geography and inputting this information into a graphic organizer using Inspiration software. Fourth graders are also completing a web hunt about Christopher Columbus's journey to America. There is so much more planned for Technology, it is going to be a great year!

SPEECH – GILLIAN ALDWORTH

Speech and Language therapy sessions are in full swing this fall! Students had fun getting their picture taken for the Speech room bulletin board. They placed their pictures in school houses for the month of September and recently placed their pictures in leaves and pumpkins on the fall themed board. Students from Kindergarten through fourth grade participate in the speech/language program at F.N. Brown. Each session is planned to meet the needs of the individual or the small group. Students have been attending their scheduled sessions, and are working hard to improve their articulation and language skills. Each student has a speech folder that is filling up with practice items to do at home. These worksheets are designed to inform parents about what their child is working on in speech/language and to allow the students to work towards their goals in a different setting. Speech/language therapy is often game-oriented so it is both fun and motivating for the students. I am looking forward to seeing great progress made this school year in speech! Happy fall ☺

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Happy Fall! Greetings from the art room!

In October, all classes have been focusing on learning about color, working on the color wheel, color blending, and art vocabulary. In addition, we have been creating Fall landscapes, working with mixed media, and studying the element of texture. Fall classes worked on creating Halloween themed projects, and we are currently beginning art history units. Each grade level is working on a specific famous artist combined with the elements of art. We pick one or two famous pieces of artwork to focus on and study. The school is a-glow with beautiful artwork. Hope you get in to see some of it soon!

Creatively yours, Mrs. J.