Laning Avenue News
December 2013 Issue

-From the Principal's Desk-

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With conferences and our first report card behind us, we are now approaching the holiday season! I cannot believe that it is already December!

Exciting things are happening at Laning! The SCA originally offered to buy several document cameras to improve instruction at Laning but I was able to make this purchase using money from our school budget. Instead, the SCA purchased three ENO Board, short throw projectors for our second grade team. The beauty of this is that all we need to buy is the Board and we will have a full ENO Board for every second grade teacher. Also, the SCA purchased three document cameras for the second grade teachers too! This total purchase was close to $5,000.00. Thank you SCA!! Needless to say, the second grade team is thrilled!

Our reading and writing workshops in K-4 are in "Full Swing!" Teachers are doing wonderful work teaching high level, literacy skills. The children are really enjoying working with their teachers in small groups and discussing their "just right books!"

I am pleased to share that along with district funds and money from the Laning budget, I was able to purchase guided reading/book club libraries for the teachers. I purchased close to 180 titles with 6 copies of each title. This is extremely exciting because I was not sure that this purchase could be made so quickly! In addition, the SCA donated close to $1,500.00 to purchase individual books for teachers' classrooms. One area that there was a great need was early reading level books such as levels A, B, C and D. I was able to purchase well over 150 books for each kindergarten and first grade teacher using the SCA donation.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Holiday Concert on December 13th. The K-2 performance will begin promptly at 8:45 AM while our 3 and 4 concert will begin at 10:00 AM.

Have a wonderful holiday season enjoying family and friends!

Sincerely,
Julie DiGiacomo

A Message from Laning Avenue SCA Co-Presidents

Dear Laning Families,

Oh, how the holiday season has fast approached. In a flash we have gone from stuffing turkeys to stuffing stockings. Soon Santa will be climbing down our chimneys bringing with him lots of goodies for good girls and boys. We have made a list and checked it twice and are glad to report that everyone made our "NICE" list.

We would like to thank:

- Adele Spong for running this year's Ice Cream Cake sales. Thank you for helping us get our turkeys and chicks on our dessert tables. They were yummy!
- Nicole Kobernick, Cheryl Mizia, Jacki Flannery, & Laura Zerbini for helping sort out bagels during our Bagel Mania half days. So many half days, so many bagels!
- Jill Caporrimo and Committee for sorting and delivering our Laning Kids Help the Hungry food donations. Let's keep up the good work, Laning!
- Cheryl Mizia for organizing this year's Thanksgiving Feast. So much fun to see all the kids share a meal and hear them sing their "Turkey Dinner" song! The event was a huge success and could not have been possible without Melissa Collucci, Michael and Carolina Costa, Sandra Farro, Sarah Latson, Kristen and Joe Venezia, Tong Forrest, Eileen Petrino, Allyson Feinstein, Kristen Shea, Maria Schwartz, Lisa McGrath, Lynn Serra, Pam Garcia, Nicole Kobernick, teachers and staff who helped serve and make sure that everyone could sit, eat and enjoy!
- Alison Mackey and her elves for providing our kids with a wonderful shopping experience! The selection was superb and the kids had a blast! Additional thanks to Jill Caporrimo, Dana DeMars, Tong Forrest, Beth Shust, Damaris Dolan, Lori Radigan, Adele Spong, Kristen Venezia, Sarah Latson, Cindy Kramer, Jill Petro and Susan Hunt for their help in wrapping and setting up.
- Sarah Latson for her patience and diligence in compiling the monthly newsletter.
- Venus So for always being at the ready to update our Laning website.
- Mrs. DiGiacomo for her constant support.
- Mrs. Buro for always being there no matter the day, week or month with a smile and willingness to help with our fundraising, making copies, etc.

Thank you all for all your hard work and time that you give to the SCA.

There are only a few weeks left in December, but many events to make note of:

- **12/2-5: *Laning Kids Help the Hungry***
- **12/3-5: Secret Shoppe**-Laning's own Santa's workshop will be set up giving students an opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts for their families.
- **12/5: HOT LUNCH-Chicken Fingers**

- **12/9-13:** ***Holidays Are for Sharing***-a gift card donation program that helps needy families in Verona, which is coordinated with the town's Health and Human Services Office. A flyer is going home in backpacks shortly. Thank you Adele Spong and Committee for continuing this wonderful Laning tradition.
- **12/12: HOT LUNCH-Pasta**
- **12/13: Holiday Concert:** Please refer to email that was sent out on Nov. 25th for the schedule. Kindergarten, First and Second Grade performance will begin at 8:45 a.m. Third and Fourth Grade performance will begin at 10 a.m. All performances will take place in the new gym.
- **12/19: HOT LUNCH-Bagel**
- **12/20: Class Holiday Parties-**Don't forget to send in those special treats along with a drink for your child/children.
- **12/20: Spirit Day-**Don't forget to wear your Laning or Verona colors.
- **12/20: Half Day-12:30 DISMISSAL**
- **12/23-1/1/14: School Closed**
- **1/2/14: School Reopens**
- **1/6/14: SCA Meeting, 7 p.m., Media Room**

We wish you a very merry 2013 holiday season and a wonderful new 2014!

Sincerely,

Joanna Breitenbach, joanna.breitenbach@gmail.com & Anthony Gardner, amg@wtcfug.org
-Laning SCA Co-Presidents

Laning SCA Announcements

Holidays Are For Sharing

Each year, Laning Avenue School works with Verona's Health and Social Services Department to ease the financial burden of the holidays by allowing students to purchase gift cards for needy families in town. Look for the upcoming flyer in your child's backpack with specific details on how you can help. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your children how to help others in need. Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday and new year!
**Participation is optional.*

Kindergarten Workshops

The Kindergarten Workshops Committee is looking for volunteers to assist us on the following Saturdays in the new year: Feb. 1, March 1, April 12 and May 3 from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.

If you can graciously volunteer your time for all or any of the above dates, it is greatly appreciated! We need assistance signing in each student as well as assistants in each classroom. We hope you can join us to help make the transition for our incoming Kindergarteners a smooth one!

Please contact Adele Spong at 973-571-1290 or adelespong@verizon.net with any questions or to sign up to volunteer.

Labels for Education

With the holidays upon us, and all the extra shopping, don't forget to look for and clip your Labels For Education UPCs and caps from over 2,500 participation products.

Remember there are 2 WAYS you can earn Labels For Education. Clipping is one way and using your shopper card is the other!

Don't forget to register your ShopRite Price Plus card on elabelsforeducation.com to earn bonus points on Labels for Education products.

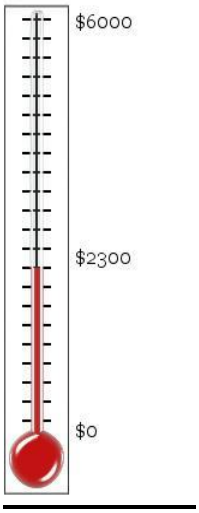
Questions? Please contact Sophia Merti-Yanniotis at smyanniotis@gmail.com.

Ice Cream Cake Sales

The Towne Scoop will once again be offering ice cream cakes for the holidays. All cakes are made with a layer of chocolate & a layer of vanilla ice cream and filled with chocolate crunchies. Little Snowmen & Little Reindeer are made with vanilla ice cream sitting on a chocolate wafer and come in a box of 9.

A donation will be made to the SCA for each item purchased. Look for the upcoming flyer in your child's backpack.

Supermarket SCRIP Gift Card Program



Our year-to-date profit is $2,300. We are moving closer to our $6,000 annual goal due to increased participation this year.

If you would like to order some gift cards for the holidays, please email your order to Marlo Spina (marspin68@yahoo.com) during the first week of December to ensure that I have enough gift cards for December.

Thank you to everyone that is participating in the Supermarket Gift Card Fundraiser!

Gift Card Fundraiser Quick Facts:

When you buy gift cards through the Laning SCA, we earn 5% of the total amount sold! For example, purchase $200 in ShopRite cards and the Laning SCA earns $10. This can really add up!

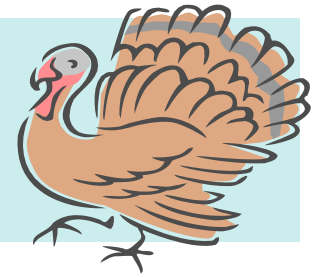
Buy only what you need! Buy from one store or buy from all three! Change stores or change amounts each time you buy!

Here's how it works:

The gift cards work like cash. For example, if you buy $44 in groceries, use $50 in gift cards and you still have $6 on your card for your next shopping trip.

Orders are delivered through your child's backpack: Fill out the order form that can be found on the school's website under "backpack flyers" and return it in your child's backpack in an envelope marked *Supermarket Gift Cards*.

If you haven't already signed up for SCRIP or made a one-time purchase this year, please consider doing so.



Thanksgiving Feast
This year's Thanksgiving Feast was a success! Thanks to the committee members for a great day!

- Cheryl Mizia

Hot Lunch Committee
Listed below are the remaining SCA hot lunches through January 2014. A gentle reminder and friendly request: Please let your students know "yes" or "no" on these mornings before they leave for school whether they are supposed to receive an SCA hot lunch:

• Chicken finger lunches: Dec. 5, Jan. 9
• Pasta lunches: Dec. 12, Jan. 16
• Bagel lunches: Dec. 19, Jan. 23
• Pizza lunches: Jan. 2, Jan. 30

Thank you for your support!

Laning Kids Help the Hungry
Dear Laning Families,

109 lbs of food is what was donated in November. Thanks to your generosity, it has enabled others to have meals during this time of Thanksgiving.

Also, a BIG thank you goes out to **Kate & Amy Adornato** for their help in organizing last month's collection and delivery!!

Let's continue to give thanks for what we have and remember to help those less fortunate. Together, we can **MAKE A DIFFERENCE;** and what better time than this holiday season. This month's **Laning Kids Help the Hungry Food Drive*** kicked off on Monday and will run through Thursday, December 5. Baskets will be distributed throughout the building to collect non-perishable items.

What specifically could they use?
Non-perishable, non-expired food: cereal, pasta & sauce, canned meat, vegetables and fruit, crackers, tuna, peanut butter & jelly. In addition, soap, shampoo and toothpaste are also helpful donations, as well as, brown paper grocery bags (what a great way to recycle!).

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

- Jill Caporrimo

**Participation is optional*

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops Clip, Shop and Earn!!

Remember that there are 2 WAYS you can earn Box Tops for the school. Clipping is one way and shopping online through Box Tops Marketplace is the other!

Simply visit the website: https://www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace and follow the instructions. Find your favorite stores and start shopping. You earn Box Tops on *everything* you buy. It's that easy!!

This year's Box Tops goal for Laning is $1036.92. To date we are at: $521.72.

Here is the breakdown:
$516.90 Clip & Earn
$4.82 Shop & Earn - only one supporter!

Here is how we compare to the other elementary schools…
Forest Avenue:
$780.00 Clip & Earn
$8.58 Shop & Earn
F.N. Brown:
$478.60 Clip & Earn
$0.00 Shop & Earn
Brookdale:
$215.00 Clip & Earn
$1.00 Shop & Earn

Look for more information on making this a friendly competition with our neighborhood schools!

Questions? Please contact Sophia Yanniotis at smyanniotis@gmail.com
or Laurel Brolly at laurel.brolly@gmail.com.

Environmental Committee
Let's Talk Trash!

Did you know that Verona Township pays for its garbage pickup by the pound? When recyclable items are put in with regular trash, our town's money goes into the hands of the garbage removal company. Verona can save a significant amount of money in waste disposal costs by recycling. By following the town's procedures regarding recycling, you will help the environment and save taxpayer dollars!

You will soon receive a 2014 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Procedures Booklet. You will find all the information you need regarding waste disposal procedures and recycling.

A few **IMPORTANT** things to remember:

- **ONLY** plastic identified by a "**1**" or "**2**" should be recycled. All other plastic should be disposed of with your garbage.
- Magazines and junk mail **SHOULD NOT** be included with your newspapers.
- **DO NOT** put your **Corrugated Cardboard** (postal boxes, some toy/appliance boxes and pizza/bulk-size food boxes) in the garbage. These items **are recyclable**. Drop off flattened boxes at the Recycling Center. Non-corrugated boxes, juice boxes, and chip board go into the garbage.
- **BULKY & WHITE GOODS/METAL**, such as appliances, furniture, etc., **MUST BE under 100 pounds** to be picked up.
- **ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT** (computers, monitors, TVs) **are recyclable**. Drop off at the Recycling Center.
- **BATTERIES (type "AAA thru "D" and button) & MOTOR OIL** must be disposed of at the Public Works Garage on Commerce Court.
- **PAINT CANS** must be emptied or dried out before disposing with "White Goods/Metal" pick-up. See booklet for details on emptying.
- **Construction/Remodeling Materials Disposal** is the responsibility of the resident and should not be placed curbside.

It is **IMPORTANT** to bring all of your **recyclable materials** to the Recycling Center at Commerce Ct. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The following materials are collected there:

Corrugated Cardboard	Grass, Leaves/Yard Waste
Tires (need permit)	Batteries & Motor Oil (Public Garage)
Brown Grocery Bags	Mixed Paper and Telephone Books
Motor Oil	Electronic Equipment
Propane Tanks (need permit)	

The next Laning SCA meeting will take place on
January 6, 2014, at 7 p.m. in the Library.
All Laning parents are welcome!

What's Happening in Our Classrooms

Kindergarten – Mrs. Suzanne Livelli, Mrs. Kristy McCabe, and Mrs. Kimberley Nochimson

Throughout November, the kindergarten classes focused on the themes of family and togetherness and spent time discussing what Thanksgiving meant to us and what we were thankful for. We wrote about specific things we were thankful for in our lives and boy are we some lucky kids!

Election Day was a lot of fun for the kindergarteners because we voted for our favorite special class – Gym and Computer class were our favorites! We also read the story *Duck for President*.

On Veteran's Day we had a special Red, White, and Blue Day assembly and we were proud to see how many veterans are a part of our extended Laning family. We used our Writing Workshop time to work together to write letters to the veterans that came to our school. In math we worked hard comparing numbers.

Writing Workshop has been a blast and we finally finished our first books! It was so exciting to publish our writing and share it with the class!

In Reading Workshop we learned that good readers wonder about the books that they are reading and they are also able to make meaningful connections to their own lives.

As part of our Thanksgiving activities we made turkeys on strike and learned about the very first Thanksgiving Day. We sang our hearts out practicing our Thanksgiving songs for our school feast and we loved the delicious food that we got to eat. It was a wonderful end to the month!

Grade 1 - Mrs. Nancy Apisa and Mrs. Kristina Ellenbogen

During the month of November, the first graders have been diligently working on personal narrative stories in Writing Workshop. They are learning to tell about the "small moments" in their lives across many pages. Invented spelling and mechanics is improving daily, and we are so proud of their efforts.

In Reading Workshop, we have been examining different types of fiction, from realistic fiction to fables. The students are learning about identifying story elements and are making connections to the characters in their reading. One favorite story this month was *The Mightiest* by Keiko Kasza, a lively traditional tale that teaches about the power of kindness.

The first graders have been working with adding and subtracting bigger numbers in our recent math unit, and the children's math prowess continues to grow as they think about math in their everyday lives.

During this month, the students participated in a school-wide assembly for our Veterans. The children learned songs and poems on the subject. When Thanksgiving arrived, we celebrated with a school-wide feast and participated in a variety of activities related to the holiday. It has been a very busy time for our Laning first graders!

Grade 2 - Mrs. Pamela Banta, Ms. Jennifer Kirby, and Mrs. Sage Nardi

During the month of November, the second graders have been exploring the early times of the Pilgrims. Comparing and contrasting their own lives to the Pilgrims has provided additional meaning to this important time period. Throughout this unit of study, students were able to express many personal experiences and family traditions.

In Writing Workshop, all second graders completed the second unit, Non-Fiction using Gail Gibbons as our Mentor. We celebrated by sharing our pieces with each other and adding our stories into our classroom library.

In Social Studies the second graders have been learning about communities. They are currently learning about our community's needs and wants. Take a moment to discuss what your child has learned throughout this busy month of November.

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

We had a terrific November in the third grade! In Math, we closed our unit on subtraction. In Science, students continued their study of the Scientific Method, cells and the life cycle. We have also discussed how plants grow, as well as the process of photosynthesis. In Social Studies, students learned about community and sharpened their map skills. They applied this knowledge to the town of Verona. We also assigned our "Verona Hot Spots" Social Studies project. The finished products are now hanging in our 3rd grade hallway.

In Language Arts, we explored subjects and predicates, cause and effect, and plural nouns. Students explored reading skills such as character, cause and effect, and synonyms and antonyms. We also completed the book Molly's Pilgrim. In correlation, we discussed tolerance and acceptance as themes relating to Thanksgiving. In Reading Workshop, we tackled many different elements of fiction such as character traits, tone, mood, setting, and conflict. Our third grade writers completed personal narratives, and are now on their way to finishing a persuasive letter that will be sent out in to the world. The students are now looking forward to December and the beginning of the holiday season.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Kristine DePoe and Mrs. Pamela Solomon

Aspiring authors were kept busy this month creating realistic fiction stories. They have been working diligently to add details to their writing, generate lasting leads and exceptional endings. We are looking forward to reading their stories!

In math, students were hard at work learning to divide larger numbers. Although there are many steps involved in this process, the students were up to the challenge!

Our fourth grade scientists continued to explore Earth's many landforms. Students were fascinated to learn how landforms are created over time.

Students have become experts about all four regions in New Jersey. As a culminating social studies project, students created beautiful watercolor postcards depicting scenes from each of the regions.

We also reviewed the history of the first Thanksgiving and compared Thanksgiving in 1621 to Thanksgiving in 2013. In addition, fourth graders were excited to help their Peace Pals discover what they were thankful for, and were thrilled to enjoy Laning Avenue's Thanksgiving feast.

Elementary Special Needs – Mrs. Jessica Jaruczyk

In November, we have been working on what it means to be thankful. We discuss family members and favorite foods. Students continued to work on what it means to be a good student and follow directions, helpful and a good friend. Students have also been working on their individualized ABA programs. Students continue to work on transitioning into specials in the general education classrooms.

Verona Pre-School Program

Pre-School - Pauline Jennis and Mary Ann Bifulco

The preschool classes have spent this month getting ready for the Thanksgiving holiday. We started off the month learning about fruits and vegetables. We read many storybooks about fruits, vegetables, and Thanksgiving. We learned about classification, planting and harvesting. The children made a beautiful mural about the harvest season. We talked about why we celebrate Thanksgiving and the first Thanksgiving feast. Our many art projects included paper turkeys, pinecone turkeys, handprint turkeys, Native American hats and cornucopia.

Grace Minervo-Buneo

The full day preschool class continues to enjoy and explore the concepts of the fall season. We have enjoyed many walks outside to watch the leaves turn beautiful colors and fall to the ground. To go along with our Thanksgiving theme we explored how vegetables and fruits grow from seeds and had fun creating art like corn stalks, carrots and baskets filled with all kinds of yummy fruits and vegetables. For Thanksgiving the children made fingerprint turkey cards for their families and enjoyed reading Clifford's First Thanksgiving during story time. The full day preschool class looks forward to exploring the winter holidays in December.

*****

December Birthdays

Lily F.
Dylan N.
Julia O.
Logan Kn.
Lexi O.
Krishna V.

Lucia G.
Riley K.
Jaren C.
Teo G.
Patrick H.
Marissa B.
Matthew H.

John Henry C.
Ian K.
Michael V.
Siena C.
Carly R.

Mark Your Calendars

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	3 Laning Kids Help the Hungry Secret Shoppe	4 Laning Kids Help the Hungry Secret Shoppe	5 Laning Kids Help the Hungry Secret Shoppe SCA Hot Lunch	6	7
8	9 Holidays are for Sharing Ice Cream Cake Sale	10 Holidays are for Sharing Ice Cream Cake Sale	11 Holidays are for Sharing Ice Cream Cake Sale	12 Holidays are for Sharing Ice Cream Cake Sale SCA Hot Lunch	13 Holidays are for Sharing Ice Cream Cake Sale Holiday Concert	14
15	16 Ice Cream Cake Sale	17 Ice Cream Cake Sale	18 Ice Cream Cake Sale	19 Ice Cream Cake Sale Holiday Teachers Luncheon SCA Hot Lunch	20 ½ Day School Spirit Day Class Holiday Parties	21
22	23 Schools Closed	24 Schools Closed	25 Schools Closed	26 Schools Closed	27 Schools Closed	28 Schools Closed
29	30 Schools Closed	31 Schools Closed				

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Schools Closed	2 Schools Reopen	3	4
5	6 SCA Meeting Laning Kids Help the Hungry	7 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	8 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	9 Laning Kids Help the Hungry SCA Hot Lunch	10	11 Verona Talent Night at VHS
12	13	14	15	16 SCA Hot Lunch	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Assembly / Red, White & Blue Day	18 Verona Talent Night (snow date)
19	20 Schools Closed	21	22	23 SCA Hot Lunch	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 SCA Hot Lunch	31	