F.N. Brown Newsletter December 2013

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

Dates to Remember…

Wed., 12/4- & Thurs., 12/5 Holiday House

Fri., 12/6- SCA Adult Social
Verona Inn 8:00 pm

Mon., 12/9- Winter Concert 9:15am

Mon., 12/9- thru Fri., 12/13 Holidays Are For Sharing

Tues., 12/10- SCA Pasta Lunch
Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm

Thurs., 12/12- SCA Pizza Lunch

Mon., 12/16- B-Line Articles Due

Tues., 12/17- School Spirit Assembly 10:00am

Thurs., 12/19- SCA Chicken Lunch

Fri., 12/20- 12:30 Dismissal

Mon., 12/23- thru Wed., 1/1 SCHOOL CLOSED HOLIDAY VACATION

Thurs., 1/2/14- SCHOOL REOPENS

B-Line News

Holidays Are For Sharing – Our annual Holidays Are For Sharing project begins on December 9th and will continue through December 13th. It's a great way to bring joy to children in need this holiday season and teach our children the value of giving. We are collecting gifts for the ARC of Essex County, The Salvation Army and for Verona families in need. Gifts are needed for all ages, especially young teens. Our 4th grade helpers will be collecting the gifts all week from the classrooms. The F.N. Brown community has shown the true spirit of giving in the past, so let's make this our best collection ever! If you have any questions please contact Maggie Lambert at maggie.lambert@yahoo.com.

Holiday House – Calling all Elves! It is time again for our famous Holiday House. On December 4th and 5th, the children of F.N. Brown will have the opportunity to buy gifts for their family and friends. The children will need help selecting that special gift and wrapping their presents. This is truly a beloved tradition for our children and one we cannot do without your continued help. We especially need help with clean up on December 5th at 3:00. If you are available or have any questions please contact Jacqueline Alkaysi at jacquiehilgreen@yahoo.com.

Busy Bee Scrip Program- Support F.N. Brown while you shop this holiday season. Retailers include: Toys R Us, Amazon, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, AMC Theaters, American Girl, Barnes and Noble and many, many more. These cards also make great teacher gifts and stocking stuffers. Order forms are available on the F.N. Brown website under community or by contacting Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973.857.8663. Orders are processed on the 15th of each month.

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: December 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17 and 18.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered.

Contact Us

B-Line Editor: Valerie Balogh

Email: jayb41@verizon.net

Birthday Boys and Girls

December

Kayla Brower, Emma Kirby, Kieran Patel,
Cody Sacchi, Angelina Codey,
Sadie Cantwell, Joseph Houck,
Joel Gonzalez, Peter Popowich,
Chase Gebbia, Dean Randall,
Kunal Limbachiya, Aeryn Curren,
Anna Carpinelli,
David Held,
Elizabeth Fourez

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.

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.

Buzz Book Corrections – Please note the following corrections to the Buzz Book.

Dunn
Tracy, John
973/857/2339
tdunn1126@yahoo.com
Jordan 1C
Kaitlyn 3S

Dunphy
Heidi, Tom
973/571/1418
hsdunphy@yahoo.com
Kara 3P

Stephens
Helen, Marcus
908/910/5006
summilezy@gmail.com
Miles KO
Summer 2G

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!

MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!

And A Special Thank You Goes to…

***The Thanksgiving Feast Committee!** We would like to thank Amy Aiello, Lori Bailey, Tina Houck, Mindy Frey and Karen Papocchia. Our children enjoyed another beloved tradtion that would not be possible without this committee. Thank you so much!

***The KidStuff Book Committee!** Thanks to all who supported our KidStuff Book fundraiser. A special thank you to Heidi Dunphy, Tracy Dunn and Debbie Salanon for organizing this sale.

***All those who helped with Wrapping Paper Distribution!** A big thank you to Leann Costigan, Suzanne Giarrusso, Alice Poueymirou, Sue Sabo, and Trevor Giarrusso. Also, thanks to all of the families, friends and staff who supported our fundraiser.

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

December 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to December! **Happy Holidays!** The fall has gone by very quickly and the winter season is shortly approaching. We have been very busy at F.N. Brown, as your child has been immersed in many hands-on learning experiences.

Thank You…

- To the numerous parent volunteers, class parents and the Thanksgiving Feast Committee: Mrs. Aiello, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Houck, Mrs. Frey and Mrs. Papocchia. for making this day extra special for our students! The children at our school performed skits and shared poems related to the theme of Thanksgiving. Students performed for another grade level prior to enjoying a Thanksgiving feast sponsored by our SCA. The staff, students, and parents enjoyed this event as it fostered a feeling of family among our school community.

- Half-Day Snack Committee: Mrs. Garthwaite and Mrs. Mulligan.

- Kid Stuff Fundraiser: Mrs. Dunphy

- School Spirit Wear: Mrs. Wacha and Mrs. Salanon.

- SCRIP/Busy Bee Bucks: Mrs. Curren

- Buzz Book: Mrs. Mautone and Mrs. Watkins

- Cultural Arts Assembly: Mrs. Alkaysi

- Wrapping Paper Sale: Mrs. Mulligan and Mrs. Moskowitz

We could not have any of these special extras without parent assistance. Also, thank you to our on-going parent volunteers during hot lunch, library, technology and art classes.

Holiday House

Holiday House is here! Once again, the SCA has organized and offered another fun filled year of holiday shopping for our youngsters. Holiday House will take place on Wednesday, December 4th and Thursday, December 5th.

Holidays Are For Sharing: Week of December 9th

Once again it is time for us to think about the approaching holiday season and how we can help make this special time a little happier for children who are not as fortunate as our own. As we know, it is much easier to purchase a gift while we are out making our way through the stores, but we would be losing out on a valuable experience for our children. It is important that they feel they have contributed to this project. We would like to encourage them to have their own money to buy a small gift for another child. Two or more children might even like to put their money together to buy a larger gift. A flyer was recently sent home outlining the details surrounding this activity and gift suggestions.

Holiday Concert

The FNB Holiday Concert is scheduled for Monday, December 9th at 9:15 AM. As always, our students put on a dynamic performance leaving the audience in the holiday spirit. A notice has been sent home requesting how student performers should dress for this event along with other important details. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Szybist and/or Mr. Morden.

F. N Brown School Spirit Day

We will be celebrating a school spirit day on Tuesday, December 17th at 10:00 AM. Students are encouraged to wear FNB or maroon and white clothing on this day to show school spirit. We will be meeting in the auditorium for our celebration which includes reading and listening to facts about Frederic N. Brown (the person) and our school mascot, the bees! We will also sing spirit songs including our school song "I've Got That F.N. Brown Feeling"

Sincerely,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

December 2013

Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents

Dear F.N. Brown Families,

December is upon us and we would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season. The support our F.N. Brown families have shown throughout the year puts many smiles on the faces of our hard working F.N. Brown students. The abundance of activities the SCA is able to provide would not be possible without our outstanding community of volunteers. The dedication to our students continues with our excellent administration, teachers, and staff. We are thankful for such a hard working team of experts filling F.N. Brown!

We would like to send a special thanks to those who worked hard to put on the Thanksgiving Feast. Amy Aiello led the way to a feast that warmed hearts and filled bellies. The children supplied many thankful sentiments with class displays and the class parents served with a smile. Thank you to all who made the day a wonderful success. The perishable feast items were donated to a local soup kitchen to extend the giving.

The Holiday House will take place on December 4th & 5th this year. Thank you to Jaqueline Alkaysi for taking the time to create a festive gift giving opportunity to our F.N. Brown students. Please help with set up if you are able and sign up to come help our little shoppers choose gifts for loved ones. Another fine tradition at F.N. Brown organized by Maggie Lambert is the Holidays Are For Sharing donations. Our children sign up to shop for and donate a gift that goes to a child who would not be receiving gifts without this program. It is a valuable lesson in giving for our kids during this season of festivity and presents.

The November half days would not have been the same without half day snacks! Thanks to Janice Garthwaite and Dawn Mulligan - your time and dedication is appreciated! Spirit Wear orders are being collected – thanks Debbie Salanon and Maureen Wacha for collecting and distributing.

Holiday Concert - December 9th at 9:15 in the F.N. Auditorium – Vocal and Instrumental

Looking Ahead: January 24th – Kids Winter Bingo

February 6th – Valentines Day Project

Thank you to all for the time you take to volunteer and help our F.N. Brown SCA. We wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season. We look forward to continued success and many smiling faces in 2013! Please join us on January 6th at 7:00pm for our fist SCA meeting of 2013.

Wishing you joy and peace,

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou – SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KARA PASSAGE'S CLASS

Now that school's in full swing the children have been working diligently each and every day! Everyone FINALLY has a chance to dress up for our Halloween parade and festivities!

In Reader's Workshop, the students completed our Reader's Workshop Launching unit where students learned the rules and routines of the workshop model. The students have learned to build stamina, navigate through books, identify and explain details in the illustrations, and how to independently read stories with meaning and purpose. We have just begun our Fiction unit, where the primary focus is to retell using key elements such as character, setting, and plot in a story. The students are so excited to read every day!

In math, we review basic skills such as identifying numbers, counting 2s, 5s, and10s, counting backward, adding and subtracting 1-more and 2-more than a given number using a number grid. We have concluded our unit on addition unit and will move into subtraction strategies.

We are looking forward to the holidays at F.N. Brown!

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA

November was a busy month in Kindergarten! We have been learning about the first Thanksgiving and discussing what we are thankful for! Did you know that we are thankful for some of the same things as the Pilgrims were many years ago? Although their lifestyle was very different than ours, we found out that they were also thankful their homes, family, and food. Thanks to all the parents who make our F.N. Brown Thanksgiving Feast a success every year!

We are finishing up our Fiction unit in Reading Workshop. The students have been exploring different types of fiction text and learning about some habits that "good readers" do! Some of the things that we have learned include, studying the cover of the book, thinking about the characters' feelings, and making connections to the story. Try doing this during your reading time at home!

In Math, we are learning to read, write, and order numbers up to 20! Students have been using counters and filling up ten-frames to count. Remember to read all directions when doing math homework.

The students were so excited to receive their first sight word list! Continue working with your child to help them learn the words. Try and make it fun! You can be creative and paint the words, write them in shaving cream, or try to find them in a magazine. Remember everyone is working at his/her own pace. Students should be motivated, but not overwhelmed or frustrated about sight words.

The K teachers were happy to meet with all the parents during November conferences. We look forward to continue working as a team so that every child is successful!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

My, oh my how November flew by! The first graders have been busy at work in all subject areas. In Science, both classes concluded the matter unit. The students enjoyed all of solids, liquids, and gas experiments we did in class. We even made a list of the different types of matter that we had in our classrooms. All of the first grade students are enjoying thinking like scientists!

In Math, the first graders were introduced to a strategy called "touch math." Touch math will assist kids by not having them use their fingers to add and subtract, but instead use the touch points. Please look for the touch math paper and packet that your child did in school and practice this strategy at home. The students will be continuing with addition and look forward to applying this useful tip. For math, both classes continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies. Using doubles, doubles plus one and

adding and subtracting (0-1-2) have been taught. The concepts of counting up and counting back are more natural for most of the students. The more practice your child gets at home using simple fact flash cards the better the chances are your child will begin to memorize these easier facts then possibly the more difficult ones too in time.

In Reading, both classes have been working on the skill of retelling stories that they have read, but not just in any order, in sequence! Please practice this skill at home with your child after you read. It is not an easy skill! Also, don't forget to ask your child questions before, during, and after reading.

Our Small Moments unit in writing was also a success. Each child was asked to pick their favorite small moment to edit and "fancy up" with a partner and with their teacher. These stories were shared at a Writer's Celebration. Mrs. McKenna's class read their stories aloud to Mrs. Collins' class and vise versa. The students are starting to become more comfortable with speaking in front of others. They love speaking into the amplification system as well.

Fundations has been fun for the first graders! They have learned about the digraphs: wh, th, sh, ch, and ck. They learned that "ck" will always be at the end of a word and that "wh" will always be at the beginning of a word. We are now learning about the bonus letters f, l, s, and sometimes z. The first graders are using their fundations magnetic boards and are spelling lots of words with bonus letters at the end of a one-syllable word and a short vowel.

Lastly, we want to thank all of the parents that worked so hard in preparing for the Thanksgiving feast. The first graders had a great time and enjoyed eating all the delicious food. Thanks again!

Parents, thank you again for all you are doing to help your child be a respectful, responsible and resourceful first grader.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO, NANCY HISCANO & LAURA QUINN

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebrating with good food, family, and friends. We return to school with the holiday season upon us. We can't ignore all of the excitement the children bring to class as they look forward to this special time of year. Therefore, we will be working on a writing unit focused on the traditional tale of the Gingerbread Man. We will be reading various versions of the story, comparing and contrasting story events and characters. We will then use these stories to inspire us to create our own gingerbread story.

In Reading Workshop, we are continuing to grow as we explore our unit on Fiction. Readers have been applying the skills that have been taught in mini-lessons, such as, connections, tone, mood, character traits, and point of view. We are building up our stamina as independent readers with our "Just-Right" books and we have been responding to what we read daily. Small Guided Reading groups meet with teachers to target specific skills to advance fluency and understanding. We are happy to see the excitement the children show toward this new reading program.

In Math, we are finishing our topic on Place Value to 100. We have been exploring different ways to express and compare numbers. Manipulatives and games help this topic come alive and make it fun for the learner. Our next topic will be 2-digit addition with regrouping. To help make this concept easier for your child to understand, continue to practice basic facts at home.

Did you hear? We are learning about Sound in Science! Second graders have been conducting experiments to answer questions such as," What causes sound?"," How does sound travel?", and "How do we make different sounds?". Some new vocabulary words discussed are: vibrate, sound, sound wave, loudness, and pitch.

We continue to practice positive behaviors with our Peace Pals in fourth grade. We always look forward to meeting with them every other week. Our last lesson focused on different bullying scenarios and how each person would react to them. We had some great discussions following our role playing activity.

Enjoy the Holiday Season and we will see you in 2014!

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

The month of November seemed to blow past as quickly as the falling leaves but, that didn't stop the growth of third grade skills and knowledge. Students began a new unit of Reading, Non-Fiction. This

unit invited students to explore the various types, or genres, of non-fiction books. Combinations of research/reference books, biographies, literary non-fiction books, and informational articles were presented as sources. Students learned how to identify ***text features*** to gain information and increase understanding of what they read.

These newly acquired reading skills were integrated into our Early Communities unit in Social Studies. Reference books, leveled book sets of literary non-fiction, short texts, and informational articles, allowed students to gain knowledge and insight into the lifestyles and communities of people long ago. We will bridge this unit into a study of immigration to this country in the month of December. The holiday season is the perfect opportunity to learn about foods, customs and traditions, brought to this country long ago, which have become such a large part of our American culture today.

Students will learn ways to collect and organize data in Math. Tables and graphs will be used to teach students how to read, interpret, and understand these tools for information gathering. Students will also make their own versions of tables and graphs. In Science, we are learning stages of growth and change in living things. Students will also be learning how scientists classify living things into groups by common traits. All of these ingredients will combine perfectly with visions of sugarplums, making for another delicious month of learning!

We take this time to wish all of our families a happy, healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year ahead!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

We would like to congratulate our fourth graders on a very successful first marking period. Students have learned many skills and experienced much learning. We are proud of their accomplishments.

In Math students are working on dividing by one digit divisors. They are being asked to apply their basic multiplication facts and studied patterns to find quotients. Students are also learning how to use algorithms in order to understand how to connect numbers and answers in their place value. They are always reminded that math involves a variety of processes including problem solving, reasoning, communicating, connecting and representing.

We are continuing to write narratives making deeper connections between external actions and internal responses that strengthen their personal narratives. Students are also learning that writers use scenes from the past or future to bring out their thoughts and ideas.

Students have begun to examine how North America was settled. Their unit will begin with Nomads crossing the Bering Strait land bridge and end with European settlement of America. Students will take a closer look at what made New Jersey an attractive place to settle and how Native American and European culture coexisted.

In Science our focus has been on how energy transfers into ecosystems. They have learned how plants use energy from the sun to make their food and how animals get energy and nutrients by eating plants or other animals. They have discovered that living things from long ago may have died out, become very different, or remained nearly the same. We've also learned how food webs, food chains and an energy pyramids interact with other. We are looking forward to our new study of rocks and minerals.

HEALTH – ANGELA BRANCATO

Keeping our Students Healthy - We continue to join our parents with a review of the basics with each student.

Wash hands frequently, avoid touching your face, get plenty of rest and eat healthy foods. Parents have the right and the freedom to supply food/beverage items for the consumption of their own child that they deem appropriate. However, many students come to school with life-threatening allergies. Please consider reviewing the "Safe Snack" site; http://snacksafely.com/snackguide. This site provides helpful examples to guide you as you prepare your child's snack and lunch. Holiday time is almost here and school parties will be starting too, bringing this important health topic to the forefront again. Thank you,

RESOURCE ROOM – SARI SANTORO

The Resource Center has moved to a new location! It may be smaller and more compact but the students have been adjusting well to the new surroundings. In reading, both fourth and third graders have been busy with launching reading workshop and learning about fiction story elements. We recently finished reading chapter books with our small groups and practiced reading and writing independently. Our homework in class and time in the Resource Center are further developing the skills initially presented in our general education classrooms. Some of the concepts practiced and reviewed include: picking the "just right" book, reading for twenty minutes without distractions, writing during or after reading, identifying character traits, finding the theme of a story, and always supporting our writing with evidence from the book we are reading. We have just finished our fiction unit and are beginning a unit of study on non-fiction reading. Students should continue to read for about twenty minutes each night. Writing about non-fiction includes documenting things learned from the non-fiction texts.

In math, a review of addition and subtraction has finished. Third graders are beginning a study of data and probability. Fourth graders have worked on two digit multiplication and are now working with long division. Memorization of multiplication facts continues!!!

Feel free to stop by the Resource Center and see our new home!

SPANISH – LUISA WITTER

Bienvenidos a la clase del español! Welcome to Spanish class. First graders have enthusiastically adjusted to having Spanish this year for the first time. Students are picking up the language very well. So far this year, we have covered greetings, numbers up to 12, and colors. We have done this through chants, songs, games, and opportunities for verbal practice as well as independent practice. Second graders are building upon the knowledge and basic Spanish covered in first grade. With greetings, students are practicing conversational skills in Spanish (asking and responding to questions), have learned numbers up to 20 through chants, songs, and games. Students are using previous knowledge of being able to name colors and building that knowledge to create sentences describing colors. For example, students have learned to be able to express likes and dislikes using colors and are learning how to use colors as descriptive adjectives to describe objects.

Third grade students started off the year by learning different ways of describing how they are feeling. Students are also able to differentiate between greeting someone their age as opposed to greeting an adult. Students are also practicing conversational skills in Spanish to their peers and to me by using an appropriate greeting. Third grade students did "un trabajo excelente" (an excellent job) with their Hispanic Heritage projects and learned how Spanish people in our society have contributed to our society and have influenced culture. Students also learned how to describe the weather as well as writing the date in Spanish. Students are also practicing numbers up to 50 in class. Our fourth grade leaders are doing a terrific job with incorporating Spanish into the daily announcements. Students did a wonderful job with their Hispanic Heritage Scavenger Hunt projects. Students had to choose five out of ten missions. Some missions included going to a Spanish restaurant and describing what they ate and how it is said in Spanish and English, interviewing someone who is Spanish and why they are proud to be Spanish, finding a U.S. city, state, or river that has a Spanish name to it and what it means, and many other choices. Fourth graders had a group presentation where they had to pretend to be Spanish characters and had to work as a group to figure how they would greet the person in Spanish and respond to it. Students then presented their group presentations in front of the class. Students have reviewed weather, days of the week, numbers up to 50, and general greetings.

I am looking forward to a terrific year and enjoy watching the students grow with knowledge of the Spanish language! It's also great when I see some students using Spanish outside of class! If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me at Lwitter@veronaschools.org.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Our 4th grade band students have been hard at work learning how to hold their instruments, shape their mouths (embouchure), where to place their hands and fingers, and how to use their air. Along with all that they must learn to read the letters (pitch) and the counts (rhythm). This is a very daunting task and the real key to success is following through at home. A short but *daily* practice routine is the most beneficial way for students to improve more thoroughly and efficiently. Students are only asked to practice for 10 - 15 minutes a day, but it is the *every day* part that is crucial. A longer period of time on a couple of days is not only less helpful, it can actually be detrimental. Beginning students don't have enough musical knowledge or stamina to sustain a long practice session.

Helpful tips can be found on my school website for all parents, but especially those uncertain how to help their child in this type of at home work. One quick tip for wind instruments, students should not be puffing cheeks. If you see this, just give them a reminder. Ask them about whole notes, half notes, and quarter notes.

Our students that attended Verona Summer Music are really helping lead the way for our first concert in which everyone is working on these songs: *Hot Cross Buns, Au Claire de la Lune, Mary Had a Little Lamb, Lightly Row, Good King Wenceslas,* & *Jingle Bells.* Hopefully you are hearing (and recognizing) them often. We will also have various solo and duet performances.

Concert attire is:

- White Shirt
- Black Pants/Skirt
- Shoes of any type
- Tie of any type for boys - girls may wear a tie if they like

As always, the students are very excited and we look forward to our first performance.