F.N. Brown Newsletter
January 2014

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

Dates to Remember…

Wed., 1/1- SCHOOL CLOSED

Thurs., 1/2- SCHOOL REOPENS
SCA Pizza Lunch

Fri., 1/3- Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Mon., 1/6- SCA Meeting 7:00 pm (library)

Tues., 1/7- SCA Pasta Lunch

Thurs., 1/9- SCA Bagel Lunch

Mon., 1/13- thru Fri., 1/24 Star Lab

Thurs., 1/16- SCA Chicken Lunch

Mon., 1/20- SCHOOL CLOSED
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thurs., 1/23- SCA Pizza Lunch

Fri., 1/24- Winter Bingo Night (snowdate Jan. 31)
B-Line Articles Due

B-Line News

Holiday House – What a beautiful sight to watch as the children of F.N.Brown carefully picked the "right" present for those special people in their lives. The Holiday House Committee would like to thank all of the Special Elves who helped make this a joyful experience for our children.

Holidays Are For Sharing– The Holidays Are For Sharing Committee would like to thank the students and their families, as well as the staff of our school for their generosity. The gifts collected were shared between the ARC of Essex County, The Salvation Army, CASA and Verona families in need. A special thank you goes to our fourth grade helpers for their effort and enthusiasm. Once again F.N. Brown has shown the true spirit of giving this holiday season.

Busy Bee Scrip Program- Thank you to those who participated in the gift card program this holiday season. Since initiating the program in September we have made over $540 with fewer than 25 families participating. We hope to keep the momentum going with this super easy fundraising program. Please look for an abbreviated order from in the weekly packet. Orders will continue to be placed on or around the 15th of each month. Questions? Please contact Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973.857.8663.

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: January 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Please remember all lunches must be preordered.

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

Birthday Boys and Girls

January

Elin Attal, Andrew Boyle,
Samantha Anderson, Malachy Black,
Nicky Higgins, Marc Nigro,
Sebastian Trece, Mairi D'Andrea,
Marina DeMaio, William Giarrusso,
Abigail Leoni, Isabela Leoni, Owen Leoni,
Emily Poueymirou, Natalia LoCurto,
Jesse Wagner

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.

Pre-Kindergarten Workshop- The F.N. Brown SCA is sponsoring Pre-Kindergarten Workshops for all students who will be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2014. The program will be held on 4 Saturdays- February 1, March 1, April 12 and May 3 from 10:00am to 11:00 am. A $10.00 fee includes all 4 workshops. Forms are available in the office. Children will have the opportunity to meet their classmates and become familiar with the school environment. Snacks and crafts will be provided. Parents are invited to stay for refreshments. Questions can be directed to Kate Curren, katefullercurren@gmail.com or Dana Wynne, wynne56@comcast.net.

Tae Kwon Do & Yoga – During the winter months the SCA sponsors a Tae Kwon Do and Yoga Program as an alternative activity for recess. Please check your weekly packets for sign ups and information.

January Dates-	Tae Kwon Do	Yoga
	---	Jan. 8
	Jan. 13	Jan. 15
	---	Jan. 22
	Jan. 27	Jan. 29

Shoparoo – This year we are participating in a hassle-free fundraiser called Shoparoo. All you need to do is take pictures of your grocery receipts with the Shoparoo app made for your smartphone or iPad. It doesn't matter where you shop or what you buy - every receipt submitted results in a donation to our school! So, what are you waiting for? Simply download the free app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store by searching 'shoparoo' and then select our school as your chosen cause. Since there is no limit to how much money we can raise with Shoparoo, be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join in – every receipt counts!
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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!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!

And A Special Thank You Goes to…

***The Holiday House Committee!** We would like to thank Jacqueline Alkaysi, Lori Bailey, Marissa DeMaio, and Tina Houck. You did a fabulous job organizing and running the sale. It was a great success thanks to all of you!

***The Holidays Are For Sharing Committee!** A big thank you to Maggie Lambert, Tracey Dunn, Heidi Dunphy, and Debbie Salanon. Many less fortunate were able to enjoy their holidays a little more due to the time and energy you dedicated to this great cause.

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

January 2014

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday break. Special thanks to the Holidays Are for Sharing Committee - Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Salanon, Mrs. Dunphy, and Mrs. Lambert. Many gifts were donated by FNB families to those in need. Also a big thank you to our Holiday House Committee – Mrs. Alkaysi, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. DeMaio and Mrs. Houck. Also, thanks to the numerous parent volunteers that signed up to help our students at Holiday House. We could not have done this without parent assistance. The students enjoyed shopping for the holidays! There was a great selection! Thank you to all of the parent volunteers that continue to assist with hot lunch and the weekly packet.

Friendly Reminders:

- The side lot should not be used at any time (including Kindergarten dismissal at 12:30) for pick up/drop off. Also, please inform family members and family friends that may be picking up/dropping off your child.
- Please do not drop off/pick up in the staff parking lot across the street from the school.
- Please do not park on the yellow curb in front of the school. This includes arrival and dismissal times. However, the yellow curb may be used for drop off and pick up contingent on parents/guardians remaining in the car while students exit the car on the sidewalk side. Thank you for not parking in front of the fire hydrant. For those vehicles utilizing the handicapped parking spots, please make certain to have the State of NJ hang tag or placard visible at all times.
- Student arrival begins at 8:15 AM daily. Please do not arrive prior to this time since we do not have supervision. Also, school begins each day at 8:30 AM. Students that arrive after 8:30 AM should report to the main office for a tardy slip. As a reminder, parents should not walk their child(ren) to the classroom.
- Visitors (including parents) should not enter a classroom unannounced. Visits to the classroom must be prearranged with the classroom teacher. All visitors should sign in at the main office.

Pre-K Registration

Please remind neighbors, friends and relatives that live in the FNB community to register their child(ren) for kindergarten 2014 as soon as possible.

Star Lab 2014

Star Lab will be here soon! We at FNB have the wonderful opportunity to experience Star Lab at our school beginning the week of January 13th and it will conclude on Friday, January 24th. Star Lab is a planetarium that is set up each year at each elementary school in Verona. Each elementary school has the pleasure of utilizing the lab for the same number of days. Each class at FNB has the opportunity to visit the Star Lab. The number of visits and the curriculum varies based on grade level. Our Star Lab will be set up in our school auditorium. Star Lab offers our students "an outside experience looking into the sky" while fostering opportunities to acquire new knowledge, related to the skills in the area of astronomy while being inside the lab. Our Star Lab teachers will be Mrs. Orsini, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Hiscano, Mrs. Pellegrino, and Mrs. Sabatino. Star Lab teachers receive specialized training for the teaching of the Star Lab units.

Thank you for supporting our programs!

Sincerely,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

January 2014
A Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents

Dear F.N. Brown Families,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We hope you all had a festive week of celebrating and enjoyed the Holiday Break!

Thank you to our tireless team of volunteers who made the December SCA events successful. A special thanks to Jacquie Alkaysi and all of the volunteers who pitched in to create Holiday House - a fun and festive store for our little shoppers! We appreciate our Holidays are For Sharing Committee for assisting our F.N. Brown students in the spirit of giving during the holiday season!

Once again, the Winter Concert was a musical delight. The SCA recognizes and truly appreciates the dedication of Mr. Morden and Mrs. Szybist to our children and their musical growth. Special thanks to Mr. Waibel for his cameo as Santa!!

The students will have "that F.N. Brown feeling" during the School Spirit assembly on Tuesday, January 7th. The December snow day will not freeze our School pride! Thank you to our volunteers, Maureen Wacha and Debbie Salanon, for organizing the Spirit Wear Sale and gifts for the children! Also special thanks to the School Spirit Committee for organizing the assembly and the various spirit days: Mr. Hill, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Waibel, Dr. Lanzo, Ms. Passage, Mrs. Hogan, Mrs. Szybist, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Jasterzbski.

Registration for Pre-K workshops will begin in January. If you have or know a child entering Kindergarten in September 2014, please contact Kate Curren or Dana Wynne for information regarding registration for the workshop.

The SCA will be hosting **Winter Bingo!** Save the date ~ Friday, January 24th.
Special thanks to the committee members; Val Balogh and Alice Poueymirou for organizing this event! Look for the sign up sheet, coming home soon ☺

The SCA invites you to participate in a new fundraiser called Shoparoo. It's easy and fun to get started – just download the app to your phone, iPod Touch or iPad and snap photos of your shopping receipts for points. For every 500 points F.N. Brown receives $1.00. We have over 20 participants already are on our way to earning $100 in one month! Try it – you'll love racking up points and making money for our school.

We also encourage you to take advantage of our Busy Bee Bucks program. When you purchase gift cards through the SCA, F.N. Brown gets a percentage at no cost! It's a great way to earn money for the school with minimal effort. Please contact Kate Curren for more information.

Upcoming events: January 24th, Bingo Night and February 6th, Valentine's Day Project

Please join the SCA meeting, Monday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Wishing you and your families a Happy & Healthy 2014!
Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou
SCA Co- Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA

Ho, Ho, Ho!

We have been celebrating the holidays this month through music, art, literature and dance. The month began with a beautiful winter concert singing songs of the season. The Kindergartners were joined by F.N. Brown's famous alto Dr. Lanzo singing Must Be Santa! It was so much fun for the classes to entertain their guests the day of the show.

Many art projects depicted the seasonal symbols of winter, Christmas and Hanukkah. Snowmen ornaments were made in art class, stockings and Christmas trees were made in Color, Cut, Create and class parents created beautiful wreaths, snowmen and gingerbread men.

Nonfiction studies have begun this month. The classes have begun to explore nonfiction texts. They are learning new things about their world that will enhance their curiosity. Numbers to 100 are being studied in Math. The classes are practicing counting, identifying and writing numbers to 100.

We celebrated School Spirit month in December. Many fun activities were enjoyed. We dressed in special colors that symbolized our school and worked on preparing for an assembly before the whole school. Our assembly will take place in January.

There might have been only 15 days in December; however, each day was filled with learning, fun and an appreciation for our school, F.N. Brown, best school in town!

Happy New Year!!! Here's to a great 2014!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

Students are working well with the Envision Math Program. They are being encouraged to think outside the box with the problem solving component including the daily quick checks and problem of the day. They enjoy the challenge. Learning doubles, near doubles and the ten frame are only a few of the addition strategies being taught to help students understand the concept of addition. Please refer to the math sheets done daily in class to review with your child at home. If you ever have any questions, please contact your child's teacher for further information about a given math topic or assignment. Working together, we can accomplish great things.

Our Small Moments Author Celebration was a huge success! I-C read their stories aloud to 1-M and vice versa. This was a wonderful experience for all the students because they had to be active listeners as well as readers. What an accomplishment!! They are so proud of themselves and should be. We hope you were able to read their chosen selection. All stories were sent home. We are now working on the craft of good writing. Basically, we are going to teach the students how to make their writing more readable with proper spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, sentence structure and other essential components of great writing. Yes, we are only in first grade, but you will be amazed at what they can learn when put to the task.

We also learned about the many different traditions children share at home during this holiday season. The popular video, The Polar Express was another spectacular event for all of us. What a classic! December was certainly a fun learning month at school. Please continue to enjoy some of the classic read aloud with your child this up-coming winter season. May we all be happy and healthy this New Year!

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO, NANCY HISCANO & LAURA QUINN

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing break celebrating with family and friends. The second graders are beginning the year by setting goals for themselves and talking about resolutions. They will revisit these goals at the end of the school year to see how far they have come.

We are wrapping up our unit on Fiction in Reading Workshop. We had a great time exploring traditional fiction by using the Gingerbread Man story. We read various versions such as; Gingerbread Baby, Gingerbread Friends, Gingerbread Girl, and Gingerbread Bear. We were able to compare and contrast the stories using a Venn Diagram, and we explored story parts, and common themes throughout the genre of traditional literature. We will finish the Fiction unit by learning about similes, idioms, and personification in stories. We will move into a Non-Fiction unit next where we will focus on text features and structures. We will also learn about types of non-fiction stories, such as biographies, literary non-fiction.

We have integrated our Fiction unit in Reading by writing some great fictional tales in Writing Workshop. As The Gingerbread Man story as our model, the children have used their knowledge of story parts to create their own version of the story. Each student used a graphic organizer to list story events and generate a problem and solution. They are great! Come and check them out in the hallways!

In Math, we move on to subtraction with two-digit numbers. We will be learning how to regroup, solve word problems, and check answers by using addition. As always, continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts at home for speed and accuracy. Subtraction is often more challenging than addition.

In Science we will be exploring Motion- our last topic in our unit on Energy. We will be learning about gravity, magnetic energy, friction, and push and pull. We will reinforce these concepts by conducting experiments with magnets and moving objects to explore push and pull and attracting and repelling. We look forward to Star Lab this month. It will be a great kick off to our next Unit on Weather and Space.

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

For our 3rd graders, the new year brings about exciting new things at school- poetry, multiplication, and most importantly, the return of Mrs. Pellegrino! Our students are eagerly awaiting her arrival back at FN Brown later this month. Though we will miss Ms. Tripsas, we are so excited to get to know Mrs. Pellegrino and to learn all that she has to teach us!

Our non-fiction Reading Unit is drawing to a close and our students are more confident than ever in their abilities to use text features to better our understanding of the biographies and informational texts we have been reading. We have explored topics from tornadoes to chimpanzees to Walt Disney! Now, it is time for us to take a step away from the highly structured nature of nonfiction and jump into the free-flowing, creative world of poetry reading!

Writing also continues to be a favorite subject for many students. We have been working on sharing our thoughts and opinions with the world through essays. Students have spent time carefully crafting thesis statements and are now learning to support those thesis statements with facts and examples.

Since September, many of our students have been looking forward to learning multiplication- and the time has finally arrived! We will begin to learn strategies to help memorize the basic multiplication facts- including fun rhymes like "6 and 7 made a reservation for 2. 6 x 7=42!" Students are encouraged to continue studying their facts at home using flash cards, quizzes from family members, memorizing the rhymes learned and visiting www.multiplication.com to play some great games.

In Social Studies, we have completed our unit on the very first Americans. Now, it is time to move on to Immigration to the United States. Read- alouds and interactive websites will help students understand the continued development of our country and the experiences of our ancestors. This mini-unit will tie into a reading connection with the story of the Titanic. Students will gain an appreciation for the fact that immigrants are still coming to our country's shores on a daily basis to find a better life.

Welcome back, Mrs. Pellegrino! We can't wait to enjoy the rest of the year with you!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

In math students have successfully completed our geometry topic. They have learned that points, lines and planes are the core attributes of space objects, and real world situations can be used to think about these attributes. We are practicing our "writing to explain" exercises, which help students to clarify their thinking encouraging them to use mathematical terminology to support their answers.

"Writing Fiction: Big Dreams, Tall Ambitions" is the title of the writer's workshop topic that we are presently working on. Students are learning that writers get ideas for stories by imagining the books they wished existed in the world. They are learning that fiction writers need to choose a seed idea and begin to develop characters by creating their internal and external traits. We are also reviewing creative leads as well as powerful endings.

In reading students are exploring all the wonders of fiction and that these texts are created from the writer's imaginations and are not true. Throughout the unit students will read some amazing fiction stories, from realistic fiction to myths to folktales, and more. Students are learning that writers write fiction to entertain readers and engage our minds by helping us imagine new worlds filled with so many different kinds of characters, settings, and events taking place.

In science, we have completed our unit on Living Things and are moving on to Earth's Changing Surface, which will incorporate the Rock Cycle. We will learn about the processes that occur on and within the Earth's crust, in its atmosphere, and on and within its waters. This month science really does ROCK!

VOCAL MUSIC – JUDY SZYBIST

I would like to congratulate all the students for a Winter Concert that was simply breathtaking. The caliber of your performance was outstanding and your hard work and amazing spirit are what make our programs so successful.

I would also like to thank Dr. Lanzo for sharing his time and talent to help our Kindergarten Class with their debut performance and also for sharing the reading of "Alfie the Christmas Tree" with our first and second grade. Performing with our principal has become a tradition that we look forward to each year! The F.N. Brown community is indeed a special one and I am honored to be a part of it. The support of faculty, parents, and students is second to none!

I look forward to continuing a successful and enjoyable music program in the classroom and in future performances throughout the New Year!

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2014!!

ESL – NANCY BEATTIE

The English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) students have been busy developing their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. The younger students finished a unit on foods and days of the week. The children listened to, answered "wh" questions, and made predictions to the story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children expressed their likes and dislikes for the foods the caterpillar ate. The students placed foods into the different food groups as well as identified the colors and the amount of fruits, meats, and sweets the caterpillar ate.

The older students have been learning about nouns and verbs through a unit on community workers. The students have been reading sentences and paragraphs and listening to short stories about the responsibilities of workers in our community. Through actions and picture prompts, the students have written sentences which include an awareness of singulars, plurals, and noun-verb agreement.

The E.S.L. students have a fundations lesson daily which includes reviewing the alphabet and letter sounds. The website www.brainpopjr.com is also used frequently to teach a variety of content area information and skills.

LIBRARY – CORISA WALKER

Happy New Year!! We are excited to jump into 2014 by making our "Reading Resolutions". Every student will be setting goals with books that they would like to read in 2014. We are also VERY excited to kick-off our One School, One Book program. One School, One Book is a school-wide literacy program, where every family and every staff member will be reading the SAME book at the SAME time. It is an exciting time at F.N. Brown, as students, faculty, families, custodians, crossing guards, lunch monitors, nurses, and the school secretary participate in reading and discussing a book. It is quite powerful, and we are excited to embark on this reading journey together. Stay tuned for more

information, and for an invitation to our One School, One Book kick off assembly. This year, we are excited that the author of our selected book will be joined us in February for an author visit! Are you curious about what book we are reading? You will all be finding out soon!!

Special thank you to our library volunteers for their time making the library a special place for our students, and special thanks to VFEE and the SCA for their funding our One School, One Book program and author visit.

TECHNOLOGY – JENNIFER HOGAN

Happy New Year! The **Kindergarten** students have been introduced to the Home Row Keys and number keys on the keyboard. The students have completed some typing activities to help them become familiar with their positions on the keyboard. They have learned to create text boxes and made sight word collages. In **first grade** students have been using Microsoft Word to practice typing while learning beginning word processing and editing. **First graders** have also used interactive stories to learn story sequencing. Our **second grade** classes created unique stories getting their prompt from Scholastic Story Starters, they really did a great job using their imaginations! In Microsoft Word they practiced cut, copy and paste to help with their document editing skills, and created greeting cards with Microsoft Publisher. The **third grade** classes also created cards from templates that they edited with Microsoft Publisher. **Third and fourth** grades had fun with animation producing their own stick figure movie frame by frame. In **fourth grade** students made their own food chains using Inspiration software and also completed a timeline web quest of the First Thanksgiving. There is so much more to learn in the New Year!