# F.N. Brown Newsletter
# March 2014

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

## Dates to Remember…

**Sat., 3/1-** Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am

**Mon., 3/3- Read Across America Week**
SCA Meeting 7pm

**Tues., 3/4-** SCA Pasta Lunch

**Thurs., 3/6-** SCA Pizza Lunch

**Mon., 3/10-** Kindergarten Trip- Imagine That!

**Tues., 3/11-** Verona Schools Special Election
7am to 9pm
Author Visit- Gordon Korman 1pm

**Thurs., 3/13-** SCA Mexican Lunch

**Fri., 3/14- 12:30 Dismissal**
Half Day Snack

**Thurs., 3/20-** SCA Pizza Lunch

**Tues., 3/25-** B-Line Articles Due

**Wed., 3/26-** Verona Family Night
4th Grade Trip- Sterling Mine

**Thurs., 3/27-** SCA Chicken Lunch
Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation
7pm

## B-Line News

**Busy Bee Scrip Program**- March orders will be placed on March 14th, in time for Family Night, which is scheduled for March 26th. If you need an order form or have any questions, please contact Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973-857-8663.

**Shoparoo**- Do you shop at Costco or BJs? Do you shop at CVS or Target? And everyone grocery shops...so why not participate in Shoparoo. All you need to do is take a picture of your grocery receipts with the Shoparoo app made for your smartphone or iPad. It doesn't matter what you buy- every receipt submitted from a grocer, super center, club store, dollar store, drugstore, convenience mart or pet supply store 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!

### Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: March 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28 and 31.

**Please remember all lunches must be preordered.**

Contact Us

B-Line Editor: Valerie Balogh

Email: jayb41@verizon.net

# Birthday Boys and Girls
## March

Isabella McMillan, Ava Marchetta, Molly McCabe, Maile O'Neill, Wyatt Coyle, Dominic Houck, Nicholas Testa, Sabine Matta, Addisyn Garthwaite, Augustine Stocker, Jeremy Williams, James Piccirillo, Thomas Sabo, Dominick Latino, Andrew Trapani, Jaye Auriemma, Mia Viganola

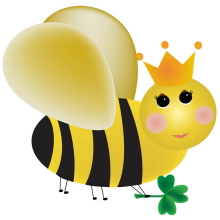
**Tae Kwon Do & Yoga** – Thanks to the F. N. Brown SCA for sponsoring our Tae Kwon Do and Yoga programs at recess. Yoga wrapped up in February and the final Tae Kwon Do class will take place on March 3rd. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can get outside again soon.

# 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**- With the warmer weather approaching and layers of clothes needed, Oliver's Labels are the practical way to identify all your family's belongings. 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.

**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 Valentine's Day Project Committee!**

A big thank you to Heidi Dunphy, Carli Crinion and Traci Dunn. You did a fabulous job organizing the Valentine's Day Project.

We're sure the recipients were thrilled to receive the beautiful cards our F. N. Brown children created for them.

**F.N. BROWN – THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!**

FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL
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Anthony V. Lanzo, Ed.D.
Principal

March 1, 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to March! "Spring is around the corner" is a phrase that most are very happy to hear as winter closes. We are "busy bees" at FNB. Please note the following March highlights.

**Read Across America – March 2nd**

Read Across America is approaching! This is a special day to honor the work of Dr. Seuss and it promotes the importance of reading. We will be celebrating on Monday, March 3rd – Wednesday, March 5th . I was very excited to approve these activities that were developed by Mrs. Walker with input from the teachers.

***Monday, March 3rd***

We will have an assembly on Monday, March 3rd at 8:45 AM in the auditorium. Please feel free to join us. Students will take a "Reader's Oath" at our assembly. We will also have preselected fourth grade students read aloud various facts about Dr. Seuss. The staff will join me in a round robin reading of the Dr. Seuss classic "The Cat in the Hat". Mrs. Szybist will lead us in the song "Green Eggs and Ham". We will also have two D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) sessions during the day. Everyone will be prepared to read a book for pleasure when the announcements are made. We will conclude our day with an all school sing along of "Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!"

***Tuesday, March 5th***

We have various guest readers joining us throughout the day. The list of guest readers includes the following Verona staff members:

- Mr. Steven Forte, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Charlie Miller, Director of Curriculum
- Mr. Howard Freund, HBW Assistant Principal
- Mr. David Galbierczyk, VHS Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Libby Skinner, Director of Special Services
- Ms. Yvette McNeal, HBW Principal
- Mrs. Jennifer Kleinknecht, HBW Media Specialist

***Wednesday, March 6th***

We will have "Class Reading Buddies". Classes will buddy up to read favorite stories with a partner or small group.

Please note the following Dr. Seuss Dress Up Days:

- Monday, March 3rd:
  Fox in Socks Day: Wear "crazy" socks.
- Tuesday, March 4th:
  Green Eggs and Ham Day: Wear green.
- Wednesday, March 5th:
  Oh the Places You'll Go Day: Wear a college sweatshirt/t-shirt or a special destination shirt.

**Developmental Reading Assessment**

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA 2) will be administered to all K-4 students by the classroom teachers during the month of March. The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA 2) is a quick, accurate, research-based assessment that helps teachers target instruction for student success. The research-based and validated Developmental Reading Assessment by Joetta Beaver and classroom teachers assists teachers with pinpointing students' strengths and abilities as readers in a quick, one-on-one conference. The results of the assessment are used by teachers while developing future lesson plans for whole group, small group and one on one instruction. Classroom teachers are released from the classroom for one full school day in order to conduct the assessment. The assessment takes place in a quiet location in the building. Substitute teachers are secured to cover the individual classrooms while the teachers conduct the assessment.

**Friday Folder**

Please remember to check the district "Friday Folder" on the district website (www.veronaschools.org). This folder contains district and/or building announcements posted by the Superintendent's 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.

**Pomptonian Lunch**

Please note that Pomptonian is no longer accepting late lunch orders. Please review the monthly due date and plan accordingly. Late lunch orders will be returned.

Thank you for your support! Happy spring!

Very truly yours,

*Anthony Lanzo*

Anthony Lanzo

## *March 2014 ~ Message from F.N. Brown SCA President*

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

Think Spring! Budding flowers and warmer temperatures are right around the corner and we would like to extend a thank you to all of our executive board, committee members, class parents and other volunteers who always help out when needed. We value the effort our F.N. Brown community takes in making our school a better place for our sprouting children to grow and learn. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy life to volunteer time and support SCA activities.

We hope the students enjoyed the Tae Kwon Do and the Yoga program for indoor days during the last few winter months. The SCA thanks the staff at Talium of Cedar Grove and Grace Dance & Yoga of Verona.

The lunch program volunteers, library, technology and art volunteers, class parents, and Wednesday packet assembly volunteers have worked hard all winter to keep things running smoothly. We have another upcoming Author Visit with Gordon Korman scheduled in March and the BMX crew will be here this Spring as well for another fun filled assembly.

Please mark your calendars for a great Mom's night out at Pinot's Palette on April 25th. Twenty percent of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the F.N. Brown SCA and it will be a fun night of painting and Spring socializing after a winter full of snow.

Thank you for all of the Pennies for Patients donations – we all raised close to $500 for the Lymphoma/Leukemia Society. Special thanks to Ms. Passage, Mrs. Brancato and Dr. Lanzo for organizing.

Another easy way to support the school through the SCA is by participating in the Busy Bee Bucks program. There are a wide variety of cards like Target, Dunkin Donuts or Whole Foods to choose from and a recent addition is the Fairway Market Gift Card. Shoparoo and Box Tops are also great ways to contribute at no cost. Thanks!

The Nominating Committee will be distributing information regarding positions for next year. Joining a committee is a positive way to experience your child in their school community. All of the students at F.N. Brown benefit from the events, activities and fundraising work that is run by the SCA. Volunteers are vital to keep the programs in place and running during the next school year. Without volunteer support from parents, there could be no SCA lunch program, special assemblies, Fun Fair, Bingo Night, Book Fair, or fundraising for events like Fourth Grade Farewell and so on… there are so many benefits that our children enjoy – please consider joining a committee to help the process.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring ☺

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou
SCA Co-Presidents

# *ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL*

## KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA

We started off February with Groundhog's Day and boy was that groundhog right! The end of winter is nowhere in sight! Although February is the shortest month and we spent our share of days snowed in; we were very busy in our Kindergarten classrooms!

We celebrated the 100th day of school with many fun activities! Our students made hats, crowns, belts and banners to show that they are 100 days smarter. We counted to 100 many different ways, drew 100 shapes, made a pizza with 100 toppings, walked 100 steps, and many other fun 100 things!

The students joined F.N. Brown for their One School, One Book activity! They read along at home with their families and even listened in school while pretending they were on the beach! We collected lots of money in Kindergarten for a great cause, Alex's Lemonade Stand! We even got to meet the author of the story, The Lemonade War! She shared some of her other stories with us and even some tips about writing! Thanks to Mrs. Walker and our SCA for making this possible. It was a lot of fun for everyone!

Valentine's Day was celebrated by making mailboxes and delivering Valentines to all of our classmates and teachers. It was a special day to show how much we care about each other.

In Math, we are learning to add and subtract. The students have learned vocabulary such as, plus, minus, joining and taking away. Try to practice adding and subtracting at home with real life situations!

The students are making great progress in reading and writing! Continue to work on reading and sight words at home in order to help them improve.

## FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

With February came a love for learning in First grade! The First graders were very busy with Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, the 100th Day of School, and learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Wow, what a month!!

In Math, the students have finished topic nine in which they learned how to compare and order numbers to 100. They learned how to use a hundreds chart, to look at the tens and ones in a two-digit number and put them in order from least to greatest and vice versa, as well as used a number window to locate 10 more, 10 less, 1 more, and 1 less.

In Social Studies, the first graders learned about our first president, George Washington and our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. They discussed the similarities and differences of the two presidents by using a Venn Diagram. The first graders also enjoyed watching videos about the presidents on Brain Pop Jr. as well as taking the online quiz! They had an opportunity to listen to some great biographies and other Non-Fiction stories about these two presidents. Ask your child about some of the fun facts they learned about Washington and Lincoln, you will be amazed at what they learned!

In Reading, the first graders have been hard at work during reading workshop. They have been reading either independently, with a partner, or as a whole group and then they are responsible for responding to the story by writing two sentences or more. Please remember to read to or with your child every night for at least 15 minutes. We can't express enough how truly important that is as they grow as readers. Also remember to ask questions before, during, and after reading. Comprehension is key!

In Science, Mrs. Collins' children had an opportunity to choose their favorite season of the year and dress a person to match this season. They also had to do a writing piece which supported why they chose this one season. In Mrs. McKenna's class the students each made seasons of the year window frame showing all four seasons. They too chose their favorite season to write about. This was a great culminating activity for the science unit on Seasons.

Please continue to use math in practical ways at home as well as listen to your child read as often as possible! Now that The Lemonade War is complete, please continue to read to your child's Baggie Book nightly. Thank you!

## SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO, NANCY HISCANO & LAURA QUINN

After a long and snowy winter we will be so happy to welcome spring this month! One School, One Book was such a huge success and now we are excited to celebrate Dr. Seuess's birthday and Read Across America week. We will be kicking off this event with an all-school assembly and we will participate in different dress up days. We will also be participating in reading activities with other classes in the school. We will learn about Dr. Seuss and read many of his books in class. This will all be a nice introduction to the show that we will be seeing at the end on April, Seussical the Musical.

In Reading Workshop, we have started a new unit called Communities. We will explore literature focused on rural, urban, and suburban life. This ties in nicely with our Social Studies unit on Communities which we will be exploring soon. Please continue to read your "just right" books each night at home. This will help improve fluency and stamina.

In Math, we are beginning a topic on three digit addition and subtraction. We will revisit regrouping and solving problems in the expanded form. Continue practicing basic facts at home as it will be important to master these skills as the math curriculum becomes more challenging. Be sure to spend time reviewing the word problems on daily homework sheets since this is an area that many of us are trying to improve.

In Writing, we are exploring persuasive writing and will be working on different forms of this style, such as book (and other types of) reviews and travel brochures. We continue to practice the good writing skills of sentence structure, content, detail, and mechanics.

The classes have been sharing their home-school connections based on Conflict Resolution. We are having fun as we learn about I Messages, Reflective and Active Listening, and Cooling Off Strategies through lessons taught in class. We will also practice and role play scenarios with our Fourth Grade Peace Pals.

## THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

With the snow finally thawing out and the sun beginning to shine third grade at F.N. Brown is certainly looking a lot like a perfectly dug out garden. The seeds that were planted in early September/October are beginning to bloom into beautifully colorful flowers. The students have grown so much over the past few months and are certainly looking like mature, knowledgeable and responsible students.

In the month of March, the students finished their personal essays with a celebration of their wonderful writings. Students finished creating book reviews, reflecting on stories and novels through our writer's workshop unit literary essays. They had a choice to write a book review or a persuasive letter. Through writing they learned how to analyze a story and write a book review including a brief summary, the theme, a personal life connection to the story, an "I wonder" moment of the story and who they recommend this story to and why. For persuasive letter writing, the students were introduced to this writing using the book, I wanna Iguana. Topics for persuasive letters were discussed and students composed convincing persuasive letters. All classes are now working on honing their writer's craft in the wonderful world of fiction writing. After our author's visit with Jaqueline Davies the students were thoroughly excited to begin creating descriptive characters, conflict and rising conflict, the climax and then a strong ending.

In reader's workshop the students are working collaboratively within their guided reading groups. Each group has a book that they are reading as a "book talk" or "book group". The students are utilizing the skills and concepts that they learned in the beginning of reading workshop to hold discussions of their thinking as they read the book together. Each group is meeting with the teacher throughout the week to discuss their findings, share their insight and make inferences going forward in the book. All students focused this month on providing evidence from the text to support their thinking as they read. As always, students thoroughly enjoyed Read across America activities in the beginning of March.

In Math, students have been focusing on division concepts and meanings as well as learning about fractions. Students were able to use repeated subtraction as a strategy on how to divide as well as locating fractions on a number line.

In Science, the third graders enjoyed their first field trip to The Scientific Circus at The South Orange Performing Arts Center. The students were introduced to Mr. Fish and Trent his mime assistant. They learned many fundamental scientific concepts such as: gravity, the center of gravity, the speed of sound and light, centripetal force as well as force and friction. This led wonderfully into the introduction of our unit on Force and Motion.

In Social Studies, both classes focused on immigration. Through several wonderful picture books, the students have been able to make connections, inferences and travel to a time period of life in a foreign country and the struggles people had immigrating to America. The students were also learning about children who have immigrated recently to America and the immigration process years ago. This led into our unit study of the Titanic. The students learned about their own ancestors and when they immigrated to America through an at home project with their familes!

We hope that all FN Brown Families are as ready for the sun and warm weather as we are!!!

## FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Fourth graders are continuing our essay unit in writing. Students have been publishing essays on various topics utilizing persuasive language to influence the reader's opinion. They have incorporated exact details and examples to support their main idea, or thesis statement. Students enjoyed celebrating their writing with classmates.

The fourth graders are also continuing our non-fiction study in Reader's Workshop. Through texts they have practiced identifying text features and structure. They have learned how features, such as captions or headings can guide their reading and deepen their understanding of non-fiction texts. Rich discussions are on-going comparing and contrasting the skills required for fiction and non-fiction reading. We are also incorporating guided reading into our program. Guided reading enables students to practice strategies leading to more independent reading. Through this activity we provide a range of reading experiences and instruction necessary to help our students become better readers.

In Math students are learning about the connection between fractions and decimals. They are learning that each fraction, mixed number and decimal can be associated with a unique point on the number line.

As part of our conflict resolution program we are presently highlighting reflection listening. We are emphasizing the reasons for good listening and what characteristics of listening we should practice. Students are learning that good listening helps to gain information, understand people's feeling and know how someone feels.

In Social Studies, students are exploring patriot and loyalist views during the American Revolutionary time period. We are discussing how England's rule affected colonists' beliefs and actions. Ask your child to sing you the "Revolution" song for an interesting take on American History!

In Science we are continuing our study of the rock cycle and how weathering and erosion help shape Earth's surface and how soil is formed. Students are learning how to evaluate relationships of science, technology and society.

## TECHNOLOGY – JENNIFER HOGAN

Happy Spring! In Technology, Kindergartners have been learning how to type using Microsoft Word. Students had to type the beginning letter sounds for words. They also had to try and match clip art pictures to the word with the correct spelling, learning phonics and how to arrange images in the process. For math practice, students used virtual gumballs to complete basic addition problems and had fun playing some online addition games. We celebrated Valentine's Day by using paint buckets and text boxes to create pictures, and we celebrated the 100$^{th}$ Day of school by completing online math activities using numbers up to 100!

In First Grade students made wonderful "All About Me" slide shows. They learned to use different tools in Kid Pix and how to save, open and create transitions between slides. Students continued

their Word editing lessons by adding correct capitalization and punctuation to sentences. First Graders also brushed up on their math skills by manipulating virtual tens and ones blocks to make and add numbers. The Second Grade classes also worked on editing documents and worked on their grammar at the same time by completing noun and verb lessons. Students learned how to research weather patterns online and became weather forecasters, creating their own weather reports. Second grade is now being introduced to Microsoft PowerPoint and will soon begin work on their first presentations.

During Star Lab week the third grade classes completed a Start Lab Web Quest, learning about the seasons, moon phases and constellations. Fourth Grade classes learned how to enter information into Excel and how to make a graph using that input. The third and fourth grade classes were introduced to Paint.net, a beginning graphic design program, and were able to generate pictures using multiple layers in their designs. In conjunction with our EbD program, the third and fourth grade classes have completed projects documenting all aspects of the Hydrologic Cycle that they have learned, researched, and observed. These projects were presented to their peers on the Smart Board. They really did a great job!

Finally, as part of F.N. Brown's ongoing Character Education, all grades had "Cool School" Day! This is a favorite to most classes. The students travel through a virtual school building, solving conflicts and earning letters, making the school a better and kinder place for all. The link to this game can be found on my school website. http://www.veronaschools.org/Page/3052.

## LIBRARY – CORISA WALKER

Thank you so much for your participation in our One School, One Book program. I hope that you enjoyed reading The Lemonade War as a family. We all loved meeting the author of the book Jacqueline Davies. A very special thanks to the SCA for funding our author visits! We are excited to have another author visit coming up on March 11th. Gordon Korman, author of the Swindle series will be at F.N. Brown in the afternoon!

March is always a special time in the library, as we kick-off Read Across America with a special assembly, Dr. Seuss themed dress-up days, guest reader's and Reading Buddies. We will also be reading lots of Dr. Seuss' books. March also brings "March Madness" for poetry. Students will be filling out brackets and their chosen poems will "play" each other until a winner is determined. It is great fun! Thanks to all of the parent volunteers for your time and service!

## VOCAL MUSIC

Although it's hard to imagine that Spring is just around the corner, the music department continues to look toward the busy spring performance schedule ahead. We are planning for many spring and all district concerts, as well as a variety of school events and assemblies.

This year the third and fourth grade vocal students will perform their Spring Concert on Thursday, April 10, at 7:00 pm. Students are hard at work with preparations and we are looking forward to an evening filled with song…..no matter what the weather may bring.

I would like to request "nice" dress for the evening, no jeans, shorts or t-shirts please. A skirt/dress or pants and shirt/blouse would be appropriate. Also, please keep in mind that footwear should be sensible and appropriate. I can tell you from personal experience that flip-flops on choral risers can be disastrous.

We are anxiously awaiting the Spring season at FN Brown and look forward to seeing you on the 10th.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The instrumental students are working on new skills and learning new notes and rhythms. Our concert is fast approaching and we are getting excited. This is a very daunting task and the key to success is following through at home. A short and *daily* practice routine is essential in turning these concepts into good habits of mind in their instrumental studies. It is the *daily* work that is the most beneficial way for students to improve both more thoroughly and efficiently. At this point in the year, students should practice for 15 minutes a day, and it is that *every day* part that is crucial. A long period of time on a couple of days is not the same and can actually be detrimental since young students don't have enough

physical stamina to sustain a long, individual practice session. If there is only time for five minutes of practice, don't skip thinking it isn't enough. Five minutes then, are much better than trying to make it up on another day.

There are many songs for this concert. Some are short and are the ones we use to introduce and develop our concepts and notes. (You should recognize "Old MacDonald", "Skip To My Lou", and "Bingo" among others). Some are full band arrangements that incorporate these elements. This is a much more demanding concert than the first and as such, students need to spend as much time at home working on this material as they can. As always, some students will be working on a solo or duet performance as well. This music is in addition to their other songs, and it needs to be practiced equally along with the band songs.

Besides our own school concert, we also have the town-wide elementary band concert. This concert combines all four elementary schools into one giant band to perform on the big stage at VHS. It is very exciting! There may even be a special guest appearance by our own high school jazz band known as Verona Jazz & Beyond.

Verona Summer Music is a terrific way for students to begin an instrument, start a second instrument, or improve on the instrument they already play. The entire music staff highly recommends students attend this program. In addition to playing every day, it's a time when students don't have other academic demands and are able to really embed the correct concepts into their musical skills. We teach all band instruments as well as piano, guitar, bass guitar, music theory, concert band, and choir. We accommodate scheduling conflicts with other town programs. For information on what is available for students, please visit our website:
veronasummermusic.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our two performances. Remember, 15 minutes a day.

ATTENTION THIRD GRADE PARENTS:

Verona Summer Music is the *best* place to get started on a band instrument. Next year, many of your children will want to play a band instrument. Those that get started in summer, are the students that usually progress the farthest and the quickest during the school year.

Since I only see them once a week during the year, that head start in summer is very beneficial. They meet half as many times in the summer as I will meet with them during the entire school year. And since it is every day, the comprehension and retention is much greater. Get more information about this amazing program at: veronasummermusic.org.