# H.B. WHITEHORNE

SCA Newsletter SCA Co-Presidents: Barbara Yeates and Pam Priscoe Winter 2014

## SCA President's Message

We hope that everyone is staying warm and dry on these cold and snowy days. The snow got the best of us and we had to cancel our last SCA meeting scheduled for January 22nd!

We have had a very successful year so far; our Election Day Bake Sale was a huge success as usual under the direction of Emily Boyer, Carolyn Luehs, and their committee volunteers and bakers. Jacqui Schuldiner and the Environmental Trip committee have been working very hard getting the 5th graders ready for their trip to Fairview Lake in February. As usual, HBW's students loved their half day snacks in November and the "line was out the door" for bagels, muffins, and other snacks that Donna Holland and her committee provided. This is a great fundraiser for us as well. This year at our student socials, the students have had the opportunity to win a door raffle of iTunes, Subway, and other gift cards to add to their fun. CHILD sponsored some organizational nights at HBW that were well-attended and very helpful to parents and students, alike.

There are many more events and happenings coming up at HBW for the rest of the year. Mark your calendar for our next SCA meeting on March 5th so that you don't get left out of the fun!

The SCA will be putting together the Nominating Committee shortly so if anyone is interested in volunteering, make sure you check your emails for news on this.

We urge all of our parents to get out and vote on the Bond Referendum coming up on March 11th.

As always, thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to HBW and our students. We hope to see everyone at our next SCA meeting in March.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or thoughts that you would like to share, please contact us — Barbara Yeates: bpyeates@verizon.net or Pam Priscoe: priscoe@verizon.net.

Think Spring!

Barbara and Pam

### Did you know?

*The Verona **SCA** stands for—*
*Verona **S**chool **C**ommunity **A**ssociation, a partnership of home and school that enriches your child's educational experience.*

### UPCOMING 2014 SCA Meetings

- March 5*
- May 7

*Note: All meetings are held in the HBW Library/Media Center @ 7:30pm.*
*All parents welcome!*
**To be held In HBW Auditorium*

### Issue No. 2


- SCA Welcome
- Principal's Message
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- Sports Beat
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# H.B. WHITEHORNE

**From the Principal's Desk...** **Ms. Yvette McNeal**

Dear Parents:

Even though H.B.W. is still buried in snow, and staff and students alike are winter-weary, we have been very busy with school and with some really exciting activities. By far, one of the highlights of my entire educational career was our Swing Event. I have posted some information on our website about it, and if you weren't able to make Swing Night, you can watch the video of it online. What an amazing night!

Our students are busy with Battle of the Books, researching female scientists, creating news broadcasts on the issues that faced Westward Expansion, and publishing our next edition of the newspaper to name a few. Some of our eighth grade girls spent the day at Stevens Institute of Technology for a focus day on girls and engineering. The girls had a wonderful day.

At the May SCA meeting, I am hoping to share information about the new PARCC tests that will replace the NJASK tests next spring (2015). It is a big departure from what our staff and students have been used to particularly because students will take it on computers.

Let us all hope for a warm March with no snow!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. McNeal*

Mrs. McNeal

**Verona Public Schools**
**Referendum**
**Vote March 11, 2014**

## #C.H.I.L.D.

***C.H.I.L.D.— Children Having Individual Learning Differences***

*By Daphne Smith, Board Member*

C.H.I.L.D. (Children Having Individual Learning Differences) has been busy making a difference to our community of students, teachers and parents. This fall, we co-sponsored with the district three well-attended workshops, one featuring study skills, and the other two featuring organizational tips and tools, which helped students and parents learn valuable tools for organizing backpacks, binders and study areas. In addition, we worked with Special Services to put together a student presentation for the 8th grade high school orientation, whereby an 11th grade high school student talked to parents of incoming freshman about his success navigating high school as a student with a disability.

We are especially excited for our upcoming showing of *The Big Picture*, in conjunction with Special Services and the Verona Junior Woman's Club, in March. This highly acclaimed movie provides insight into the mysteries, difficulties and gifts of dyslexia. After the showing, there will be a question and answer session with a panel of Verona teachers, as well as students ranging from grades 5 through 11 who will share their personal experience discovering the their strengths in the midst of their struggles with this hidden disability. Speech and language expert, Jeanne Tighe, CCC-PLC, of Decoding Dyslexia, will moderate the panel. This will be an opportunity for teachers, parents and students to learn more about dyslexia. Teachers will receive professional development credit hours for this valuable workshop, which will be held March 13th - registration is at 6:30 PM and the movie is at 7:00 PM (snow date: March 20th).

**For more information go to:**
**www.veronachild.org or**
**email: info@veronachild.org**

# Swinging Around the "Horne..."

**Swing Night @ H.B.W.** On Saturday, February 8th, the HBW auditorium was converted into a 1940's ballroom for a night of live music and swing dancing. HBW Swing Night was a huge success, and was attended by over 320 students, parents, teachers, community members, and lovers of swing dancing. The event was made possible by support from the Verona Foundation for Educational Excellence, as well as the HBW Music Parents, and HB Whitehorne Middle School.

The evening began with a 30-minute dance class taught by Arturo Perez of NYC's Swing 46. This was followed by two full sets of live 1940's style big band music provided by the HBW Jazz Band with support from some local professional musicians. The event was the culmination of an extended project involving every student at HBW that featured a presentation on the Swing Era, and four days of swing dance instruction in physical education classes by Mr. Perez. The HBW Music department is thrilled with the outcome, and was proud to present an opportunity for students to learn about history by experiencing it firsthand.

**Mrs. Lagan's Classes** In Mrs. Lagan's Art of Speaking class, the 7th grade students wrote persuasive speeches advertising our very own, H. B. Whitehorne middle School. The speeches were complete with jingles, slogans and props (pictured in some of the photographs). The advertisements mentioned our rapping librarian, Mrs. Kleinknecht, our Rock n' Roll 6th Grade teacher, Mr. Mo, swing dancing in our gym, and our amazing variety of after school clubs and activities among other traits that HBW boasts. As the students said, "Who wouldn't want to go to HBW?"

Additionally, Mrs. Lagan's 7th grade English students read a biography of their choice and completed enough research so that they could come to class dressed up as their person of choice. They then took part in a press-conference style interview, where fellow classmates and Mrs. Lagan interviewed them and they shared information about their life, based on the list of 20 questions that they had prepared ahead of time. Some students submitted their original artwork of their researched person to HBW's The Messenger.

**A Chorus of Congratulations!** ♫ To Amy Renzulli, who was accepted into the North Jersey Junior High Region Chorus for a second time.

# Around the "Horne..."

## 6th Grade Class

By Ms. Kate Castiglione

On February 25, the 6th grade class attended a performance of "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, NJ. According to the MPAC website, the performance is touted as a "musical revue [which] recounts the Civil War using songs and first-person narratives written by the men and women who lived and died in those harrowing times." All 6th graders have recently completed a unit about the Civil War in their Social Studies classes and have examined primary source documents in order to gain a more in-depth understanding of the war and its impact on all Americans. "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" will not only bring these documents and ideas to life, but also provide both students and staff yet another perspective on one of the most significant time periods in American history. We were all so excited to have attended!

## DREAM TEAM

The **Dream Team** started 2014 with the Pasta for Pennies Campaign a nationwide program that raises funds that go towards the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Sponsored by the "Olive Garden," proceeds collected are used to fund research and support young people afflicted with this terrible disease. For three weeks homerooms generously brought in pennies and "more" working towards our school goal of raising $1200. The winning homeroom was promised a free lunch provided by the "Olive Garden."

The response was "overwhelming." In just one week HBW surpassed its school goal by raising $2300. With the wonderful generosity of the HBW community we are pleased to report that we raised a total of over $6000.

**Ms. Gasalberti's homeroom** was the winning homeroom bringing in a total of over **$1000.** We would however like to acknowledge several other homerooms that also had outstanding contributions throughout the campaign.

Mrs. Onnmebo $485.00
Mrs. Clifford $286.61
Mrs. Ogden $234.00
Ms. Finley $166.79
Mrs. Moy $125.97

Mrs. Useche $385.17
Mrs. Albano $267.091
Mrs. K. Smith $220.00
Ms. Lijoi $189.90
Mrs. Sarett $170.48.

Mrs. Domenick $419.00
Mrs, O'Connor $242.00
Mrs. Podolak/Mr.Haerle $200.
Mr. Moschella $159.83

We would love to list everyone individually because so many were so generous but it is impossible. Just know that your kindness is greatly appreciated by many.

# Around the "Horne..."

## BATTLE BOOKS

All students in 6th grade have been *Keeping Calm and Reading a Book.* Students have been reading books and writing questions to prepare for the competition. Students participated in battles on Friday, February 7th in their literacy classes. Many teams advanced to the next round of battles. The battles will continue until we have a winning team.

This program encourages students to read and learn how to work together as a team. All 6th graders are required to participate, but 7th and 8th graders may join the Battle of the Books Club. Thank you to all who participated and remember, read on!

Battle of The Books

## Student Council

**The Student Council has been very busy with a variety of activities since the New Year. The monthly Spirit Days are well on their way and are enjoyed by all. The month of January the students enjoyed Twin Day and Jersey Day. In the month of February the spirit day were Heart Day and Pajama Day. It was so much fun seeing the halls filled with fun brightly colored pajamas!**

**In the month of December, our Snowflake fundraiser was popular amongst all grades. Students bought snowflakes, to be given to a friends the day before Holiday break. The students wrote fun messages to their friends on each snowflake they bought. Snowflakes were delivered to homerooms and the school was a blizzard of happy wishes for all.**

**In the month of January Student Council had a week long Hot Chocolate sale. The students in all grades really enjoyed the yummy hot chocolate, especially topped with whipped cream and marshmallows!**

**The month of February brought the Heart Sale in time to wish a friend a very Happy Valentine's Day!!!!!**

## Jeans for Teens

This year the Verona High School was collecting Jeans for Homeless Teens. Did you know that over 1.7 million teens are homeless and need jeans? Ms. Onnembo volunteered to collect jeans from HB students and send them to the high school. Many students participated. If anyone else has jeans they can donate directly to the Abercrombie store & get discount on new jeans. In only 7 years this program has donated over 3 million pairs of jeans. Thank you to all who participated.

# Around the "Horne..."

## Geography Bee

On January 9, eighth grader Michael Petillo was declared the winner of the annual National Geographic Geography Bee. Fifth grader Byron Chu earned second place. Mrs. Carol Clifford served as moderator and Mrs. Marisa Albano, Mrs. Carol Lynn Moy and Mr. Mark Rossi served as judges. The school-wide bee was organized by Mrs. Barbara Kistner.

The excitement began in December when students in grades five through eight participated in the classroom competitions where each student was asked a series of questions about U.S. and world geography. After seven rounds of tough questions, the student with the most correct answers became the class winner and moved on to take a written test.

After the tests were scored, ten finalists earned the chance to compete on January 10: fifth grader Byron Chu, sixth graders Andrew Castillo, Anna Konrad-Parisi and Vincent Hogan, seventh grader Gus Caprari and eighth graders Michael Petillo, Shane Siegel, Andrew Siegelin, Jason Siegelin,and Nicolas Slawski.

Michael has taken a written test that will be scored by the National Geographic Society. About 100 students will qualify to participate in the state bee in April. National Geographic provides an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for state champions and their teacher escorts to participate in the Bee national championship rounds in May. The first place winner will receive a $50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

## "Girl Day" Program @ The Stevens Institute of Technology

A group of twenty eighth grade young ladies participated in the "Girl Day" program at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ on February 20. The Stevens STEM Ambassadors, members of a new pilot program led by Stevens undergraduates, conduct on- and off-campus outreach programs to encourage interest in STEM fields, specifically targeting women and minorities, who are persistently underrepresented in technical fields. The program included two hands on activities involving science and engineering, as well as a tour of two Stevens Institute labs. We visited the "Flow Tank" which simulates ocean conditions by creating various wave patterns. We also saw a three dimensional printer at work and other projects in the design and manufacturing lab. The STEM ambassadors joined the girls for lunch in the Stevens cafeteria.

The middle school teachers have been encouraging the all of the girls to take a more active part in their science and mathematics education. The opportunity for the girls to visit the campus stressed the value in mathematics and science education.

Unfortunately, HBW was restricted from bringing more girls to the program. However, Mrs. Thomas and Ms. Finley are working on plans for a HBW Eighth Grade STEM day in May.

Mrs. Thomas is requesting that parents trained in STEM careers contact her if interested in speaking with our girls at the seminar.

*For more info contact:*
*cthomas@veronaschools.org*

## Le Hockey! French Class Students Attend NJ Devils Game

The NJ Devils' 4th Annual French Student Night was held on Friday, January 24. About 40 HBW French students, along with their friends and families and 10 HBW teachers attended the hockey game where the NJ Devils beat the Washington Capitals 2-1. Students were offered discounted tickets to the game, along with the opportunity to attend a private Q+A session with Devils player, Peter Harold after the game. Prizes were even raffled off and 5th grader Natalie Romanyschyn won a signed autographed photo from Martin Brodeur. Afterwards, the families were allowed to "walk on the ice". H.B. Whitehorne even got to see its name in lights on the score board! A fun time was had by all!

# LAX Courtesy of Elena Kish and VeronaLacrosse.org

## *Verona Lacrosse Season Taste-Off*

**On March 28, 2014, Verona Lacrosse Parents Association will sponsor the 8th Annual Taste of Verona event at Our Lady of the Lake Auditorium at 7:30 pm. It is a night filled with fun and friends, where you are able to sample cuisine from many local restaurants.**

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW. The price of tickets is $35 per person after March 1st. Space is limited, so tickets are on a first come, first served basis. Go to www.veronalacrosse.org for a printable order form in the Documents section under the Association tab for your convenience. Please come out and support your child and the Verona Lacrosse program.**

**Online registration is now open for the 2014 Spring Season. Season runs from March to early June. Tournament play is also offered for all 5-8 grade teams.**

# VBSL *At Bat for Spring!*

- 2014 Travel Baseball Spring Blast Tournament: March 29 - 30
- Support VBSL with Modell's shopping. Go to www.veronabaseballsoftball.com to access a 15% coupon good until April 1st. The VBSL receives 5% back on all purchases.
- Softball Pitching Clinic: Learn How to Pitch Windmill Style. Offered through March 16th at HBW for girls in grades 1-6. See VBSL site for more details.
- VBSL Now On Twitter! @vbslverona

Source: www.veronabaseballsoftball.com

# WRESTLING By Sam Zamloot

## *Verona Junior Wrestlers Finish 11-1*

**The Verona Junior Wrestling team had a great season in finishing 11 -1 which was good for 2nd Place in the Suburban Jr Wrestling League. The league is made up of 13 teams from Essex County. The team's only loss was to Caldwell (12 -0) by a score of 38 – 37. The team opened the season by beating up Nutley 69 -9 and finished the year strong by beating our rival Cedar Grove 49 – 31. In between, Verona beat West Essex, W. Orange, Livingston, Bloomfield, Maplewood, Glen Ridge, Montclair, Millburn, and Belleville.**

**To open the season in December, the team participated in two team tournaments including the very competitive Montville Duals and the Mountain Lakes Tournament. This really helped our team heading into the league bouts having wrestled several matches against some very good competition. The team was fueled by a strong group of 8th grade wrestlers including Maguire Pecci, John Gabriele, Frank Gabriele, Mat DiDia, Matt Feiger and Billy Fauerbach. The league season commenced with the Suburban League "County" Tournament on Sunday Feb. 23 at Livingston HS.**

**Verona Jr. Wrestling is open to Verona residents in 2nd to 8th grade. You're never too old to learn the sport!**

Verona Junior Wrestling

## VERONA RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### *Middle School Program Update!*

***By Marissa Landolfi***

The Verona Recreation Department will be offering programs for middle school students for the Spring 2014 season. These programs include; Girls' Volleyball Clinic, Tennis, Music Theater and Track. Registration for these programs will be open as of March 3rd at 8:30am online and in-person.

We have recently added a **NEW** program, Ropes Course Instruction class for grades 4-6. This program will provide children the opportunity to explore low ropes and high ropes course elements. This course uses adventure elements to help teach team building and effective communication by working together in a group atmosphere. It also gives participants a chance to step outside of their comfort zone and push themselves mentally and physically in a controlled environment all while having fun. No previous climbing experience is necessary.

There will be registration for all Summer Playgrounds beginning March 31, 2014. These playgrounds include Tot-Lot, Primary Park, Elementary Zone and Summer Adventure. If you are an 8th grader going into VHS and you are 14 years old, you can apply to volunteer at the playgrounds this summer. You can pick up an application at the Recreation Office, please know that filling out an application does in no way guarantee you a position.

For more information on our Recreation programs, please visit our website, www.veronanj.org/recreation. Also **NEW** at the Verona Recreation Department, we are now on Facebook! Visit www.faceboook.com/veronarecreation. You can have immediate access to the latest news, program information, and registrations. list.

**NOW on Facebook!** Like

## SPRING MUSICAL

*Contest Winning "T" shirt design by Colleen Whelan (7th), Kate Ryan (7th), Austin Frank (6th) and Image-market.com.*

**By Miss Stephanie Lijoi, Producer, and Mr. Brian Michalwoski, Musical Director**

***Where can you find a world of pure imagination filled with chocolate rivers, gobstoppers, a candy man, and a trip through a world filled with nothing but childhood dreams?***

**H.B.W. Middle School of course! On March 28th and 29th, our middle school will be presenting its rendition of Willy Wonka, Jr.! Featuring the largest cast in years with 98 participating middle schoolers, students have been rehearsing their scenes, songs and dances since early December and putting the final touches on a wonderful production. Behind the scenes, costumes are being made, candy is being bought (and eaten!) and the sounds of saws and drills are being mixed in with the music of the band in the auditorium.**

**It's sure to be an outstanding performance featuring oompa loompas, Willy Wonka himself, and of course Charlie Bucket! Don't be surprised if you see some of the characters covered in chocolate as they tour Mr. Wonka's chocolate factory after finding a golden ticket!**

**Be sure to buy your golden tickets which will be on sale at the door and are $5 for students and $10 for adults. For more information contact Miss Lijoi at slijoi@veronaschools.org.**

# Put your money where your paw is!

Sr. Pet Reporter
Roger Emanuilidis

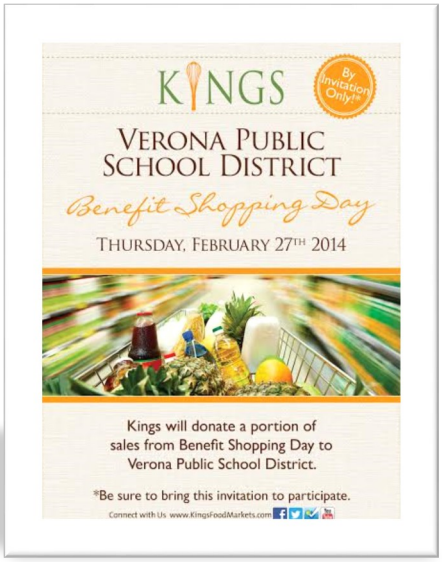
## Give Back to Verona Schools — It's Easy with HBW SCA Pet Causes...

The HBW SCA is constantly seeking out fundraising opportunities that benefit you as a consumer, community member and, most importantly, a parent. Keep a look-out for new and different ways to give back throughout the year in your email inbox, the Friday Folder, on www.veronaschools.org, to name a few. Current HBW SCA pet causes include:

*COMING SOON! Shoparoo App. Buy the products you want, wherever and however you want. Then, just snap a pic of your receipt to make an instant donation to your child's school.*

TAKE CHARGE of EDUCATION®

*Target will donate 1% of purchases on your Target REDCard throughout the year—it can really add up. Learn more about the Take Charge of Education Program or enroll your card today at www.target.com/TCOE.*



# H.B. WHITEHORNE

## 2014 Key Upcoming Dates...*

| March 2014 | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5th | Wed | 7pm Referendum Presentation—HBW Auditorium<br>7:30pm SCA Meeting—HBW Auditorium |
| 11th | Tues | Author Visit<br>School Referendum Vote—Polls open 7am to 9pm |
| 12th | Wed | Ms. Wrobel's Trip |
| 14th | Fri | Half Day with Half Day Snacks by SCA for Students |
| 26th | Wed | Spanish Trip—7th Grade<br>Verona Family Night |
| 28th | Fri | HBW Musical—Auditorium |
| 29th | Sat | HBW Musical—Auditorium |

| April/May 2014 | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3rd | Thur | French Trip—8th Grade |
| 10tth | Fri | Gold Band Trip |
| 11th | Wed | MP3 Report Cards Posted |
| 14th-18th*** | Mon-Fri | Spring Break —School Closed.**<br>**NOTE: Monday, April 14th may be designated for snow day make-up. |
| Apr 28th-May 1st | Mon-Thur | NJ ASK Testing—Grades 7 and 8 |

*Dates subject to change.

Contact Us:
Have an HBW-related story, announcement or just some fun pictures you would like to submit for consideration? Email to Kathy Emanuilidis at hbwnewsletter@gmail.com.

Note: The H.B. Whitehorne SCA Newsletter is a four-time a year e-publication with Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer frequency and intended exclusively for the H.B. Whitehorne family.