F.N. Brown Newsletter
April 2014

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Alice Poueymirou

Dates to Remember…

Thurs., 4/3- SCA Pizza Lunch

Fri., 4/4- 4th Grade Trip- Trenton, NJ

Mon., 4/7- SCA Meeting 7pm

Tues., 4/8- SCA Pasta Lunch

Thurs., 4/10- SCA Mexican Lunch
1st Grade Trip- MSU
4th Grade Visits HBW
Spring Vocal Concert (gr. 3 & 4) 7pm

Fri., 4/11- ***Report Cards Issued***

Sat., 4/12- Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am

Mon., 4/14- **School In Session-** Brown Bag Lunch Only

Tues., 4/15- Fri., 4/18 **Spring Vacation- No School**

Tues., 4/22- **12:30 Dismissal- Conferences**
Half Day Snack

Wed., 4/23- **12:30 Dismissal- Conferences**
Half Day Snack

Thurs., 4/24- SCA Chicken Lunch
2nd Grade Trip- Morris Museum
B-Line Articles Due

Fri., 4/25- Mom's Night Out 6:30-10:00

Tues., 4/29- "Honor" Assembly 10am

Wed., 4/30- 2nd Grade Trip- Mayo PAC

Contact Us

B-Line Editor: Valerie Balogh

Email: jayb41@verizon.net

B-Line News

Busy Bee Scrip Program- Thank you to those who are supporting this program. To date we have made close to $800 for F.N. Brown! New to the program is Fairway Market, available in $100 only. Due to spring break, April orders are due by Thursday, April 3rd. All orders will arrive before the Easter holiday, so be sure to check out the low value cards available, perfect for Easter baskets. If you need an order form or have any questions, please contact Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973-857-8663.

Shoparoo- A simple way to help F.N. Brown make money for our school…all you need to do is take a picture of your receipts with the Shoparoo app made for your smartphone or iPad. It doesn't matter what you buy- every receipt submitted from a grocer, supercenter, club store, drugstore, convenience mart, pet supply or liquor store results in a donation to our school! Since the end of November we have generated $225! So, what are you waiting for? Simply download the free app from the Appple 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: April 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 21, 25, 28, 29 and 30.

Please remember all lunches must be preordered.

Birthday Boys and Girls
April

Mackenzie Garmont, Juliet Alkaysi, Caitlin Eng, Gavin Fuentez, Joseph Phelan, Emma Shaw, Gianna Mecca, Julia Balogh, Sophia Freda, Lauren Parsons, Kelley Caffrey, Jordan Dunn, Sarah Komninos, Sarah Wynne, Matthew Steitz, Daniel Frenklakh, Emily Mautone, Neva Anil, Nicole Hagaman, Amanda Zheng, Paul Shaw

More B-Line News

In honor of Secretary's Day, the SCA, students and entire staff of F.N. Brown would like to extend a sincere ***thanks*** to ***Mrs. Alina Dugan***. We truly appreciate all you do for us. ***Happy Secretary's Day!***

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 cooler mornings and warmer afternoons, keep track of your kids clothes with Oliver's Labels. Oliver's Labels are waterproof, 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!

BOX TOPS EDUCATION
MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!

And A Special Thank You Goes to…

***The Half Day Snack Committee!**

Thanks to Dawn Mulligan, Janice Garthwaite and all the other volunteers who help make Half Day Snack run smoothly!

***The Cultural Arts Committee!**

Thanks to Jacqueline Alkaysi and Stacie Ackerman for all the fabulous assemblies our children have enjoyed this year!

F.N. BROWN – THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!

FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL
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ANTHONY V. LANZO, Ed.D
Principal

April 1, 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to April! Report cards will be issued on Friday, April 11th. Parent – Teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, April 22nd and Wednesday, April 23rd. This is a great time to discuss with your child's teacher the progress that your child has made this year. Our Kindergarten Parent Orientation took place on Thursday, March 27th. Kindergarten screenings will occur over the next few weeks.

Standardized Testing
Our second, third and fourth grade students have completed the Cognitive Abilities Testing (CogAT) at the end of March.

Visitor Sign-In
All visitors are reminded to sign in upon entering our school. All visitors must be announced first before entering any classroom. Parents are asked not to drop in on teachers during the instructional day. This causes an interruption to the instructional flow. Thank you for your cooperation!

Spring Vacation
School will be closed April 15th – 18th for Spring Vacation. School will reopen on Monday, April 28th. Enjoy!

Happy spring!!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

REMINDER: School will be open on Monday, April 14th. All students should bring a snack and a lunch to school.

April 2014

Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents

Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

As the snow finally starts to thaw, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting Spring!!

F.N. Brown families enjoyed a homework and activity free night on March 26th for VMAC's district wide Family Night.

The Nominating Committee forms for next year have been distributed and are due back by April 11th. Please review the forms and your schedules and consider being an active participant in SCA activities. We can't do it without you! Our SCA activities enhance our children's learning experience and the funds raised allow us to keep up all of our wonderful FN Brown traditions! Please contact Kristen Mautone with any questions.

FN Brown's 3rd and 4th grades will perform in our Spring Vocal Concert on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 pm. It's is an enjoyable evening that could not happen without the talent and dedication of our music teacher, Mrs. Szybist!

April 23rd is Administrative Professional Day. The SCA would like to thank Mrs. Dugan for all of her work. Her support and commitment to the parents and children of FNB is amazing. Her assistance to the SCA is invaluable!

FN Brown is hosting its 1st Mom's Night Out at Pinot's Palette fundraiser. This fun night of painting and socializing is sold out and Pinot's Palette is giving the FNB SCA 20% back for each participant attending!

A special thank you goes out to Dawn Mulligan, our Treasurer, for keeping track of all of our finances. The Treasurer position is one of the most important and time consuming of all SCA job. We truly appreciate your time!

Thank you to all who volunteer with our ongoing needs-library help, office help, half day snack, and the lunch programs. Your time and effort is appreciated!

Upcoming dates to remember ~

May 6th ~ Nurse's Day

May 7th ~ Field Day – (rain date: May 9th)

May 6th & 8th ~ Staff Appreciation - Breakfast and Luncheon – please look for the volunteer sign up form.

May 19th ~ **4th** Grade Spring Instrumental Concert

May 20th to 22nd ~ Book Fair ~ more information will be sent home.

May 30th ~ Fun Fair – 4 pm – 7 pm

Please join us at our next SCA meeting on April 7th at 7:00 pm in the FNB Library.

Happy Spring!

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

MS. KARA PASSAGE'S CLASS

In honor of Groundhogs Day, we studied how to make predictions and what happens if he sees his shadow. While we were waiting for the warmer days of spring, we have begun our non-fiction reading unit! We have learned about various types of non-fiction and the text features we can find in non-fiction books. The students love learning about non-fiction and are eager to read each day!

To correspond with our non-fiction reading unit, we have begun our non-fiction writing unit. We are learning to identify a topic and do research on the desired topic. Students have learned how to identify important facts and transfer the facts into their writing.

In honor of Dr. Suess' birthday, we celebrated with the book *The Cat in the Hat*. We loved every minute of D.E.A.R, especially reading with the whole school! While reading many of Dr. Suess' books we practiced our reading comprehension skills by identify characters, setting, sequencing, and themes, as well as going on a rhyming word hunt.

In math, the kindergarteners continue to practice counting and comparing numbers 0 – 20. They have also begun comparing objects by height, weight, and capacity. The first graders, we continue to build on addition by adding numbers 0 – 9 using Touch Math. The second graders continue to build their knowledge on addition. They have begun adding 2-digit numbers with and without regrouping.

We are looking forward to blossom into spring with blooming knowledge!

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA

March definitely came in like a lion and we're still waiting for the lamb. This winter has been trying…Will it snow? How much? Will there be school? Well, hopefully all that is behind us with the arrival of Spring!

The month began with **Read Across America** and the celebration of Dr. Seuss. F.N. Brown had its traditional assembly sharing information about Dr. Seuss and enjoyed a read aloud of **The Cat In The Hat.** The Kindergartners took their second class trip to visit Imagine That where they enjoyed a day of play and pretend.

The Kindergarten classes have been preparing for **I Wonder** celebrations that will take place in each classroom sharing their newly acquired knowledge of an aspect of nature. Through weeks of studying nature through the five senses, each class will research books in the library and surf the web in technology to compose their first nonfiction research paper to be presented before an audience. Bird nests, dolphins, sharks, and bees were just a few topics the children chose to investigate.

In Reading Workshop, the classes have been exploring our place in the world including basic map skills and family units. The month ended with the Conflict Resolution Assembly. The school reviewed the differences between conflict and bullying through songs, skits and games. Strategies were reviewed. F.N. Brown is striving to be a school of peace.

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

Wow! We can't believe that March has come and gone! This school year is surely flying by! The first graders are so pleased with their individual growth as readers thus far in first grade. They truly enjoy picking out books both at their reading level, yet they also like the challenge of harder books as well. Fluency, comprehension, and decoding continue to be skills that the first graders are working on. We appreciate all the help that you are giving your child at home when it comes to reading. Reading together as a family is so very important. Please continue to ask your child questions about their reading both before and after the story.

In math, the students have learned how to both add as well as subtract tens from a two-digit number. They got to use manipulatives as well as play some math centers for this fun topic. They also learned how to use a hundreds chart to assist them in this process as well. The first graders are beginning to realize that sometimes in math, there are a few different ways that they can solve a problem. We just finished a short unit on length. Using both non-standard and standard means of measurement the students liked estimating how long they thought a given object was before actually measuring the item. These two concepts were stressed within the unit.

Writing has taken on its own flare as well. The students have enjoyed writing how-to stories and all about stories. The use of transition words: first, then, next and last have assisted in the organization of a how to story, while non -fiction reading has helped students write all about stories. Remembering there is a world at the end of each pencil continues to foster the love of writing in first grade.

We are looking forward to telling time in math as well as being immersed in poetry both in reading workshop as well as writing workshop.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO, NANCY HISCANO & LAURA QUINN

Spring has sprung….finally!! After a long winter we are overjoyed to welcome the warmer weather of spring. Second graders started the season off by reading spring poems and constructing spring glyphs that tell a little bit about us. We have two class trips planned for this month. On the 24th, we will be visiting Morris Museum for programs on New Jersey and The Prehistoric Earth. This is our trip that was cancelled due to snow in February. On the 30th, we are looking forward to seeing Seussical the Musical at Mayo Performing Arts Center.

In Math, we are finishing up a unit on Geometry. We have had a lot of fun exploring solid and plane figures. We've played guessing games and made our own three dimensional figures to help identify faces, flat surfaces, edges, and vertices. Next, we are moving on to Money where we will be counting collections of coins and adding and subtracting money. Please be sure to practice identifying coins and their values at home as well as counting out groups of coins.

In Reading, students have been learning skills through a non-fiction study on Communities. We have read about three types of communities (urban, suburban, and rural), community helpers, and homes. We have focused on the essential question, "How does where you live influence how you live?" We have spent much time reading through mentor texts and looking at pictures as primary sources to help us question and infer.

We are having fun as second grade meteorologists as we study Weather in Science. We have explored how and why we measure weather, we've looked at weather patterns and we are also learning about the water cycle. It's been interesting to study weather throughout March because of all of the different types and ups and downs in temperatures

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

The month of March came in like a lion, and seemed to go out like a lion as well. We are certainly anxious to see Spring arrive, and stay around for a while! Students have been immersed in the reading of nonfiction biographies. In keeping with the theme of Women's History month, students have reinforced their nonfiction reading skills by reading about famous women. Biography book reports have been completed, but that hasn't squelched enthusiasm to continue reading more biographies about other famous men and women. It is wonderful to see the interest and enthusiasm of the students, as they learn about the interesting life experiences and challenges so many that have made history, had to face.

Preparation for the Battle of the Books program has begun! Teams of third graders across the district will read an established set of 10 book titles. By the end of May they will be ready to then compete in a test of knowledge about those books. School teams will battle in house, in order to become the school champion team. Each school's champion team will go on to compete for the title of District champion. Of greater importance, is the benefit that every student receives, as each becomes a stronger reader while establishing team spirit, and having a great experience through reading books!

In Math, students are applying their multiplication and division skills to problem solve, and to explore the world of fractions. The upcoming unit will focus on recognizing patterns and using logic and critical

thinking skills to solve problems. Test preparation for the NJASK Language Arts and Math, is also underway and being interspersed across content areas.

Our Social Studies unit on immigration comes to a close, by reading the ever fascinating, story of the Titanic. Culminating activities include students receiving a boarding pass of an actual passenger on the famous voyage, and tracing the journey of that passenger from start to finish. Students will learn about the lifestyles in the early 1900's, and the differences between social classes during that time. They will research the differences between traveling in 1st class, 2nd class, and 3rd class. Students will come to school dressed as passengers to embark upon a day of final day of learning experiences about this epic journey. The final fate of the passenger whose boarding pass each student holds, will be revealed. Writing activities will include having students write a series of journal entries. They will write as if a passenger, recording their experiences of the journey day by day. There will even be Titanic math! This unit is always a third grade favorite, and one that students and teachers both enjoy!

As we look forward to the much needed spring break, we wish all of our FN Brown families a Happy Passover, Happy Easter, and a safe, relaxing break!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

The theme of our next Science Unit is "Earth's Changing Surface". Students are learning about the different landforms that make up the surface of the Earth. They are learning that volcanoes, earthquakes, rivers, glaciers, wind and waves can affect landforms. Students are also identifying and describing how they are developed.

In Reading, students have experienced varied non-fiction genres that offered a plethora of topics. They have learned that reading non-fiction is empowering and our students feel like an "expert" about the topic or subject they've read about. Some of the structures incorporated in their learning were cause and effect, compare and contrast, descriptive, and chronological order. They also practiced citing text evidence while supporting their opinions. In Writing, the fourth grade continues to examine essay strategies and develop thesis statements and supporting reasons for their beliefs. They also began to add examples to prove their statements' validity.

In Social Studies, the classes have been answering the essential question, "What makes Essex County unique?" Through web-based research the students have realized that Essex County is rich in history, diversity, transportation, attractions and cultural opportunities. They will be creating a poster which outlines the answer to their essential question and it will be forwarded to the Essex County Clerk's Office for a County wide competition. Winners will be selected later in the year!

Teachers have established a "Peace Place" location in their classrooms, which provides students an opportunity to utilize their conflict resolution skills to resolve conflicts that might occur in the classroom. Weekly lessons have focused on the Win-Win guidelines, conflicts and the obstacles that get in the way to resolving them. The fourth grade teachers have noticed students becoming more independent when problem solving and dealing with conflict situations.

VOCAL MUSIC – JUDY SZYBIST

The F.N. Brown Spring concert will be held on Thursday April 10 at 7:00 pm. Students in grades 3 & 4 will be performing. Recently parents of students in grades 3 & 4 received information on concert attire for the performance. Black pants and a short sleeve t-shirt have been requested. This week students in grades 3 & 4 will receive adhesive glow in the dark stars. These stars should be attached to the front of the t-shirt. Although they are self-adhesive, you will need to "help" them along. It recommended that you glue the stars on with hot glue or fabric glue. If you have any questions feel free to email me at jszybist@veronaschools.org. We are looking forward to a performance that is out of this world!

ESL – NANCY BEATTIE

Happy Spring! Students in the English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) program continue to learn and improve their English language skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The students in the lower grades continue to learn a new letter/ sound each week through the fundations

approach while the upper grades review spelling words and their meanings. The students have been learning vocabulary and grammar skills related to a variety of topics. This past month the younger grades learned about farm and jungle animals while the upper grades learned about weather and the water cycle. All the students have been learning about American holidays and how they are celebrated. They have also been focusing on learning synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and engaging in activities to help them increase their reading comprehension and writing skills. Some fun activities the E.S.L. students do to learn English is to listen to and read stories, mini books, rhymes, and songs. They also play games and utilize websites, especially www.brainpopjr.com to help them with content area English.

This is a very busy test taking time for all the E.S.L. students in the state of New Jersey as they completing an English language assessment called the ACCESS for ELLs. The test assesses the students reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in the areas of social and instructional language, math, science, social studies, and reading/ language arts.

SPEECH – GILLIAN ALDWORTH

Great speech and language skills are blooming at F.N.Brown! Students working on their articulation are becoming more intelligible in the speech room as well as in their classrooms. Great times to practice articulation at home are during nightly reading and at the dinner table. Playing games like 'Go Fish' with picture cards with the target sound are easy to make and fun to play. Students enjoy playing 'I-Spy' and searching for items that have their sound in it. Siblings and parents are great speech models for students! Students requiring development in pragmatic language continue to work on "social thinking" skills, which will help them be better communication partners. Students are learning to ask questions and make appropriate comments in order to improve the quality of their peer interactions. Happy Spring!