Laning Avenue News
April 2014 Issue

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents/Guardians:

March was a very busy month! The school referendum passed! Thank you for voting! Our Laning Tricky Tray was a HUGE success. Your support helped us raise over **$24,000!** Thank you! Our Family Fun Night was a blast. The children loved the beach theme. Mrs. FioRito did a wonderful job planning and organizing this fabulous event. With the cold weather, it was great to soak in the warmth of this amazing family event!

April is full of fun! Something that is going to be really exciting is that on April 25th, we will be celebrating Earth Day. From 12:40-2:40, students will be rotating between various stations to engage in a variety of environmental activities. A special thank you goes out to Ms. Sequeira and Ms. Mathewson, from the Environmental Committee for organizing this wonderful afternoon!

I am happy to report that all of the classroom teachers just completed another formal reading assessment, the Directed Reading Assessment (DRA) to determine how many reading levels each child grew. This assessment was given at the beginning of the year to determine each child's "just right reading level." The assessment is given one on one and assesses each child's fluency rate as well as their ability to comprehend. I am pleased to share that our children are really taking off!

Report cards can be viewed online through our Genesis Parent Portal on April 11 and conferences will take place the week after Spring Break. Please remember that school will be in session on Monday, April 14th.

IMPORTANT APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **April 1 – Grade 3 Field Trip to the Liberty Science Center**
- **April 7 – Author Visit**
- **April 7 at 7:00 PM – SCA Meeting**
- **April 9 – Fourth Grade Visits HBW**
- **April 11 – Report Cards are Posted**
- **April 14 – Make Up Snow Day**
- **April 15 – 18 – SPRING BREAK – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- **April 22 & 23 – Parent/Teacher Conferences – 12:30 Dismissal**
- **April 25 – EARTH DAY Festival**

Sincerely,

Julie DiGiacomo
Principal

A Message from Laning Avenue SCA Co-Presidents

Dear Laning Families: Welcome Spring!! We are winding down to the end of our school year. We can't believe how quickly this year has flown by.

Again, we want to thank all those came out for the "Portraits of Excellence" Tricky Tray. It was a huge success and could not have been possible without the support of our Laning community.

March was busy with so many events and we would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers:

- Adele Spong, Melissa Ragan, committee members, and the 2nd grade Brownies for their help with the Kindergarten Workshop.
- Kim Fio Rito and the Family Fun Committee for a fantastic Family Fun Dance! What a treat it was to escape the winter doldrums and get to "the beach"!
- Our entire 4th Grade Farewell Committee who have been working hard to prepare for the year-end festivities.
- Wallace Mooncai and Melissa Collucci for their constant help in keeping our library in order.
- Jill Caporrimo and the Laning Kids Help the Hungry committee for handling the weekly collection of food that is generously donated by our Laning community. These efforts make it possible for many less fortunate in our area to put food on their table for their families.
- Lisa Hudson, Jen Vogel, Nancy Barnett, Eileen Petrino, Beth Shust, Lisa Freedman, and Chris Kenrick for their continuous hard work in helping our kids get that hot yummy lunch on Thursdays. Their success is not without help from their troop of Thursday volunteers. Thank you all for your time!
- Tara Imbriano and Marlo Spina for driving the SCRIP program. We thank you for your tireless hours of work on this program. We know it's no easy task and appreciate all you do.
- Sarah Latson for helping compile all the wonderful information that is included in the monthly newsletters. Thank you for helping our Laning community stay informed.
- Venus So for taking all this information and putting it out on the Laning website. Without you, this information wouldn't get out there. Thank you.

Chairs and Helpers for 2013-14 Committees: Next week we will circulate the 2014-15 Committees and Programs Chairs and Helpers sign up forms. This is your opportunity to step up and volunteer – whether as a Chair or as a Helper. Any and all time and effort you can give will be appreciated!

We're not done yet…we have many wonderful upcoming events planned for April:

4/3: SCA Hot Lunch Chicken Fingers
4/7: SCA Meeting
4/7-10: Laning Kids Help the Hungry
4/9: 4th Grade visit to HBW
4/10: SCA Hot Lunch-Pasta

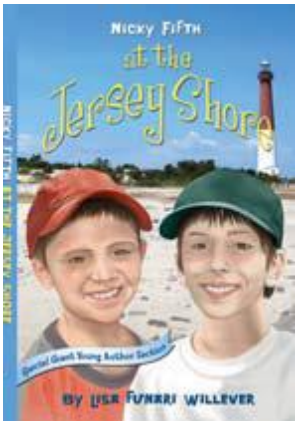
4/11: Spirit Day
4/12: Kindergarten Workshop
4/14: School in Session-Make up snow day
4/15-18: SPRING BREAK-School Closed
4/21-22: Parent/Teacher Conferences-12:30 Dismissal
4/24: SCA Hot Lunch-Bagel
4/25: Earth Day Festival; 12:40-2:40 p.m.
4/25: 4th Grade bowling party

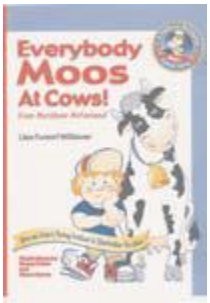
Our next Laning SCA meeting will be Monday, April 7 @ 7 p.m. in the Laning Avenue Library.

Sincerely,
Joanna Breitenbach, joanna.breitenbach@gmail.com
Anthony Gardner, amg@wtcufg.org
-Laning Avenue SCA Co-Presidents

Laning SCA Announcements

Author Visit





Laning Avenue School will welcome award-winning author **Lisa Funari-Willever** on **Monday, April 7**. Ms. Funari-Willever will make three presentations to students, where she discusses writing, life as an author and, of course, New Jersey, the backdrop for her Nicky Fifth series.

A native of New Jersey, Lisa Funari-Willever has written several books for children and even a book for new teachers. Her critically acclaimed *Chumpkin* was selected as a favorite by former First Lady Laura Bush and displayed at the White House; *Everybody Moos at Cows!* was featured on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*; and *Nicky Fifth's Garden State Adventure* and *Nicky Fifth On...32 Dandelion Court* have been on the prestigious New Jersey Battle of the Books list. In 2012, she appeared on the TLC hit show *The Cake Boss*. Her other titles include *There's a Kid Under My Bed*; *A Glove of Their Own*; *You Can't Walk a Fish!*; *The Easter Chicken*; *Maximilian the Great*; *Where Do Snowmen Go?*; *The Culprit Was a Fly*; *Miracle on Theodore's Street*; *Exciting Writing*; and *On Your Mark, Get Set, Teach*. Her Nicky Fifth series features real-life Garden State locations, landmarks, restaurants, and shops. Learn more about her and her books on these websites: www.nickyfifth.com and www.franklinmasonpress.com.

Box Tops for Education

Keep clipping those Box Tops and using boxtops4marketplace.com for your online shopping. We earn Box Top bonus points when you shop online at your favorite retailers by starting with the Box Tops weblink.

If you have any clipped Box Tops, please send them in a Ziploc bag in your child's backpack. Thank you for supporting Box Tops!

- Laurel Brolly and Sophia Yanniotis

Cultural Arts Committee

"Laser Safari," an assembly presented by Prismatic Magic, will take place on April 8 at 8:45 a.m. "Laser Safari" explores the secrets of two amazing ecosystems, Africa's Serengeti and South America's Amazon Rainforest. The show recreates these unusual corners of the world in dazzling laser light, so that students can investigate and explore their climates and specialized inhabitants.

Book Fair

The party is coming to Laning Avenue School when our annual **Scholastic Book Fair** arrives next month! Join Laning in a joyful celebration of books, literacy, kids and family from **May 1-3**! **THREE** days of Fiesta! Please stop by and check it out, your next adventure is just waiting to be opened!

NEW THIS YEAR: Each class will have the opportunity to shop during school, so look for more information to come on when your child's class will visit the Book Fair.

Kids, No time for siestas! The "Get Caught in a Book" Raffle has begun! Each time the Laning Avenue teachers and staff catch you reading, your name will be entered into a raffle for Scholastic dollars that you can use at the Book Fair the day your class visits! One winner per class!

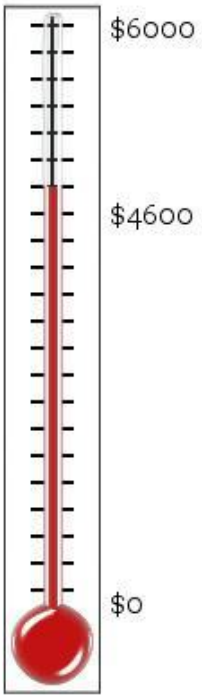
The Book Fair Committee is looking for all amigos to lend a hand, especially during school hours when the kids are visiting, so please contact Kristin Shea (kshea3307@gmail.com) or Beth Shust (esyacono@yahoo.com) if you have some spare time to share.

See you at the Fiesta!
It's Nacho Ordinary Book Fair!

Environmental Committee

April 22 is Earth Day and Laning Elementary School is getting ready to make a difference! We are excited to present our first "Earth Festival," an opportunity for the children to learn and practice caring for the planet through fun games, interactive presentations and hands-on reduce, reuse and recycle projects. School-wide celebrations will take place on Friday, April 25, during school hours. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Laning Supermarket Gift Card Fundraiser (SCRIP)



WOW!! Our **Supermarket Gift Card (SCRIP)** Program has raised **$4,600** so far this year for **Laning Avenue School!!**

We need to sell an additional $28,000 worth of gift cards in order to earn another $1,400 in profits, to reach our goal of $6,000. It sounds like a lot, but if those families that have not yet participated make a one-time purchase before the end of the year, we can do it.

We always have extra **Gift Cards** on hand, so if you ever want to make a purchase before you head out to go shopping please let us know.

Please consider making a one-time purchase to help us reach our 2014 goal.

Contact Marlo Spina at 973-768-7207/ marspin68@yahoo.com or Tara Imbriano at taraimbriano@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing **Gift Cards** for **Shoprite, Foodtown or Kings**. Thank you for your support!

*As always, participation is optional.

Labels for Education

Please continue to send in your Labels For Education UPC's and caps from over 2,500 participation products.

Remember there are 2 WAYS you can earn Labels For Education. Clipping is one way and using your shopper card is the other!

Don't forget to register your ShopRite Price Plus card on elabelsforeducation.com to earn bonus points on Labels for Education products.

Questions? Please contact Sophia Merti-Yanniotis at smyanniotis@gmail.com.

Laning Kids Help the Hungry

March came in like a lion, and so did our donations!!! Thank you all very much! Also, a BIG thank you goes out to **Natalie Moran** for her help in organizing February's collection and delivery!!

April's **Laning Kids Help the Hungry Food Drive*** will kick off on Monday, April 7 and will run through Thursday, April 10. Baskets will be distributed throughout the building to collect non-perishable items.

What specifically could they use?
Non-perishable, non-expired food: cereal, pasta & sauce, canned meat, vegetables and fruit, crackers, tuna, peanut butter & jelly. In addition, soap, shampoo and toothpaste are also helpful donations, as well as, brown paper grocery bags (what a great way to recycle!).
Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

- Jill Caporrimo

*Participation is optional

4th Grade Farewell

Our 4th Grade Farewell activities are in full swing with a 4th Grade Bowling party scheduled for April 25 at Wallington Bowling Lanes.

The Yearbook Committee has been working to organize all those wonderful photos for the 4th Grade yearbook. We can't wait to see the finished product.

Save the date: July 12, 4th Grade Pool Party. Time will be sent out at a later date.

The next Laning SCA meeting will take place on
April 7, 2014, at 7 p.m. in the Library.
All Laning parents are welcome!

What's Happening in Our Classrooms

Kindergarten – Mrs. Suzanne Livelli, Mrs. Kristy McCabe, and Mrs. Kimberley Nochimson

We are growing in leaps and bounds! The month of March is always completely MAGICAL in kindergarten! This is the month that we see so much social and academic progress! We kicked off March with our Read Across America celebration! We were EXPLODING with school spirit! We came to school with crazy hair, silly socks, favorite jerseys, Verona gear and ended the week ever so perfectly with… PAJAMA DAY! We read many Dr. Seuss books and really enjoyed our school wide DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Time each day! It was so much fun to have moms and dads read to us! Dr. Seuss sure did have us all tongue-tied and we learned some important life lessons from his stories too!

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day by learning about Ireland and the legend of the leprechaun. We even made traps to catch the silly little guy! He sure did make a mess out of our classrooms! Unfortunately our traps did not work, BUT he left each of us a piece of lucky leprechaun gold! We also wrote about why we are such lucky children!

The kindergarten mathematicians were busy adding and subtracting everything in sight! We put our finishing touches on our *How-To* books and learned to do so many new things step by step! We are extremely excited about our WONDER unit…we are wondering about the world around us and becoming fantastic researchers! In Reading Workshop we learned about our family tree and our community! We wrapped up the month welcoming SPRING by writing and reading about it! We sure hope the warmer weather arrives soon! We look forward to more INCREDIBLE learning adventures in April!

Grade 1 - Mrs. Nancy Apisa and Mrs. Kristina Ellenbogen

March came in like the Lorax at Laning! Our First Graders took part in a bevy of reading activities during Read Across America week. They enjoyed activities with their third grade reading buddies, they hosted guest readers and read about the life of Dr. Seuss, and they participated in a Horton-sized school assembly to top off the week. We love reading in first grade!

March also afforded us the opportunity to enjoy two other assemblies: China Patterns, with Chinese dancers and an Irish Step Dancing group featuring Verona dancers. The students took the opportunity to compare and contrast the dancing and the cultures. This connected beautifully to our unit in Reading Workshop about communities and traditions.

March was jam-packed with culture: Our first grade also visited TheatreWorks at Montclair State University to see a production of *Charlotte's Web*. This was extra special since we read E.B. White's classic earlier this year for our *One School, One Book* program.

Our weather unit culminated in an exploration of the water cycle. Our third-grade reading buddies assisted with creating special collages, and we all listened to a catchy song and video about the water cycle to cement our learning.

The first day of spring—albeit a windy, cold one—was celebrated with a walk around our Laning neighborhood. The children used their senses to observe their environment and note signs of spring for their poems. It has been a very eventful month in first grade!

Grade 2 - Mrs. Pamela Banta, Ms. Jennifer Kirby, and Mrs. Sage Nardi

Read Across America is a national effort created to encourage our children to become lifelong readers. This annual event was celebrated the week of March 3-7 at Laning. We made so many memories this week at school-crazy sock day, Verona Day, crazy hair day, pajama day-the fun went on and on! We were extra excited to dress like the Lorax at our assembly and speak about Dr. Seuss's life. Second grade invited mystery readers to our classrooms throughout the week. The children had a blast hearing the clues about the readers and loved hearing the stories read to them! Thank you to everyone who was able to read to our wonderful classes! Nightly reading should continue at home to encourage lifelong readers.

Also in March, students participated in an array of activities across the content areas as they learned about the celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

We were busy adding and subtracting three-digit numbers and are now working on geometry in math. With the welcome of a much-anticipated spring, science classes will study weather. Be sure to discuss the local weather conditions with your child and notice any interesting details about the ever-changing weather in northern Jersey.

Students continue to work on their reading and writing skills. We studied some of our favorite Dr. Seuss stories this month. We finished our biography stories after researching special adults in our lives.

Grade 3 – Mrs. Jaime Ricci and Mr. Brian Samples

March has shaped up to be an exciting month for the third graders at Laning Avenue School. Students are reading up a storm, and have been steadily responding to what they read, both verbally and in writing.

We are continuing practice for the NJASK test. The students have written a variety of stories using various poem and speculative prompts. Students also reviewed and put into practice an open-ended question strategy to properly address the open-ended math and language arts questions on the NJASK.

In writing, students are creating realistic fiction stories while trying to include detailed and interesting characters, suspense, and elaborative settings. The students are extremely excited and can't wait to share the finished products.

Students have been studying character in the reading workshop. Various elements, such as traits, changes, roles, and points of view have given the students new insight in to their "just right" books.

In mathematics, we have been working hard to master our knowledge of fractions. Students now know that equivalent fractions can be made by using multiplication and division, and can label fractions correctly on a number line. Moving in to April, we will look forward to exploring measurement and multiplying with greater numbers.

In science, we finished our exploration of space, and are now studying the properties of matter.

Finally, we have concluded our travels to each of the seven continents, and are looking forward to learning the locations, abbreviations, and capitals of all fifty states.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Kristine DePoe and Mrs. Pamela Solomon

In math we began our unit on fractions. Students practiced simplifying fractions, finding equivalent fractions, and learned how to change improper fractions to mixed numbers and mixed numbers to improper fractions. Fourth graders quickly realized that it is important know basic multiplication and division facts. It makes working with fractions a little easier!

Students are beginning a historical fiction unit in Reading Workshop. We are excited to begin this unit as it ties in beautifully with our social studies curriculum. Students will learn more about the Revolutionary War while reading historical fiction novels and informational articles during book clubs.

Students are learning about feature articles in Writing Workshop. Students are analyzing articles and determining the characteristics of feature articles. Students will construct their own feature article by the end of the unit.

Students were thrilled to visit the Sterling Hill Mine and Museum. Our field trip was a great review of many of the concepts we studied during our Rock and Mineral unit earlier in the year. The fourth graders were able to take an underground mine tour, view a fantastic display of "glow-in-the-dark" fluorescent minerals, and collect several different types of rock.

Elementary Special Needs – Mrs. Jessica Jaruczyk

In March the students in the LSS class discussed St. Patrick's Day and enjoyed watching an Irish dance assembly. They also were able to sit appropriately and watch the Cultural Arts assembly perform Chinese Patterns. Students discussed the changes spring brings and what clothes would be appropriate for spring. They continued to work on appropriate classroom behavior as well as on their individualized ABA programs. Students were able to participate in an Art Class specifically scheduled for them and complete art pieces for the art show.

Verona Pre-School Program

Pre-School - Mrs. Pauline Jennis & Mrs. Maryann Bifulco

The preschoolers are experiencing enriching programs outside the classroom this month. We went on a field trip to the post office and were given a tour of the behind the scenes process of the mail for the town of Verona. Next we went to the police station. We were introduced to the police dispatcher and heard her doing her job while observing all the computers and cameras in the room. We also visited the jail and the court house. The most exciting part is when we went outside and the police officer showed us his police car and turned on the sirens for us. Then we took a short walk over to the library and the librarian read a Doctor Seuss storybook to celebrate Read Across America.

This week we are going to NJ PAC to see "Going on a Bear Hunt." For some of the children it will be their first experience to see a play. The preschoolers are excited for the performance however for most of them riding on the big school bus is their main focus for the day.

Full Day Preschool Teacher - Grace Minervo-Buneo

Did March "come in like a lion" and "out like a lamb"? Our preschoolers learned about different types of weather this month and how each season has changes in the weather. Our stories, songs and creative art reflected all the components of the weather like creating weather scenes, reading "What's the Weather" book, singing and rain and sun songs and finger plays and dancing with scarves to explore the wind. The preschoolers also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by enjoying the "Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham" books and other famous stories by Dr. Seuss.

St. Patrick's Day is always a treat in the preschool. The children love all the "tricks" Lucky the Leprechaun played on us and had fun collecting small treasures the leprechaun left for them. The preschoolers enjoyed attending the Irish dancing assembly and dancing to Irish music in our class during motor time.

As the preschoolers say goodbye to winter and prepare for spring, they look forward to noting all the wonderful changes spring has in store for them.

April Birthdays

Joseph C.
Synclaire S.
Nicholas E.
Jonna G.
Angelina C.

Jack D.
Georganne V.
Samantha L.
Charles F.
Katelyn M.

Marguerite V.
Alexander J.
Kamdyn M.

Mark Your Calendars
April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3rd Grade Field Trip	2	3 SCA Hot Lunch, Chicken Fingers	4	5
6	7 Laning Kids Help the Hungry Author Visit SCA Meeting	8 Laning Kids Help the Hungry	9 Laning Kids Help the Hungry 4th Grade Visits HBW	10 Laning Kids Help the Hungry SCA Hot Lunch, Pasta	11 Spirit Day Report Cards Posted	12 Pre-K Workshop
13	14 Schools Open (Make-Up Snow Day)	15 Schools Closed	16 Schools Closed	17 Schools Closed	18 Schools Closed	19
20	21	22 ½ Day Parent/Teacher Conferences	23 ½ Day Parent/Teacher Conferences	24 SCA Hot Lunch, Bagel	25 Earth Day Festival 4th Grade Bowling Party	26
27	28	29	30			

Mark Your Calendars
May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Book Fair SCA Hot Lunch, Pizza	2 Book Fair	3 Book Fair Pre-K Workshop
4	5 Teacher Appreciation Week	6 Teacher Appreciation Week	7 Teacher Appreciation Week	8 Teacher Appreciation Week SCA Hot Lunch, Chicken Fingers	9 Teacher Appreciation Week	10
11	12 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3-4	13 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3-4	14 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3-4	15 Laning Kids Help the Hungry NJ ASK Grades 3-4 SCA Hot Lunch, Pasta	16 NJ ASK Grade 4	17
18	19	20	21	22 4th Grade Instrumental Concert Art Show SCA Hot Lunch, Bagel	23	24
25	26 Schools Closed	27	28 All-District 4th Grade Instrumental Concert at VHS	29 Grandparents/ Special Persons Day	30 Field Day	31