F.N. Brown Newsletter
May 2014

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

Dates to Remember…

Thurs., 5/1- SCA Pizza Lunch

Fri., 5/2- Kindergarten Trip- Papermill Playhouse

Sat., 5/3- Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am

Tues., 5/6- SCA Pasta Lunch
"Honor" Assembly 10:30
Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Wed., 5/7- Field Day (raindate 5/9)

Thurs., 5/8- SCA Mexican Lunch
Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Mon., 5/11- Fri., 5/16- NJ Ask Testing- Grades 3 & 4

Thurs., 5/15- SCA Pizza Lunch

Mon., 5/19- Spring Instrumental Concert 9:15

Tues., 5/20- Thurs., 5/22- Book Fair

Wed., 5/21- Donuts with Dad 7:30am

Thurs., 5/22- Book Fair/Open House/Art Show/Eco Fair
7:00pm

Fri., 5/23- B-Line Articles Due

Mon., 5/26- **No School- Memorial Day**

Tues., 5/27- SCA Mexican Lunch (Snow Day Make Up)
Perfection on Wheels Assembly 9am

Wed., 5/28- Town Wide Band Concert- Gr. 4
7:30 pm at VHS

Thurs., 5/29- SCA Chicken Lunch

Fri., 5/30- Fun Fair 4-7pm

Contact Us

B-Line Editor: Valerie Balogh

Email: jayb41@verizon.net

B-Line News

Busy Bee Scrip Program – Thank you to those who purchased Busy Bee Bucks gift certificates for staff appreciation. We plan on running this promotion again at the end of the year. Gift card orders will be placed on Monday, May 19. If you are interested in making a purchase, order forms are available on the F.N. Brown website under the community tab. In addition, special promotions for Father's Day will be announced in May. We will be placing June's order on Monday, June 9 in time for Father's Day gift giving. Questions? Please contact Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com or 973-857-8663.

Book Fair- The FN Brown Annual Book Fair will be held on Tuesday, May 20, Wednesday, May 21 and Thursday May 22. This exciting event for our students is a lot of fun and can be a huge success with the help of our team. Encourage young readers to take part in the Bookmark Poster Contest. We are in need of volunteers. If you can help with set up or book selection on Book Fair Days please complete the forms that will be coming home in the weekly packets. For more information contact Antonia Castner antoniazcastner@verizon.net or Alice Poueymirou alicepouey@gmail.com.

Field Day- Field Day will be held on Wednesday, May 7 (raindate Friday, May 9). Our children look forward to this day all year long. We are in need of volunteers , so please complete the form that was sent home and return to Mr. Hill as soon as you can. This will be a fun filled day of bean bag tosses, potato sack races, tug of war and much more.

Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: May 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28 and 30.

Please remember all lunches must be preordered.

Birthday Boys and Girls

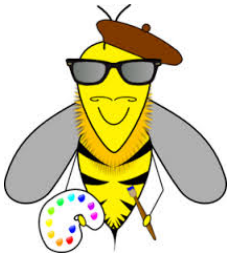
May

Owen Church, Alana Drost,
Colin Giarrusso, Feliks Smirnov,
Nikolai Smirnov, Marya Zakaria,
Milo Attal, Samantha Costigan,
Jackson Garthwaite, Andrew Ackerman,
Daniela Zehnder, Alexia Popolizio,
Michelle Salanon, Miles Stephens,
Veronica Thomas, Stephen McDonald,
Charles Wacha, Michael Wendling,
Julia Komninos, Brayden Shorter

Oliver's Labels – Is your child going to summer camp? Oliver's Labels are the practical way to ensure your child's belongings do not get lost this summer. The labels are waterproof and the tags are made of high-performance, scuff-proof materials that 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!



More B-Line News

In honor of Nurses' Day, the SCA, would like to thank Mrs. Brancato and Mrs. Casalino for providing such wonderful care to our children.

Happy Nurses' 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.

Fun Fair – The Fun Fair will be held on Friday, May 30 from 4-7pm rain or shine. This is an event that our children really enjoy. We still need volunteers to make the day a success. Please help out and make this another great event for our children. Watch your weekly packet for more information. Questions can be directed to Lorraine LoCurto, locurto04@verizon.net or Kristen Mautone, krismaut1@verizon.net.

*Shoparoo- F.N. Brown has raised over $225 since December using Shoparoo! There is no easier way to raise money for our school. All you need to do is take a picture of your shopping receipts with the Shoparoo app made for your smartphone or ipad. It does not matter what you buy- every receipt submitted from a grocer, super center, club store, dollar store, drugstore, convenience mart, liquor store and pet supply store results in a donation to our school! So what are you waiting for? You can either 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 or contact Kate Curren at katerfullercurren@gmail.com to receive a link to join. 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!

F.N. BROWN – THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!

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Anthony V. Lanzo, Ed.D.
Principal

May 1, 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to May! I hope you and your family had a wonderful spring vacation. The month of May brings many special programs to our school. We are looking forward to Field Day on Wednesday, May 7th. Thank you Mr. Hill for your preparation of Field Day! Please note the following upcoming events at F.N. Brown. Don't forget to check the weekly reminder packet as well!

Standardized Testing: NJ ASK

As a reminder, grades 3 and 4 will take the NJ ASK during the week of May 12th. Grade 3 testing will take place over a four day period (two days for Language Arts and two days for Mathematics). Testing will begin on Monday, May 12th and conclude on Thursday, May 15th. Grade 4 testing will take place over a five day period (two days for Language Arts, two days for Mathematics and one day for Science). Testing will begin on Monday, May 12th and conclude on Friday, May 16th.

Spring Instrumental Concert

Our *Spring Instrumental Concert* directed by Mr. Max Morden is scheduled for Monday, May 19th at 9:15 AM in the school auditorium. The combined *Verona Elementary Band*, also directed by Mr. Max Morden, will perform at Verona High School on the evening of Wednesday, May 28th at 7:30 pm.

Open House/Art Show/ECO-Fair/Book Fair/Scavenger Hunt

We look forward to seeing you at the Open House on Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM. During your tour of the building, please note the beautiful art work and student projects displayed in the hallways. Our art teacher, Mrs. Jasterzbski has posted a variety of art projects that the children have completed over the past year. Parents will also have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom to review classroom projects as well. Eco-Fair class projects will be displayed in the gymnasium for all to view. Also, we have allocated a block of time for visiting the Book Fair. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in our annual Scavenger Hunt. Many of the special area teachers will also be available in their classroom, so please feel free to make a visit.

Please Note: **Students must be accompanied by an adult at all times during this evening of events.**

It is a pleasure to serve the FNB community! Thank you for your support!

Very truly yours,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo

F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents

May 2014

Dear F.N. Brown Families:

The trees are blooming and there are many SCA activities to look forward to as we move through the Spring season at F.N. Brown. The Staff Appreciation Breakfast and Luncheon are coming up May 6th and 8th as we celebrate our truly wonderful group of teachers and professionals working with our children. We extend many thanks to the staff and the SCA committee members who put on such a delightful show of appreciation for our excellent staff.

The Mom's Night Out at Pinot's Palette fundraiser was a tremendous success. The group of artists had a great time painting and supporting the school. Janice Garthwaite did a spectacular job organizing the event and creating a way to raise funds while having a fun night out with friends – thanks Janice!

Field Day is almost upon us and we would like to thank Mr. Hill for organizing the activity packed day for the students. Mrs. J lent her skills once again to supply a t-shirt design that makes the day even better – thanks! The SCA provides the children and staff with t-shirts so the children can remember the fun for years to come as they wear their F.N. Brown Field Day shirts.

The Book Fair will be happening May 20-22nd this year. The Fiesta of reading and fun activities surrounding books is always an anticipated time at F.N. Brown. The Book Mark Poster Contest Form has gone out and we look forward to seeing lots of new entries this year. The committee welcomes help with set up and book selection with students during their designated book browse time. Don't forget that Wednesday May 21st at 7:30am will be the special Donuts With Dad – when the kids can browse with Dad or another loved one before school and work.

The grounds of F.N. Brown received some TLC this Spring from an alumni who cares. Thanks to Sam Marcillo Gomez for taking the time and energy to clean up and rebuild the areas that needed some care!

The Fun Fair is sure to please this year, as it will take place on Friday, May 30th from 4-7pm. The committee is enthusiastically working to make it a wonderful time for all. There will be food and activities that kids love – Mom and Dad can take a break from cooking and skip over to F.N. Brown for an early evening of fun.

Please continue to support our on-going fundraisers such as Box Tops for Education, Shoparoo and Busy Bee Bucks Gift Card programs.

Enjoy Spring and Thank You!

Antonia Castner and Alice Poueymirou
F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, DEBORAH WALLACE (MARIA PERRI) & MICHELE STARANKA

Spring has finally sprung and all the kindergarten students are blooming! We have been outside as much as possible, taking full advantage of the nice weather after such a long winter.

In Writing Workshop we have been interviewing several community workers within our school. It is interesting to know where they grew up, what their favorite book is or what their hobbies are! We learned how to write a thank you note to show them our appreciation for all they do.

We continue to practice all we have learned about conflict resolution, including using an "I" message when we need to state our feelings. Each classroom has a "Peace-Place" were children can go to work out a conflict peacefully.

Get ready for all the fun activities coming up in May: Field Day, Mother's Day and our Book Fair/Eco-Fair/Art Show. Hope to see you there!

FIRST GRADE –ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

Our first graders have been immersed in the reading of poetry during Reading Workshop time, and are loving every minute of it. They are reading poetry through a poet's eyes and will soon be writing their own poetry as well over the next month or so. Learning a poet's techniques has been quite interesting. Alliteration, repetition, rhyming, line breaks, onomatopoeia and free verse have been introduced and have helped your child understand the way a poem is written as well as comprehend the poem They would read poetry all day long if they could. What a terrific thought!!!!

For Writing Workshop the students are finishing up their "All About" research projects. We took the animal learning from our current science unit and combined it with a non-fiction writing unit to create this research project. These reports are amazing and will be on display at Back to School Night later this spring. The students included a table of contents, an all about the author page and so much more. They are so excited to share their hard work with you.

In Math the students are graphing all sorts of data. Once data has been gathered the students graph the data then answer math questions using the graph. The most challenging concept for most of the students is knowing when to add or subtract. When it is a comparison math question, the students have been taught to subtract the two items starting with the larger number. It's critical they know how to interpret the data on the graph whether it is a pictograph, a tally graph or a bar graph. Graphing is a fun activity so make it a practical experience whenever possible.

A big thank you goes out to all the parents for helping their child read through their animal book in preparation for their research. It takes a village, so again thanks.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO, NANCY HISCANO & LAURA QUINN

Second graders continue to enjoy spring. We have been on two filed trips. At Morris Museum, we learned a lot about dinosaurs, mammals, and reptiles. We enjoyed touring the museum and getting an up close look at different artifacts. Our trip to see Seussical the Musical was very entertaining. What a great show!

In Reading, we continue to celebrate Poetry Month by beginning a new unit on Poetry. Students will understand that reading poetry is different than reading a book. Students will need to use the words in a poem to make pictures in their minds. When students read poetry, these images will help with their understanding. Some of the mentor texts in this unit include, Curious Creatures, Dear World, Good Sports, and Sharing the Seasons.

In Writing we will also focus on a unit on Poetry. Reader will be able to apply the skills they have learned to become writers of poetry. We will work on content, phrasing, showing - not telling, and using comparisons to convey feeling. We will learn that poems do not need to rhyme and we will explore different types of poetry.

In Math, we are finishing our topic on Money. We are ending this topic by adding and subtracting money with regrouping, and estimating sums and differences. We will be exploring Measurement next. We will be measuring using inches, centimeters, feet, yards, and meters. We will add and subtract in measurement and compare lengths as well.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

As the May flowers begin to bloom and the Spring fever of nicer days and warmer weather appears we reflect back on a busy month in third grade.

In mathematics, students focused on the skills of number patterns and relationships. The students learned how to utilize their addition/subtraction/multiplication and division concepts when extending tables. We focused on translating words to numerical expressions which proved extremely helpful when solving math problems. In preparation for the upcoming NJ ASK test, students have been working on area, perimeter and volume. The students also will touch upon concepts in measurement, geometry, congruent figures and symmetrical figures. The students have been analyzing open ended and multi-step word problems in addition explaining their thinking mathematically while showing their thinking as they solve the problem. The importance of conveying the steps of how they obtained the given answer to the math problems in a detailed written format have been highlighted.

In Reader's workshop, the students were introduced to the magnificent world of poetry. Students have been exposed to a variety of different styles of poetry in addition to being able to explore poetry to identify text features. The students are very excited to begin writing their own poetry from the unit taught and to continue studying poetry as the spring season is in full effect. With the upcoming final year for Battle of the Books the students were introduced to the 10 titles and have begun reading the novels independently. Within each class, the students have been meeting in Book clubs to discuss the events from their story and create questions that can be used for our practice battles. During the guided reading sessions both teachers have met with the groups to discuss the group and individual students responses and how we could expand their summaries and personal responses and thoughts to what was read. It has been a wonderful addition to our reading menu this year. In preparation for the upcoming NJ ASK, each class has been reading a variety of reading passages, both fictional and non-fiction articles. The students have learned how to cite evidence based on what was read in the text and how to explain their t thinking to a prompt asked. We will continue to hone these skills before the test.

In Social Studies, the students have been smooth sailing on the Titanic and their voyage has proven to be a luxurious and memorable one. Throughout our Social Studies unit on the Titanic, the students have learned and collected a vast amount of factual information and have used their analytical minds to figure out how this large ship could have possible hit an iceberg and sank 2 ½ miles to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

Third graders were all given actual passengers tickets from the voyage and have been analyzing their passenger and writing a journal from the viewpoint of that passenger. An exciting day was had by all third graders on April 15th when we had Titanic day in the classrooms. The students and teachers dressed as either 1st, 2nd, 3rd class or crew members aboard the magnificent ocean liner. WE had a fun filled day of Titanic activities. Jeopardy, Titanic journals, Titanic timelines and Lounge games were amongst the many activities that were planned.

We wish all families a Happy Spring and look forward to the last few months of third grade as the students begin their own departure from third grade preparing for the next voyage of fourth grade.

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Fourth graders are currently working on reviewing concepts in preparation for the up-coming NJ ASK test. As a part of this, students are asked to use their knowledge to explain, solve and prove various Math questions. Mr. Waibel and Mrs. Force are coordinating lessons to cover all possible questions

students will be asked to answer on the NJ ASK. Each lesson, question, and writing task is correlated with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

In Science students are continuing to develop their understanding of identifying and describing major landforms. We are also investigating the Earth's structure, identifying and describing the forces that change the Earth's surface

We are presently working on interpreting graphs in Math. Students are reading, interpreting, constructing, analyzing, and drawing inferences from displays of data. In Social Studies, students have completed their Essex County Unit. They researched the education / entertainment /sporting / cultural arts / transportation opportunities the county has to offer. To demonstrate their understanding students created a poster that answered the question, "What makes Essex County unique?". The posters were entered in a county wide contest ending in late May. Every poster was beautiful! The fourth grade team believes it is our students that make Essex County the ***BEST*** county!

Students are practicing ways to "honor" each other as well as special people in their lives. Appreciating and understanding the value of our classmates and family has had a positive impact in our students' daily lives. It is extremely important to be aware of how self-esteem impacts how we relate to others.

As part of our conflict resolution program we have worked with our fourth graders developing a "peace place" in our classroom. It is a private space where students are given the opportunity to practice using "I messages" when a conflict arises with another student. "I" messages are a clear, assertive, non-threatening, respectful way of telling another person how you feel and what you want. What a wonderful practice to be used by all.

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Welcome Spring! We have been busy bees in art ! All classes have been studying various artists and recreating artwork in their styles. The students have also been working on 3D fish and sun sculptures as well as masks of all types. Spring flowers are blooming everywhere in the building. Take a look around! We are currently working on clay projects, weaving and hot air balloons! There is quite a variety of artwork throughout the school. Please come to the art show and Back to School Night to enjoy all the beautiful work of your children. The tiles are in and the walls are going up very soon in both cafeterias! Please check them out and find your child's incredible creation during the book fair! See you very soon!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

The instrumental students are putting the final touches on our band music and some are also working on their solos and duets. Our concert is fast approaching and we can't wait to let you hear how far we have progressed. As always, the real key to success is following through at home. A short but *daily* practice routine is essential in turning all our learned 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. At this point in the year, students should practice for 15 minutes a day, and it is the *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. Those five minutes then, are much better than trying to make it up on another day.

There are many songs for this concert. You should recognize "Old MacDonald", "Skip To My Lou", "Shoo Fly" and "Bingo" among others. Songs like this are played in unison and are used to reinforce skills we have learned. Some such as "Beatin' the Blues" or "Royal Oak March", are full page band arrangements that incorporate all of our elements and provide students the additional task of playing parts that are independent of other instruments.

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. Those students that are working on a solo or duet performance, understand that music is in addition to the band songs, and needs to be practiced equally along with the other material.

Besides our own school concert, we also have the town-wide elementary band concert on May 28. This concert combines all four elementary schools into one giant band to perform on the big stage at VHS. It is very exciting! We will also be joined by our very own high school jazz band known as Verona Jazz & Beyond.

Also, 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. Any student going into 2nd grade or higher can participate in the program, and the entire music staff would love to see as many students attend as possible. All students going into 4th grade, can take a beginning band instrument with no previous experience necessary. This is *highly* recommended for students interested in the band for next year. There is a ton of information on our website: veronasummermusic.org, with lots of FAQs that will answer almost all questions.

By the way, if you go to my school website, I have a play along for "Rock Out" at the bottom of the Elementary Band page. Students will be able to practice this at home all night! :-)

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH – ROB HILL

This has been a very exciting year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The children have been working very hard on their sportsmanship and teamwork skills and the difference from the beginning of the year until now is amazing. I am so proud of how they are learning to work together as part of a team. I can only hope that this is rubbing off on all aspects of their lives. I said in my first article that I couldn't wait to see how the children progressed throughout the year and I could not be happier with the results.

The children have already been through so many different sport and fitness units and I can't believe it is April already. They have been through football, soccer, basketball, hockey, and volleyball as sport units. The children have also had an opportunity to play many tag games to work on their chasing, fleeing and dodging skills as well as fine tune their locomotor skills. I can safely say that the children have gained much more confidence in their physical abilities and I hope that they continue to pursue their interests outside of physical education. In addition, the third and fourth grade students once again participated in the United States Marine Corps Youth Fitness tests, while first and second grade have practiced for these same tests. The students are all making huge strides in improving their physical fitness levels.

I look forward to our annual Field Day here at F.N. on Wednesday, May 7th. It will be a very fun-filled and exciting event for all involved. Parent involvement and assistance is greatly appreciated. This past year it has been a pleasure teaching your children and I look forward to watching them grow and excel in the future. Once again if you ever need to contact me my e-mail address is rhill@veronaschools.org.