

F.N. Brown Newsletter

May 2016

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Antonia Castner & Kate Curren

Dates to Remember...

- Tues., 5/3-** CHIPS Program 9am (fingerprinting)
SCA Pasta Lunch
Staff Appreciation Breakfast
- Wed., 5/4-** Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Thurs., 5/5-** K-S Mother's Day Celebration- 11:30am
SCA Pizza Lunch
- Sat., 5/7-** Pre-Kindergarten Workshop 10am
- Tues., 5/10-** Field Day Rescheduled
Board of Ed Meeting – VHS, 8pm
- Thurs., 5/12-** SCA Bagel Lunch
K-O "Woman of the Year" Awards – (11:15am-12:30pm)
- Fri., 5/13-** Grades 1 & 2 – Class Trip– SOPAC (9am –11:45am)
- Mon., 5/16-** Spring Instrumental Concert 9:15am
- Tues., 5/17-** Grade 4 Class Trip- Trenton State House
(8:45am – 2:30pm)
- Wed., 5/18-** Grade 4 Visits HBW – 9am
- Thurs., 5/19-** Used Book Sale (Small Cafeteria)
SCA Chicken Lunch
B-Line Articles Due
- Fri., 5/20-** Used Book Sale (Small Cafeteria)
Brown Bag Lunch ONLY
Fun Fair – 4pm
- Mon., 5/23-** Brown Bag Lunch ONLY
Grade 4 – Taco/Quesadilla Lunch – Senorita Witter
B-Line Articles Due
- Tues., 5/24-** Brown Bag Lunch ONLY
- Wed., 5/25-** Donuts with Dad 7:30am
Brown Bag Lunch ONLY
NJASK- Science – Grade 4
- Thurs., 5/26-** Brown Bag Lunch ONLY
NJASK- Science – Grade 4
Open House- Art Show, EcoFair, Bookfair 7pm
- Fri., 5/27-** SCHOOL CLOSED
- Mon., 5/30-** SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tues., 5/31-** Board of Ed Meeting – VHS, 8pm

B-Line News

Busy Bee Bucks – This is your last chance to enter the grocery raffle! Any family that buys at least \$100 in Busy Bee Bucks during March, April or May will be entered to win a gift card worth \$25 to one of the participating grocery stores. The winner will be selected in June.

Our program is super simple - buy gift cards at face value and use for your monthly grocery shopping, filling your car with gas, shop for clothes, shoes, office supplies and more. Gift cards are available to hundreds of retailers. For a complete list of retailer, please visit shopwithscrip.com

May order forms will be coming home soon. Orders will be due on Tuesday the 17th. Complete the order form, write a check to F.N. Brown SCA, place in an envelope labeled Busy Bee Bucks and send it in your child's backpack.

This program is open to all friends and family members, so please feel free to share the order forms. For tracking purposes please ensure you include the students name and classroom on each order form.

Questions?
Please contact Kate Curren 973-857-8663
or katefullercurren@gmail.com



Pomptonian Lunch Dates

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates: May 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 31.

Please remember all lunches must be preordered.



To add/edit/correct write-ups please contact:

Melissa Watkins, B-Line Editor
at melissaLwatkins@gmail.com

Birthday Boys and Girls May

Owen Church, Vianna Arrington,
Colin Giarrusso, Marya Zakaria,
Jackson Garthwaite, Andrew Ackerman,
Shaun Tigeleiro, Matthew Santos,
Tyler Boston, Michelle Salanon,
Cecelia Manis, Veronica Thomas,
Michael Guglielmi, Stephen McDonald,
Emily Perry, Charles Wacha, Charlotte
North, Rennon Curren,
Robert Rowbotham III,
Brayden Shorter



OPERATION STOP HUNGER

Join members of Verona Girl Scout Troop 20549, who are working to fight hunger in our area as part of their Bronze Award Project.

A collection will take place outside Kings Supermarket, in Verona, on Saturday, May 14, from 9 am to 1 pm.

Items needed include canned tuna, peanut butter, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, rice, pasta, dried beans, breakfast cereal, diapers, baby wipes, and toothpaste.

Additional collection bins will be set up, for student drop off only, at F.N. Brown School and H.B. Whitehorse Middle School during the weeks of May 2-May 13.

School Collection Bin Locations
for student drop off only
May 2 - May 13

F.N. Brown School
H.B. Whitehorse Middle School

This collection benefits
the Human Needs Pantry
in Montclair, NJ.

Special thanks to
F.N. Brown Troop 20169
for their support in this effort!

For more information please email lorricaffrey@gmail.com

More B-Line News

Note from the Treasurer – For those submitting expenses for various programs and would like reimbursement please place your receipts in an envelope along with your name, a filled out reimbursement form and the receipt with the program name written on it. For example: Jane Doe: Hospitality Committee \$15 – refreshments for Back to School night; John Smith: Fun Fair Committee \$15 – game prize purchase. For those handing in deposits please make sure the money is sorted and all forms are filled out. Each deposit needs a summary form, a deposit and breakdown form filled out along with a bank deposit slip (3-4 forms per deposit). Also please contact me to arrange for a drop off or pick time so that I can get all the forms and money. All forms can be found in the main office or online. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Garthwaite at 973-768-1291 or janicegarthwaite@gmail.com.



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

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!



F.N. BROWN- THE BEST
SCHOOL IN TOWN!

FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL

VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

125 GROVE AVENUE

TELEPHONE: (973) 571 - 6753 FAX: (973) 571-9889

Anthony V. Lanzo, Ed.D.
Principal

May 1, 2016

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. Thank you Mr. Hill for his preparation of Field Day scheduled for Friday, May 6th (Raindate – Tuesday, May 10th). Also thank you in advance to the numerous parents that are willing to assist with 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

Grade 4 only will take the NJ ASK/Science on Wednesday, May 25th. A parent information booklet will be distributed prior to the testing.

Spring Instrumental Concert

Our *Spring Instrumental Concert* directed by Mr. Max Morden is scheduled for Monday, May 16th 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 Thursday, June 2nd 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 26th 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

May 2016 ~ Message from F.N. Brown SCA Co-Presidents



Dear F.N. Brown Families ~

Spring is and we hope everyone is refreshed and ready for all the activities ahead! It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over. The next two months will be very busy but lots of fun!

We would like to thank all of our students who wore their hats and donated to Hats on for Progeria! F.N. Brown raised over \$400 for the Progeria Research Foundation! It's wonderful to see the FNB community coming together for a good cause!

The SCA would like to thank ALL of our faculty and staff at FNB during Teacher Appreciation Week. We are so grateful for your professionalism, caring and amazing level of commitment to our children. The Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and Luncheon were held on May 3rd and May 4th. The staff was thrilled and so grateful for all the festivities! A special thanks to all who donated breakfast items and desserts!

Nurse's Day is May 6th...the SCA thanks Mrs. Rodgers and Mrs. Casalino for always looking out for the health and welfare of our children.

Back by popular demand... our Used Book Sale will be on May 19th and 20th. Student will be allowed to purchase gently used books during the school day! Please send your child in with a few dollars to get some great reads!!

The fun doesn't stop!! On Friday, May 20th FNB will hosting the Fun Fair on the blacktop behind the school from 4 pm – 7 pm. Stop by for games, face painting, the cake walk, and lots of good food!

The Book Fair is coming!! Tina Houck and the committee have been working together with Scholastic Books to bring some exciting titles to FNB. Look for more information in your children's backpacks. The Book Fair will take place May 24th – 26th along with Donuts for Dad, the Eco-Fair and Art Show! Please check your calendars for your availability to help out!

The Nominating Committee will meet and set forth the slate of volunteers for next year's SCA programs and events. Thank you to Mindy Frey for chairing the committee and hosting the meeting at her home. Our SCA depends on all of our parent volunteers to keep committees running so that we can provide our school community with great activities and events! We appreciate all and any time you give!

Warm Regards,

Antonia Castner and Kate Curren

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

KELLY CONNALLON'S CLASS

I cannot believe that the end of the year is rapidly approaching! We have covered topics in foundations that include digraphs, welded sounds, suffixes, two and three letter blends. We will end the year by continuing to study open and closed syllable words; this will help us read multisyllabic words in the near future! When reading with your child, please remind them to read through the word; many of us tend to leave off suffix endings. Students should be applying their superpowers while reading to help decode new words. Please continue to ask your child comprehension questions. I have seen a great deal of improvement in their sight word reading- and I'm so excited for the future!

In math we have studied nonstandard units of measurement as well as telling time to the hour and the half hour. You can reinforce time concepts at home by telling your child things like "at 3 o'clock we have t-ball practice"; they can monitor the clock while they wait! We will end the year using data to gather information, geometry, and fractions of shapes. We will continue to review number patterns and review addition and subtraction rules.

The Kindergarten students have finished their letter study and we are moving on to decoding CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words. Their reading is coming along so nicely and their sight word reading is improving! They seem to have a love of reading and I'm so glad to see them progressing every day! Please continue to work with your child every day at home!

I want to thank the entire Verona community for making my first year here a very successful one! I have loved getting to know my administration, other staff members, parents, and most of all thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me!

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI & MICHELE STARANKA

We all enjoyed the Spring Break and our kindergarteners have bloomed! It's great to be able to go outside and enjoy the warmer weather and sunshine.

In Reading Workshop, we have been learning about different kinds of homes and families. In Writing Workshop, we brainstormed some science topics we "wonder" about, researched those topics and wrote books together! Special thanks to Mrs. Walker for finding some great books to help us with our research. In Math we have been learning all about measurement: length, weight and capacity.

Earth Day helped remind us that the Earth is our home and it is our responsibility to take care of it. Recycling, using less water, turning off the lights and picking up our trash are some of the ways we can all chip in and help keep our Earth clean and beautiful.

We are looking forward to Field Day, Mother's Day and our Book Fair this month!

FIRST GRADE – ANNA COLLINS & ERICA MC KENNA

The first graders are forging ahead in their love of reading. The students are practicing many new reading skills. Learning about theme, main idea, drawing conclusions, making predictions and poetry have kept the students very busy. When writing a reader's response the students need to find evidence in the text to help them back up their statements. This is a much more sophisticated skill and takes lots of practice and repetition. Poetry has been our focus and the students seem to not get enough of it. Listening to a myriad of poetry read aloud as well as reading poetry independently has fostered their new interest and appeal for this new genre. The use of sound has become so very important to their development of an "ear for poetry."

In math we just finished a short unit on Length. Time to the hour and the half hour were also taught. Reading an analog clock may seem so antiquated in today's world, however it is expected to be mastered by the end of second grade. We played games and even made paper plate clocks for home. Presently we are learning how to graph data on all different types of graphs. Subtraction and addition skills are being tested as well.

Students need to be able to use the graphs to interpret information when asked, “how many fewer/more or how many in all?” This is a great review and lots of fun too. Please keep practicing math addition and subtraction facts up to 20 with your child for speed and accuracy.

Poetry writing is blooming. The students love to write poetry and have learned the difference between a free verse poem and a poem that rhymes. The use of repetition, onomopdia, alliteration, metaphors and the use of the five senses plus patterned poetry like acrostic, haiku and shape poetry have all been introduced and tried. Listening to music was just the start to greatness because the students heard each of these poetry elements used over and over again and put to a beat. We want the students to think of poetry as music to their ears which makes their writing of it more attainable and realistic.

Thank you for any additional writing, reading and math fact practice at home during down times or during a long car ride. It’s the repetition of a given skill that leads to mastery so thank you parents.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

As we welcome May we have many things to look forward to over the last few months of school. To name a few...Field Day is coming up, our second grade field trip to SOPAC is on May 13, and the annual Book Fair will be here soon!

In Reading we are enjoying working in Book Clubs. Students meet with a group of their peers to read and discuss the same book. Discussions will focus on predicting, character studies, comprehension, and inferential thinking. Writing will be integrated in this unit as we explore ways to respond to our reading, including summarizing, story webs, character descriptions, letter writing and book reviews.

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.

In Science, we will be moving on to the unit, Homes for Living Things. We will be exploring animal habitats, food chains and food webs. 2H has begun researching ocean habitats and have learned about the 8 species of sea turtles. 2H parents were invited to see Sea Turtle Journey, a play performed by the students

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

The foundation of our 3rd grade garden started with the planting of tiny seeds in the Fall. As the year has progressed and the seasons changed, we have observed those tiny seedlings grow and bloom into beautiful flowers. 3rd graders have grown so much academically and socially over the first three marking periods.

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. Students learned all about figurative language in poetry. Poems are frequently written in figurative language and have meaning beyond the literal translations of the words. Our poets learned how to analyze poetry and identify the many forms of figurative language, such as, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, imagery, and personification to name a few. 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.

In writing workshop, students published their persuasive essays and letters. Writers learned how to strengthen their sentence structure in order to convince the reader to believe in their topic or viewpoint. To expand our study as Poets in reading, the students created various forms of poetry and created a poetry book using the chromebooks.

In mathematics, both classes have been focusing on how to identify area and perimeter of both regular and irregular shapes. Utilizing the chromebooks and Khan academy has proven to be helpful to students for the visual component of these difficult concepts. Next the students explored two dimensional figures and their attributes. Students learned how to classify shapes into different categories such as rhombuses, rectangles and others. The focus was to understand that they may share the same attributes but define a larger category. For example, rhombuses, rectangles and squares all fit into the category of quadrilaterals.

Third graders continue to utilize the chromebooks in their daily learning. Many of the daily reading responses in third grade are being done using popular websites such as Razkids, Zing, Lyrics to Learn to name a few. Students have explored the world of padlet an online notebook tool to enhance their responses to thought provoking discussion questions or topics in class. We look forward to the continued growth the students will make throughout the remainder of the school year! To all the FN Brown Mothers, we wish you a wonderful Mother's Day!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Students at F.N. Brown have been focusing on building Self-Esteem. Students are learning various methods to build their self-esteem and how to work together and have a sense of community in their classroom. It's important to focus on recognizing your own positive qualities and to learn about positive qualities of their classmates. Students are practicing being UPSTANDERS, that is standing up for people even if you must stand alone.

Writer's workshop continues to be in full swing. Throughout our unit students are looking closely at mentor feature articles and books from the point of view of writers as well as learning about the writing process and the craft of writing a feature article. Students are using their own expertise and areas of interest to generate ideas for writing and publishing.

In Reading students are embarking on an exciting new contents area. Students are focusing on the essential why is the early colonial history important to our country? We will be reading a variety of texts, highlighting our study with books on historical fiction. Students are learning to organize and describe events enhances their reading comprehension.

In science we are learning that there are many different landforms that make up Earth's surface. We are studying what causes changes within earth and well as studying fossils.

In Math students are continuing their understanding of fractions. Students are learning how to identify fractional parts of a region and dividing them into equal parts. They are learning that a fraction describes the division of a whole into equal parts and can be interpreted in more than one way. We just completed the conversion of improper fractions to mixed numbers, as well as adding and subtracting them. We will be well on our way to learning about decimals.

In Social Studies, our students are preparing for their Trenton State House trip by studying how our government is organized. They have learned their district senators and assembly man and woman, facts about the State House, and our state symbols. We are excited to see our government in action.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 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, and hockey 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. Our second, third and fourth graders have also taken part in our team building/Project Adventure activities. These activities have helped them to develop their communication and cooperation 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 Friday, May 6th. It will be a very fun-filled and exciting event for all involved. Parent involvement and assistance is greatly appreciated. If you are interested

in volunteering for Field Day but have not signed up please email me and I will find a location for you. 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.

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

Greetings from the art room! Your children have been very busy bees the past few weeks. All of the children have been working on various art history projects which will be completed and hung for the art show. We also have been working on weaving in the round in 4th grade and advanced paper weaving in 3rd grade. There are large murals throughout the building that tie in with the book Nim's Island. All grades are creating a clay piece that will be displayed in the art room on art show night. The students can bring their creations home that evening. Please take the time to look all over the building as there are displays by every classroom and down the stairwells also. Looking forward to seeing you all and enjoying your children's excitement on art show night.

RESOURCE ROOM – SARI SANTORO & DANA CASALE

Third and fourth graders have finished their unit of study in non-fiction reading. Third graders presented their timeline with interesting information about Jane Goodall. They all did a great job with this project and shared with their grade level peers. We will begin reading fiction in third grade with an emphasis in character traits and changes in the characters as a novel progresses. Fourth grades will begin a unit of study focusing on historical fiction. Determining the historical content will help our understanding of the story we are reading. We are excited to begin these challenging units of study.

In math, we have been studying money in second grade and lots of fraction topics in third and fourth grade. Multiplication is such an important skill for this learning. Memorizing the multiplication facts is crucial for success! One fact a week is great goal!

Ms. Casale:

In language arts, we are working on reading and recognizing vowel teams! The groups love our one-minute word drills in which they read various words and try to beat the clock! These words usually contain the skill we are working on. For example, the words consisted of vowel teams for the last few weeks. Sometimes, I will challenge the students and mix it up! These word drills will have different words on the sheet that contain skills from the beginning of the year including red words! At the end of every week, students will see these words in a reading comprehension passage. During this time, we test our knowledge to see if we can recognize our vowel teams when they are in connected-text. At the same time, students are working on comprehending the story so they can answer the following multiple choice questions. We are working on using the text as guidance as well as decoding words we have not seen before.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

Our band students are in the final preparations for their upcoming performances. Our concerts are fast approaching and we are excited and a little nervous about all the music we will be performing. If your child is playing a solo/duet song, they will be playing their selection at the school concert only. For the town-wide band at VHS, no solos/duets will be performed.

Remember, a short but *daily* practice routine is essential in turning our concepts into good habits of mind in their instrumental studies. It is the *daily* work that is the most beneficial way for students to improve both more thoroughly and efficiently. Students should practice for 10 - 15 minutes a day, and it is the *everyday* part that is crucial. If there is only time for 5 minutes of practice, please don't skip thinking that isn't enough. Those 5 minutes then, are much better than trying to make it up on another day.

There are many songs for this concert. Some are short and are the ones we use to introduce and develop our concepts and notes. These are on pages 10 – 15 of the band book. Others are full page band arrangements that incorporate these elements. This is a much more demanding concert than the first and as such, students

really need to spend as much time at home working on this material as they can. It is not too late for them to make improvements on their music.

Also, I'd like to remind you about our Verona Summer Music program. This is a terrific way for students to begin an instrument, start a second instrument, or improve on the instrument they already play. They get to play every day, and it's a time when they don't have to be concerned about their other academic demands and are able to embed the correct things into their musical skills. The music staff highly recommends students attend this program. We teach all band instruments as well as piano, guitar, bass guitar, music theory, concert band, and chorus. We accommodate scheduling conflicts with other town programs and can usually solve about 95% of the issues. More information can be found on our website: veronasummermusic.org

I look forward to seeing you at our two performances. In addition to our school concert, we also have the town-wide elementary band concert. This concert will combine all four elementary schools into one giant band to perform on the big stage at VHS. It is very exciting! Remember, 15 minutes a day.