

F.N. Brown Newsletter

November 2016

Principal: Dr. Anthony Lanzo

SCA Co-Presidents: Kate Curren & Suzanne Giarrusso

Dates to Remember...



Tues., 11/1-	SCA Pasta Lunch	
Thurs., 11/3-	SCA Pizza Lunch	
Mon., 11/7-	SCA Meeting 7pm	
Tues., 11/8-	12:30 Dismissal Half Day Snacks Election Day Bake Sale	
Thurs., 11/10- & Fri., 11/11	NO SCHOOL Teacher's Convention	
Mon., 11/14-	Schools Spirit Week Begins	
Tues., 11/15-	FN Brown 85 th Anniversary Celebration Assembly	
Thurs. 11/17-	SCA Bagel Lunch	
Fri., 11/18-	Grade 4 Class Trip – Sterling Mine	
Tues, 11/22-	Grade 2 Class Trip – Morris Museum	
Wed., 11/23-	12:30 Dismissal Thanksgiving Feast 11:30 B-Line Articles Due	
Thurs., 11/24- & Fri., 11/25	NO SCHOOL <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	
Tues., 11/29-	Verona Bd. Of Ed. Mtg. VHS 8:00pm	



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

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

B-Line News

Election Day Bake Sale –

Calling all bakers!!! Tuesday, November 8th is another of our great fundraisers. We ask for donated baked goods, which are sold throughout the day to Election Day patrons. The sale will end at 1:00. Any questions please contact Amy Kirby, amysue3@icloud.com, 973-652-9714, Eileen Lyons Leagon at Eileenlyonsleagon@gmail.com, or Kimberly Williams Manis at kwm715@gmail.com. (NOTE: DUE TO ALLERGIES, PLEASE DO NOT BAKE WITH PEANUTS OR NUTS.)

Busy Bee Bucks –

Don't miss your chance to win! Each family that purchases a grocery card for at least \$100 through November is entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift card from one of the grocery stores that participate in our program.

The class with the most sales through May will win a year-end ice cream party! Help your child's class win this prize by making a Busy Bee Bucks purchase this month. As of October, the standings are very close.

The top three classes are:

1. Mrs. Force
2. Mrs. Staranka
3. Mrs. Hiscano

Busy Bee Bucks are a great way to earn money for our school without costing you anything extra! Buy gift cards at face value through Busy Bee Bucks and use them for your monthly grocery shopping, to stock up on everything you need for hosting Thanksgiving dinner, for Black Friday holiday shopping and more. Gift cards are available to hundreds of retailers, including most local grocery stores.

To order, please utilize the order form coming home during the second week of November OR go onto veronaschools.org -> F.N. Brown -> community -> Busy Bee Bucks to print an order form. Simply 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



More B-Line News



SCA Membership –

Thank you to all the F.N. Brown families and faculty who have submitted their membership dues for the 2015-2016 school year. These dues help the SCA fund some of the many activities F.N.

Brown provides. The SCA can also help F.N. Brown purchase school supplies when needed. Membership Dues are \$10 per family, which can be paid by cash or check made payable to FN Brown and can be sent into the school to the attention of Raiza Czupak, SCA Membership.

Message 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.

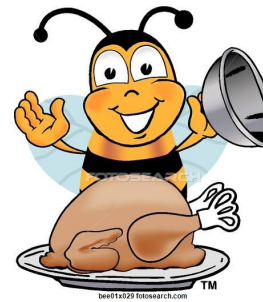
For example: Jane Doe: Hospitality Committee \$15 – refreshments for Back to School night; *John Smith:* Fun Fair Committee \$15 – game prize purchase. For those handing in deposits please make sure the money is sorted, summary, deposit and breakdown forms are all filled out and handed in together.

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 are chairing a long event please try to make sure that you periodically hand in the money, especially checks so that we can make sure that they are deposited in a timely manner. Proper documentation needs to be filled out in order for deposits and reimbursements to be made.

If you have any questions, please contact Janice Garthwaite at [973-768-1291](tel:973-768-1291) or janicegarthwaite@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Feast –

Our annual Thanksgiving Feast is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23rd at 11:30. This is a great day for our students, but in order for it to be a success we need your help. Class parents will contact you with details on what is needed, so please mark your calendars now. It's a great way to kick off your holiday. Be sure you don't miss out and keep a look out for more details coming soon. If you have questions please contact Deanna Barry, at fyrebunni@gmail.com or Shannon Palmer at palmerkidz3@yahoo.com.



Art Helpers– If you would like to help out with one of your child's art classes please contact Mindy Frey at mindyfrey@gmail.com or Kate Curren at katefullercurren@gmail.com for more information.

Beefsteak Dinner POSTPONED–

The F.N. Brown SCA Beefsteak has been postponed till February 3, 2017. Details to come.





Birthday Boys and Girls



November

James Esposito, Matthew Medina, Mason Schmidt, Henry Bichalski,
Danika Badan, Maren McCabe, Megan Pedone, Isabella Garcia, Nia Pilauri,
Dylan Frey, Julien Giordano, Brady Watkins, Liam McEnerney,
Isabella Gonzalez, Olivia Codey

Pomptonian Lunches

Pomptonian will be serving lunches on the following dates:
November 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 28, 29 and 30.

Please remember all lunches must be pre-ordered online.

Please visit <https://verona.pomptonianmenus.com/order> to place your November order.



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!



And A Special Thank You Goes to...

The Wrapping Paper Committee! What a successful and great fundraiser. It would not have been possible without the efforts of Megan Pellegrino.

The School Pictures Committee! Great job MaryAnn Siclari.

The Fall Festival Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our Fall Festival this year. It was a great success. Our bakers really outdid themselves by providing the most delicious and festive treats. The children and adults were delighted with all the goodies and beautiful fall decorations. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered to help set up, clean up and sell on the day, especially our fabulous custodians. We could not have done it without all of you.

Green Mountain Landscape! Thank you for the wonderful job revamping the Butterfly Garden in front of our school. It looks terrific!

F.N. BROWN – THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!

FREDERIC N. BROWN SCHOOL

125 GROVE AVENUE
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

TELEPHONE: (973) 571-6753 FAX: (973) 571-6769

ANTHONY V. LANZO, Ed. D
Principal

November 2016

Dear Parents,

I can't believe it is November already! The school year is moving quickly. We have many wonderful events occurring at F.N. Brown each day, as I am sure your child has shared at home. Thanks to all of our FNB parents for the tremendous support given to our school programs on a daily basis. A strong home school partnership is critical in fostering a positive experience for all of our students. Also, thank you to the various parent volunteers for helping us provide all of the extras for our students. Please note that we have a 12:30 dismissal on Tuesday, November 8th for Election Day.

Thanksgiving Feast

We look forward to our annual feast on Wednesday, November 23rd @ 11:30 AM. Thank you to our generous SCA for organizing and funding this special tradition that our students and staff truly enjoy. Reminder: We will have a 12:30 dismissal on Wednesday, November 23rd and school will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Report Cards – PLEASE NOTE

As a reminder, the Verona Elementary Schools have moved to trimesters starting with the 2016-2017 school year. Report cards will be issued to all K-4 students on Tuesday, December 6th. All report cards will be accessed on-line via Genesis/parent portal. Parents may request to receive a hard copy of the report card in writing by sending the main office an email: adugan@veronaschools.org. All parents should have received the parent portal access information. If you have not received the information, please contact our main office.

Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for December 6th – 8th. Each teacher will share your child's social and academic progress thus far. Teachers will also focus in on areas that are in need of growth during this school year. **Please note that we will have a 12:30 dismissal on all three conference dates. December 6th and 8th will be afternoon conferences while December 7th has been designated as evening conferences.**

Conflict Resolution

Children in the early years are faced with a number of problems in a typical day. Learning to solve them is a desirable skill to teach children. Solving problems involves critical thinking, which carries over into academic areas as well.

What we are doing in school: *Conflict Resolution*

Our students are taught the “Win – Win Guidelines” at school.

1. Take time for cooling off if needed. Find alternative ways to express anger.
2. Each person states their feelings and the problem as they see it using “I Messages”.
No blaming, no name calling, no interrupting.
3. Each person states the problem as the other person sees it.
4. Each person says how they are responsible for the problem.
5. Brainstorm solutions together and choose a solution that satisfies both – a Win/Win solution.
6. Affirm, forgive or thank your partner.

At F.N. Brown school we view problems as opportunities to learn. Helping your child solve problems increases his or her independence. Capable children solve problems effectively. Conflict Resolution began as a school initiative a couple of years ago at our school. We are very proud of our work up to this point and we are viewed as the district pioneers with this approach. A committee of staff members, representing each of the other elementary schools, attended the Conflict Resolution training sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation during last school year. This is the same training that our school committee attended a few years ago. The goal for the other elementary schools this year is to explore, learn and apply this initiative at each Verona elementary school respectively. This is very exciting! FNB will continue to work on this initiative and continue to implement the next phase focused on *Peer Mediation*.

Our Character Education committee spearheading the Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation approaches is comprised of the following staff members: Mrs. Collins, Mr. Hill, Dr. Lanzo, Mrs. Tully, Mr. Waibel and Ms. Witter.

How home and school can continue to work together:

You can support problem solving at home by using the steps listed above with your child. In addition, you can help by giving your child space to solve his or her problems wherever possible. Acknowledge when you see your child effectively solving a problem and label it as such. When you allow your child to solve problems, you are communicating your confidence in his or her abilities and competence.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as your child’s school principal. Enjoy the rest of fall!

Sincerely,

Anthony Lanzo

Anthony Lanzo



F. N. Brown SCA November 2016 Message from SCA Co-Presidents

Dear F.N. Brown Families,

And just like that, we enter the season of giving thanks. We are grateful to our school community, our teachers and staff and Dr. Lanzo for your ongoing support. Specially we would like to thank:

All the volunteers who made October SCA activities possible:

Karen Papocchia for organizing and managing the Kid Stuff book sale.

Megan Pellegrino for managing a new vendor for the Wrapping Paper Sale. It was a huge success. Thank you!

Monica Cleary and Janet Auriemma for coming up with fun new spirit wear designs this year. We are exciting to receive our orders.

Joan Testa for running another great Fall Festival. The mums were gorgeous and the kids love picking out a pumpkin.

Dana Wynne and Catherine Wolverton for organizing another successful the Used Book Sale. Thanks to all who donated, volunteered and purchased books to support FNB!

All the families that baked for the Election Day Bake Sale on November 8th along with Kimberly Williams Manis, Eileen Lyons Leagon and Amy Kirby who organized the sale.

The Half Day Snack committee, led by Shannon Palmer, for setting up and delivering a special snack to our students on half days!

Thank you to Monica Cleary and Renee Codey for organizing the Buzz Book artwork contest, the printing and the distribution of the Buzz Books!

Thank you Mindy Frey and Jen Marchese for managing the SCA Hot Lunch Program. Also to the numerous volunteers that set up, serve and clean up.

With the holiday season approaching, there is no easier way to support the SCA than by purchasing gift cards through the Busy Bee Bucks scrip program. Gift cards make gifts for our teachers and staff too! Thank you Erin McDonald for helping manage this program.

The SCA is beginning to plan for FN Browns 85th birthday, the Thanksgiving Feast, Holiday House, and Holidays are for Sharing. Please look out for detailed information coming home soon.

We look forward to the Holiday Concert as well and all of the joy that the season brings for our hard working students and their families.

Please continue to support our ongoing fundraisers including: Shoparoo, Box Tops and Stop and Shop

We would like to wish the Faculty, Staff and the families of F.N. Brown a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Kate Curren and Suzanne Giarrusso ~ SCA Co-Presidents

ACTIVITIES AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL

MS. CONNALLON'S CLASS

The Fall season is flying by! We have been so hard at work in our classroom. In our Reading Workshop we are building our stamina, fluency, accuracy, and learning to read with expression! Continue logging your baggie books each night! When reading, encourage your child to use expression! When you see a question mark your voice goes up, an exclamation mark shows excitement, bolded words/italicized are expressive! We have started our guided reading groups, when the student or small group sits with me and we work on a special targeted skill, based on their individual needs. First graders are going to learn “super hero reading strategies” soon and this will teach them self-help skills when they encounter a word they are not familiar with while reading.

In Writing Workshop, we have just finished writing our small moments! We zoomed in on a specific memory and used details to write it. I am strongly encouraging children to write with more details, by adding verbs and adjectives.

Second grade math has been a basic review of previously taught concepts. Our next topic will cover working with equal groups and we will introduce place value. First grade math has been introduced to part, part, whole. Our next topic will cover number relationships followed by addition and subtraction concepts.

In Foundations, our first graders are hard at work identifying beginning, middle and end sounds and blending them together to create words. Second graders have been introduced to welded sounds that are exceptions to the rules (ild, old, ost, olt) and vowel teams- “when two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking.” If you encounter these words and spelling patterns while reading point them out!

Please continue to complete homework packet, at your convenience, and return the homework book and checklist on Fridays.

KINDERGARTEN – CATHERINE ORSINI, MARIA PERRI & MICHELE STARANKA

Turtle Back Zoo was awesome!! Everyone had a great time at the zoo and traveling on the bus. It was great to see the most recent addition to the zoo - the giraffes!

Our FN Brown Halloween Parade was SO much fun! It was great to see all the students and teachers in their costumes, and all the relatives and friends who came to see us. Thank you to our class parents for their help, our classroom parties were also a big hit.

In Reading Workshop, we are practicing reading independently and reading with our partners. Sight words have taken over our classrooms! Please continue to reinforce them at home as well. Reading and re-reading emergent storybooks has helped us learn to “read the pictures”

In Writing Workshop, we are using illustrations to convey meaning, and will begin writing stories that reflect “small moments” in our lives. We are learning that using detail in our illustrations is very important in helping the reader understand what is happening in our story.

In Math, we are comparing and ordering numbers 0 through 10. Vocabulary such as “greater than”, “less than”, and “same as” is being used to describe the relationship between 2 groups. Continue to practice writing the numbers to 10.

Our first FN Brown Thanksgiving Feast is upon us! There are so many things we are thankful for, including our families, friends and FN Brown...Best School In Town!! Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!!

FIRST GRADE – ANNA COLLINS & NINA SIVOLELLA (ERICA MC KENNA)

October has been quite a busy month for our first graders. They are now ready for the full day and have stopped asking, “when is it time to go home or how much longer until the day is over?” The adjustment has been made by most of them. Also a warm welcome goes out to Miss Nina Sivoletta who has made a wonderful transition and is working arduously to help each member of her class be the BEST student he or she can be.

They have all enjoyed their very first Writer's Celebration as first graders. Each class got to read their first published piece to another class. Mrs. Collins' students read to Mrs. Pellegrino's class and Miss Sivoletta's students read to Mrs. Collins' class. Listening to others stories encourages speaking in front of an audience as well as help some students write better or even try new topics. Both classes had a wonderful time sharing. They enjoyed using the light speed sound amplification systems as well! The current writing unit is on "Small Moments" where students write with more detail about one given situation, feeling, time or memory. This is such an interesting time in writing to watch them progress as authors. The students begin to realize writing is a communication tool and is actually quite fun! Please help your child by reminding him or her of some of the wonderful experiences just from this past summer to jog their memories. Personal narratives as we as adults refer to it, are always so exciting for them to write and share. Some children along with their parent's encouragement, have written these ideas into their homework pad, which is a tremendous resource.

In math we are working on a unit with subtraction. Students need to have a firm handle on addition to be able to see the relationship to subtraction. Please review these concepts by looking over your child's daily math skill sheet. We have been focusing on math vocabulary in class as well as "key words" especially when it comes to word problems. Some vocabulary words you may hear your child using are: join, part-part-whole, addend, difference, equals, fewer than, more than, and many more.

Reading as a whole group as well as independently has kept our reading time very interesting. The students love to choose their own reading literature. This acts as a motivation for some and a challenge for others. Students are being encouraged to read information that interests them as well as be assigned specific reading materials to learn a given skill. Reading using context clues, making predictions and using reading Super Powers have been taught to show what good readers do before, during and after reading.

In Foundations, the children have reviewed all 26 of the letter sounds as well as have reviewed the short vowel sounds. They have learned what a CVC word is and that in most cases the vowel in the middle makes a short vowel sound. Your child has also learned about digraphs. A digraph is two consonants together which make one sound. The consonant digraphs are: th, wh, sh, ch, and ck. All of the students learned that "ck" will only ever come at the end of a word after a short vowel sound. They also learned that "wh" will only come at the beginning of a word. There are lots of spelling "rules" that your child is learning to become an independent speller. This is a process and it does take time. Please continue daily word ring practice too.

All the students enjoyed their first field trip to Farmstead Estate in Ringwood, New Jersey. The students liked learning about all the farm animals, eating lunch outdoors, riding on a school bus and receiving a pumpkin too.

At home you can continue to help your child become an independent learner by asking him or her to make connections to their reading, remind them to always be respectful and remember to have patience. Thank you parents.

SECOND GRADE – MARIA GRAZIANO & NANCY HISCANO

We have our first trip scheduled for November 22 to the The Morris Museum. The students will enjoy two programs: NJ Nature Walk and Earth Explorers. Students will have the opportunity to explore the museum and take part in hands on activities based on the topics they learn. We look forward to being able to touch and explore genuine animal artifacts and fossils.

In Reading Workshop we have moved from our Launching Unit into a Fiction Unit. We will be learning about the different genres of fiction including- realistic fiction, fantasy fiction, and traditional literature (folktales). We continue to work on our stamina, confidence, fluency, and comprehension. We have read some great stories such as Tony's Bread, Little Red Riding Hood- A New Fangled Prairie Tale, and A Sick Day for Amos McGee. We have worked on our retelling skills after reading our own "just right" books. It is important to practice retelling while reading at home as well.

We are having a great time in Writing Workshop as we explore writing realistic fiction stories. The students have come up with characters just like themselves and are writing a story based on the fictional writing format: characters, setting, problem, and solution.

In Math we have just completed our review topics on addition, subtraction, strategies and word problems. Many students still need to practice their basic facts up to 20 for speed and accuracy. Please continue to review these

facts at home often. We are currently working with equal groups by looking at repeated addition and arrays. After that, we will move on to Place Value to 100.

In Science, we are having a great time working in teams on various experiments to explore matter and changes. Some of experiments that students will conduct are Freezing and Melting, Mixing and Separating Solids, and Mixing Solids and Liquids. Each will have a hands on task to perform and will make observations based on the changes they see. We meet as a class to discuss our findings.

THIRD GRADE – MEGAN PELLEGRINO & KAREN SABATINO

The school year is progressing rapidly, the leaves are changing, and so are the students as they become more accustomed to third grade routines!

We are exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction in Math. We are adding and subtracting numbers within 1000, based on place value, properties of operations, and mental math strategies. Students should continue practicing to master addition and subtraction facts. Multiplication is only weeks away!

In Reading Workshop, students are learning about the many types of Fiction. Students are beginning to understand that all types of fiction genres contain story elements and common themes. Specific reading skills such as inferring, visualizing, summarizing, and making connections, are the focus of instruction to increase student comprehension, and engagement with the texts they read. Thinking Stems are used to help students raise their level of thinking and responding to their reading.

Students are immersed in the writing process, composing Personal Narratives about special moments and memories in their lives, spent with special people, places and events of importance. Grammar and mechanics are reinforced in weekly lessons and the editing process. Writing complete sentences, simple, compound and complex, using descriptive language, and correct capitalization and punctuation, are key in developing strong writing skills. Students are striving to use active verbs and strong leads to Show not Tell, about their life experiences.

Social Studies during an election year is always more exciting when learning about the democratic process! Students learned facts about each candidate, political parties, issues and party platforms. Students voted in a nationwide kids poll, through Scholastic News. They brainstormed character traits important for a good leader, then highlighted their own strengths, talents, and personality traits to create posters entitled “Candidates for a Great Class”. On Election Day, students in every grade level, under the direction of Mrs. Pellegrino, will vote in a school wide Election. We will anxiously await the final decision to see if our school results predict the actual outcome!

Students are enjoying building their own vehicles in our Motion and Design Science Unit. Students make predictions, observations, and draw conclusions through this hands on approach. This enables students to discover Newton’s laws of Motion through trial and error and the experimental process.

Chromebooks allow learning to continue beyond the classroom. Through Google Classroom activities students are engaged in the learning process through websites, videos and game activities that enhance and expand concepts introduced in class.

We are so grateful for our wonderful FN Brown community and wish all of our students and families a great month ahead, and a Happy Thanksgiving!

FOURTH GRADE – MARY ANN FORCE & LOU WAIBEL

Writer’s workshop is full under way. Students are growing in their repertoire of strategies. They are continuing to collect entries, which inspire them to create a story. They have been studying and creating leads and discovering how they can be a link to the heart of the story. Students are also sharing and conferencing with their peers becoming “writing teachers” Celebrations of stories has become a highlight enabling students to share their writings with pride.

In Science students are continuing to study rocks and minerals. Students are exploring the properties of rocks by conducting tests and sorting them on the basis of observable properties. This topic enables students to

see the connection between the properties of a single substance, such as a mineral, and a mix of substances such as a rock.

In math, fourth graders have begun Topic 4. Students are learning how to use mental math to add or subtract, estimate sums and differences of whole numbers and subtracting across zeroes. Students are also practicing how to solve multistep word problems posed with whole numbers using the four, including problems in which remainders must be interpreted.

In Social Studies, students have continued to explore the regions of New Jersey and what makes them unique. We have discovered the New Jersey is full of rich history and opportunities such as mining, proximity to cities, recreational opportunities, and state parks. In addition, students utilized Google classroom to explore latitude and longitude. To extend the lesson, students are in the process of creating their own latitude and longitude quiz for their peers to take! Many quizzes have been uploaded to our Google classroom Social Studies page.

Our Peace Pal program is in full gear. Fourth graders are leading our kindergarten and second graders in activities devoted to learning how to get along better with classmates as well as learning to talk about their thoughts and feelings in a group. Students are also learning how to solve problems and make healthy choices.

Our conflict resolution focus has been learning the difference between an “I” message as opposed to using a “You” message. Students are engaging in role playing problems that lead to conflict. As a result students are learning the difference between using these messages. It is so wonderful to see students practice their skills with one another! It’s extremely gratifying.

MRS. SAPIENZA’S CLASS

October has been a fun and productive month in our classroom. I am so proud to say that all students are working their hardest in all areas. We have worked on becoming a classroom community that looks out for and encourages each other, practices Conflict Resolution skills, if needed, and respects differences.

Math skills have been building upon each other. We began the year studying place value and then used that understanding to compare numbers. We then used a variety of tools to help with rounding numbers. Place value understanding is also important to solve word problems which we are practicing using a specific procedure that focuses on determining which mathematical operation is needed to solve the problem.

In Writing Workshop students are continuing to work on using writing as a form of communication. Each student wrote a brief personal narrative. We are now in the middle of writing a personal memory, a “small moment” story, using the writing process of brainstorming ideas, adding details and drafting. Editing and revising will be done with adult support to finalize a published text. I have emphasized that writing a story can be related to telling a story orally. As I model the writing process and work with students to come up with possible ideas I get to share stories from my own life as well as hear stories from students’ lives. These opportunities also foster a sense of community within our classroom.

In Reading Workshop, the current unit focus is fiction. We are distinguishing fiction from nonfiction and learning about the characteristics of realistic fiction, fantasy fiction, fairy tales and folktales. We also are learning how to respond to text and make text connections. Types of text connections we have learned about include text to self, text to text, text to world and text to media.

We are looking forward to continuing to develop math skills and writing more detailed and interesting texts!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ROB HILL

This is shaping up to be a very exciting year in the physical education world here at F.N. Brown. The 2nd-4th graders have been working on their soccer skills such as dribbling, trapping, passing and shooting. The Kindergarten and 1st graders are working on various locomotor skills, pathways and levels and will be utilizing these skills during various games in the weeks to come.

More importantly all of the children have been working very hard on their sportsmanship and teamwork skills. The difference from the first week of school 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 am excited to see the ongoing development of these skills this year.

Just a friendly reminder for all parents, please make sure that your children have sneakers with them on days that they have physical education. There is nothing worse than having to tell a child that they can't participate because they don't have safe footwear on. Uggs, boots, sandals or any open toe shoes are not safe to wear during our activities.

P.S.- If you have any questions or need to contact me, my e-mail address is rhill@veronaschools.org.

TECHNOLOGY – JEN HOGAN

What a nice start to the school year! Our new Kindergartners were very excited to begin Technology Class. They have learned the lab rules and can identify the parts of the computer. Students have begun mastering their mouse skills while completing activities that help reinforce the letter and number concepts they are learning in class. The first grade classes have graduated and now “log in” to their own computers. They have studied the parts of the computer, created name collages and had fun doing Halloween Math.

Our 2nd, 3rd and 4th Grade students have all joined our Technology Google Classroom. We have reviewed the parts and functions of the computer and completed some typing assignments. Third graders created Avatars of themselves accompanied by some facts about them. See if you can guess the student. Third and fourth grade students were introduced to Google Sheets. They learned how to organize information into a spreadsheet and how to represent the spreadsheet data in the form of a labeled graph. Fourth grade is learning some of the tools available in Google Docs, like how to research and define words. As always we continue to stress the importance of practicing proper keyboarding skills throughout all grades. Happy Thanksgiving to all FN Brown families!

ART – JONI JASTERZBSKI

We have been very busy little bees in the art room over the past two months. The building is covered in all of the student's artwork. Children have created a piece of artwork using their name as the emphasis of their work. I encourage you to look around to find your child's work in the building!

In addition to this, our “Peace Mural” is complete as well as our peace doves, which reside down by the cafeteria. Our latest mural is a “Four Seasons Good Deed Tree,” that will be an ongoing yearlong collaborative project. The purpose of this school-wide project will serve as a means to record our students “getting caught in a good deed.”

Finally, our students have completed fall landscapes, color wheels, and woven Jack-O-Lanterns that relate to the current season. We look forward to sharing this artwork with you, in hopes of getting our community as excited about the fall season as we are here at F. N. Brown!

SPEECH – GILLIAN BETCHER

Speech and language students are having fun working on articulation and learning fall vocabulary. Going for a walk and playing I-Spy with the target speech sound is a fun way to enjoy the weather and practice articulation! Students requiring development in pragmatic language continue to work on "social thinking" skills, which will help them to be better communication partners. Expected versus unexpected behavior and the 5 point scale are being discussed to help students act appropriately in varying situations and express their emotions clearly. We are always working on building stronger social skills and peer interaction through game play. Siblings and parents are great speech models for students! They are learning to ask questions and make appropriate comments in order to improve the quality of their peer interactions. Reading stories and discussing holiday movies are a great way to develop stronger language skills. You can discuss the main idea, favorite characters, sequence of the story, major problem and how it was resolved. Have a beautiful autumn with family and friends!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – MAX MORDEN

Our 4th grade band students have been hard at work learning how to hold their instruments, shape their mouths (embouchure), where to place their hands and fingers, and how to use their air. Students should not be puffing cheeks. If you see this, remind them their cheeks should be flat. Along with all that they must learn to read the letters (pitch) and the note shape (rhythm). You can ask them about whole notes, half notes, and quarter notes. How many beats for each?

Learning an instrument is a very daunting task, and the real key to success is following through at home. All students are asked to do a short, *daily* practice routine. This is the most beneficial way for students to get a more thoroughly and efficient understanding. Students are only asked to practice for 10 minutes a day, but it is the *every day* part that is crucial. A longer period of time on a couple of days is considerably less helpful, and can actually be detrimental. Beginning students don't have enough stamina to sustain a long practice session, nor do they know enough material.

For our first concert, students are working on these songs: *Hot Cross Buns, Au Claire de la Lune, Merrily We Roll Along, Mad Dogs, Lightly Row, Good King Wenceslas, & Jingle Bells*. You should start recognizing these now. If you haven't heard any of these yet, it's not too late for them to learn, but time is running short. About 4 lessons remains until our concert. Remember, daily but short practice...

We look forward to our first performance. Dress is black pants or skirt, with a white shirt or blouse. Boys wear a tie of any style and design, and any type of shoes are acceptable.

SPANISH – LUISA HIRSCH

Bienvenidos a la clase de español! Welcome to Spanish class! Students are working very hard en la clase de español and I am very proud of the Spanish that they retained and remembered from last year. For the first grade students, this is the first time that they are receiving Spanish instruction and I am very impressed with their accomplishments so far. Students in first grade have learned what their name is in Spanish, how to introduce themselves, and how to answer How are you (Cómo estás) in Spanish as well as numbers from 1-12. Please have the students practice these concepts at home. Second grade students have learned how to speak to someone by asking them what their name is and how they are doing. They are using what they learned in first grade and applying it at a higher level to use it in conversation with their peers. Students in second grade are focusing on learning numbers up to 20 for this year. Second grade students should practice what they learned in class at home.

Third grade students have been learning the differences between greeting someone around their age vs. an adult in dialogue and verbal practice. Students have also learned other ways of answering How are you in Spanish. Also, students are currently working on their Hispanic Heritage projects honoring someone who is in Spanish using google classroom. Fourth grade students have reviewed how to greet an adult vs. someone their own age and are applying it in dialogues in class. Students also participated in a Hispanic Heritage Month Scavenger Hunt for students to have an awareness of why knowing Spanish is so important and how much the Spanish culture has influenced the American society in language, food, music, art, television, sports, etc. Students in third and fourth grade should share and speak the Spanish that they learn in class for practice. Keep up the good work everyone! I am very proud of all of you and look forward to a great continuation of the school year. Muchas gracias!

READING INTERVENTION – HEATHER ANDERSEN

As we aim to instill a lifelong love for learning, I believe that having positive reading experiences is fundamental for acquiring the necessary reading skills that your child needs for academic success. It is my pleasure to be a part of this process for our students. My name is Mrs. Andersen, and I am the Reading

Interventionist here at F.N. Brown and Forest Avenue School. The goal of my program is to work with the children in our early grades to strengthen the skills essential for reading. These skills include phonics, recognition of high frequency words, and reading comprehension strategies, which help your child make meaning of what he or she reads.

The Reading Intervention Program is a positive and supportive program designed to give students the extra boost in academic skills they need. My key role as a Reading Intervention Teacher is to provide supplementary interventions in both small group and individualized settings. My primary goal is to help your child acquire the necessary skills to become a proficient reader. I will be identifying areas of need and constructing explicit small-group lessons that not only meet the students' needs, but keep them motivated and engaged in the learning process. I strive to create a nurturing, motivational and stimulating learning environment to help children achieve their potential and enable them to have greater self-sufficiency when working in the classroom setting.

In this joint effort, I will be collaborating with your child's teacher to create appropriate instruction while monitoring your child's progress. You are a very important part of this journey. If you have specific questions regarding your child's progress, I encourage you to contact me. I will be happy to serve as a resource and offer helpful suggestions.