



FLOWER HILL HAPPENINGS

Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050 •
Hours: 9:20am - 3:40pm December/January

Message from the Principal

The faculty and staff at Flower Hill join me in wishing all of our families a happy and healthy 2017. The start of a new year presents us with a unique opportunity to reflect on the past and plan for the future. As we reflect on 2016, I think of the tremendous work our teachers have done to prepare our students for success in school and beyond. With your support, they have not only worked hard to meet the academic needs of our students, but to also meet their social and emotional growth and development.


Our efforts in 2016 will be the foundation for what we hope to accomplish with our students for the remainder of the school year. As such, we will remain focused on the goals we have set for ourselves this school year. These goals include: 1. Improve the achievement levels for all of our students. 2. Implement differentiated instructional strategies to better meet the learning needs of all our students. 3. Increase the effective use of instructional technology for students in grades two through four. While these goals are not insurmountable, they are more likely to be achieved if we continue our efforts to engage our parents in the education of our students. I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher to discuss the progress your child is making throughout the school year. The second quarter will come to a close at the end of January and report cards will be available on the parent portal soon thereafter. Our teachers are currently conducting mid-year benchmarking to measure the progress our students have made thus far. This is the opportune time to have those discussions.

In addition to the work we will do with our students with the prescribed curriculum, we will continue to focus on their social and emotional growth as well. Our theme for the month of January will be Kindness. Our students will be learning about individuals/leaders who have dedicated their lives to promote and encourage respect and kindness toward others. They will be encouraged to perform random acts of kindness toward their fellow students. On Tuesday, January 17th we will have *Flower Hill Day* and are encouraging everyone to wear their blue and white Flower Hill colors. There will be a special assembly for third and fourth graders on that day. We will finish the week with Red, White and Blue Day on Friday, January 20th.

Thanks to all of our families for their continued support and encouragement!



Upcoming Flower Hill Events for January

Martin Luther King Day (School Closed)	1/16
Gr. 2 & 3 Social	1/20 @ 6:00 p.m.
Gr. 4 F/T Vanderbilt Planetarium	1/23 (Walsh & Barfuss)
Gr. 4 F/T Vanderbilt Planetarium	1/25 (Melara & McManus)
	December Star Students

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Manny Ramirez; Junior Granados; Marien Flores; Anthony Campos; Kieran Miller; Caitlin Wegielnik; Kevin Diaz Portillo; Alessandra Leotta; Jory Morgan-Page; James Markotsis; Keylin Anariba-Henriquez; Michael Flores Flores; Doris Castillo Molina; Abbey Rose Goldman; Michael Rauda Hernandez; Lucy Lee; Kai DeSalvo; Mya Mori; Grace Gordon; Ariannah Seabrook; Nina Gonzalez; Alexander Morris; Jonathan Kraft; Molly O'Brien; Iverson Menjivar Quintanilla; Kimberly Guardado; Chase Gadaire & Tess Markotsis

Great Job!!!



Kindergarten Highlights



Kindergarteners have been working hard this year. We studied the holidays in Social Studies with eager anticipation as they drew near. In January we will focus on goals for the New Year. Goals can be for home or school. What goal will make you a better you? Reading more, practicing math facts, maybe sharing more or making a new friend. This will tie into our unit on Martin Luther King Jr. and start off our Kindness campaign. In Math we learned about 2D and 3D shapes in Module 2 and will be working on comparison of length, weight, capacity and numbers 1-10 in Module 3. In science we have been discussing the weather and seasons. In January we will be working on forces and motion. Students will learn there are patterns to how things move, forces move objects and that we can change the speed of objects that move. We completed Unit 3 in Treasures and learned about different forms of transportation. In Unit 4 we will be learning where food comes from and food traditions. Be sure to read the books in your book baggie and /or folder daily as well as practice your ball and/or rainbow words. In Foundations we are working hard to grasp all of our letters and sounds with "Echo". In unit 2 we will focus on tapping out our words to both read and write 3 letter (CVC) words. Please be sure your child is forming the letters the way "Echo" has taught us. Remember our letters never start at the grass line. Happy New Year! May 2017 be filled with health, happiness and a love of learning!

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



Dear First Grade Parents:

It has been a great quarter for us in First Grade! We have completed the first two units in our Treasures reading series and are continuing on to Unit 3. The theme of Unit 3 is Have Fun! In this unit of study we will be covering comprehension strategies of retelling, making and confirming predictions, main idea and details, drawing conclusions and comparing and contrasting. We will introduce various strategies to help students recognize:

- Good readers can retell the important parts of a story in order
- Good readers use clues from the story to predict what will happen next.
- Good readers identify the main idea of what they read and the details that support it
- Good readers use clues from the story to draw conclusions about the characters
- Good readers compare and contrast details from what they read



In addition to our skills and strategies for reading comprehension we have begun a Writer's Workshop period to help our students enhance and develop their fundamental writing skills. We use daily prompts and literature rich mentor texts to help show students that detailed writing is the best kind of writing.

We successfully completed Module 1 of our Common Core Math Curriculum and have eagerly begun Module 2. Module 2 focuses on Addition and Subtraction to 20 and an introduction to place value. Moving forward Module 3 will focus on Ordering and comparing Length Measurements as Numbers.

Science has been an especially exciting time as we have completed several experiments on Changes. Our new STEM director was available to conduct a lesson on Chromatography with the entire First Grade! The students have enjoyed working with partners to observe and conduct changes in solids, liquids and gas activities. As we complete our Changes Unit we will be moving on to Life Cycles and hatching chicks in each classroom. Please consider hosting our chicks as the Spring approaches.

January we will be a time to renew and set a new focus for our amazing students. We have many 'kindness' activities to celebrate Kindness Month here at Flower Hill, stay tuned for additional information on these activities. As always we thank everyone for their support and continued efforts to help every child succeed.

The First Grade Teachers



Second Grade Highlights



The second-grade staff extends its wishes to all our Flower Hill families for a happy and healthy 2017.

This January, the theme is simple: Kindness Counts! Throughout the month, we'll take a moment each day to perform a random act of kindness. That could mean everything from "Giving a classmate a compliment," to "Asking someone new to play with them at recess." On Tuesday, January 17th, we'll show our true colors by wearing blue and white.

Academically, our second graders will move into Module 4 and focus on addition and subtraction, up to 200. We'll also examine solving word problems. Our *Treasures* series takes us to Unit 3. The running theme throughout will be "Let's Create." The reading selections for each week allow children to listen, read and write about creative expression. Students will develop and apply key comprehension skills that good readers use.

Our social studies plans for January also follow a school-wide theme. We'll recognize important African-American figures in history. We also plan to take a look at landforms.

What goes around, comes around, right? Our science plans for January do just that. We'll look at the water cycle and do some fun activities, including learning how weather instruments work.

The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



Happy New Year!!! As the second quarter draws to a close, we would like to share with you where we are in the curriculum. The children have been reading different genres of fiction as well as informational texts while identifying main idea and key details, author's purpose and recognizing text features. In addition to stating the main idea of texts, the children are identifying text structure and how it shapes a story. Additionally, the students have been sharpening their writing skills to prepare them for our focus in the second and third quarters, which is the writing of a research report. The students will be given age-appropriate texts and organizers to construct an essay.

Multiplication and division have been our focus in math. The students are learning various strategies to help solve mathematical equations. Word problems using multiple operations continue to be taught and practiced.

The topic of matter was taught in science, and the students completed several hands-on activities related to this concept. Our next science focus will be studying biomes and completing a mini-biome project.

The students have become global travelers in social studies. Different cultures from around the world are studied and compared to the U.S. culture.

January is "Kindness Matters" month. The students will be learning about people within our community and across cultures who promote leadership, respect, and kindness. Our students will be recording *their* acts of kindness and displaying them on bulletin boards to be shared.

We ask that the students continue to practice their multiplication and division facts at home.

Thank you for your support!

The Third Grade Teachers



Fourth Grade Highlights



Happy New Year and welcome back Fourth Graders! We hope that everyone has had a wonderful break and that students have returned to school renewed, refreshed and ready to take on the challenges of the rest of the year.

Upon returning from vacation, in ELA, 4th graders will be continuing to work on their Civil Rights biographies. Each student will become an expert on the person that they are researching. On January 17th, after Martin Luther King Day, students will be giving presentations and sharing their information in class.

We continue to work in Math on Module 3 Multi-Digit Multiplication and Division. Students are using place value understanding and visual representations to solve multiplication and division problems with multi-digit numbers. Place value charts, area models, and number bonds are some of the strategies used by students.

In Science, students are having fun doing hands on activities with our new and exciting Science Fusion Program. The Science Fair is right around the corner, March 8th. Start thinking about a testable question.

We are studying in Social Studies, The Early People of New York. Fourth graders are learning about the history of Native Americans and their huge impact on our culture.

Fourth graders have been participating in a program every Friday called, G.R.E.A.T. (Gang, Resistance, Education and Training). Suffolk County Police Officers will continue to inform and educate students on this very important topic through discussion and role playing. The GREAT program will end on February 3rd with a graduation.

The Fourth Grade Teachers



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Now that we are into the cold and flu season, here are some reminders on how to keep your family healthy.

- Get vaccinated. A flu shot is recommended for everyone over 6 months old.
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Wash for a full 20 seconds, the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and toss into trash. If a tissue is not available, cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve.
- If your child is sick, keep them home from school. Your child may return to school only after being fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

Consult your physician if you think either you or your child has the flu.

Be sure your child is prepared to go out for recess. Please send your child with a warm jacket, hat and gloves. Children need fresh air and exercise; we will be going out as long as weather permits.

Stay Healthy!



Words, Words, Words

One of the most compelling enduring findings in reading research is the extent to which students' vocabulary knowledge relates to their reading comprehension. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to decode what they read, make connections between what they read and what they already know, and think deeply about what they have read. One big part of comprehension is having a sufficient vocabulary, or knowing the meanings of enough words.

According to the National Reading Panel (2000), explicit instruction of vocabulary is highly effective. To develop vocabulary intentionally, students should be explicitly taught both specific words and word-learning strategies. To deepen students' knowledge of word meanings, specific word instruction should be robust (Beck et al., 2002). Seeing vocabulary in rich contexts provided by authentic texts, rather than in isolated vocabulary drills, produces robust vocabulary learning (National Reading Panel, 2000).

What parents can do to help at home

There are many opportunities at home to reinforce sight word (high frequency word) recognition and increase vocabulary. Increasing background knowledge about a topic along with exposure to new words will help your child when reading. Background knowledge is what you already know about a subject.

- Help your child make connections between what he or she reads and similar experiences they have felt, saw in a movie, or read in another book.
- Discuss the meanings of unknown words.
- Focus on real life words and experiences that are important and relevant to your child.
- Discussions and conversations are easy ways to build vocabulary and, thus, background knowledge. Encourage family discussions. Turn off the TV and talk. One of the best places is the dinner table. That's one of the few times an entire family is together.
- When reading a new or unfamiliar word, encourage your child to think about what that word may mean in the story.

If you have a cassette recorder, make a tape of words. Say the word, define it, and then use it in a sentence. (Select words that he/she will find interesting.) Better yet, have the child do the taping.

The Reading Teachers

