



# FLOWER HILL HAPPENINGS



Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050 •  
 Hours: 9:20am - 3:40pm March/April 2017

Spring has finally arrived and all of us can begin to enjoy the beautiful weather, new growth, and the longer days that this time of the year brings. With only a few months left in this school year, I continue to be impressed with our students' unbounded enthusiasm for learning. Equally impressive is our teachers' effort to utilize innovative ways to place learning in the hands of our students. One such way is through the use of technology. I am happy to report that more of our students are actively utilizing instructional technology in the classroom on a daily basis. This has been made possible with the provision of Chrome Books in each of our kindergarten and first grade classrooms. It is our hope that the integration of instructional technology with our core curriculum will encourage collaboration, enhance critical thinking skills and student engagement in grades k-4.

Please note that our third marking period for the year will end on Friday, April 7th. Student Report Cards will be made available on the Parent Portal on April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the end of the marking period or before report cards are available, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's teacher. It is essential that we keep the lines of communication open between our teachers and parents. The quality of our instructional programs, learning environment, and parent involvement are all critical components to student success.

It has been a pleasure to see so many parents in our classrooms over the last few weeks. We had PARP in March. Our student enjoyed the many activities with this very important program, from reading the books they received, solving the many mysteries that were presented, and having mystery guest readers in our classrooms. I would like to thank Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Goutevenier for the great job they did with this year's program. Thank you to the many parents who volunteered in our classrooms as mystery readers over the two-week period. I would also like to thank the many parents who came for our Science Fair project presentations in our classrooms. Our young scientists were very happy to have you!! Congratulations to our fourth graders for their individual projects and I thank our parents for the support that was given to them at home.

As you are aware, our students will be on spring vacation April 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>. We hope our students and teachers will use this much-deserved break to relax, rejuvenate themselves, and enjoy the beautiful spring weather with friends and family! Again, thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill! Enjoy the spring vacation!!

## Upcoming Flower Hill Events for April

Spring Recess	4/10-4/14
1st Grade Field Trip to John Engeman Theatre	4/19
Kindergarten Field Trip to John Engeman Theatre	4/20
2nd grade field trip to John Engeman Theatre	4/25
FH Sports Night @ Finley	4/27
March Star Students of the month	



**Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Zachary Goldstein; Rocky Rivera Hernandez; Celia LoPorto; Victoria Creegan; John Ramos Panameno; Danis Jimenez Fuentes; Jordan Aguilar Rivera; Anabelle Koelmel; Jencarlo Alfaro Cuadra; Daniel Palacios Jimenez; Kayvon Pittman; Rosa Perdomo-Hernandez; Yessany Abreu Nunez; Tyler Hansman; Hillary Galvez Jerez; Patrick Tortora; Jaslyn Marroquin Chavez; Philander White; Daniela Garcia; Danna Garcia Martinez; Tyler Peck; Adyeri Medina; Sindi Gomez Chavez and Charles Fuller!**

**Great Job!!!!**



# Kindergarten Highlights



It has been a busy winter in kindergarten. We are finishing up our Science Unit on Forces and Motion and will be starting our next unit on Plants and Animals. We have been studying neighborhoods in Social Studies using both fiction and non-fiction literature. In Math we are working on Module 4. Module 4 focuses on addition and subtraction. The children will gain knowledge of the values of numbers and work with embedded numbers to reason and solve addition and subtraction expressions and equations. With Unit 7 on weather completed in Treasures we will begin Unit 8 on Plants. Children will examine the life cycles of plants through both fiction and non-fiction text. They will gain new vocabulary, study concepts about print and continue to work on phonemic awareness and listening comprehension. In Foundations we will continue working on consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words and will begin learning about digraphs (sh, ch, th, wh, and ck).

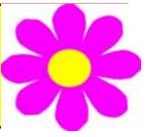
We are looking forward to our upcoming field trip to John W. Engeman Theatre on April 20th and also to warm and sunny days ahead!!

The Kindergarten Teachers





# 1st Grade Highlights



March has been a very busy month, closing out our unit in math on place value and subtraction/addition. We finished our science unit on Changes where we had the opportunity to work on many exciting experiments to see chemical reactions and changes. We worked very hard on the scientific process and conducted experiments in our classrooms featuring chemical reactions. Parents also visited our classrooms on Science Day to help out with different versions of experiments we have worked on.

The beginning of March featured the kick off to Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) with Flat Stanley which ties into our upcoming field trip on April 19th to John W. Engeman Theater and our Flat Stanley Social Studies project. This month we will be mailing Flat Stanley out to different places and plotting out Flat Stanley sightings to reinforce map skills.

Ms. Heather Thorgeson visited our classrooms for the last time to help us become better public speakers where we focused on enunciation and projecting your voice. We also attended the PTA sponsored event of Japanese Storytelling at the end of March.

April will be chock full of new and exciting topics:

- measurement in math
- compare/contrasting amongst selections
- descriptive writing

In the upcoming month, we will be working on Life Cycles and hopefully get some cute ducklings to babysit and study the animal and plant cycles.

March flew by so quickly and with so many exciting projects planned in our classrooms we think April will too.

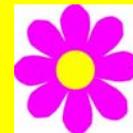
As always thank you for your continued support at home and may the upcoming spring months bring exhilarating new topics for your children to mention at home.

The First Grade Teachers





## Second Grade Highlights



Our second graders continue to focus on foundational skills such as differentiating between open and closed syllables. While reading literature and informational text within our reading series, our students are using illustrations to gain understanding of stories, characters, setting and plot; analyzing cause and effect and learning to compare and contrast two texts.

In math, we are becoming more proficient in acquiring various strategies in order to compose and decompose when solving double and triple digit computation using place value to two-hundred. Our students continue to demonstrate their knowledge by solving problems using strategies such as: arrow way, number bonds, chip models, place value charts, and the standard algorithm. This month, we will be moving on to learn skills in the area of foundations of multiplication and division so keep practicing your math facts to twenty!

Our second grade students are becoming strong writers! Our students continue to apply foundational skills when writing. They continue to practice underlining key words in the question to use to begin their writing. In addition, our second graders are becoming more proficient in their ability to use evidence from the text when answering text based questions in writing!

In social studies, we have been studying landforms. Our next unit is *Working together*; learning how people are producers and consumers.

In science, the children had fun sharing their class projects with all of the parents and sharing the scientific method behind the projects. Everyone enjoyed our activities with soil and we are excited to watch our newly planted seeds grow as we look forward to the coming of spring!

The Second Grade Teachers





# 3rd Grade Highlights



Spring has sprung and sunny days have begun! As we welcome the new beginnings of a new season, we would like to share with you where we are in the curriculum.

We have continued to explore different genres in reading such as fiction, fantasy, and informational texts. Our focus remains on identifying the main idea and key details of a story, recognizing the author's purpose and utilizing text features. Writing has come to the forefront as we look to strengthen our writing skills in all aspects. Students are given daily opportunities to practice their writing strategies in various forms such as, responses to text-based questions, journal entries, and poetry.

In math, we have wrapped up our unit on area and have now shifted to the topic of fractions. The children are learning multiple strategies to express fractions via pictures, fraction strips and number lines. They will continue to develop their understanding of unit and non-unit fractions, as they work towards the new concepts of comparing fractions and determining equivalent fractions.

Each class enjoyed working collaboratively on their inquiry based science project. Students excelled in using hands on experiments and discovery learning to test their hypotheses and create a class presentation.

The topics of landforms and biomes were also taught in science. Our next science focus will be on studying the sun, seasons, and measuring time.

We continue to develop our understanding different cultures around the world. Our global travelers have used research on various cultures to compare them to the cultures present in the United States.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA, our students were also given the opportunity to read new novels, as a class, through our PARP program. Our grade had the pleasure of reading "Charlotte's Web" and "Tuck Everlasting". As the program has come to an end, we strongly encourage you to continue reading daily!

Thank you!

The Third Grade Teachers 😊





# 4th Grade Highlights



Welcome Spring!

We continue to enjoy reading stories with different genres from our ELA Anthology learning new words, discussing the main idea, character traits and author's purpose. The children practice using their writing skills each day. We enjoyed having guest readers in our classrooms during the P.A.R.P. program and can't wait to solve the mystery of "The Westing Game".

In math, we are currently working in Module 5 - Fraction Equivalence, Ordering, and Operations. The children are busy drawing area models and using manipulatives to learn all about fractions in the real world. The children are engaged in using various interactive activities on their Chromebooks.

Our Science Fair projects were a huge success! The students worked hard both at home and at school. Many parents enjoyed watching their child and other children present their projects in the classroom. It was enjoyable for all! There were three top projects chosen from each class and one of them will have the opportunity to move onward to Brookhaven Laboratory.

In Social Studies, we are currently learning about Colonial New York. The children are comparing and contrasting Colonial Times to present-day New York. The difference really hit home when they learned that pigs ran through the streets of New York over 300 years ago. In the next coming weeks, we look forward to learning about the American Revolution.

The Fourth Grade Teachers



## NOTES FROM NURSE DUNN

Kindergarten registration is under way and we are planning for the 2016-2017 school year.

Just a reminder that all students entering kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4th grade are required to have a physical exam. Forms will be sent home in June. If your child has a scheduled annual physical before then, you can request a form from my office or print one off the school web site. A doctor's office form is also acceptable. Completed forms can be handed into the nurse's office any-time throughout the year.

Immunization requirements have changed. Please check with your health care provider to make sure that your child has all the needed shots. They are listed below.

### Required Immunizations for Students Entering K, 2 & 4

Immunization	Number of Doses
Polio	3-4*
Hepatitis B	3*
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	4-5*
Measles/Mumps/Rubella	2
Varicella (Chickenpox)	2
*Must be given at correct intervals based on age*	
Julie Dunn, RN School Nurse at Flower Hill	

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.



## *Greetings from the Flower Hill Library!*

*Happy spring! Hoping all of you are enjoying the sunshine and soon - to-be warmer days ahead. As usual, the library continues to bustle with activity, with the addition of over 300 new books to choose from and the chrome book cart that we were fortunate to receive this school year. We enjoy reading about holidays and season changes, as well as Black History and Women's History Month. A focal point has been studying biographies, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders have been accessing information using Pebble Go and the VRC (Virtual Reference Collection) to learn about famous individuals who have impacted our world.*

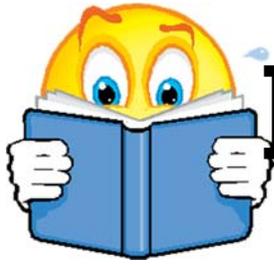
*I try to incorporate the chrome books as much as possible in the library as it provides an excellent way for students to sharpen their technology skills as well as learn about the many ways we can access nonfiction information.*

*PARP kicked off with a mystery theme so we have been exploring which authors and books we like best, along with tricky riddles to solve!*

*I am looking forward to the next few months as we begin to wind down the 2016-2017 school year and as always I encourage your children to keep up the excellent job they are doing with reading!*



*~Mrs. Jeanine Caras*



# Reading Newsletter

*Enjoy summer reading with your child!*

It's hard to believe, but summer is approaching! During your child's school vacation, it is important for him or her to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis—whether he is a very beginning reader or a fluent reader. Try some of these suggestions for making your school-aged child's summer full of literacy fun.

- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading.** Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.
- **Read aloud to your child.** As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your child, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information. You also enjoy the closeness of sharing a book with your child.
- **Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities.** Read books about camping, such as "Webster and Arnold Go Camping", before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.
- **Allow your child to choose books for summer reading.** While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his school, it is equally important for him to read about topics that interest him, whether it is insects, dragons or a favorite fiction series.
- **Help your child select books at a comfortable level.** Listen to your child read. If she reads smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what she read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. If you are having trouble judging, consult your local children's librarian. In addition, teach your child to use the "rule of thumb" in selecting books: if she makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

**Encourage your child to write this summer, too.** From writing postcards to friends and relatives to keeping a journal while on a trip, summer presents unique ways for your child to write about his own experiences. Reading requires practice, just like any other physical activity or sport your child is involved in! Keep up the encouragement as your child practices to be ready for the new and more challenging experience of their new school year!