



# Flower Hill Happenings



Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050  
 Hours: 9:20am-3:40pm September/October 2016

## Message from the Principal

The beginning of the school year is undoubtedly one of the most exciting parts of the school experience. It is a time that is filled with great anticipation, energy, and excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike. This year has been no exception. With the first month of the 2016-17 school year behind us, I would like to report that our teachers and students are off to a fantastic start. The beginning of the school year presents the perfect opportunity for me to thank our parents for your continued support of our students, teachers, and programs at our school. Our PTA continues to be a positive voice for our children, which creates a strong partnership that fosters their continued development and success in school.

During the month of September, our teachers were engaged in the process of getting to know our students not only as learners, but as individuals as well. In addition to providing high quality instruction to our students, they have been engaged in a process of gathering data through observations and assessments. The data collected will be used to guide classroom instruction and provide critical support to our students throughout the school year. It will be used to align classroom instruction and practices with the three main goals that will be our focus this school year. These goals include: 1. Implementing curricular and instructional measures that will promote continued progress in student achievement. 2. Providing authentic and differentiated learning experiences for all students in the classroom. 3. Providing STEM opportunities and social/emotional experiences for all students in the classroom.

In order to help us achieve our goals, the district has provided us with significant resources. For example, we have expanded the use of technology in the classroom with the addition of Chrome Books in our second grade classrooms. We have also added a new LED Smart Board to one classroom, with four more expected later this year. Additional resources were expended to provide more science kits for grades K-4. The success of our students depends not only on what happens in the classroom, but also on the partnership between our teachers and parents. It is my hope that our parents and teachers will remain in close contact about our students' education throughout the school year. I would like to thank all our parents who attended our recent "Meet-the-Teacher" nights, where our teachers provided important information about the curriculum, classroom routines, and building procedures. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming parent/teacher conferences, which will be held in November. As always, parents are encouraged to reach out to our teachers if they have any questions or concerns about their child's progress at any point during the year.

In closing, all of us at Flower Hill are excited about the new school year. We look forward to your continued support. We are confident that with our partnership our student will have a fantastic learning experience!!

## Upcoming Events @ Flower Hill

"Meet the Teacher" Grades 3-4	10/5
"Meet the Teacher" Grades K-2	10/6
Picture Day	10/6
Columbus Day (School Closed)	10/10
Yom Kippur (School Closed)	10/12
Gr. 4 F/T Conklin House	10/27 & 28
Grade K & 1 Social @ 6:00	10/28
Fall Festival & Halloween Parade	10/31
September Star Students *****	

Lauren Reed; Emilia Garcia; Kevin Harris; Maya Schneider; Andrea Rivera Rivera; Yeidy Eras Medina; Perla Nativi Ulloa; Cassidy Harris; Nicolina Santoli; Kayvon Pittman; Grace Bartasi; Jennifer Reyes-Cardona; Victor Aviles; Keegan Warren; Cassandra Geuvara Jandres; Nathaniel Sierra; Braid Martin; Isabella Palacios; Areston Huerta-Anticono; Gianna Uvena; Melanie Carrillo & Britney Romero-Jaramillo

Great Job!!!!



## Kindergarten Highlights



Welcome to Kindergarten! We have been very busy over the past few weeks. The children have acclimated to their classrooms beautifully! They have been getting to know their classmates and their teachers. They have learned classroom routines and important school rules that keep them safe and enable them to be the best they can be. We have talked a lot about individuality and how each and every person is unique and special. The children have been working hard practicing writing their names. Unit 1 of our phonics and handwriting program called, Foundations, has begun. Foundations focuses on letter recognition, letter sounds, and letter formation. September's ELA theme was, "We Are Special".

During ELA the children were active listeners for many read aloud stories as well as many poems. Some stories we read were, *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, *The Kissing Hand*, *Chrysanthemum*, *I like Myself*, *David Goes to School*, and *My Mouth is a Volcano*. The current theme is, "Family".

In math, we are learning numbers to 10 using many hands on activities with a wide variety of learning manipulatives. We are also studying about Weather in Science. The children will learn how weather affects our lives and how it is measured.

We are looking forward to our first field trip to White Post Farms on October 18<sup>th</sup> and to many more memorable experiences throughout the year!

### *The Kindergarten Teachers*



## First Grade Highlights



Our First Graders have transitioned very well this year. We had a fun-filled exciting month! On 9/11, we remembered our fallen heroes by discussing heroes of our own. In Treasures we read some fables and books about families, and music. We are learning about story structure and making connections between two events or ideas. We started off reviewing our letters and sounds in Foundations and learning some trick words. In Math we are working towards fluency with addition and subtraction of numbers to 10. Please review math facts with your child. In Science, we are focusing on Comparing and Measuring. We began with an interesting experiment. We planted Marigold seeds and watered one with water and one with milk. Be sure to ask your child the results! We have also started some work in cooperative groups at center time. We are all looking forward to our first field trip to the Dolan Center for the Teddy Bear Clinic. Please encourage your child to bring a stuffed animal on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to ask your children about the experience that day. At the end of October we will have our Harvest Festival! Please remember to read with your child each night. We look forward to an exciting year!

### *The First Grade Teachers*





# Second Grade Highlights



We are so proud of our second graders. We are following routines, rules, and reading books such as *First Day Jitters*, *Second Grade is the Best*, and *Have You Filled a Bucket*, to encourage and support positive behavior.

In our Foundations program, we are reviewing previous concepts and adding new information. We are working on concepts such as digraphs, digraph blends, blending and segmenting, and closed syllables. We are also continuing to work on our handwriting skills. The students are motivated and enjoy using all of the hands-on materials!

Our theme in Language Arts is Friends and Family. The students are learning what details help describe a character's traits, motivation and feelings. We are also learning about story structure—beginning, middle, and end. We are locating details in stories to find the main idea. In October we will focus on identifying the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text. Who, what, when, where, and why questions about the text are always important to help children demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. When your child reads at home, please use these questions and ask your child to find the evidence in the text to support their answers.

The focus for Module 1 in math is Sums and Differences to 100. We began with partners to 10 and we practiced ten plus sums. We practiced the "take from ten" strategy. Through homework helpers and newsletters, we will continue to keep you informed of the strategies with which we are learning to solve problems. In October, we will study Module 2 -Addition and Subtraction of Length Units. We will work with Metric Units. Our students will be working with centimeter rulers and meter sticks. They will be measuring objects and relating addition and subtraction to length.

We have been learning about The Scientific Method in our Science program. Our topics are Solids, Liquids and Gases, and Weather. In Social Studies, we are learning about communities. The students are reading and learning about the difference between rural, suburban, and urban communities.

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support and cooperation! Please continue to read with your children and practice addition and subtraction math facts consistently! We are looking forward to a productive and exciting school year!

The Second Grade Teachers







# Third Grade Highlights



The third graders are off to a great start and are all settled into their new routines. The theme of our Treasures language arts program is the importance of learning.

We have been analyzing story structure using skills such as: cause and effect, compare and contrast, finding the main idea and details, character and setting, and making predictions. The students have been writing personal narratives and opinion pieces. In October we will continue these skills and continue to learn rich vocabulary. In math we began multiplication and division. We have learned about the commutative and distributive properties of multiplication using models and drawings.

We will also be solving two- step word problems using multiplication and division. Please practice multiplication facts and skip counting with your children each day. In social studies we are learning about our community, as well as other types of communities. We will also be learning map skills in the coming weeks. In science we learned about what a scientist is, the tools of a scientist and the scientific method.

We will continue our unit with discovering the properties of matter. Of course we are all excited about learning with our new chrome books! Thank you for all of your support!

## The Third Grade Teachers





# Fourth Grade Highlights



Welcome to 4<sup>th</sup> grade! We are sure excited about the beginning of another school year.

The students have been enjoying the stories in the first unit of Treasures. Some of the reading skills the students have been working on include making inferences, character, setting, plot, and compare and contrast. In 4th grade, a huge area of focus is writing in response to reading. In these responses, students must include many facts and details from the text to support their ideas. Please encourage your child to read at home and initiate discussions about what they are reading.

In Math we are currently working on place value, which includes rounding and estimation up to and including 7 digits. We will also be working on mathematical talk. The children will be able to write about and explain their thinking. The students will experience various ways to solve problems.

The fourth grade social studies curriculum focuses on New York State. We have been reviewing map skills. The students have also been learning about New York's landforms. As a culminating project the students will create a map of New York State.

We are excited about our new science program, Science Fusion. We have been reviewing the steps in the scientific method. As we move along in our science curriculum we will begin our unit in Matter. The students will be given the opportunity to visit our science lab and participate in many hands on science activities.

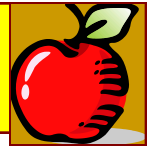
We look forward to a wonderful school year!!!

The Fourth grade teachers





# Notes from the Nurses Office



Welcome back to Flower Hill. We are looking forward to meeting all the new students and helping to make this a healthy, happy school year.

Please be reminded that physical exams are required for all kindergarten, 2nd & 4th grades and all new entrants to Huntington School District. Please be sure to get your child's forms in to the nurses office as soon as possible.

To protect you and your child from getting the flu, see your health care provider about getting the flu vaccine this fall. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get the vaccine annually.

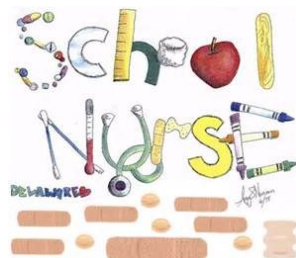
Please remind your child to:

- Keep hands away from face and eyes
- Cover their coughs/sneezes with their arm or tissue
- Wash their hands with soap and water

If your child does become ill, keep them home from school. Be sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks a lot of fluids. Speak to your child's doctor before giving them over-the-counter medication. Your child may return to school after being symptom free (no fever) for 24 hours without medication.

Please make sure your emergency contact information is up-to-date in case we must reach you if your child is sick or injured while in school.

If you have any questions or concerns about physical, immunizations, or any other health related issues, please feel free to call the nurse's office at 673-2058



# Welcome Back to School!

## From the Reading Teachers!!

Encouraging your child to read at home is one of the best ways that you can help them be successful this school year! Try some of these suggestions for making reading fun!

- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading.** Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning before the bus or at night 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 reader, you will help them 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 topics your child is learning in school.** For example, if your child is learning about habitats in school, you can read them *The Magic School Bus Hops Home*. When you read and discuss books about things your child is familiar with, you help them learn important vocabulary and extend their understanding of those topics!
- **Allow your child to choose books for their enjoyment.** While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his/her school, it is equally important for them to read about topics that interest them, 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 they read smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what he/she read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. In addition, teach your child to use the "rule of thumb" in selecting books: if he makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.



## *Greetings from the Flower Hill Library!*

*Welcome, welcome, one and all!!! It has been absolutely wonderful seeing all the bright smiling faces of your children entering the Flower Hill library, either as a returning student or a brand new one! From the sounds of it, each and every one had a fantastic summer; I was especially pleased to learn that many of your children paid some visits to our Huntington public library; some even participated in the summer reading program. That is awesome!*

*I am eager to begin this new school year with lots of great read aloud and lessons planned for the fall. We have been reviewing library procedures and rules as well as how to choose a "just right" book. We are also going over parts of a book and where we can locate books we are interested in. The library was fortunate to receive a set of chrome books, there is much anticipation from your children to start using them! The 2016-2017 school year will be full of learning, using new technology, fun and of course - **READING!!!!***

*~Mrs. Jeanine Caras*

