



# Flower Hill Happenings



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

## A Message from the Interim Principal

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Please know that starting the school year at Flower Hill Primary with your children has changed my world. It has been such a pleasure seeing those smiling faces each day, and relishing their eagerness to learn and their enthusiasm for being at school.

Even in my short time as the interim principal, I can tell you that the staff here is dedicated to providing the best education possible and getting to know each individual child. Communication between school and home is imperative so I ask that we keep the lines of communication open. We promise to do our part and hope that you never hesitate to reach out when necessary.

It's already been an exciting school year. The PTA kicked things off with an awesome Block Party the first week. They have many more things planned, so please support that partnership by joining PTA.

If we both ask the children to work hard and do their best, to believe in themselves, and to focus on the small achievements that happen every day, it will be the best year ever!

**Paula Nickerson**



## Upcoming Events @ Flower Hill

Columbus Day (School Closed)	10/9
1st Gr. Field Trip John W. Engeman Theater	10/10
Picture Day	10/11
3rd Gr. Field Trip John W. Engeman Theater	10/19
K Field Trip White Post Farms	10/20
Homecoming Parade & Football Game	10/21
SEPTEMBER STAR STUDENTS	

Rose Poli; Katelyn Brite; Charlotte Kindelmann; Christian Recarte Ordonez;  
Angie Ramos Alejandro; Natalie Hanford; Lauren Reed; Lizmarie White; John Dos Santos; Cassidy Goldman; Cameron Batts; Cassidy Harris; George Reyes; Grace Bartasi; Charles Rosselli; Victor Aviles; Timorie Rich; Abbey Rose Goldman; Jesley Martinez Canales; Jeremiyah Leiva; Bridget Callery; Jonathan Tavaréz Ramirez and Keylin Anariba-Henriquez

Great Job!!!  
Great Job!!!!



## Kindergarten Highlights



Welcome to kindergarten! In September, the main focus of kindergarten is to acclimate the children to the school environment. It is sometimes difficult for the children to jump into a full school day but as soon as they learn the routines, they adjust quickly. For the first weeks of school the children have been learning the school and classroom routines that will be in place all year long.

Using our Foundations program, we started off the year by reviewing letters and letter sounds to ensure accuracy while reading. They will also practice their printing every day. Please be sure to review handwriting lines as well as letter sound daily. In the upcoming weeks, we will start learning guided reading procedures so that we can further improve these reading skills. In math, we are working on sorting and classifying objects by their attributes. We are also working on counting and recognizing numerals 0-5. Our social studies unit for the beginning of the year is "All about Me." Children will learn about themselves, their families, and their surroundings as we continue exploring our social studies units.

We are looking forward to working with you to support and enrich your child's academic success.

The Kindergarten Teachers



## First Grade Highlights



Our first grade classes got off to a great start as the children transitioned well into their new schedules and classrooms. They had a brief review of kindergarten concepts to create a bridge to our upcoming lessons.

We started our new reading program Journeys, and Module 1 of our Engage New York Math series which deals with *Sums and Differences to 10*. In addition, we continued our phonics studies in Foundations where students are taught to tap out sounds to create more successful spellers. Our science topic for the next several weeks will be *Changes: Solids, Liquids and Gases*.

As we head into October, we are looking forward to our October 10<sup>th</sup> field trip to see Strawberry Freckleface at the Engeman Theater. Stay tuned for our second field trip scheduled for November. As always, thank you for your continued support in rolling out a smooth year for our "Firsties".

The First Grade Teachers





## Second Grade Highlights



Second graders at Flower Hill are off to a great start. We have established routines, reviewed rules and read books such as *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* to foster support and encouragement among our students.

Our first unit in the new Journeys reading series is Neighborhood Visit. Realistic fiction, humorous fiction and informational texts will be covered in this unit. Each lesson contains rich vocabulary found in the texts as well as in the guided reading books and close reading materials. The skills covered in our first unit are sequence of events, author's word choice, compare and contrast, author's purpose, cause and effect, and figurative language. We will be hard at work covering all of this material!

The focus for Module 1 in math is *Sums and Differences to 100*. We began with partners to ten (9 and 1; 8 and 2; 7 and 3, etc...). We practiced tens plus sums:  $10+9$ ,  $10+8$ , etc... We progressed to  $60 - 8 = 52$

$$\begin{array}{r} / \quad \backslash \\ 50 \quad 10 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 10 - 8 = 2 \\ 50 + 2 = 52 \end{array} \quad \text{This is the "take from ten strategy."}$$

As our students are taught different ways to solve problems, we will continue to keep you informed of the strategies through examples on homework and newsletters.

In October we will study Module 2 - Addition and Subtraction of Length Units. We will work with metric units. Second graders will learn about the centimeter ruler and meter sticks. They will practice measuring objects and relate addition and subtraction to length.

Our science studies begin with an introduction to the steps in the Scientific Method as well as questions such as What is an engineer? and What is a scientist? Our first topic is *Matter and Its Interactions*.

In social studies we are studying communities. By using books and videos from Discovery Education, students will learn to differentiate between urban, suburban and rural communities.

The second grade staff would like to encourage all families to check homework folders every night and read often with your child. Thank you for all you do!







# Third Grade Highlights



Welcome back! Our year is off to a wonderful start. Students are transitioning nicely to third grade. We have a very energetic and lively bunch who are eager to learn. We have really hit the ground running.

We begin our first Journeys unit focusing on "Good Citizens," which also ties in with our social studies curriculum. Our students are being exposed to a variety of genres and texts to enhance their learning of story structure, conclusions, and understanding characters—all relating how good citizens impact our communities. As we continue throughout Unit 1, students will begin to target skills and strategies such as summarizing, inferencing, compare and contrast, and cause and effect.

We are beginning to build upon students' knowledge of repeated addition and equal groups from second grade in our first math module. Module 1 focuses on multiplication and division. Students are learning various models and strategies to represent both multiplication and division problems, as well as developing an understanding of how they are related. Students are also starting to think like scientists and understand the scientific method.

We have a very exciting and vigorous year ahead of us. Our first field trip will be on October 19<sup>th</sup> to see "Freckled Face Strawberry" at the John Engeman Theater in Northport. Throughout the school year we encourage you to read daily and practice math facts with your child.

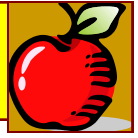
We hope everyone is enjoying the start of the school year as much as we are!

Thank you,  
The Third Grade Teachers





## Fourth Grade Highlights



It has been a great start to a new school year for our fourth graders!

This year, for math, the district has provided Math Module workbooks. We began in Module 1 with Place Value to the millions. Students are busy learning to write, draw and show numbers in many ways.

In language arts, we are enjoying the many different stories in our new anthology, *Journeys*. There are vocabulary words to learn and many opportunities to learn in collaboration with each other, where students are listening and sharing their thoughts and expressions. Guided reading groups, where students will learn in small group instruction and writing opportunities, are underway.

Social studies has been exciting for our students to learn about our very own state of New York. You can often hear a student say, "I've visited that place," or "I want to go there one day." The students feel connected with the content. Learning about the history of New York is amazing.

In science, the students are learning the Scientific Method and enjoying the program that *Fusion* provides.

In the days ahead, you will hear about making a New York State map and a fall field trip to the Conklin House.

We look forward to a wonderful and exciting learning year with your children!

The Fourth Grade Teachers -  
Mrs. Epstein, Mrs. McManus & Mrs. Walsh





# 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 nurse's 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 children to:

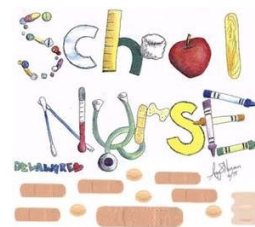
- Keep hands away from face and eyes
- Cover their coughs/sneezes with their arm or tissue
- Wash their hands with soap and water

If your child does become ill, keep him/her 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 physicals, immunizations, or any other health related issues, please feel free to call the nurse's office at 673-2058.

Julia Dunn, RN



# ***Welcome Back to School!***

Reading with comprehension means understanding what's been read. It takes practice, time, and patience to develop reading comprehension skills. Families can play an important role in helping a child learn to read for understanding.

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, seen 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



## *Greetings from the Flower Hill Library!*

Welcome to another sensational school year! The 2017~2018 school year is going to be one of the best ones yet. It brings me so much happiness to see your children's smiling faces as they come through the halls of Flower Hill, especially when they enter the library. At this point I have met with all classes and our new kindergartners have even started to take home books, which always gets them excited. Just a reminder - if you have a kindergartner or 1<sup>st</sup> grader at home, library is every OTHER week. They have two weeks to enjoy their book before bringing it back. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders see me once a week. We will continue to incorporate as much technology as we can using chrome books and visiting educational websites. Along with exploring various genres of literature, we will sharpen our ELA and research skills throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I am at Flower Hill on Mondays of "B" week as well as every Tuesday and Wednesday. I look forward to a fun and productive school year!

Mrs. Caras

