The 2010 - 11 school year is going very fast and June 24th will be here before we realize it. The third marking period for the year ended on April 8th, and parents will be receiving student report cards on Friday, April 15th. Please remember that the report card is used to update you on the progress our students have made academically, socially, and behaviorally. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher. We want to keep the lines of communication open between home and school.

As you are aware, our students will be on spring vacation the week of April 18th – 22nd. We hope our students and teachers will use this much-deserved break to relax and rejuvenate themselves. When they return to school, the beginning of the New York State testing season will be upon us. The New York State ELA Assessment will be administered to our 3rd and 4th graders the week of May 3rd. The state Math Assessment will begin May 11th. Our 4th graders will take the NYS Science Assessment during the week of May 31st. Please ensure that our students are in school on the days these important assessments are being administered.

Our teachers and students have been working very hard preparing for these assessments. All these assessments test our students on skills and concepts that have been taught in grades K-4. While it will be difficult for our students to “cram” for these assessments, it is essential that our students develop effective learning strategies and long-term habits that will strengthen their skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and problem solving. With this in mind, please continue to encourage our students to read each night. Please talk with them about what they read and about the things they are studying in school. Also, please ensure that homework assignments are completed, and if there are problems or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher.

Thank you for all your support! Enjoy the spring vacation!!

Message from the Principal

Marlon C. Small

Upcoming Flower Hill Events!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FH Spring Pictures</td>
<td>4/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report Cards Sent Home</td>
<td>4/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
<td>4/18-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools Open</td>
<td>4/25-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>FH PTA Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>4/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>FH PTA Sports Night @ Finley 7-9 pm</td>
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Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Zachary Zboray, Dominick Vidota, Annika Galvin, Eimi Valenzuela, Alyson Baker, Gian Vazquez, Aiden Lefebvre, Juliana Fribolin, Emma Vaughan, Beanna Cumella, Cianna Batts, Gabe Catalfo, Emerson Forbes, Jack Hanson, Colby Tracy, Shannon Anderson, Dorothy Nurse, Luke Bastible and Muhsin Muslim.
Kindergarten Highlights

March has been a very exciting month for our kindergartners. We started off the month with the PARP reading program. The children loved having special mystery readers visit our class! We celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday and we had a visit from a tricky leprechaun on St. Patrick’s Day.

We have been learning so much this month. We are writing stories and working hard in our reading groups. We are adding and subtracting and learning how to keep our bodies healthy. This is an exciting time of year for kindergartners. We have learned so much!

We also had an amazing time on our field trip to the Engeman Theater. We saw Tangled, and a wonderful experience was had by all. Later, we discussed characters, setting, events and ending in the story.

We want to thank all of our parents for their support and cooperation! Happy Spring! 

The Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade Highlights

The children continued to read throughout PARP. They enjoyed the animal theme, “Get Wild About Reading.” The Good Behavior Wild Card was a big hit! Even though PARP has ended, continue to READ, READ, READ!

In Language Arts, we continued our reading groups and focused on grammar. The first graders will be doing our annual “Flat Stanley” project, and we look forward to hearing about the many places he will travel.

Please continue to encourage our children to practice their addition and subtraction facts to twenty, as they will be better prepared for second grade.

We also watched the fascinating development from eggs to ducks as we learned about The Life Cycle.

The First Grade Teachers

Mrs. McManus’s Class Fundraises for “Make-A-Wish”

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is an organization that grants the wishes of children suffering from serious illnesses. We have been very busy raising money for this great cause. So far, we have collected over $2,600!

We would love your help in trying to raise enough money to grant a wish to a child in need. We recently held a “Story Hour” on Thursday, April 7th, and are selling stars for our Make-A-Wish bulletin board. We respectfully request, if at all possible, that our Flower Hill families continue to return empty bottles and cans and donate the proceeds to this worthy cause. Thank you for your continuing support and contributions to the…….

Mrs. McManus’s Class
**Second Grade Highlights**

March was a busy and exciting month. The second graders have been busy little bees. Their participation in “PARP” was a great achievement for the entire grade. Everyone’s participation was celebrated. We would like to thank all the parents that helped encourage their child to participate. We also celebrated St. Patrick’s Day at Barnes and Noble book store. The children listened to stories, sang songs, and enjoyed the orchestra. Also, the Science Fair was a great success. Their projects were wonderful. Each project displayed the scientific method that the children were learning in the classroom.

Language Arts is an important component of our core curriculum. Please have your child continue to read on a daily basis. It is important that children not only read during the school day, but also read at home. Time spent reading at home can include having your child read to you as well as reading aloud to your child. Also, ask your child questions, such as, who are the characters? Where does the story take place? Does the story have a problem? This ensures if your child comprehends the story.

Math is also an important component of our curriculum. We have begun our math unit, which includes 2-digit and 3-digit subtracting with regrouping. These strategies will also be applied to solve word problems. Please continue practicing counting money, telling time and reviewing math facts with your child.

In science we are beginning our next unit, which include Interactions of Living Things and Plants and seeds. We are also thrilled about our Social Studies unit. We will begin learning about “Our Country Today” and also begin preparing to travel the world learning about our country for international night. We will be reading fiction and non-fiction books about our different countries and collecting fascinating information. Thanks for your continuing support. It’s greatly appreciated!!

**The Second Grade Teachers**

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**Third Grade Highlights**

Our Science Fair is right around the corner! As our classroom experiments are concluding, the classes will see how the final project board is to look as a completed project. Hope to see you on Science Night, March 29.

All third graders are now in the midst of multiplication in the math series. Please continue practicing and memorizing the basic facts. Shortly, new units will be introduced to our students that will elaborate on what they already know (more complicated multiplication and division).

READ-READ-READ! Introduce different genres to your child: biographies, history, science, realistic-fiction, and poetry, just to name a few. Talk to your children about the books they are reading, ask questions too. Have your child predict why the author wrote the piece and discuss the storyline; is there a lesson to be learned, how do the characters behave throughout the story (do the behaviors change—why or why not?)

NEVER STOP LEARNING!!!!! ENJOY THE KNOWLEDGE!!!

**The Third Grade Teachers**

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**Jump Rope for Gym!**

Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success! We thank everyone from the Flower Hill School community, who came together and raised over $4000 for this cause, which was well above our expectations.

A fun time was had by all—jumping to the music—while simultaneously working our little hearts out! Congratulations to all participants who took the time and effort to look outside of themselves to help others.

**Mrs. Conlon and Mr. Giani**
Last month during P.A.R.P., the PTA and the Library worked on some wonderful activities for the students. This year’s theme was “Get Wild About Reading!” All of the classes were assigned a “wildlife animal.”

The kindergarten classes heard The Cat in the Hat (By: Dr. Seuss) and a book about March (By: Robyn Brode). The Kindergartners also heard the story of Jeremy Bean’s St. Patrick’s Day (By: Alice Schertle) and the biography of Theodor Seuss Geisel/Dr. Seuss.

The first grades saw a cool website on the SmartBoard about different characters from several of Dr. Seuss’ wonderful books. A book entitled St. Patrick’s Day (By: Bob Reese) was also read to the first graders. The book about Harriet Tubman (By: Lori Mortensen) was also read to our first graders.

The second graders heard a story entitled A Leprechaun’s St. Patrick’s Day (By: Sarah Blazek) and a story about Harriet Beecher Stowe, in celebration of Women’s Heritage Month. The biography of George Washington Carver (By: Patricia and Fredrick McKissack) and Mary McLeod Bethune- A Great Teacher (By: Patricia and Fredrick McKissack) were also read to the second graders.

The third graders heard St. Patrick’s Day in the Morning (By: Eve Bunting). Dr. Seuss’ Hooray for Diffendoofer Day! was also read to the third graders. In addition, a third grade website was used to talk about all of the wonderful events that occur in the month of March. The biography of Harriet Tubman (By: Lori Mortensen) was also shared with our third graders.

The fourth graders heard a story about Alexander Graham Bell and his wonderful “telephone” invention. The fourth graders were able to tell about “other” inventions that came from the telephone. A wonderful story entitled Sally Ride- Astronaut, Scientist, and Teacher (By: Pamela Hill Nettleton) was also shared with our fourth graders. The book entitled Shamrock, Harps, and Shillelaghs: the story of the St. Patrick’s Day symbols (By: Edna Barth) was another reading treat for the fourth graders.

Please remember to read to your child each and every day!

Yours in Reading,
Mrs. Smith