Flower Hill Happenings

Marlon C. Small

Message from the Principal

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy new year.

Upcoming Flower Hill Events!

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<td>MLK School Closed</td>
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<td>Grade 3 MATH Mock Assessment</td>
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Students of the Month

Congratulations to: Sophia Thompson, Sammy Mac Arner, Natalie Dunn, Emily Roberts, Manuel Aviles, Ryan McGarrity, Karla Mungia-Avila, Kyle Colleluori, Christopher Segreti, Carly Cogan, Michael Mathews, Chas Forte, Alexa Aviles, Caroline Carrello, Kyndal Archer, Chris Wright, Nephar Durand, Maria Verfenstein and Ava Giugliano.

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy new year.
Kindergarten Highlights

This month has been a very busy and exciting month for us at Flower Hill. We learned lots of interesting facts about Penguins and Antarctica. We had fun learning about the different types of Penguins. Our favorite is the Macaroni Penguin. We learned all about the season of winter. We were so happy when we saw snow and it started to feel like winter was here! We also learned about how some animals migrate, some hibernate, and some can survive the cold winters by preparing for it.

We are so amazed at how much we have learned from the beginning of the year! We started reading groups and we are starting to see all the skills we have worked on come together. We are practicing and learning our high frequency words and we are using those words in our writing. We are working on lots of stories during our Writer’s Workshop. We love creating them and sharing them with our peers.

We also learned about one of our heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King. What an amazing man! It was really interesting to learn about his life and how he made a difference in our country in a very peaceful way. He had an important message for us—judge each other by what’s on the inside not what’s on the outside! In our Math books we are beginning to learn how to add. We have been using our manipulatives to add with our friends.

Time really does fly when you are having so much fun learning! The Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade Highlights

The first graders have been very busy this month. In Math, we used math mountains and counting on to find the unknown partner. We continued to sharpen our addition and subtraction skills as well as solving word problems. In Social Studies, we learned about the holiday customs and traditions of different cultures.

The children have also been learning about nouns and verbs as well as effective reading and writing strategies. We also began our magnet unit in science, which the students have been enjoying immensely. The children did an amazing job on winter concert and Holiday Hop!

We wish all the Flower Hill families a happy and healthy 2011!
The First Grade Teachers

Library Literary Corner

Welcome to Flower Hill Library 101-2011! Last month during December, the Library classes enjoyed some great stories. During the month of January, all of the students will start the New Year off with a “bang”.

**UP COMING LIBRARY EVENTS**

Kindergarten students will hear a great story entitled P. Bear’s New Year’s Party (By: Paul Owen Lewis). The First Graders will enjoy a book entitled The Snowy Day (By: Ezra Jack Keats). The Second Grade story time will be Owl Moon (By: Jane Yolen). The Third Graders will start working on a series of research projects. The Fourth Grade classes will start writing simple “Library Book reports”.

Please remember for your “New Year’s Resolution to read to your children daily!”

Yours in books, Mrs. Smith
Second Grade Highlights

‘Tis the season to learn and be jolly for the second grade students at Flower Hill School. It has been a very exciting month! Each class invited parents to come in for a special gingerbread activity, which was a big hit! The children have explored the different holidays being celebrated this month through comparing and contrasting the elements within each holiday. They have enjoyed teacher read alouds, both fiction and nonfiction and developed creative writing pieces in response to these texts. Moreover, guided reading continues to be a daily and significant part of the curriculum. Some featured literature included: The Gingerbread Man, My Two Holidays, Lights of Winter, Light the Lights, and Old Befana.

In the midst of all this excitement, the children have been hard at work in all the content areas. In Math, they have been learning and sharing observations about geometry including triangles and quadrilaterals. In addition, the children have been extending their understanding of place value to the hundreds place and have learned several methods for adding 2-digit numbers.

In Social Studies, the children continue to explore communities and government. Science has focused on energy, gravity, vibration, and sound travel. All this knowledge will prepare the children to blast off into the upcoming solar system unit!

The Second Grade Teachers

Third Grade Highlights

Happy New Year! We hope everybody had a wonderful winter vacation! The winter months are going to be busy and exciting for our third graders! The children continue to make strong gains in their reading abilities by reading fiction and non-fiction stories as a class, as well as in their guided reading groups. Language Arts is a fundamental part of our school day. The skills being taught in this area are used and practiced throughout the entire curriculum!

In Math, the children are wrapping up a unit on rounding whole numbers and money amounts, estimation, comparing numbers and money amounts and solving word problems with too much or not enough information. This was a long and challenging unit and the children rose to the occasion! Next, we move on to geometric and numeric patterns!

In Social Studies the children continue to learn about government and communities. The children have shown great interest in these topics! Our third graders are excited to learn more about how our local and federal governments work to keep our communities safe.

Science is always a fun part of the school day! The children have been learning about the earth, land, and sea. These concepts are fascinating to the children, and they have shown enthusiasm about the facts they are learning. The children continue to conduct experiments and are becoming very familiar with using the scientific method!

Thank you for all your continued support! We know 2011 is going to be a great year!

The Third Grade Teachers
We hope this newsletter finds you well rested after the Holiday Break, and enjoying the New Year after spending time with friends and family. December proved to be a busy one for our fantastic fourth graders, so a break was well deserved!

In Science, the children strapped on their safety goggles to wrap up our "Mystery Matter" unit. The students worked beautifully in cooperative learning groups as they performed experiments that involved the properties of matter, as well as hypothesizing and observing chemical changes in various unknown substances. It was a pleasure to watch them in action!

Multiplication is still the underlying madness in Math, as the students are realizing they need to know those facts to tackle the long division concepts we touched upon this past month! The students will also be exploring division patterns, factors, multiples, and prime and composite numbers.

Our busy readers are plugging through the Treasures literacy program, enjoying the stories as a whole class, and in their guided reading groups. The students have been incorporating their knowledge of the use of transition words in writing by sequencing the events of stories they have read, and during Writer's Workshop when creating their own essays.

The highlights in Social Studies have been the continuation of map skills and a look into the early people of New York. Thanks to Mrs. Barth, some of our students got some hands-on experience with some Native American artifacts as they continue to learn about the Native Americans of New York.

The Sagamore Hill trip to see Teddy Roosevelt’s beautiful estate was enjoyed by Mrs. Barth/Mrs. Alexander’s class and Mrs. McManus’s class on a crisp fall day in early December. Mr. Lauter/Ms. de Bruin’s class was rescheduled due to a power outage at the estate, and they are looking forward to their visit on Friday January 7th. To put a positive spin on the cancelled trip, the students wrote some entertaining journal entries about why they thought the estate lost power. Was it Teddy Roosevelt’s ghost telling us he didn’t want company that day…….hmmmmm?

As always, thank you to our wonderful parents who support their children and the 4th grade teachers here at Flower Hill! All the best for a peaceful, happy, and healthy 2011!

The Fourth Grade Teachers