I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable winter break. I know we are all looking forward to spring, warmer days that lie ahead. With the school year moving so quickly, I would like to bring your attention to many of the exciting and important events that will be taking place at Flower Hill over the next few weeks.

First, PARP begins Monday, March 7th and ends on Friday, March 18th. This annual important event is sponsored by our PTA and is geared towards encouraging our parents to spend time reading with our students. As we all know, reading with our children can inspire in them a lifelong love for books and learning. I encourage you to use this time to show our students how reading can be interesting and fun. As part of this important event, please join us at our Barnes and Noble Book Fair on Thursday, March 17th. Also, please mark your calendars for our Math Night, which will be held on Thursday, March 10th.

Another event in the month of March is our Science Fair. The science Fair will take place on Tuesday, March 29th. All our students are invited to submit individual projects for the Science Fair. If your child is completing an individual project, he/she should bring it to school on March 28th. Additionally, our physical education teachers, Mrs. Conlon and Mr. Giani, will again facilitate our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser on March 31st and April 1st. This event will have our students engaged in physical activities as they raise funds to fight heart disease.

We hope you will be able to attend some of these events. As always we thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill.

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill STAR Students:
Angie Hernandez, Allison Malone, Khamiyia Elliot, Edward Valencia, Alexis Kaloudis, Alexandra Kustera, Fiorella Benitez-Arevalo, Emma Ca-hill, Daniel Cruz, Shakur May, Litzy Linares, Karley Mathews, Bryce Vitulli, John Lourenso, Katie Riley, Griffin Bluemer, Eylin Garciaguirre-Yanes, Maria Verfenstein and Jake Cordes. Keep up the good job!
**Kindergarten Highlights**

This month the kindergarteners are very busy with so many things! The students continue to enjoy centers, writer's workshop and guided reading.

In math, our new unit continues to practice number pairs (also called partners of numbers). Helping children see 5-groups and 10-groups enables them to understand larger (greater) numbers. The children are also learning that the teen numbers each have one 10 inside. Encourage your child to count and add groups of objects at home!

In Science we've been learning about dental health and nutrition. Students will have many hands on activities to emphasize cleanliness and how to prevent catching germs and getting sick!

In Social Studies we are celebrating Black History month by learning about important people in history. We will also discuss and learn about the presidents. We continue to study holidays, including Valentine’s Day, Chinese New Year and Groundhog Day!

Another exciting event during this month is the 100th day of school!! We will do many fun activities to celebrate that very important day!

**The Kindergarten Teachers**

**First Grade Highlights**

The 1st graders are enjoying their new spelling program and have become familiar with all of the activities and routines that the program involves.

As always, the children are busy with Guided Reading and Writers’ Workshop. Word Study has moved from word-solving to more vocabulary-based principles, and the children's stories in Writers’ Workshop reflect much more complexity and skill. Likewise, in Guided Reading, the groups are progressing nicely and are focusing more on comprehension skills.

We have started Volume Two of our Math books, in which we will develop graphing skills and learn about measurement. We will continue to develop the children’s math skills with adding and subtracting double digit numbers and counting money.

We celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 2nd. In Social Studies the children will continue to learn about traditions and celebrations, including those connected with St. Patrick’s Day.

We are all excited about our Field Trip on March 18th to the Engemann Theater in Northport to see the musical, “School House Rocks”. The show promises to be both educational and entertaining.

In Science, the first graders are hard at work on their projects for Science Night on March 29th. Also, we have begun to study weather and the change in seasons. It won’t be long before Spring arrives and the children will start thinking about becoming Second Graders!

**The First Grade Teachers**
March is an action packed month for our third graders. We look forward to many exciting science experiences. There will be Mad Science workshops in each classroom. Next, a Fire and Ice Science Spectacular Assembly will be presented in the gymnasium. We will end the month with our annual Science Fair on the 29th.

There will also be a field trip to School House Rock. Teachers continue to prepare students for the NYS ELA and Mathematics Assessments in May. Children need to study and memorize their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts daily. They should be reading every night.

Second grade students are becoming better readers and writers through exposure to different genres and techniques. It is important to introduce your child to a variety of books to help them discover what is out there. The school and public libraries are wonderful resources in our community. It is exciting to find a new book to read. If you need a suggestion, don’t hesitate to ask the teachers or librarians. Now let’s hope our little groundhog friend was accurate and some warm weather will be here soon for us to enjoy!

The fourth graders will continue to march forward in learning to sharpen their reading and writing skills as we prepare for the upcoming ELA State Tests in May. In Language Arts, we are enjoying persuading individuals in many ways through our persuasive paragraph writing. Can recycling be part of Flower Hill again? Could students have a lemonade stand during recess to raise money for an important cause? At present, our fourth grade representatives are actively encouraging students and their families, including faculty and staff to bring in toiletries for a local charity. There is still time to donate items if you can.

In math, we’ve learned some new concepts, such as prime numbers and composite numbers, written our own Fibonacci patterns while we still engage ourselves in multiplication and division problems. Two step word problems continue to challenge our students. Please encourage your child to read directions and word problems carefully and to check their work. We encourage the students to ask themselves if their solution is logical. The students enjoyed racing other children with math facts from around the world in honor of World Math Day. Flower Hill will have a Math Night on Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 P.M. All are welcomed! Please sign up.

Science again has been fun for all! We are engaged in learning how to build different circuits and could a lemon really conduct electricity? We are brainstorming about an experiment which will be conducted in the classroom to share at our annual science fair scheduled for Tuesday, March 29. In social studies, we continue to read and learn many things about old New York and the many important people that have helped develop this great state. We recently read interesting biographies on George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, too!

The Third Grade Teachers

The Second Grade Teachers

The Fourth Grade Teachers
Flower Hill Library had a “Fabulous February” last month. During February all of the students heard some great biography stories.

The kindergarten classes heard the biographies of Colin Powell - Former Secretary of State (By: Mary Hill) and Martin Luther King, Jr. - Man of Peace (By: Pamela Walker). They also heard a story about Groundhog Day (By: Amy Margaret) and Little Mouse’s Big Valentine (By: Thacher Hurd).

The first graders heard two biographies- George W. Bush, Former President of the United States (By: Mary Hill) and Colin Powell (By: Mary Hill). They also heard the story of Franklin’s Valentine (By: Paulette Bourgeois) and Presidents’ Day (By: Amy Margaret).

The second graders also heard two biographies- Madam C. J. Walker (By: Patricia and Fredrick McKissack) and The Picture Book of Harriet Beecher Stowe. The classes also heard a story about Presidents’ Day (By: Amy Margaret).

The third graders heard two stories dealing with Black History Month. The titles were Sojourner Truth (By: Patricia and Fredrick McKissack) and Jackie Robinson (By: Cynthia Amoroso and Robert B. Noyed). The third graders also enjoyed a Valentine’s Book entitled The Ballad of Valentine (By: Alison Jackson).

The fourth graders also enjoyed several stories this month. The titles were—Jesse Owens (By: Patricia and Fredrick McKissack) and Madam C.J. Walker (By: Patricia and Fredrick McKissack). The fourth graders also worked on a Valentine’s lesson on the SmartBoard.

Next month all of the schools across America are celebrating the following events—(1.) Women’s History Month, (2.) Dr. Seuss’ Birthday (March 2, 2011), (3.) National Craft Month, (4.) National Nutrition Month, (5.) Alexander Graham Bell’s Birthday - March 3rd, 1847), (6.) National Grammar Day (March 4, 2011), (7.) Iditarod 2011 begins - March 5, 2011), (8.) Michelangelo’s Birthday -March 6, 1475). Please remember to read to your children everyday.

Yours in Reading,
Mrs. Smith

Kindergarten Registration Information

It’s that time of year again! The Huntington School District will be conducting kindergarten registration on the following dates: March 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, 30th and 31st. To receive a registration packet, please call Noreen Hernandez at the Central Registration Office. You can schedule an appointment with Ms. Hernandez by calling 673-2974.