



Flower Hill Happenings

Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050 •
Hours: 8:45am - 3:05pm November/December 2011

Message from the Principal

This is a wonderful time of the year for the Flower Hill School community. In addition to the curriculum and the academic demands that are being placed on our students, it is a time when our students are engaged in activities that reflect the true meaning of the holiday season.


I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families who participated in our annual Food Drive during the month of November. Your generous donations enabled us to continue our tradition of extending a helping hand to needy families in our community around this time of the year. It also demonstrated to our students the true gift of this season is the gift of giving.

As the Month of December draws closer to the end, we look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Concert on December 22. You should have already received a notice from our music teacher indicating the times the grade level concert will be held. We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration.

December is also a reminder that the winter season is upon us. Please ensure that our students are dressed appropriately for the weather each day. During the winter months, our students will have outdoor recess each day, unless the temperature and weather conditions are unsafe.

From all of us at Flower Hill, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season!!

Upcoming Flower Hill Events for December

FH BOOK FAIR	12/13 - 12/14
FH WINTER WORKSHOP	12/14
FH WINTER CONCERT	12/22
WINTER RECESS SCHOOL CLOSED	12/23 - 1/3
	Nov Star students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students:

Odalis Matas-Lazo; Nicholas Sclafani, Dashiell Ramirez; Alexandra Walleshauser; Ava Giugliano; Annika Galvin; Valencia Delva; Sol Mayra Rodriguez; Ryan Boutin; Lianette Gonzalez-Cortes; Ireny Veliz-Garcia; Jennifer Escobar; Manuel Aviles; Trevan Megher; Tony Callery; Madelyn Diaz-Portillo; Danny Stevens; Amanda Blitz; Molly Kessler; Patrick Sclafani & Natalie Ciccone

Great job!!!!



Kindergarten Highlights



The kindergartners were very busy during the month of November. We learned all about bus safety rules and had a special visit from Buster the talking bus! We learned about the first Thanksgiving, the pilgrims and Native Americans. In reading we explored themes such as Friends, Transportation, and food. We talked about authors, illustrators, characters, and settings as we read big books and trade books. We also discussed beginning, middle and ending of stories. The children are learning about the characteristics of non fiction and fiction books. Some of our sight words are I, a, the, go, to, like, my, can, we, and see. We have been writing in our journals every week and we are beginning to write stories during Writer's Workshop. In math we have been exploring numbers 1-10. We practiced writing numerals and worked on math stories. We have also been learning about patterning, estimating, and adding. The children have been listening to different versions of the *Gingerbread Man* and we are planning a special *Gingerbread House* party. Please remember to read all the books we make at school and place them in your Bedtime Book bag for nightly reading. Have a wonderful holiday!!!

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



We would like to thank all the parents that were able to attend "Poems and Pies". It was exciting to see the children speak and sing in front of a live audience. On November 28th the children had their first Public Speaking Workshop with Heather Thorgersen. Three more workshops will be scheduled for our first graders. In Language Arts we continue to work on writing complete sentences using proper capitalization and punctuation. We now know that a sentence must contain a noun. Each week the children are exposed to more high frequency words. We learned all our short vowels as well as some blends.

During November and December the first graders are working on two science units - the Properties Unit exploring Solids, Liquids and Gases and our unit on Magnets! Math Mountains have been introduced; however, we encourage the children to show their work using circle drawings or number sentences if they are more comfortable with that.

We know that December will fly by as we incorporate some holiday traditions into our Social Studies teaching and continue to work hard becoming better readers and writers. Happy Holidays to all!

The First Grade Teachers



Second Grade Highlights



November was a wonderfully busy month in second grade. It was a pleasure to meet and discuss how your children have been doing so far this year during conferences. We are seeing progress in a short amount of time. In math we completed our unit on word problems using addition and subtraction. We also studied parallel lines and parallelograms. Election Day was an opportunity for the students to learn about voting and why we elect our leaders. We practiced a variety of comprehension strategies while reading including summarizing, retelling, inferencing, and rereading.

We are looking forward to another exciting month. In December we will study Native Americans, geography, and winter holidays. In science we are going to study energy and motion. In math we will learn how to add two-digit numbers. The students will continue reading and writing in different genres. We are eagerly anticipating creating our gingerbread houses later this month. Look for your assignments in a note from the teacher. It will be a special activity for the students. Have a wonderful holiday!!!

The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



The month of November has been a busy one for our third graders! The students have worked hard in all areas and should be congratulated for their efforts. December always promises to be fun filled and exciting, and the children are excited to celebrate the holiday season.

In English language arts, the children are working on identifying main idea and details while reading. In math, our students have learned all about Math Mountains, comparison bars, and how to solve multi-step word problems! In social studies we continue to learn about communities and local government. The students have enjoyed learning about being a good citizen! In fact, the entire third grade has decided to work together to help the "Make a Wish" foundation in hopes of raising enough money to grant a wish for a child in need! Science has been lots of fun also! We have just about finished up our unit on buoyancy and the water cycle.

The third graders wrapped up the first quarter with great success! We look forward to an exciting December and New Year! Happy Holidays!

The third Grade Teachers



Fourth Grade Highlights



Our recent field trip to the DNA Learning Center and Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum provided us with an excellent snapshot of Long Island's rich history and all the wonderful resources it has to offer.

This December, we'll continue to learn about Long Island's history. Peggy Lowe of the Huntington Arts Council will be presenting a "Native American Treasure Chest" to our students. This program will compliment our class study of Native American culture.

Our math focus in December will be advanced multiplication and division, such as a one-digit number multiplied by two, three or four-digit numbers. As previously mentioned, knowledge of multiplication facts will give the students the edge they need to be successful.

Our fourth graders have had an enjoyable time conducting our hands-on science unit on matter. Speaking of conducting, our next hands-on unit, after the New Year, will feature electrical circuits and working with conductors and insulators.

Of course there'll be some holiday activities scheduled this month too. On December 22nd, the students will star in our winter concert.

The fourth grade staff wishes all of our families a wonderful holiday season!!!!



Library Literary Corner



Although this is my 17th year as a librarian in the Huntington School District, this is my first year as Flower Hill's librarian. I am the travelling librarian between Flower Hill and Southdown, which has been a big change for me personally as well as for the library program at both schools.

I know there has been some confusion regarding our Book Exchange schedule so I hope the following information helps to explain how Book Exchange works. Book Exchange allows any child who was absent or forgot his or her library book to return and choose a new book without having to wait another week or more until their next scheduled library class. The library is open for Book Exchange every Tuesday, Wednesday and alternating Mondays. Flower Hill Mondays are on the "B" weeks (Southdown is on an "A" week schedule). To help everyone understand which Monday I am at Flower Hill, Monday, December 5th was a "B" Monday and the next "B" Monday will be December 19th. The schedule does not change, even when there is a holiday on a Monday - the only exceptions are holiday weeks for school vacations. I know it seems confusing but it just takes a little getting used to - so far I haven't gone to the wrong school on the wrong day and it's already December!

I am so grateful to the Flower Hill School community who welcomed me in September. We already have three moms who are volunteering for Book Exchange which makes the library run more efficiently and makes for a great team effort.

As with any new venture, there are changes and things do not happen overnight. New books have been ordered and the children seem to be adjusting to me and my way of leading them down the path of independent library users. As I told the older children at the start of the school year, I was just like a new kindergarten child arriving on the first day of school. I have had to adjust to a new library and almost 450 new names to learn but I know we have embarked on a wonderful new adventure together.

Keep reading to and with your child. Encourage your children to read every day and let them see you reading as well. Children learn by example - the best advertising to encourage reading is for your children to see you reading, whether it is a newspaper, magazine or novel. Try to make reading a family activity.

Until next time, HAPPY READING! Ellen Blanchard



Notes from Nurse Pirola



I will be starting vision and hearing screenings as required by NYS Education Law. The purpose of this requirement is to detect any vision or hearing problems that may impede a student's learning. If the results of the screening indicate that your child requires further follow-up, you will receive written notification. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



Nurse, Diana Pirola

