



FLOWER HILL HAPPENINGS



Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050 •
Hours: 8:45am - 3:05pm March/April 2012

Message from the Principal

I am always amazed at this time of year at how fast the school year is progressing. It's hard to believe it, but the third marking period for the school year will end on Friday, April 13th. Parents will receive student report cards on April 20th.


As you are also aware, our students will be on spring vacation April 4th - 10th. When they return from vacation, the beginning of the New York State testing season will be upon us. Please note that the New York State ELA will be administered to our third and fourth graders April 17th - 19th. The math assessment will be administered April 25th-27th. Our fourth graders will take the NYS Science Assessment the week of May 29th. We are asking that our families take note of these important dates, and ensure that our students are in school on the days these important assessments are being administered. Our teachers and students have been working hard in preparation for these assessments. We know that with your continued support we can give our students the skills and strategies they will need to be successful.

In addition to all the work we have been doing as it relates to testing, our students have also been engaged in other programs/activities that have been exciting for them. We would like to thank all our families for the support you provided during our PARP celebration March 5th - 16th. We are also appreciative for your help and support with our Science Fair, which was held on March 27th. Both events were hugely successful, and we know this was as a result of the tremendous support our students received at home.

Again, thank you for all you do to support our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill. Enjoy the spring vacation!!

Thank you.

Upcoming Flower Hill Events for April

Spring Recess	4/4-4/10
Spring Pictures	4/12
"VIP" Night Daddy & Me	4/19
	<i>March Star students of the Month</i>

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Harry Alba; Dianna Diaz-Portillo; Ben Ciuffetelli; Michael Sgrizzi; Jack Morreale; Bryan Schneider; Jonathan Cruz-Gonzalez; Katie Meagher; Wilson Gonzalez-Garcia; Fiorella Benitez-Arevalo; Alyson Baker; Di'Asia Davis; Liam Lennon; Taraina Augustin; Aiden Lefebvre; Isaiah Williams; Danielle Brite; Solangy Cisneros; Muhsin Muslim; Catherine Jamison; Cole Pillion; Stephanie Bermudez-Rivera; Michael Cataldo; Jack Flores and Cenia Flores-Valasquez.

Great job!!!!



Kindergarten Highlights

The kindergartners started March off with the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. We shared our favorite books, took part in many Dr. Seuss writing and reading activities and to top it off, we had a pajama party! We have been working hard in guided reading groups and we are making so much progress. The children are also writing stories during writers' workshop. We continue to practice these skills everyday.

In math we have been working on geometry, addition, teen numbers, tens and ones and we are getting ready to explore subtraction. We had a great time working on our science fair projects. We researched the germination of seeds and the properties of bubbles. It was a great educational experience and we had fun at the same time.

We are excited about learning all about Eric Carle in April. We will be taking part in many activities that showcase his writing and illustrating. We will share our projects on curriculum night in May. Some of the books we will be reading are The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Tiny Seed, The Grouchy Ladybug, and House for Hermit Crab. We will also begin planting at this time. We would like to thank all the parents for their continued support. Please continue to read, write, and practice sight words with your child. Happy Spring!

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



Our 1st graders continue to master many new skills and strategies while they develop as learners. In reading we are completing Treasures Unit 4 which focused on retelling and identifying the main idea and details in reading selections. Our grammar lessons covered nouns and verbs, along with identifying the past and present tenses of regular and irregular verbs. In Unit 5 we will introduce cause/effect, adjectives and synonyms and antonyms.

Early in March we attended a wonderful production of "Schoolhouse Rocks" at the Engeman Theater in Northport. This show contained songs which highlighted many of our grammar and Social Studies lessons. The children truly enjoyed this theater experience.

In Social Studies, many of our students have been working on reports about famous Americans. In honor of Black History month and Women's History month, the children have been sharing these reports with their classmates. Our PARP theme, "Reading Around the World" also provided opportunities for additional Social Studies activities.

In Math, we are working on making comparisons using graphs, tables and measurements. We will also explore solid shapes, and introduce fractions, clocks and units of time.

Now that Spring has arrived we are busy with new Science topics including "Weather" and "Plants and Seeds" all while preparing for the Science Fair! We are busy, busy, busy!

The 1st Grade Teachers



Second Grade Highlights



Recently the second grade classes were privileged to have a scientist visit Flower Hill and share his knowledge about The Marvels of Motion. Now we look forward to classroom lessons and hands on projects related to The Science of Toys.

As we continue studying our Language Arts program, new themes are introduced to our students. Completing Let's Create and now focusing on Better Together, children are exposed to a variety of author styles and genres. Never stop reading!!!

Our second graders are being immersed in several types of strategies to solve word problems. As the children strengthen their reading skills, they will be able to read and understand the math situations. Keep encouraging your children to practice math facts.

Lastly, we all welcome spring. Even though our winter was mild, we are happy to see the first signs of the new season. Have you spotted any new sprouts or heard the sounds of birds twittering?! HAPPY SPRING !!

The 2nd Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



In March, 3rd grade had a very eventful month. We started the month raising a little over \$200.00 during story hour for Make-A-Wish. We had a good number of students that participated, the older students read and the younger children listened and looked at the pictures.

We eagerly attended a Northport theater production of School House Rocks, it was very age appropriate and the students were singing and bopping along as they reviewed school work through songs and skits. It was a great day had by all!

In mid-March, we participated in the school wide PARP assembly and even had DEAR (drop everything and read) time in our own classrooms to encourage reading, for those students that could not read at home.

Lastly, we had Mad Science workshops in our classrooms that had students engaged and learning about simple machines and how they work. Students even took home a kit that they could put together at home.

In the wonderful month of April which brings about Earth day and is celebrated on April 22nd, we look forward to recycling our cans and bottles.

Mrs. McManus is collecting for Make-a- Wish and Ms. Sabogal is raising money in her class recycle bin for the rainforests. These activities have created a great sense of community awareness of others and allowed us to practice our money counting skills.

In science, we look forward to learning about the life cycle of animals and plants through: ducks, geese and butterflies.

Finally, as we get ready for fourth grade, Mr. Malle will be holding sax and percussion try-outs towards the end of the month.

We applaud the students for their hard work during these very busy months.

The 3rd Grade Teachers



Fourth Grade Highlights



Fourth graders enjoyed watching their classmates writing piece performed by Child's Play Touring Theatre and sponsored by the Arts-in-Education.

Students and teachers are working very hard preparing for the upcoming NYS Assessments (ELA, Math and Science). Test preparation is part of each day.

In math, students are learning to add and subtract fractions. They are also learning decimals and place value.

Science has been exciting. We have become electrical engineers in our Electricity and Circuits Unit. Students have been learning how to construct electrical circuits and draw wiring diagrams using symbols. We also have been experiencing lots of fun with our classroom "science fair" projects using the scientific method.

In social studies we are studying Life in Colonial New York.

Although P.A.R.P. greatly motivated the children to read, reading should be part of your child's evening ritual. Reading each night is strongly encouraged. Some good strategies you can practice with your child while reading; there are clues in titles, subheadings and pictures, making predictions, looking for facts and opinions, author's purpose (to inform, entertain or persuade), characters, setting, problem, solution and underlining important details. Most importantly, we want children to develop a love of reading, so have fun!

The 4th Grade Teachers



Library Literary Corner



April has arrived and with it so many signs of spring and renewal. It is also a literary month when librarians celebrate School Library Month - a celebration that began in 1985 with a national observance and celebration of school librarians and their programs. Simply put, we celebrate the essential role that strong library programs play in a student's educational career. My personal goal as a school librarian has always been to teach my students to become independent users of the library and information. If I can provide a learning environment for those students to succeed and continue to learn outside of the library, then I feel I am working toward that goal.

The week of April 8th-14th is designated as National Library Week, a week that is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries to celebrate the contributions of our libraries and librarians and to promote and support library use. I saw a bookmark recently that stated "a library card is the smartest card in your wallet" and I am always telling the children that a library card is even better than a credit card. Please take advantage of all your local public library has to offer - their monthly newsletter is full of wonderful programs for children and adults or you can access all information on their website www.huntingtonlibrary.org

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the wonderful moms who have been volunteering in the library this year, helping to shelve books and keep the library running efficiently. This is a team effort and their helping hands are very much appreciated each and every day they lend a hand. Thank you to Bianca Beck, Amy Fives, Christiane Flewelling and Gretchen Hannon (a former Southdown mom who follows me from Southdown to Flower Hill to lend a hand!).

The month of May will arrive with Children's Book Week, May 7th-13th. If you are a lover of books and reading, please access www.bookweekonline.com to learn more about this celebration of books and reading for children sponsored by the Children's Book Council. When you are on the website, have your children vote for the 2012 Children's Choice Book Awards. This is the only national book award where the winners are chosen by children!

Until next time, HAPPY READING! Ellen Blanchard



Notes from Nurse Pirola



Kindergarten registration is under way and we are planning for the 2012-2013 school year.

Just a reminder that all students entering kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th grade are required to have a physical exam. Forms will be sent home in June. If your child has a scheduled annual physical before then, you can request a form from my office or print one off the website. A doctor's office form is also acceptable. Completed forms can be handed into the nurse's office anytime throughout the year.

I am in the process of testing students for vision and hearing. If any difficulty is detected a referral form will be sent home.

If you have any questions about vision and hearing tests or annual physicals, please contact me at my new direct line (631) 673-2058.

Diana Pirola, School Nurse