



FLOWER HILL HAPPENINGS

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

Message from the Principal

As the old saying goes "time flies when you are having fun." I sincerely hope our students are having fun each day, while learning, because the month of February marks the start of the second half of the school year.

Everyone should have received report cards for the second marking period. The report cards are meant to communicate the academic and behavior progress our students have made thus far for the school year. Our teachers have gathered significant academic data on our students at this point of the year.

During the month of January, they conducted mid-year assessments. The data from these assessments will be used to provide support to our students and guide classroom instruction for the remainder of the year. If parents are concerned about how our students are doing, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher so that critical information can be shared and strategies to support our students can be developed. A true partnership between home and school is an important element of student success.

Please take note of the many important and exciting events that are on the horizons. Our 4th grade Winter Concert will be on the 15th of February. PARP will be celebrated in March, and we will have our Science Fair in March as well. We look forward to your involvement in these events as they arrive. As always, thanks for all the support you give our teachers, students and programs at Flower Hill. I would be remiss if I didn't also give a special thank you to the Flower Hill PTA for its donation of a Smartboard/projector to our students and faculty. Your generosity and support help to make our school a great place to work and learn.

Thank you.

Upcoming Flower Hill Events for February

FH TALENT SHOW	2/3—7:00PM
4TH GRADERS VISIT WOODHULL 4TH GRADE WINTER CONCERT	2/10 2/15
MID WINTER RECESS SCHOOL CLOSED	2/20—2/24
★ ★ ★	<i>Jan Star students of the Month</i>

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Tess Calabria, Victoria Waters, Kornel Toth, Brooke Parks, Germain Thomas, Karen Maldonado,

Jason Hernandez-Aparicio, Sophia Thompson, Shelsea Castillo, Isaac Swaab, Nia Sakellaropoulos, Gian Marco Vazquez, Emily Roberts, Aryanna Galloza, Kevin Campos, Grace McKean, Aaron Chin, Chloe Wheeler, Nicholas Bavaro, Ronan McCormack, Nicholas Lomler, Caroline Carrello, William Suarez & Natalia Stamatatos.

Great job!!!!



Kindergarten Highlights



Happy New Year! The kindergartners have been buzzing about newly learned topics. We learned about penguins and their habitats. The students listened to many penguin books and connected the stories to previously learned information. In reading we have been learning about *Neighborhoods*, *People and Places* and *Neighborhood Workers*. We will begin *Weather* in the weeks to come. Our focus will be on *Kinds of Weather*, *Seasons*, and *How Weather Affects Us*. We will be integrating Science as we discuss the theme of weather. We continue to read big books and trade books related to each theme and incorporate Social Studies lessons into our objectives. We continue to work on beginning, middle, and ending sounds of words. We have been practicing starting our sentences with capitals and ending with periods. Our journals continue to include relevant sentences and matching illustrations. In math we have been mastering numbers 1-10 and continue to explore teen numbers. We continue to practice patterning, estimating and addition. Students will also participate in 100 Days of School projects and lessons this month. The kindergartners participated in an Arts-in-Education lesson entitled "A Tale of Two Teddies" during the first week of February. Please continue to complete homework nightly and read all of the books made at school! Thank you for your cooperation and have a wonderful mid-winter recess!

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



This month the first graders are very busy with so many things! The students continue to enjoy centers, writer's workshop and guided reading. Our next big step in our Treasures Reading Program will be the start of our spelling program!

In math, our new unit continues to practice with ten-groups as they begin performing simple addition with tens and ones. Students apply this knowledge to the real world by learning about money. Also in the unit children learn to add ten to any 2-digit number (38+10, for example). Then they learn to add multiple tens (38+40, for example). Children extend their work with tens and ones by using coins to solve addition problems. Encourage your child to count coins at home! In Science, we've been learning about magnets. Students have had many hands on activities during centers! In Social Studies we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day and learned so many interesting and important things about him. We will continue to study Famous African Americans through the month of February for Black History Month. We also continue to study holidays, including the Chinese New Year and upcoming Valentine's Day! Another exciting event coming up is the 100th day of school!! We will do many fun activities to celebrate that very important day!

The First Grade Teachers



Second Grade Highlights



In our Language Arts program, the second graders have been sampling different genres of literature. The focus has been on finding main ideas, summarizing, inferring, sequencing, and identifying characters, settings, problems and solutions. We are learning and practicing the conventions of good writing. Please encourage your child to reread homework sentences to find errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar.

The children are progressing in our Math program with regrouping, money and time. We are also learning about making and interpreting different kinds of graphs. Please have your child continue to memorize addition and subtraction facts to 20, as well as practice counting money and telling time.

In Science we have been studying about energy and motion. We will soon begin to learn about solids, liquids and gases. All of this knowledge will prepare the students to blast off into the upcoming solar system unit.

In Social Studies we examined through literature Dr. Martin Luther King's message of peace and fairness. We continue to explore geography, including continents, oceans and understanding maps. In addition, we are learning about the important people and events that have shaped our country.

We are looking forward to a fabulous February!!!!

The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



We received conflicting reports from the groundhogs this year. Lately it seems as if spring is already here!

The children have taken another mock ELA exam and a mock math test in preparation for the state tests in the spring. We continue to review and strengthen skills in order to be successful.

February will be an extremely busy month. We have many exciting activities and holidays to celebrate. President's Day, Valentine's Day, and our 100th day of school all fall in the month.

The children continue to explore many genres of reading in our Treasures series. They are involved in small group guided reading activities as well as conferences for writing activities. The children have come so far since September! In math, the children are hard at work in a chapter in multiplication and division. This will require much memorization and practice! The math book introduces several fun games to help learn multiplication and division facts. Why not play a game or two? In science, we are beginning to discuss the scientific process. We are preparing for many fun experiments that will lead us to the Science Fair later in March. We are also learning about the Sun, Moon, and Earth in our science books. In Social Studies, we will be studying time lines, the United States Presidents, and Black History Month. We are getting the Hall of Presidents ready in the third grade wing. Coming soon will be a unit on economics, resources, and trade. Thank you to everyone who either contributed or baked for the "Make-a-Wish" bake sale. It was a huge success!!! We raised \$330.00 for this worthy cause.

Have a wonderful February!

The Third Grade Teachers



Fourth Grade Highlights



The fourth graders began the New Year in math with reviewing multiplication and division facts. Now they are learning cross multiplication and long division. Teaching different strategies offers our students many ways to solve a problem. Students have been using base ten blocks, drawing diagrams and the standard computation to find an answer. Get ready... decimal points and fractions are just around the bend. We have just completed our mock Math Test and we're looking forward to seeing the progress our children have made and directing our teaching toward their needs.

We have received the next science kit - Electricity and Circuits! Get ready for your students to get excited and perhaps spark some interest in becoming electrical engineers!

Just recently, each fourth grader had the opportunity to participate in the Child's Play Touring Theatre Writing Project, which is sponsored by the Arts-in-Education. Writing pieces were submitted under the topic "Do the Write Thing". The students are eagerly waiting to see if their entry will be the winner. Stay tuned!

Our 4th graders will enjoy their visit to Woodhull on Friday, February 10 to take a tour of the building and see the performance of "Aladdin". On Wednesday, February 15 our students combined with Washington Primary Students will perform together in a winter evening concert at the high school. Don't forget your camera!

Fourth Grade Teachers



Library Literary Corner



As I turn the calendar to a new month, February, I realize the 100th day of school is fast approaching which also means the school year is more than half gone. The children have settled into the new library schedule and it has been a very rewarding experience here at my "new home".

I have changed the library book checkout period from one week to two weeks due to the every other week schedule for kindergarten and first grade classes. Every Wednesday overdue book notices or "library love letters" are sent home to let you know your child's library book is overdue. These notices are merely meant to let you know your child did not bring home a library book because a book was not returned. The notices are computer generated whenever a book is two or more weeks overdue. If there are ever any questions regarding the status of your child's library book, please do not hesitate to send a note to my attention.

New books have arrived - it's like having a birthday with lots of wonderful, new, shiny books to look at and read. The assortment includes biographies of presidents and authors; non-fiction animals, weather, Native Americans, sports, pets and more; lots of picture books and several new fiction series. Everything should be ready for check-out when we return after February vacation.

Our Parents as Reading Partners Program will be here before we know it. March looks to be an exciting reading time here at Flower Hill. I understand there are mystery readers and special fun activities to do at home and I have already heard about the amazing Book Swap. Reading for a minimum of 15 minutes is all that is required to participate in Flower Hill's PARP Program. Keep watching your child's backpack, as we get closer to the start of P.A.R.P., for all the important information needed to join our reading team here at Flower Hill.

Keep reading to and with your child. Get into the routine of reading for a minimum of 15 minutes per day for P.A.R.P. Discover the joy of reading together - curl up with a good book on a cold winter's night. Spring will be here before we know it!

Until next time, HAPPY READING! Ellen Blanchard



Notes from Nurse Pirolo



I will continue with 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.

It is still time to get your flu shots, please visit your family doctor!!

Nurse, Diana Pirolo

