It is hard to believe, but we are quickly approaching the half-way mark for 2013-14 school year. It seems like the first day of school was just yesterday when we welcomed our students to the start of the new school year. Since then, things have been moving rather rapidly.

The month of November was a busy one for the Flower Hill School community. We ended our first marking period, and our teachers and parents were engaged in conferences regarding our students' progress thus far. We also marked American Education Week by having parents visit our classrooms to see first-hand the teaching and learning process in action. These two important events represent an important component of our efforts to build a strong partnership between home and school. I would like to thank our parents who were able attend both or either one of those events. I encourage all our parents to remain involved and engaged throughout the year, as our students stand to be the beneficiaries of a close working relationship between our teachers and their parents.

During the month of November, we also had our Thanksgiving Food Drive. I am proud to report that we collected a significant amount of food items that were donated to the Helping Hands Mission. I would like to thank our families for your support and generosity with this important cause. Your kindness, during this season of giving, helped families in our community to have a happy Thanksgiving. It also provided our students with a tangible lesson about sharing and citizenship at this time of the year.

As we look towards the remaining days in the month of December, I would like to remind you of our PTA's Book Fair that will be held on December 10th and 11th. Our winter concert will be on December 20th for grades 1-4. We hope to see you in the building for these events. Also, December has a way of reminding us that winter is approaching. Please ensure that our students are dressed appropriately for the weather each day. They will have outdoor recess, unless the temperature and weather conditions are unsafe.

As always, I thank you for your cooperation and your continuous support of our students, teachers and programs at Flower Hill. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I wish you and yours a very wonderful holiday season.

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Christopher Butler; Jeremy Allen, Maximo Andrade; Belinda Velasquez Maldonado; Isabella Rodriguez; Melanie Carrillo; Valentina Maldonado-Martinez; Ella Ackerman; Henry Koelmel; Casey DiGiobia; Kimberly Panameno; Raymond Cumella; Kaci McDonald; Gianna Forte; Leah Sheran; Benjamin Weissman; Morgan Colleluori; Emily Roberts and Grace McCallion
Great Job!!!
Kindergarten Highlights

In November, the kindergartners were very busy. In Language Arts, we read and discussed stories such as "What do you Like?, Friends all Around, Simon, Molly and Hester, The Bus for Us and Duck on a Bike." The children learned the difference between fiction and non-fiction. They learned about characters, setting, beginning, middle and endings in a story. The letters we concentrated on were S, P and T, and our high frequency words were a, like, see and go. In math we focused on the numbers 1-10. We counted using our fingers, counters and cubes. We are consistently working with 5 and 10 frames during math lessons. Some of the math vocabulary consisted of "greater than, less than and equal."

We also had special visitors during the month of November. The children were so excited to meet "Buster the Bus" and learn all about bus safety. They were also happy to have parents visit and help at Thanksgiving centers for American Education Week. At the end of the month Teepee Ted, a naturalist and Native American expert came to our classes for an in-house field trip. He conducted lessons using artifacts and natural resources. This hands on experience was highly motivating for all.

In December, we will be concentrating on the letters N and C and the high frequency words to and have. When reading, we will focus on summarizing and making inferences. We will focus on representing and comparing numbers to ten. Everyone is looking forward to ending the month with a Gingerbread House making celebration! All parents will be invited to this event. We hope to see you there! Thank you for your continued support and cooperation!

The Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade Highlights

The first graders have had a busy few months! In Math, we completed Module 1 which focused on addition and subtraction strategies to 10 and are presently working on Module 2 which builds on Module 1 and includes addition and subtraction strategies to 20. We use both the Go Math workbook and materials from Engage NY to reinforce these skills and strategies along with daily "Math Sprints" to build fluency. In Language Arts we are working on Unit 2 in Treasures. This unit includes the introduction of all short vowel sounds as well as consonant blends. We learned about the different kinds of nouns and practiced using descriptive words in our writing. We continue to practice identifying the main idea and supporting details, characters and settings, and discuss the author's purpose in various reading selections. In Science, we have enjoyed many hands-on activities from both the "Properties" and "Magnets" units. In Social Studies, our annual "Poems and Pilgrims" celebration was a fun-filled culmination of our study of the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving traditions. Please practice sight words and math facts and continue to read with your child each day!

The First Grade Teachers
Fourth Grade Highlights

We were extremely busy in the month of November with both curriculum and fun activities. In language arts, our students continued to work on opinion and narrative writing. Transition words such as first, next, then, lastly and in conclusion helped us organize our thoughts. We learned to include lots of details to help support our answers. In addition, main idea, compare and contrast, theme, sequence of events, authors purpose and drawing conclusions were our focus in our Treasures reading series.

In math, we studied measurement, time, multiplication, and addition/subtraction within 1,000. We used talk and share with buddies to express our thoughts and explain our thinking, as well as used manipulatives to help us understand how we arrived at our answer. In addition, we invited parents to our classroom where they observed math centers and the thought process that goes on into our Go Math series.

Social studies had us working on different kinds of communities around us and how to read map keys. This was a nice introduction to our upcoming unit on landforms in December.

In science, we created "water cycle baggies" where we saw the actual condensation from the heat created inside the bag. The condensation created rain droplets of precipitation on the seeds within the soil and made the grass seeds sprout, much like we see in our own gardens at home! Cool! This experiment went along with our current study of water.

December brings many great things our way: a trip to Old Bethpage Village, our class party the last week before vacation as well as our songfest on that same day. In the month of December we will work on: data based questions (DBQ's) for social studies, multiplication and division, further work on author's purpose, character/setting/plot, cause and effect, sequencing events and finally, making inferences.

We can't wait to share with you what we will accomplish in 2014 as well as the academic growth you'll see in the coming months! Thanks for your continued support at home...

The Fourth Grade Teachers

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Second Grade Highlights

The month of November brought so many new topics into our second grade classrooms. The school wide project of collecting food items for Thanksgiving baskets gave us a great opportunity to have lessons focused on sharing and giving. This theme carries over into December as well, thinking about all the joyous occasions where we can continue to give our friendship, understanding, and talent, to our school and town communities.

November's math focus was the understanding of place value; hundreds, tens, and ones (yes, even thousand!). Word problems, patterns, counting on and back, all reinforced the idea of understanding numbers.

In December the second graders will be working on addition with and without regrouping.

Treasures reading lessons will be concentrating on main idea, cause and effect, proper and common nouns, as well as our spelling principles of long and short vowels. Keep reading with your children at home whenever possible.

As we finish our weather unit, we will be working on a new area of science—energy and motion. We will focus on how and why things move and the energy behind the movement.

Social studies stays on the theme of 'communities'. Extensions of urban, rural, and suburban communities will be covered and how communities change over time—then and now.

The Second Grade Teachers

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Third Grade Highlights

We were extremely busy in the month of November with both curriculum and fun activities.

In language arts, our students continued to work on opinion and narrative writing. Transition words such as first, next, then, lastly and in conclusion helped us organize our thoughts. We learned to include lots of details to help support our answers. In addition, main idea, compare and contrast, theme, sequence of events, authors purpose and drawing conclusions were our focus in our Treasures reading series.

In math, we studied measurement, time, multiplication, and addition/subtraction within 1,000. We used talk and share with buddies to express our thoughts and explain our thinking, as well as used manipulatives to help us understand how we arrived at our answer. In addition, we invited parents to our classroom where they observed math centers and the thought process that goes on into our Go Math series.

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We can't wait to share with you what we will accomplish in 2014 as well as the academic growth you'll see in the coming months! Thanks for your continued support at home...

The Third Grade Teachers
Fourth Grade Highlights

The fourth grade students have been working very hard in these past months. In Math, we have been learning about multiplication. The students have been learning how to use area models to represent multiplication. Using their understanding of place value, and properties of multiplication the students are learning to solve multi-step word problems. Please encourage your child to practice their multiplication tables in order to gain fluency. The best way to learn multiplications is through repetition. Have your child practice with their flashcards on a daily basis. Once they learn this division comes easily.

In English Language Arts, our students have been working on identifying strategies such as the author's purpose, main idea and understanding cause and effect through the reading of biographical and expository text. It is important that you encourage your child to read more non-fiction books. Think about your child's interests, and then find books on those topics (sports, inventions, presidents, music, Legos...). In writing, students have enjoyed daily writing activities corresponding to the readings.

In continuation with our unit in Social Studies we have been learning about the environment of New York. Also, students enjoyed a presentation by the Huntington Arts Council on Native American Artifacts.

In Science, we continued learning about Classification of Living Things. We have been learning about animal adaptations and their habitats.

The month of December will be busy with our Book Fair, holiday concert and looking forward to the holidays!!!

The Fourth Grade Teachers
October and November were big months for the Flower Hill Library. Brand new books arrived for the students! It was evident by the way their eyes lit up when seeing these new books that the students were pleased with the new additions to the library collection.

In the months of October and November, students listened to stories related to Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Activities students participated in included creating a Veterans Day poem and putting words into ABC order.

As a reminder, Kindergarten and first grade students will have library on December 2 and December 16. Students in grades 2-4 attend library once a week. Please be sure library books are returned so that a new book can be borrowed. Notices have been given to students if they have an overdue library book. The Flower Hill Library does not charge a fine for an overdue book.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every day!

Mrs. Palmer

Notes from Nurse Pirolo

Now that we are into the cold and flu season, here are some reminders on how to keep your family healthy.

- Get vaccinated. A flu shot is recommended for everyone over 6 months old.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and toss it into the trash.
- If your child is sick, keep them home from school. Your child may return to school only after being fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. Consult your physician if you think either you or your child has the flu.

I will be conducting 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 Pirolo
**Mrs. Lofaro's Math Newsletter**

**Required Fluencies in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics**

Fluent in the Standards means “fast and accurate.” It might help to think of fluency as meaning the same thing as when we say that somebody is fluent in a foreign language: when you’re fluent, you flow. Fluent isn’t halting, stumbling, or reversing oneself. At each grade level in the Standards, one or two fluencies are expected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Required Fluency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Add / Subtract within 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Add / Subtract within 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Add / Subtract within 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add / Subtract within 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(pencil and paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Multiply / divide within 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add / Subtract within 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Add / Subtract within 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Multi-digit Multiplication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Multi-digit division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**E-Board Access**

My E-Board is up and running for the 2013 / 2014 school year. In order to access my e-board you must go to the HUFSD website. Access the quick click menu, scroll down to e-boards. My e-board is listed under Washington Primary School, Grade 4.

**Math Word and Shape of the Week**

Math Word and Shape of the Week is coming to all of the Primary schools this year. The Math Word and Shape will be posted on the main bulletin board as you enter the building. This weekly building-wide project is used to promote math vocabulary and shape recognition for all students. Each week students are exposed to a different shape both visually and verbally. They are also exposed to important math vocabulary. Look for the Math Word and Shape to be posted in the building soon. Can you name this shape? Look for it soon.

**Talk the Math!**

**Daily practice of basic facts helps to promote fluency. The goal is that students will know math facts as well as they know their name.**
5 Ways to help your Child’s Math Skills

1. Promote a “positive attitude” about math. What you say influences how your child thinks.

2. Incorporate math into your child’s daily life. Have your child count out change or help with recipes that are halved and doubled.

3. Help your child appreciate how math is used in everyday life – for example, in sports, when making purchases or paying bills.

4. Make Math Fun!! Dominoes, cards, and board games that use counters and paper money improve mental math skills.

5. Ask for explanations of math assignments so you know what concepts are understood.

Math Websites

Math sites offer an excellent resource for helping students with fluency. Please check out the highlighted websites for the month:

- www.factmonster.com
- www.funbrain.com
- www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com

**Math Vocabulary website**

My e-board has many math websites listed. Please take a look to see many other great sites.

Common Core Math APPS

Candy Count
(Counting & Cardinality) Grade K

Graphing by Tap To Learn
(Numbers and Operations in Base 10) Grade 1 - 5