The month of June has arrived and the school year will be coming to an end soon. June gives us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the year that is coming to a close. I believe the Flower Hill School Family has had a terrific year! Our teachers and staff have worked so hard with our students since September. They have focused on our students’ social, emotional, and academic growth. As our students and teachers bring the school year to a close, and our faculty and staff look forward to a well-deserved break with their families and friends, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation for their hard work, dedication, and tireless efforts in support of our students each day. Our students are most fortunate to have such dedicated people in their lives.

Of course our work would not have been successful without our parents as partners. I would also like to send my sincere thanks to our PTA and our parents for the tremendous support they have given our teachers and students. Our students have enjoyed all the wonderful programs and events that our PTA has sponsored. We thank all those parents who have given their time to serve on committees, volunteer in classrooms, attending one of the many programs, or simply reading a book to one of our students. Your work, in partnership with our teachers, has helped to make our school stronger and our students are better for it.

We are pleased and satisfied by the experiences we have shared together, and we know all good things must come to an end. When we close our doors for the summer vacation on June 26, four members of the Flower Hill School family, Mrs. Claudia Mingin and Mrs. Anne Gordon, first grade teachers, and Glorious Logan and Louise Haagenson, classroom aides, will be retiring. We thank them for their many years of service to our students. On behalf of everyone in the Flower Hill School family, I wish them all the best during their retirement. Flower Hill will not be the same without them. We must also say good bye to our fantastic fourth graders, whom we have had the pleasure to watch grow and mature over the years. We have gotten to know so much about them—about their needs and interests, and are amazed by the growth of each child. We wish them continued success in fifth grade.

Again, I thank you for helping to make Flower Hill a wonderful place to work and learn. I wish you all a great summer!!

Upcoming Flower Hill Events for June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Gr. Teddy Bear Clinic @ Hunt. Hospital</td>
<td>6/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Gr. Flower Hill Spring Concert @ HHS</td>
<td>6/4 @ 7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade F/T to the “Big Apple Circus”</td>
<td>6/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation</td>
<td>6/5 @ 10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun Fair</td>
<td>6/6 5:00-8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Day</td>
<td>6/6 (Raindate 6/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Gr. F/T to the Long Island Game Farm</td>
<td>6/19 (Raindate 6/20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Moving Up Ceremony</td>
<td>6/25 @ 10:00</td>
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</tbody>
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Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Martina Menor Vasquez; Claire Parks; Magali Velasquez-Vilorio; Grace Gordon; Max Butler; Melanie Moreira; Connor Fox; Yaneissia Cantres; Patrick Flick; Tea Edwards; Lily Tierney; Katherine Pineda; Brooke Parks; Kayla Fives; Isabella Lanfranco; Angie Hernandez-Ramos; Bryan Schneider; Jack Moreale; William Barrese; Robert Smith & Gretel Cassell

May Star students of the Month:

- Teddy Bear Clinic
- 1st Grade Field Day
- 4th Grade Spring Concert
- Long Island Game Farm
First Grade Highlights

We started off in May preparing for Curriculum Night. We have learned amazing things about the author/illustrator, Eric Carle and the books he wrote, i.e., The Tiny Seed, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, etc. We worked hard on many writing activities and art projects that are on display in our hallway. Our units of study included Amazing Animals and Plants. In Math, the children have been working on Math stories which include addition and subtraction. We have also been working with numbers from 11-20. We used ten frames and manipulatives for practice. The children are becoming experienced and skilled when writing and reading. We have practiced writing sentences, rhyming, blending sounds, segmenting, and guided reading. The children have been really excited to practice and learn all of these new skills on our Smartboard that was just installed!

June will be a fun filled month with Field Day and our End of the Year Party. Your child will receive a summer packet that they can complete over the summer which includes a review of some of the skills we have learned. It is very important that you continue to read with your child throughout the summer. We thank you for your support and cooperation all year!

Have a wonderful summer!!!

The First Grade Teachers

Kindergarten Highlights

It's hard to believe that our school year is quickly coming to an end. May was a very busy month in first grade. In our Treasures program, we learned about making inferences, cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, sequencing and summarizing. In math, we learned greater than and less than, place value, time and shapes. In addition, we had our wonderful pasta/ curriculum night where the students got to showcase all of their cross-curricular Flat Stanley activities! Of course, the highlight of the month was our science duck unit and watching our ducks grow and change.

In June, we will continue our Treasures program which will include writing a friendly letter, making and confirming predictions, character and setting. In math, we will learn about counting coins and two digit additions. Highlights for June include a visit to the Teddy Bear Clinic at Huntington Hospital and the Long Island Game Farm. The children are also very excited about Field Day and our year end celebration.

Please read with your child over the summer to maintain their skills. Thank you for sharing your children with us this year!

Have a wonderful summer!!!

The Kindergarten Teachers
Third Grade

Welcome to the end of the Third Grade year!! The children have been very hard at work writing, exploring and celebrating in the months of May and June.

In May, third graders were hard at work on their writing skills as they wrote rainforest reports and biographies about historical figures as well as notable cultural icons. Students were able to use their Google Chrome Books as well as the computer lab to research and type their reports. Hopefully you were able to see our great bulletin boards on Pasta Night.

We wrapped up fractions and embarked on geometry with multidimensional shapes, measurement and word problems. Students worked with manipulatives and kept working on their fluency sprints to increase their skills in the four operations: multi-digit addition and subtraction, division and multiplication. In social studies we learned about the history of communities and the various explorers and original settlements in the areas of St. Augustine, Florida; Jamestown, Virginia and Quebec, Canada. Science has us reading about living things and using our science kits in cooperative teams to learn more about balances and weights and the various ways to weigh items.

June has us looking forward to continuing our work on geometry, living things, and communities at work in social studies. This social studies unit ties in nicely with our previous work on the history of communities. We are continuing to hone our writing skills as we write narrative, explanatory and informative texts. We are also very excited to show off our physical education skills on Field Day, Friday June 6th. Our class party will be on Monday, June 23rd where students will be snacking on some healthy and yummy treats while celebrating their accomplishments with classmates, teachers and parents.

Thank you for an amazing year full of excitement, academics and celebratory moments!
Although the end of the year is fast approaching, our fourth graders continue to work hard. In preparation for the NY State Science test the students took part in two science presentations entitled “All Charged Up” and “Float, Sink or Flink” presented by the New York Hall of Science. The children learned about how electricity is produced. They designed and constructed simple circuits and tested objects to see if they were conductors or insulators of electricity.

Students also explored buoyancy by testing whether objects sink or float based on their properties. In Language Arts the students continue to explore the different literary genres through the Treasures reading program.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate the fourth grade students on their hard work this year. They will be greatly missed and we wish them all the best in 5th grade!!

Have a wonderful summer!!!

The Fourth Grade Teachers
The school year is coming to an end and we are looking forward to the carefree days of summer. Here are a few reminders to keep summer happy and safe.

- Use sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or greater. Reapply every 2 hours or after swimming or sweating. Cover up with light colored clothing, a hat and sunglasses.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest time of the day (10:00am-4:00pm). Encourage plenty of fluids and take a water break every 20 minutes when playing. Avoid sport drinks that are high in sugar.
- Never leave a child alone in or near a pool. An adult that can swim must always be present.
- Use insect repellant when outdoors, especially in grassy or wooded areas. Be sure to wash off repellant when child returns indoors.
- Wearing a helmet is a must when biking, riding a scooter or skate-board, or skating.

Reminder: all students entering kindergarten, and grades 2, 4, 7, & 10 are required to have a physical exam. Also, a dental evaluation is requested. Forms will be sent home with report cards, please return them to my office as soon as possible. Please be aware that immunizations requirements have changed as of July 2014. Please check with your child’s doctor to be sure that they are up to date.
Rich vocabulary correlates with higher achievement

Direct vocabulary instruction is one of the single best instructional decisions a teacher can make. Research shows that providing a student with instruction to build vocabulary contributes knowledge to reading comprehension. The extensive vocabulary gap and the immense amount of words located within school texts, impact the selection of vocabulary to be taught.

**What can we do at home?**

General vocabulary knowledge is the foundation for academic vocabulary.

**READ TO THEM**

Studies indicate that children do learn words from books read aloud to them. Most helpful will be reading aloud books and other materials (such as magazines or environmental print) that have some, but not too many, words that are new to children. Read-aloud of storybooks is important, but also important is read-aloud of other types of text, such as information books. Some research even suggests that parents highlight vocabulary more when reading aloud information books than when reading aloud stories.

**GET THEM READING**

Children also learn new words through reading independently. Researchers estimate that 5-15% of all the words we learn are from reading. Children who read more tend to have richer vocabularies. So when we engage students in motivational activities to encourage reading, we are simultaneously improving their vocabularies.

**ENCOURAGE READING AND TALK AT HOME**

Children can also develop their vocabularies at home. Encourage reading and conversations outside of school. Even viewing certain television programs, most notably Sesame Street, has been shown to improve young children’s vocabularies. We want children to notice when they encounter new words and to want to learn them. There are many ways to draw children’s attention to an interest in words around them. Playing with words through games, songs, and humor can be powerful. Simply encouraging children to recognize when they have encountered new words, and to notice special characteristics of words, will also raise word consciousness.

**ENJOY WORDS**

Certainly in our own teaching we have noticed that when children were more motivated to learn new words, they did so more readily, and we would guess that you have noticed this, too. We strive to have classrooms in which words are enjoyed, relished, celebrated, and even loved.