The beginning of the school year is always filled with great anticipation, energy, and excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike. This year has been no exception. As we wrap up the first month of the 2013-14 school year, I would like to thank you for your patience, support, and resilience. A school could not be blessed with finer students, more supportive parents, or dedicated teachers/staff than Flower Hill.

It is my pleasure to report that our students have made a smooth transition from the summer. They have adjusted well to classroom and school routines. The beginning of the school year presents our teachers and students with the opportunity to get to know each other. Our teachers are getting to know our students not only as learners, but as individuals as well. So, in addition to providing high quality instruction to our students, our teachers have been engaged in a process of gathering data through observations and assessments. The data collected will be used to guide classroom instruction and provide critical support to our students throughout the school year.

It is my hope that our parents and teachers will remain in close contact about our students’ education throughout the school year. A strong home-school partnership is a critical component for school success. As such, I invite all of our parents to attend our upcoming “Meet—the-Teacher” nights. Our teachers will use this meeting to present important information about the curriculum, classroom routines, and building procedures. Parents will also have the opportunity to sign up for individual parent/teacher conferences, which will be held in November. As always, parents are encouraged to reach out to our teachers if they have any questions or concerns about their child’s progress at any point during the year.

In closing, all of us at Flower Hill are excited about the new school year. We look forward to your continued support. We are confident that with our partnership our students will have a fantastic learning experience!!

Kindergarten Highlights

Dear Parents,

Our Kindergartners have transitioned very well this year. We had a fun-filled exciting month! We started off reviewing our letters and colors. On 9/11, we remembered our fallen heroes by discussing heroes of our own and had a special visit from some firefighters who reviewed fire safety. In Treasures, we have read fables and books about Autumn, families, and music. We have been practicing our names and letters in Handwriting. In Math, we are practicing writing numbers and learning number concepts. We also have started some work in cooperative groups at center time. At the end of October we will have our Harvest Festival! Please remember to read with your child each night. We look forward to an exciting year!

The Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade Highlights

Our first graders are off to a great start! In math, we are using our new Go Math program. We are concentrating on putting numbers within ten together, story problems and identifying the unknown addends. We have also been having fun with math sprints while increasing math fluency. In language arts, we are focusing on analyzing story structure, sequencing and comprehension skills using fiction and non-fiction literature. We began learning new sight words, word families and vowel sounds. The children have been learning proper sentence structure including beginning a sentence with an upper case letter and ending with a punctuation mark. We have also been discovering all of the things that make us special. In Writer's Workshop, we have been writing personal narratives and descriptive sentences. In science, we began our unit on living and non-living things. In October, we will continue learning new words as well as retelling a story and finding the main idea. In science, we will begin our unit on Properties. Of course, we are looking forward to the Halloween parade and Fall Festival.

The First Grade Teachers

Second Grade Highlights

We would like to welcome our sensational second graders and their fantastic families to this exciting new school year! We hope your summer vacation was memorable and relaxing. The students arrived with bright smiles and happy attitudes. To start the year off right we are in the process of learning rules, establishing routines, and following procedures. In September we learned about a story's structure and plot. We began to explore the main idea and details of a non-fiction article. In math we practiced basic addition and subtraction facts up to 20 along with learning some strategies to help us solve problems. In science we introduced matter. In social studies we discussed neighborhoods and what makes up a community.

In October we will teach comprehension strategies while reading both fiction and non-fiction texts. In math we will explore measurement using the metric system and learn place value. In science we will study matter, weather, and the water cycle. In social studies we will learn about different communities and maps. We urge you as a new school year begins to stay informed, remain positive, and encourage your child to READ!!! We look forward to speaking with you more, answering questions, and working together to help your children grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

The Second Grade Teachers
Fourth Grade Highlights

It has been a new beginning for fourth graders, teachers and parents. By now, we all have been introduced to the world of Common Core. We have begun to implement what New York State has provided us in Math. Students are busy learning to write, draw and explain their thinking in math. Thank you for being patient with the program as we work through the modules. We will continue to use Common Core throughout the year and supplement the Math with our Go Math series within the classroom.

In Language Arts we are enjoying the many different stories in Treasures. We are emphasizing sentence structure, learning about subjects and predicates, and using simple and compound sentences in our writing. We are guiding the students in independent reading with the many books provided within the program.

Social Studies has been exciting for the students learning about New York State. You can often hear a student say, "I've been there", or "I have a house there". The students feel connected with the content. Identifying and learning about the history of New York is underway. In science, the students are learning about Classification of Living Things. Reading about how animals and plants differ is our main focus.

In the days ahead, you will hear about making a New York State Map and a fall field trip. We look forward to a wonderful and exciting learning experience with your children!

The Fourth Grade Teachers

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Third Grade Highlights

We're off and running across the curriculum this fall. Our Treasures series has provided us with some terrific examples of fiction and non-fiction selections as well as complimenting our word study program. Students have been learning to identify strategies such as finding the main idea and understanding cause and effect.

With our new Go Math series in place, alongside our common core modules, students are learning a focus toward problem solving and strategies to develop a deeper understanding of math concepts. We started off with multiplication and are moving to division. Later on, look for lessons to explore number patterns, rounding and place value. The third grade teachers have one request: Please take any time to help your child strengthen their multiplication tables. It will be extremely helpful for them throughout the year. Thank you!

How much do you know about other communities? Our social studies program allows us the opportunity to visit communities across the country and around the world. That means rural, urban and suburban. Log on to some of these communities at home to learn more.

Our big idea for science is that energy is all around us. When an object is moving it has energy. In our lessons we've been investigating the forms of energy. During October, we'll be moving on to look at Earth's water. Where is it found? Why is this natural resource so important to us? We'll also examine the water cycle.

The third grade staff is in the process of planning future field trips to enhance our learning experience. Stay tuned for additional information coming soon. Don't forget: the end of October we'll be having our annual Flower Hill Harvest Festival. Happy autumn to all our families!

The Third Grade Teachers
We had a great beginning to the school year. All students took out library books! Students have been doing a great job returning their books each week.

This year we started off by having each student create a bookmark/nametag that they keep in their library books. The bookmark/nametag system is an effort to prevent books from getting mixed up once students leave the library.

The Flower Hill Library book collection is an important resource to the building. Please encourage your child to take good care of the books and to return them during their library time.

As a reminder to all students/parents, if a book is not returned during library time, a second book may not be borrowed. Students are allowed to borrow one book at a time.

Kindergarten and first grade students will continue to attend library during “B Weeks”. For the month of October, students in K-1 will have library on October 7th and October 21st.

Please continue to read with your children!

Mrs. Palmer

Welcome back to Flower Hill! I am looking forward to meeting all of the new students and helping to make this a healthy, happy school year.

Please be reminded that physical exams are required for all kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grade students, and all new students to the Huntington School District. Please be sure to get your child’s forms in to me as soon as possible!

Please see your child’s health care provider about getting a flu shot this fall. The CDC recommends that everyone from ages six months and older get the vaccine.

Also, please remind your child to cover their coughs and sneezes and to wash hands often to prevent spread of germs. If you have any questions or concerns about physicals, immunizations, or any other health related issue please call me at 673-2058.

Nurse Pirolo