The 2014-15 school year is going very fast and June 25th, our last day of the school year, will be here before we realize it. Our third marking period for the year will end on Thursday, April 2nd. Student Report Cards will be sent home on Monday, April 27th. Please be reminded that the report card is used to update you on the progress our students have made academically, socially, and behaviorally. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the end of the marking period or prior to report cards being sent home, please do not hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher. We want to keep the lines of communication open between our teachers and parents.

As you are aware, our students will be on spring vacation April 4th – 8th. We hope our students and teachers will use this much-deserved break to relax and rejuvenate themselves. When they return to school, the beginning of the New York State testing season will be upon us. The New York State ELA assessment will be administered to our 3rd and 4th graders April 14th, 15th, and 16th. The state Math Assessment will be on April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Our 4th graders will take the NYS Science Assessment during the week of May 25th. Please ensure that our students are in school on the days these important assessments are being administered.

While our teachers and students have been focused on our core mission of teaching and learning, our students have been participating in lots of fun and exciting activities over the last few weeks. We kicked off PARP, as our students rediscovered the classics, with an exciting assembly on March 6th. This two-week program, which is sponsored by our PTA, helped with motivating and increasing reading among our students. I would like to thank Mrs. Kaloudis, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Carsten-Goutevenier for helping to organize this important undertaking. I would also like to thank the many parents who volunteered in our classrooms as mystery readers over the two-week period of PARP. The students were so excited to have you in their classrooms. Our annual Science Fair was held on March 24th, and was huge success. I would like to congratulate all our students who participated and thank our parents for the support that was given to them at home. These two events are a vivid reminder of the strong partnership that exists between our school and homes, and our students are the beneficiaries of our partnership.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill! Enjoy the spring vacation!!

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Victor Aviles; Emily St. Rose; Ever Urbina Archaga; Amy Andrade; Isabella Rodriguez; Nina Gonzalez; Nathali Reyes; William Walleshauser; Okyonna Sease; Jasiah Castillo Cortes; Genasee Boles; Ashley Palacios Ayala; Tess Markotsis; Hillary Isidro Martinez; Tess Calabria; Emily Flores-Hernandez; Alexander Morris; Jane Callery; Jazmyne Greene; Angie Hernandez-Ramos; Tyler Johnson; Gianna Forte & Charlotte Wesnofske.

Great Job!!!
Kindergarten Highlights

March was a very exciting month, which was filled with reading and visitors for the kindergartners. We started out with the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. We had so much fun reading his books. Some of our favorites were The Cat in the Hat, Hop on Pop, Wacky Wednesday and Green Eggs and Ham. We took part in many activities and we learned about rhyming and word families. We were so excited when we found out a leprechaun had been in our classroom making mischief and leaving treasures! The children also enjoyed their involvement with PARP. Their favorite part was when the Mystery Readers came in to read a story about Olivia or another classic! We also had a special visit from Kuniko Yamamoto, a delightful Japanese storyteller who shared stories using masks, mime, music and the art of origami. It was magical for all of the kindergartners! The students learned all about the Scientific Method when we experimented with our science fair projects. Everyone worked so hard on their projects and we admired all of them.

Our themes in our Treasures program were Animals and Neighborhoods. We have been discussing characters, setting, fiction, non-fiction, main idea and key details in a story. The children are working in centers and guided reading groups during Language Arts. In math we have been working with addition, subtraction, and the numbers 11 through 20.

During Language Arts/Science we will be studying weather. Our math lessons will focus on shapes. We look forward to a field trip to the Sweetbriar Nature Center where we will learn about animals and the 5 senses. We will also celebrate Earth Day and discuss ways to take care of our earth. Happy Holidays to everyone!

The Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade Highlights

March was a very busy month for our first graders. In our Treasures program, we learned about making and confirming predictions, comparing and contrasting, and retelling a story. We have also been writing personal narratives. The students enjoyed the many PARP activities including our secret readers and reading Aesop's Fables.

In math, we learned about the relationship between addition and subtraction facts within 20. We also learned how to use these relationships to find an unknown numbers and to solve word problems. The students were very excited to work on their science projects for the science fair and to learn about the scientific method. The students also enjoyed a Japanese storytelling and origami presentation.

In April, the students will learn about place value, grouping tens and ones and comparing numbers to determine greater than, less than or equal to. In our Treasures program, we will continue to read fiction and non-fiction stories, make inferences, summarize and determine cause and effect. In science, we will begin our unit on comparing and measuring. Of course, we are all looking forward to our cross-curricular Flat Stanley activities that include a trip to the Engeman Theater to see The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley!

The First Grade Teachers
Through March, our second graders continued to focus on foundational skills, reading literature and informational text within our Treasure Reading Series. We finished Unit 4 with an essential question, “How is working together better than working alone?” Our students continue to be exposed to various genres of literature. They are demonstrating their knowledge of understanding by sequencing events using transitional words (first, next, then, last), using illustrations to gain understanding of stories, characters, setting, or plot, and analyzing cause and effect. The students continue to learn how to search the text for textual evidence to answer questions.

Throughout April, our students will focus on our theme for Unit 5 in Treasures: Growing and Changing. The essential question is: “How do animals and plants change and grow?” Our students will demonstrate their understanding by using details and prior knowledge to draw conclusions, summarize the main idea with important details, and use text clues to make inferences about the characters in the story and their traits, motivations, and feelings. These skills will help our students continue to become stronger readers.

In math, we continue to work in Module 4 as our students become more proficient in acquiring various strategies in order to compose and decompose numbers when solving double and triple digit computation. They are continuing to demonstrate their knowledge by solving problems using strategies such as: arrow way, number bonds, chip models, place value charts, and the standard algorithm. In April, we will be moving on to learn skills in the area of foundations of multiplication and division, so keep practicing your math facts to twenty!

Our second grade students are becoming strong writers! They continue to apply foundational skills when writing and had opportunities to engage in various types of writing pieces. Students have been practicing turning questions into topic sentences. They continue to practice underlining key words in the question to use to begin their writing. In addition, they are becoming more proficient in their ability to use evidence from the text when answering text based questions in writing!

In Science, our students enjoyed the hands-on presentation, “The Science of Toys” that visited our school’s science lab! The students were motivated and engaged during the stations that focused on the center of gravity. In addition, each class conducted their science fair project. It was very exciting! The students are enjoying our study of ecosystems. In this unit, students are classifying living versus non-living things and determining what living things need to survive. We will continue our study by learning about parts of a plant and their function, classifying producers versus consumers, identifying the sun as an essential part of the food chains, predators and prey, food webs, and competing organisms.

Finally, our second graders were very excited to Rediscover the Classics, and were selected to read Alice and Wonderland for PARP! They enjoyed having special visits from “mystery readers,” so thank you to all who volunteered their time! Keep reading!!!

They also had an exciting opportunity to attend the school version of “Beauty and The Beast” presented by the Huntington High School Drama Club. The exciting performance may have sparked the interest in our students to become future actors!

The Second Grade Teachers
The third-grade staff extends their wishes to all of our Flower Hill families for a very happy, enjoyable and most certainly, welcome to spring.

Following our April break, the third grade will remain busy building on the skills developed throughout the year to improve our ability to problem solve and better comprehend a variety of concepts in each of the subject areas.

This April, we’ll conclude our module in fractions and begin a new unit featuring multiplication and area. The daily sprints and warm-up activities that have been incorporated into our math lessons have helped improve student understanding and strengthen math computation skills. This should prove to be beneficial in preparation for the upcoming math assessments this month.

April will also see us exploring some non-fiction pieces about space in our Treasures series before beginning a unit entitled “Those Amazing Animals.” Each of the selections in this unit provides us with an opportunity to do some “close reading” to extend our understanding of important informational details from non-fiction sources. We’ll look at strategies aimed at how to express our thoughts in writing, as evidence of what we’ve read and how to find the main idea. Students will love learning about some of the unique animal homes in this unit too, such as a bee’s honeycomb, a turtles’ shell (call it a mobile home) or a termite tower. There’s even a selection entitled “Do Animals Have Personalities?” (I think pet owners know the answer.) Additionally, our RTI sessions will continue to provide valuable insight as to how to help students prepare for the upcoming assessments.
In ELA, students are reading challenging texts and practicing good strategies for deeper reading comprehension. Students are expected to make inferences and prove them with details from the text. When reading fiction and nonfiction selections, students practice looking at text features such as titles, subheadings and illustrations to gain a better understanding. We encourage the students to read each night!

We have completed Module 4/Geometry and are currently in Module 5/ Fractions in Math. Students are utilizing area models and tape diagrams in order to make visual models of equivalent fractions. We are decomposing fractional parts into smaller units and composing fractional parts into larger units. These visual representations will give them the foundation needed for adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators with real world problems. We encourage students to keep memorizing multiplication facts!

In Science, students are having fun and learning about electricity in the Electric Circuit Unit. Each week we become electricians in our science lab. Students explore with hands on materials. They are interested and challenged by the activities provided. Students were very excited about the Science Fair. They had fun working together on the classroom science project forming a hypothesis, collecting data and modeling the scientific method. Although the Science Fair is optional, we had many students that participated. We are so very proud of them! Students enjoyed the field trip to The Cradle of Aviation.

In Social Studies, we continue to study Native Americans and their important impact on New York history. These lessons are integrated with our ELA curriculum.

PARP motivated our fourth graders to increase their reading time each night. Students enjoyed reading classic books and we thank all of the mystery readers.

Child’s Play came to our school on March 17th. Students wrote essays on future inventions and how it would make the world a better place. The Child’s Play performers came to our school and acted out select student essays. It was fun and exciting!

The Fourth Grade Teachers
Happy spring from the Flower Hill Library!! February and March have just gone whizzing by – and hopefully with it the last of the snow! With that being said, a lot was done within the library these last two months. February had many holidays that we celebrated, by – of course – reading about them! The younger classes listened to stories such as Go to Sleep Groundhog; Arthur’s Valentine; Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day of Kindergarten. Other classes celebrated Black History Month by listening to some biographies as well as working on mini-research timelines. We read So You Want to Be President in honor of President’s week and did some fact/opinion writing. Moving into March we are doing an author study of Dr. Seuss - timed perfectly to celebrate his birthday as well as read “classics” – part of our PARP theme. We are also celebrating Women’s History Month with readings about Rosa Parks, Jane Goodall, and Sally Ride; just to name a few. The second graders have been learning about folktales; with an emphasis on Irish folktales as we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day. Finally, students have been encouraged to check out books that are classics – besides Dr. Seuss there has been a lot of Eric Carle, Marc Brown, Roald Dahl, Beverly Cleary, and Frank Baum books being taken out. It has been another wonderful few weeks and I cannot wait for the upcoming month! Happy reading!

Mrs. Caras

Kindergarten registration is under way and we are planning for the 2015-2016 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 school web site. A doctor’s office form is also acceptable. Completed forms can be handed into the nurse’s office anytime throughout the year.

Immunization requirements have changed. Please check with your health care provider to make sure that your child has all the needed shots. They are listed below.

**Required Immunizations for Students Entering Grades 1-5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization</th>
<th>Number of Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis</td>
<td>4-5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles/Mumps/Rubella</td>
<td>1 or 2**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (Chickenpox)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Must be given at correct intervals based on age*

** Must have 2 doses at age 7

I am continuing to screen students for vision and hearing. If any difficulty was detected a referral form will be sent home.

Mrs. Pirolo, RN
One of the greatest things a parent can do with their child is read with them. Not only is it a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your child, but it is also a wonderful learning experience for your child. By reading with and to your child, you are modeling how to read fluently with expression, accuracy, and at a proper rate. Also, reading to your child allows your child access to richer and more difficult texts that they could not read on their own. Here are some suggestions for parents to use while helping their child with their reading:

**Activate prior knowledge**
Read the title. Ask yourself, “What do I know about this topic?”
Preview questions that you will have to write about BEFORE you read.

**If it’s a difficult word...**
Look carefully at the word. Are there any prefixes, suffixes or roots you recognize?
Reread the sentences before and after the one containing the difficult word. Do they contain any clues to what the word means?
Is there a glossary you can consult? Are there any text features, such as charts or illustrations that provide clues to the word?

**Close reading**
Read slowly and thoughtfully.
Annotate the text and write short notes in the margin.
Underline key details
Talk about everything you learned.
Think: What inferences can you make from this sentence, paragraph, or section?

Happy Reading!

The Reading Teachers