With the start of another school year, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Flower Hill School family for your continued support and partnership in our efforts to educate our students. Our home-school partnership will contribute significantly to another successful school year that will be filled with excellent learning opportunities and progress for each child.

Our teachers have been working diligently to provide instruction that will equip our students with the tools to meet the rigors of the Common Core Learning Standards. We take great pride in the education provided to our students each day. We are committed to the idea of developing student learners who are able to think critically, work cooperative-ly, and are able to be real world problem solvers. It is our goal to work with our parents to provide our students with the instruction and support they will need to meet these challenges and reach their personal potential.

I would like to thank all of our parents who were able to attend our recent Meet-the-Teacher night meetings. Our teachers were able to present an overview of the curriculum, classroom procedures, and expectations for the year. For those parents who were not able to attend, your child’s teacher will be contacting you to schedule parent/teacher conferences, which will be held in November. If you have any concerns, please contact your child’s teacher prior to the November conferences.

Again, welcome back to the new school year. We are off to a smooth and successful start. We are looking forward to your continued support of our students, teachers, and programs, and I am confident our students will have a fantastic learning experience!!

Katherine Rivera Reyes;
Amani Huq; Mya Mori; Manpreet Kaur;
Isabella Rodriguez; Daniela Garcia;
Elizabeth Sheran; Noe Palacios
Jimenez; Antonio Leotta; Ian Schnei-
der; Dayanna Sierra; Sean Posillico;
Luke Calabria; Sophia Kaloudis; Brooke
Farasciano; Mayra Aguilar Rivera; Ja-
cob Ward-Hateau; McKenzie
Walleshauser; Leah Sheran & Markella
Markotsis Great Job!!!
Kindergarten Highlights

The kindergartners are doing a super job learning routines, procedures, and school rules. This has been an exciting month and they have already experienced so much! We have been reading many books including, The Kissing Hand, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready For Kindergarten and Leo the Late Bloomer. In Treasures, we are reviewing alphabet letters and high frequency words such as “I” and “can.” The children are also learning how to write their names in lowercase letters. The students have been working on reading comprehension, word webs, fiction and non-fiction, and shared writing activities. In math, we have been working on classifying objects into given categories, and understanding the relationship between numbers and quantities with a focus on numerals 1-5. The children have been finger counting “the Math Way”. We have been working in large groups and small groups at center time where we are learning to be more independent. They are collecting stars for good behavior and being rewarded for their accomplishments. We are so proud of all our kindergartners!

In October, we will be starting a new theme in Treasures called “Families.” The letters we will focus on will be “Mm” and “Aa” and the high frequency words will be “we” and “the.” The children will be listening to many stories where we will be identifying settings and making predictions. In math, we will be working with numbers 1-10 in different configurations. We are excited about Fall and the children are looking forward to the Harvest Festival on October 31st. We thank all the parents for their support and cooperation.

The Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade Highlights

The first graders are off to a terrific start! They have adjusted nicely to the procedures and routines of first grade. In math, we are working toward fluency with addition and subtraction of numbers to 10, counting on and solving addition word problems. We are having fun with math sprints while increasing math fluency. In language arts, we have been reviewing short vowels and consonants as well as learning new sight words. We have been reading many wonderful fiction and non-fiction stories and are analyzing story structure, sequencing, and listening comprehension skills. We have been writing personal narratives and descriptive sentences. We are focusing on proper sentence structure including starting a sentence with an upper case letter and ending with a punctuation mark.

In October, we will continue learning new high frequency words, as well as effective reading strategies. Of course, we are all looking forward to our annual Costume Parade and Fall Festival!! Please read with your child every night and thank you for your support at home.

The first Grade Teachers
Third graders have had a very exciting start to the school year as students have participated in exciting science experiments in our new science lab as part of our learning about Tools Scientists Use. In October we are focusing on matter and density and the changes it undergoes. In math, we have focused the first few weeks of September to review addition and subtraction to 1,000 to lay good ground work for our current study of multiplication and division.

We are studying fiction and non-fiction stories in Language Arts with an emphasis on the attributes of each as well as cause/effect and main idea and details. Students are asked to think deeper about the text and become detectives as they provide evidence from the text to prove their answers. We are also focusing our daily work and homework on academic vocabulary across all the content areas: social studies, science, math and especially language arts. To build better vocabulary understanding we are using the Fryer Vocabulary Model which allows students to illustrate, use the word in a sentence, write synonyms/antonyms and a definition. We have also played games such as Headbandz to get them excited about new vocabulary.

During the month of October, we will be learning more about communities across the United States in social studies. We will also focus on what makes each community unique such as our very own neighborhoods of Huntington and Huntington Station.

In October, we have planned a trip to the Engeman Theater to see the Wizard of Oz on Monday, October 14th. Please contact your child's teacher if you're interested in chaperoning.

Parents, please remember that third grade students have homework agendas this year, a nice way to keep track of their assignments. Please make sure to check your child's agenda on a nightly basis to make sure they completed their assignments.

The Third Grade Teachers
Welcome to 4th grade! We are very excited about the beginning of another school year. The students have been enjoying reading the stories in the first unit of Treasures. Some of the reading skills the students have been working on include making inferences, character, setting, plot, and compare and contrast. In 4th grade, a huge area of focus is writing in response to reading. In these responses, students must include many facts and details from the text to support their ideas. Please encourage your child to read at home and initiate discussions about what they are reading.

In Math, we are currently working on place value. We will focus our work on place values up to and including 7 digits. We will also be working on mathematical talk. The children will be able to write about and explain their thinking. The students will experience various ways to solve problems.

The fourth grade social studies curriculum focuses on New York State. We have been reviewing map skills. The students have also been learning about New York’s landforms. As a culminating project the students will create a map of New York State. In October, we will begin our study of the Iroquois.

In science, we have been reviewing the steps in the scientific method. As we move along in our science curriculum we will begin our unit on Matter. The students will be given the opportunity to visit our science lab and participate in many hands-on science activities.

The Fourth Grade Teachers
Welcome back to Flower Hill. I am looking forward to meeting all 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 & 4th grades and all new entrants to Huntington School District. Please be sure to get your child’s forms in to me as soon as possible.

To protect you and your child from getting the flu, see your health care provider about getting the flu vaccine this fall. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older to get the vaccine.

Remind your child to cover their coughs and sneezes, keep hands away from face and eyes, and to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice).

If your child does become ill, keep them home from school. Be sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks a lot of fluids. Speak to your child’s doctor before giving them over-the-counter medication. Your child may return to school after being symptom free (no fever) for 24 hours without medication.

If you have any questions or concerns about physical, immunizations, or any other health related issues, please feel free to call me at 673-2058

Diana Pirolo, RN
**Reading Comprehension**

In its simplest form, comprehension is understanding what you have read. However, comprehension is a complex mix of decoding, making connections, and thinking deeply about the text. Also, research has shown that having a developed vocabulary correlates to stronger comprehension.

Parents and teachers can work together to help children strengthen their reading comprehension as well as learn strategies to help them cope with any difficulties they have understanding a text. Here are just a few suggestions for parents to help their children at home.

**Ways Parents Can Help Strengthen Comprehension at Home**

- Have a conversation with your child about what they have read. Ask your child probing, open-ended questions about the text (How do you think the character felt? Why?, What lesson or moral can we learn from this text?, etc.).
- Encourage your child to make connections between what they read and their own life experiences.
- Help support your child as they self-monitor their own understanding of the text.
- Ask your child to go back into the text and provide text-based examples that support their thinking.
- Discuss and define any challenging vocabulary that is present in the text.
- Break the reading into shorter sections. Check to make sure your child understands what they have read before going on to the next section.
- Offer your child opportunities to read informational as well as literary texts.
- Encourage your child to visualize, or make a picture in their mind, as they read.
- Read with your child and have a “think aloud” where you share your own thought as you read.