



Flower Hill Happenings

Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631)673-2050 •
 Hours: 8:45am - 3:05pm Volume 3 Issue 1 September/October 2009



Message from the Principal

The month of September went by very quickly. The school year is off to a terrific start as our students have settled in and have adjusted very well to daily classroom and school routines.

As is the custom at this time of the year, our teachers have been busy getting to know our students as individual learners. As part of this process, they have been assessing and collecting data on our students. The information gained from these teacher observations and routine assessments will be used to guide classroom instruction and meet the individual learning needs of our students.

Our recent Meet-the-Teacher Night was a big success. This very important night gave you the opportunity to meet our teachers, get an overview of the curriculum, and schedule appointments for November parent/teacher conferences. If you did not attend Meet-the-Teacher Night and have not yet scheduled a conference, our teachers will contact you to schedule one.

In the mean time, if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, you do not have to wait until November to address them. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher through a note or a phone call. Problems are often resolved successfully when they are addressed promptly.

I encourage you to stay involved throughout the school year. In addition to attending school functions when you can, your involvement can also include helping your child with homework, ensuring he/she reads each night, talking to them about what they are doing in school each day, and ensure that they are here and ready to learn on a daily basis.

We are looking forward to another terrific year. I thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill. *Marlon C. Small*



Upcoming Flower Hill Events



FALL PHOTOS	10/6
COLUMBUS DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	10/12
PTA MEETING 9:30 AM	10/15
FLOWER HILL KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL 7PM	10/16
FALL FESTIVAL HALLOWEEN PARADE	10/30



September

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Jake Burton, Avery Medico, Jack Waters, Joseph Sclafani, Ireny Veliz-Garcia, Leslie Perez, Simone Sanchez, Jordan Forte, Isabelle Grenier, Carly Cogan, Gabrielle Trimboli, Kyle Dunn, Sylvia Belanger, John Lourenso, Douglas Kelapire, Jack Flores, Ronan McCormack, Patrick Sclafani, Sabrina Garcia, Paige Lennon, Jordan McCoy, Kaitlyn Sage, Bridget Smyth Luke Bastible and Vivienne LaVertu. Great job!



Kindergarten Highlights



Welcome Back!! Our kindergarteners have made a wonderful adjustment to school! They have been working hard at learning all the routines of a full day at Flower Hill. We have been learning and doing so many new and exciting things!

We are learning our colors, shapes, numbers, handwriting and of course, letters and sounds. In math, we are working on writing our numbers and patterns. The students continue to work with many manipulatives that are giving them a hands-on approach to learning. In science, we have just started to enjoy the autumn season by studying leaves and apples. We can't wait to go on nature walks and collect and sort the leaves by color, size and shape.



We are really enjoying our story time. We have read so many wonderful stories that have made us laugh and smile and enjoy school so much. We have read *The Kissing Hand*, *Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom*, *Brown Bear*, *Mouse Paint*, and *Mrs. Bindergarten gets ready for Kindergarten!*

We look forward to a wonderful year and thank the parents for interacting with your children and taking part in their learning experience at Flower Hill. *The Kindergarten Teachers*



First Grade Highlights



We have been getting used to the procedures and routines of first grade! We also discussed the importance of rules and how we need them to keep safe.

In math, we found partners for numbers 1-10 and reviewed some concepts such as counting, patterning, shapes and comparing numbers. Not only did we discuss rules in social studies, we discussed citizenship.. We have begun our properties unit in science and the children are very excited about doing experiments! Our language arts program is focused on effective reading strategies, word families and word principles, as well as learning our "word wall" words. We have read many wonderful books and have made some of our own, as well! The first graders have also engaged in many writing activities and handwriting practice.

We thank you for your support and look forward to an exciting year! *The First Grade Teachers*



Notes from Nurse Pirola



What you can do to keep your child healthy and prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus:

- Teach your child to wash their hands with soap and water. This should take about 20 seconds, the time it takes to say the alphabet or sing "Happy Birthday" twice.
- Teach your child to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and discard tissue in trash. If tissues are unavailable, they should cough or sneeze into their arm or sleeve.
- Instruct your child to avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Keep your child home from school if they are sick. Signs and symptoms of the flu are: fever of 100° F or greater, cough, runny nose, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhea.



It is recommended that students stay at home at least 24 hours after they are fever free, without the use of fever reducing medications.

I wish everyone at Flower Hill a happy and healthy school year. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 673-2139.

Nurse Pirola





Second Grade Highlights



"Welcome Back" September has been an exciting month for the incoming second graders. They have all settled into their new classrooms and routines. The second grade teachers were pleased to have met many of our student's families at "Meet the Teacher" night. If you did not sign up for a November parent teacher conference, we will be contacting those families to schedule a meeting.



Language Arts is an important component of our core curriculum. We are working on our fall assessments. Please have your child read to you on a daily basis. It is important that children not only read during the school day, but also read at home. Time spent reading at home can include having your child read to you as well as reading aloud to your child. Also, ask your child questions, such as, who are the characters? Where does the story take place? Does the story have a problem? This ensures if your child comprehends the story.

Math is also an important part of our curriculum. We have begun our first math unit, which includes solving word problems using addition or subtraction, adding and subtracting 10 and counting dimes, nickels and pennies. Please have your child review basic math facts and practice counting coins. In addition, please make sure to have your child complete all math homework assignments.



We are also so excited to begin using our new Social Studies curriculum. We begin with learning about communities and where we live. This is also connected to our first science unit, Ocean and Sea Life; we have read fiction and non-fiction books about the ocean habitat. We have discussed how the globe represents the world. We have located the four oceans and the seven continents.

We look forward to our first field trip to the "Conklin House." We look forward to a wonderful year. Thank you!

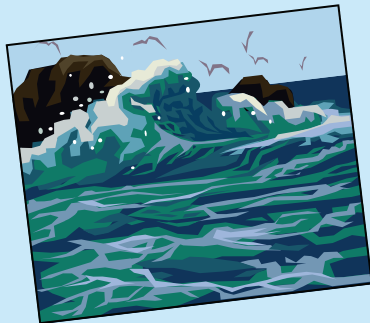
The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



What a great start to the 2009-2010 school year! Everyone was ready with positive attitudes, eagerness to learn, and so many school supplies. All the Flower Hill third grade classes were ready to dive into learning.



The students have been working so hard in our classrooms. Math has been reviewing place value, addition, subtraction, and proof drawings. Social studies kicks off with learning about what communities are, and introducing a few towns in the United States, as well as, some countries around the world. In addition, our Water Unit has begun in



science. Ask your children about where we find water, they are sure to have a list of answers.

Our days are so full and action packed, it's difficult to squeeze everything here, so be sure to look at your child's agenda and take home folders nightly, for upcoming important notices and assignments.

Thank you all for such a wonderful September!

The Third Grade Teachers





Mental Health Matters



Welcome back to another school year, filled with potential!! First off, I'd like to state that the Friendship Club will start up this month. Students have been nominated by their teachers to participate, and permission letters have already been sent home. This is a great opportunity for peers to assist each other in learning the unspoken rules of conversation, how to take turns and use cooperative behavior. We had a positive experience, last year. We look forward to continued success.



School is an important place to develop the skills to learn about our environment. Children explore, take stock and share new information and events everyday. The adults in their lives can assist, as well. As your school psychologist, I will emphasize that positive support goes a long way. This will coincide with the school-wide effort to utilize positive behavioral supports. I look forward to outlining different ways for parents and teachers to encourage our children as they learn.

Here's to a great new year!

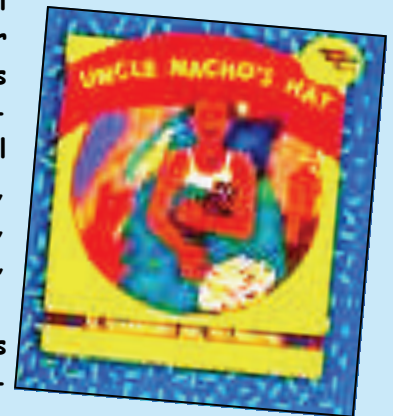
Dr. Fletcher



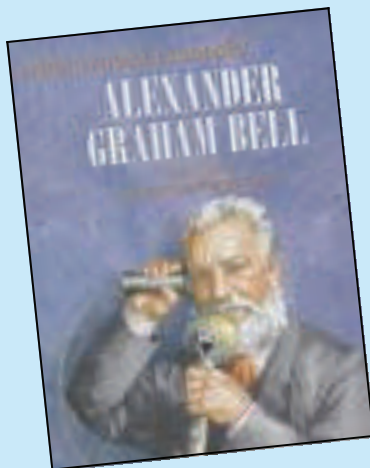
Library Literary Corner



The first week of Library was a real winner! All of the Flower Hill students had so much wonderful news to share with me about their summer "reading adventures" and travel logs. The Library had over 300 new books added to our already wonderful collection. Some of the new titles and categories include: *The Walt Disney Movie Collection*, Snakes, Dinosaurs, School Stories, Caldecott Award Books, Newbery Award Books, The Wild Kingdom, Planets, Sports, Science Experiments, Jokes, Race Cars, Presidents, Sharks, Crafts and Drawing Books, the Franklin, Clifford and Arthur series books, and lots, lots more!



During the week of September 10-16th, all teachers and librarians across America taught a lesson for Hispanic Heritage Month. Our kindergarten, first and second graders heard the story of *Uncle Nacho's Hat*, by Harriet Rohmer. The story takes place in South America where Uncle Nacho's old hat needs to be replaced. In addition, all classes viewed a timeline of the great Hispanic contributions that were made between 1930-2000, in New York City. All of the students enjoyed discussing the "special items" displayed on our Hispanic Library banner.



Commencing this year, the Huntington Librarians are teaching the REACH program to second and third graders in the elementary schools. REACH stands for Reach, Enrichment, Activities of the Children in Huntington. The second graders will initially be taught a lesson about how to make simple machines, and the reasons for why "gears" are important. Our third graders will learn about the importance of inventors and what inspired some of our greatest inventors. The first inventor that we will research is Alexander Graham Bell. For both grade levels, the concept of "teamwork" will be greatly stressed.

I look forward to teaching all of our second and third graders about such worthwhile and informative lessons throughout the year.

Thank you to all of the wonderful Flower Hill families for your continued support and remember, as always, READ DAILY WITH YOUR CHILDREN!!!



Yours in Reading, Mrs. Smith