

# FLOWER HILL HAPPENINGS



Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050 •  
Hours: 8:45am - 3:05pm March/April 2013

## Message from the Principal

I hope everyone had a well-deserved, restful spring vacation. It's hard to believe, but we are about to enter the final quarter of the 2012-13 school year. The third marking period will end on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Parents will receive student report cards on April 19<sup>th</sup>.


In little over a week from now, the New York State testing season will be upon us. Please note that the New York State ELA will be administered to our third and fourth graders April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. The math assessment will be administered April 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Our fourth graders will also take the performance portion of the NYS Science Assessment the week of May 27<sup>th</sup>, and the written portion June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are asking that our families take note of these important dates, and ensure that our students are in school on the days these important assessments are being administered. Our teachers and students have been working hard in preparation for the assessments. While there is some anxiety with the pressures that testing might impose on our students, we know that with your continued partnership we can give our students the support, skills and strategies they will need to be successful. Let's work together to ensure that our students are well rested, and start the day off with a healthy breakfast during the testing season.

In addition to all the work we have been doing as it relates to testing, our students have also been engaged in other programs/activities that have been exciting for them. We would like to thank all our families for the support you provided during our PARP celebration March 4<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. Our students were excited to have special guests from the Islanders who visited and celebrated with us. We are also appreciative for your help and support with our Science Fair, which was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Both events were hugely successful, and we know this was as a result of the tremendous support our students received at home. We look forward to seeing parents and students at our next event, which will be Math Night on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Again, thank you for all you do to support our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill.

## Upcoming Flower Hill Events for April

Math Night	4/11 ~ 7-8pm
2nd & 3rd Grade Visit HHS to see "The Sound of Music"	4/11 ~ 9:30-11:30
ELA Test	4/16, 4/17 & 4/18
"VIP Night" (Daddy & Me)	4/18 ~ 7:00-8:30
State Math Test	4/24, 4/25 & 4/26
4th Grade Social	4/26 ~ 7:00
	<i>March Star students of the Month</i>

## Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students:

Isaac Joseph; Kenneth Cano Soto; Brennan Ackerman; Iverson Menjivar-Quintanilla; Thomas Milner; Alexander Morris; Alicia Velasquez-Molina; Jannel Marroquin; Matthew O'Connor; Steven Portillo-Yanes; Aria Hannah; Kendall Germain; Natalie Dunn; "Katie" Kathryn Meagher; Ella Naima; Julio Martinez; Sydney Wekstein; Cianna Batts; Robert Brown; Aydan Bachman; Muhsin Muslim; Diamond Pabon; Kemberlin Hernandez-Veliz; "Tony" Brian Callery.

Great job!!!!



# Kindergarten Highlights



Under the Common Core Standards in Language Arts, kindergartners are challenged by new experiences and expectations. There is an emphasis on strengthening specific skills in areas such as comprehension, vocabulary, word recognition, decoding, fluency, writing, speaking and listening, and grammar.

We are using fiction and non-fiction texts to develop comprehension skills, but are increasing the reading of non-fiction texts. The students are making predictions, drawing conclusions and supporting with details from text features. We are spending more time comparing and contrasting characters from text and focusing on similarities and differences between texts. We are also working on describing relationships between texts and illustrations.

In vocabulary development, we are emphasizing word relationships, word categories, and making real life connections between words and their use. Children should recognize sight words, letter names and sounds with an emphasis on automaticity. We work on activities that involve blending and segmenting on a daily basis. Parents can support this effort by saying a word to your child and asking him/her to name each sound that they hear in that word.

We continue to write on many levels. We write to express opinions and are focusing on writing about text. The students are expected to provide more detail when discussing people, places, things, and events in speaking situations. There are more opportunities for collaborative conversations with peers and teachers. Foundational grammar is taught in the context of reading writing and speaking.

Our kindergartners are actively involved in guided reading groups where they are reading books at their reading level. They are excited and motivated about their accomplishments. Please continue to read challenging material at a comfortable level with your child at home. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

*The Kindergarten Teachers*



# First Grade Highlights



The first grade teachers have been busy implementing the new Common Core Standards in ELA and the students have been truly rising to the occasion! Teachers are covering fewer topics, but these topics are being covered in greater depth. There are six instructional shifts that are needed to fully implement the Standards. Some of these shifts include: reading more non-fiction literature, reading more challenging material, analyzing what has been read in greater detail, writing non-fiction pieces and increasing academic vocabulary. Some of the ways in which parents can help at home are:

- To supply more nonfiction as well as other challenging texts.
- Read to or with your children and discuss the story. For example, reading three versions of the same story and compare and contrast them as you read.
- Pick a "word of the day" to build vocabulary.

If you have any questions about the Standards, please contact your child's teacher. As always, thank you for your support at home.

The 1st Grade Teachers



# Second Grade Highlights



New York State's Common Core State Standards introduces 6 Shifts in English Language Arts and Literacy.

Shift 2 is entitled 'Building Knowledge in the Disciplines.' Teachers are constantly using a variety of genres throughout the day and throughout the curriculum areas as part of lessons. Children should always be exposed to nonfiction literacy to integrate into usage of texts and workbooks. Extension of lessons and learning of new information will allow students to broaden their knowledge. There are so many resources to tap into and use as a learning or teaching tool.

We have a supply of tools that are used as part of lessons, independent work, challenges, and even homework assignments. Parents, please feel free to always extend your child's learning with any resources you may have. Your personal libraries, visits to the public library, and computer connections may be resources at your fingertips to encourage learning at home in addition to assignments from school. Never hesitate to expose your child to extensions of their learning.

The school science fair is a great example of this shift. Extending our science study with hands on experimentation, while completing the Scientific Method, is building enthusiasm and curiosity about various topics. Children should be encouraged to read and research topics of interest.

**The Second Grade Teachers**



## Third Grade Highlights



Third graders are hard at work on the Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts, which will lead up to our state exam the third week of April. Some of the instructional shifts we have highlighted these past two months are gathering information from the text to explain answers, author's point of view and inferences. We have also been working on context clues to help us read around words to get a better sense of the meaning. We practice these skills in our weekly extended responses, which provide students an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills.

In writing, we are working on all the facets of a great writing piece: a topic sentence, three details with explanations, transitional words such as first, next, then and last to show sequence of events, a closing paragraph, and correct spelling, punctuation and capitals. In addition, students support their work with evidence from text.

Students are working on close readings where we read in smaller portions and in more depth through repeated reads, and analysis with guided questions. This allows the students experience a better understanding and see the smaller details. The boys and girls are hard at work and their progress has shown.

Here are some helpful questions you can ask your child at home when they read:

How would you summarize the text?

What genre does the selection represent?

What does the author want the reader to believe?

Some good websites to explore:

<http://www.commoncoresheets.com/>

<http://www.fcrr.org/>



## Fourth Grade Highlights



It's been a busy few weeks for our Flower Hill Fourth Graders as we hustle along, immersed in a schedule full of academics and activities! In Math, we have been continuing to refine our multiplication and division skills by increasing fluency and retrieval of facts through our Math "Sprints", which our students are enjoying very much. In addition, we have been aligning the Common Core Standards and Six Shifts into our Math curriculum, while exploring fractions, decimals, measurement, prime and composite numbers, and implementing problem solving strategies across all Mathematical concepts. The students just completed their second Math Quarterly, which we will be reviewing in order to prepare for the NYS Math Test that will be upon us shortly. We continue to explore Language Arts through the Treasures Reading Program, with varied types of instruction in reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, and phonics. As we read, the students are learning to recognize text structure and author's perspective, and to analyze literature, through a balance of literary and informational texts. The children are enhancing their writing skills by constructing short and extended responses to literature that ask them to analyze text, and compare and contrast elements of text and characters. In Science, the Fourth Grade has been learning about Electrical Circuits through the hands-on adventure that the ESP science kits provide them with, while starting some Science review through the use of the "Measuring Up" book. All of the classes, and many individual students, eagerly participated in the Science Fair, and busily worked on exciting projects utilizing the Scientific Method. All of the students enjoyed walking through the Science Fair to see all of the creative projects. Finally, we all enjoyed the PARP festivities, which motivated many of our students to keep on reading! Thanks to the Flower Hill PTA and all of the PARP volunteers that make PARP a possibility!

**The 4th Grade Teachers**



## Library Literary Corner



It is really great to see students excited about lessons, and the Flower Hill students have shown their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn during library lessons. One of the lessons we did in library was a "monster lesson". After reading a fiction book to the classes, students were asked, "Are monsters real?" We then went to the National Geographic site to view pictures and find facts about giant squids. The students were eager to know more about these "monsters of the deep". On another grade level, a lesson plan included nonfiction math related books. We talked about the concept of "a million". Included in the lesson was a visit to web sites to see the population of the United States and the population of the world.

When students wanted to know more information about these topics weeks later, I directed them to my eboard page. These are a few sites that are available through links on my eboard page. It is accessed through the [www.hufsd.edu](http://www.hufsd.edu) web site.

*A site for children from National Geographic. This site provides access to videos, articles, photos, games and so much more.*

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

*This site provides current information about the United States population.*

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/popclockus.html>

*This site provides current information about the World population.*

<http://www.census.gov/population/popclockworld.html>

As always, please encourage your son or daughter to read every day!

Ms. Amodeo



## Notes from Nurse Pirollo



Kindergarten registration is under way and we are planning for the 2013-2014 school year.

Just a reminder that all students entering kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

I have completed testing students for vision and hearing. If any difficulty was detected a referral form was sent home.

If you have any questions about vision and hearing tests or annual physicals, please contact me at my new direct line 631 673-2058.

Diana Pirollo, School Nurse