



Flower Hill Happenings

Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631) 673-2050 •
Hours: 8:45am - 3:05pm November/December 2012

Message from the Principal

The month of December presents us with the opportunity for reflection and anticipation. As we reflect on the year that is coming to a close, our thoughts are with the many families who were impacted by events such as the recent passing of super storm Sandy. Such events give our students the opportunity to engage in learning activities that reinforces the core curriculum as well as good citizenship.

The Flower Hill School family has risen to these challenges. Our students wrote letters of support and comfort to students in the Long Beach School District who were severely impacted by the storm. We are also conducting a Book Drive as part of this effort. I encourage you to donate a book from the Book Fair on December 11th and 12th. I would like to thank our families who participated in our annual Food Drive during the month of November. Your generous donations enabled us to continue our tradition of extending a helping hand to needy families in our community around this time of the year. It also demonstrated to our students the true gift of this season is the gift of giving.

The month of December also presents us with opportunities for hope and anticipation. It is a time when we look forward to a new year and the approaching holiday season. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Holiday Concert on December 21. Parents will be receiving a notice from our music teacher indicating the times the grade level concert will be held. We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration.

December is also a reminder that the winter season is approaching. Please ensure that our students are dressed appropriately for the weather each day. During the winter months, our students will have outdoor recess each day, unless the temperature and weather conditions are unsafe.

Thank you for all the support you give our students, teachers, and programs at Flower Hill. All of us wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season!

Upcoming Flower Hill Events for December

FH BOOK FAIR	12/11 - 12/12
FH WINTER WORKSHOP	12/12
FH WINTER CONCERT	12/21
WINTER RECESS SCHOOL CLOSED	12/24 - 1/2
	Nov Star students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students: Paige Wallace; NeVaeh Cantave, Sean Posillico, Kimberly Guardado; Hojahiria Prudencio; Hernan Iraheta-Aguilar; Raymond Cumella; Brooke Farasciano; Louis Lopez, Isabella Lanfranco; Dylan Dougal; Gemma Cartwright; Jake Burton; Alexandra Kustera; Luke Palios; Robbie Smith; Jack Morreale; Catherine McCooey; Kyle Dunn and Isabelle Grenier.

Great Job!!!



Kindergarten Highlights



In November, the Kindergartners were very busy learning about the First Thanksgiving. We read many books about Pilgrims and Native Americans. We talked about what it means to be thankful and expressed our ideas through writing and illustrations. As a result of Hurricane Sandy, the children learned about helping others. They made special pictures with messages for children who were directly affected by this storm. We can also donate books during our upcoming book fair to help these students. In language arts, we have been focusing on the theme "friends." We have studied the letters/sounds A, M, S & P, and the sight words I, we, the, a, like, can and am. Please continue to practice these with your child at home. In December, our theme will be Transportation and we will study letters T and I. Our new words will be see and go. In math, we have been working on numbers 1-10. We will begin simple addition, graphing and sorting. Everyone is excited about the holidays. We will be reading many stories and several different versions of the Gingerbread Man. The children will be discussing characters, setting, beginning, middle and endings. They will be working at centers with a focus on the Gingerbread Man. The kindergarten classes will end our month with a holiday party where we will make Gingerbread Houses!! Hope to see you there! Thank you for all of your support and cooperation.

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



Early November gave parents and teachers a "teachable moment" about hurricanes that we hope we never have to experience again. The children were happy to get back to the routine of school and anxious to learn. We were able to teach some lessons connected to the pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving. We picked up where we left off in our reading series and with our math lessons. A main focus in Math this year is math facts; i.e., addition and subtraction facts to 20. Please check your child's homework folder and review class work and homework to see what phonics and reading skills are covered each week. In Science we are finishing our Properties Unit and in December we will begin a unit on Magnets. The children enjoyed an in-school workshop related to public speaking called *Speaking Up*. More lessons will be offered later in the school year. We are looking forward to our field trip to the Engeman Theater in Northport to see *Frosty*. This is scheduled for December 20th. We want to thank all of our first grade families for the work you do with the children at home and encourage you to continue to read every night and complete homework assignments.

The First Grade Teachers



Second Grade Highlights



The second grade teachers were happy to be reunited with our students after experiencing a traumatic beginning to November. The students worked hard and made a nice transition. In math we completed our unit on addition and subtraction up to 20. We began a measurement unit including the study of the customary and metric systems. We practiced a variety of comprehension strategies while reading including summarizing, retelling, inferencing, and rereading. We completed our study of weather and the water cycle in science. The second graders were full of gratitude this Thanksgiving.

December is always an exciting month. We will study geography and winter holidays. In science we are going to study energy and motion. In math we will finish up our measurement unit and begin studying place value. The students will continue reading and writing in different genres. Please encourage your second graders to reread books at home to build their fluency. Our goal for them is that they read as expressively and smoothly as they talk, while comprehending what they read. We are eagerly anticipating creating our gingerbread houses later this month. Look for your assignments in a note from your teacher. It will be a special activity for the students.

The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



Season's greetings to all of our families!!! As we welcome in the holidays, our students are looking forward to the upcoming Winter Songfest, later this month.

In our third grade classrooms, we'll explore a variety of new topics in each of our subject areas. Our math focus for the month will be making the transition into multiplication. Families can help in this process by encouraging children to set goals in learning each of the tables (2 facts, 3 facts, etc). Computer games, like Multiflyer, can also speed up the learning time. Teachers will continue to utilize the Math Expressions books, as well as our supplemental Core review book.

In December, students may notice some similarities between some of the topics in our Treasures book and our social studies text. Communities are the common thread we'll be studying. The focus is extended on a local level by our school-wide effort to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Each child is being asked to write a letter to the children of the East and West Elementary Schools in Long Beach. Additionally, we'll be donating new and gently used books to the children of the Long Beach community. We are encouraging each of our families to play an active part in this project to help our neighbors in need.

The buoyancy unit that is featured in our science curriculum has been a huge hit. Students love doing the hands-on labs and learning about concepts like "Displacement" and the different states of matter.

One additional note in Language Arts: This month we will continue to examine author's purpose in writing. Authors write to persuade, inform and entertain. Our classes will also study finding the main idea and the details that lead to it.

**The third-grade staff extends their best wishes for a wonderful holiday season
and a happy and healthy 2013.**



Fourth Grade Highlights



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We know that it has been a difficult time for all of us trying to get back to normal after Hurricane Sandy. The fourth grade students have been working very hard since returning back to school.

In Math, we have been learning about multiplication and division, relating multiplication and division, writing and solving multiplication and division expressions and equations, and using problem solving strategies. Please encourage your child to practice their multiplication tables. Best way to learn multiplications is through memorization. Have your child practice with their flashcards on a daily basis. Once they learn this division comes easily. In Social Studies, students have been learning about the environment of New York. Also, students enjoyed a presentation by the Huntington Arts Council on Native American Artifacts. In Science, students had the opportunity to complete a hands-on science kit covering the concept of matter. In English Language Arts, students have been working on identifying the author's purpose in biographical and expository text. It is important that you encourage your child to read non-fiction. On your next trip to the library have your child explore the non-fiction section and select a couple of books that interest him or her. Kids love learning about historical figures, animals and different places around the world. In writing, students have enjoyed daily writing activities corresponding to the readings. The students also had the opportunity to write to Long Beach students who lost their school due to Hurricane Sandy.

Our fourth graders all enjoyed our first field trip to Garvies Point Museum and Preserve where students had the opportunity to learn about Native American culture. We will also be having our first Book Fair. We would like to encourage our students to purchase and donate a book to the Long Beach schools. Students can also donate gently used books.

The fourth grade staff wishes all of our families a wonderful holiday season!!



Library Literary Corner



The Flower Hill Library has been a busy place! Books have been flying off the shelves as students in grades K-4 excitedly choose which books to take out for the week. To begin the year, students in grades K-1, were read books relating to the first day of school. Students in grades 2 have been encouraged to begin chapter books in the Easy Reader section. Third grade students have been learning that a library is more than just books. Libraries are a means of accessing information. Non-fiction books have been the focus of the third grad lessons. Facts have been introduced to students through the use of the SMART Board and they were followed up with a related nonfiction book. Fourth graders are becoming more independent users of the library. They have begun the use of the Destiny Automated Catalog. Fourth grade students will be able to use the knowledge of searching the automated catalog when they get to Woodhull, Finley and Huntington High School. The Flower Hill Library will continue to instill a love of reading in students as they become more independent users of the library.

Sites of interest:

UpToTen

<http://www.uptoten.com>

Up to Ten is available in 6 languages: English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian, and Korean). It includes a collection of interactive games, coloring, cards, and animated stories and songs.

MATH GAMES

<http://www.prongo.com/math/index.html>

Batter's Up Baseball. Practice your multiplication and addition here while scoring runs!!

SCIENCE

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

Is an interdisciplinary site full of animations and activities to protect animals and plants. There are many excellent sections appropriate for K-12. The Teachers Table includes curriculum on different animal species. Defend it! lets you participate in Wildlife protection in many different ways. Learn and enjoy!

Keep Reading!!

Ms. Amodeo (subbing for Ms. White)



Notes from Nurse Pirola



I am still in the process of vision and hearing screenings as required by NYS Education Law. The purpose of this requirement is to detect any vision or hearing problems that may impede a student's learning. If the results of the screening indicate that your child requires further follow-up, you will receive written notification. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



Nurse, Diana Pirola