



FLOWER HILL HAPPENINGS

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

Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe how fast the 2012-13 school year is progressing. With the end of the 2nd marking period on January 18th, we have completed the first half of the year. At this point, all our parents should have received student report cards which were sent home on January 28, 2013.

Prior to the end of the marking period, our teachers and students were engaged in mid-year assessments of our students' academic progress. The data gathered from those assessments was used in conjunction with other information to assign grades, monitor student progress, and will be used to guide classroom instruction for the remainder of the school year.

We invite parents to be a part of the conversation on the academic, social, and behavioral progress our students are making. To facilitate this conversation, we have rescheduled our evening parent teacher conferences for Tuesday, February 26. We hope you will be able to join us as this is an important step in maintaining the two-way communication between our teachers and parents. Also, please remember that if you should have any questions or concerns about how your child is doing, you do not need to wait for the end of a marking period or for a report card to be sent home before you contact your child's teacher. By working together, we can ensure that all our students will learn and achieve at a high level.

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

Upcoming Flower Hill Events for February

4th GRADE WINTER CONCERT	2/12—7:30 HHS
FLOWER HILL TALENT SHOW	2/15—6:30
FLOWER HILL SPIRIT WEEK	2/18-2/22
EVENING PARENT/ TEACHER CONF.	2/26
DAYTIME KINDERGARTEN CONF	2/28
★ ★ ★	Jan Star students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Flower Hill students:

Ian Schneider; Thomas Smith;
 Tess Markotsis; Marcus Oromaner; Sebastian Romero; Kimberly Panameno; Lily Tierney; Juliana Dentico; Luke LaGrone; Sol Rodriguez-Arevalo; Kaci McDonald; Izabella Cuji; Jeffrey Garcia-Cabrera; Richard Munch; Wilson Gonzalez-Garcia; Katie Browne; Francesca Stamatatos; Taraina Augustin; Amari Huitt-May; Hannah Roberts; Allison Quinn; Danny Stevens; Grace McKean; Christopher Segreti & Carly Cogan.

Great job!!!!



Kindergarten Highlights



This year we are focusing our work on the Common Core Standards in Math. We focus on the number core: learning how numbers correspond to quantities, and learning how to put numbers together and take them apart (the beginnings of addition and subtraction). This month we have been using our fingers to count which is a fundamental skill that your child will use to develop addition skills. We are also focusing on comparing sets. Comparing sets will also enhance his or her skill in matching one-to-one, which will help later when dealing with subtraction.

In Common Core, we are learning fewer concepts but spending more time on each one. Our goal is to build upon these skills year after year. We are also building an understanding of how math works. We want our children to be able to apply the skills taught in class to real-world situations.

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



Teachers, students and parents are facing new and exciting challenges in Math under the new Common Core Learning Standards. Teachers are required to focus more deeply on each topic in order to build a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and fluency. Students are required to "show their work" and "talk the math", meaning they have to be able to discuss how they arrived at their answers. Students are also required to develop fluency in knowing math facts. Parents can make a big difference in helping their children develop fluency by practicing math facts at home. Some easy and fun methods to use at home are: math facts flash cards, decks of playing cards, dice and dominoes. These can all be used to practice addition and subtraction facts and more than/less than concepts.

At this time in 1st grade our priority topics are :

- o Knowing addition and subtraction facts to 10 with fluency.
- o Adding and subtracting, including solving word problems.
- o Place Value to 100 – comparing numbers based on meanings of the tens and ones digits.

We are working hard at achieving these math goals! As always we continue to read and write and integrate other content areas. This month we will have a special focus on "Keeping Fit and Healthy" in Science and learning about the contributions of our presidents as well as famous African Americans in Social Studies.

The First Grade Teachers



Second Grade Highlights



The children are progressing with the new Common Core Math Learning Standards this year. Currently, we are focusing on working with numbers up to 1000. Children are expected to be fluent with math facts, both adding and subtracting, up to 20. We do "sprints" a few times each week in class to develop speed and accuracy. The children are excited to record their improvement over time. Please continue to encourage your child to practice basic facts at home.

The children have been gaining a thorough understanding of place value. We have been adding larger numbers, and delving deeply into the concept of regrouping using manipulatives and models so that the children develop a complete comprehension of the process. We will be starting subtraction with regrouping shortly. We are also learning new symbols for comparing numbers, determining which is greater or less than another number. Numbers are represented in different forms, including standard form, word form, and expanded form. We continue to work on mentally adding and subtracting 10 or 100 to or from a given number.

Becoming knowledgeable in these concepts will enable children to represent and solve math problems and allow them to build on this foundation for learning higher level mathematics in the future.

The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



The children are very involved with the Common Core curriculum for math. Not only are the children working in their Math Expressions books, but also in their Encore workbooks. These books together help us delve deeper into the six shifts in Mathematics. The shifts emphasize spending more time on fewer concepts. We will be practicing many problems based on the same idea, however proving our answers in a variety of ways. Children are encouraged to show their work to prove how they came to an answer. Much of the math taught will allow the children to apply it in real world situations.

Many lessons begin with math sprints. Each student has one minute to answer as many equations as they can. After one minute, we practice skip counting along with movement. The students then try the sprint again. The goal is to do better the second time around, even if it is just by one point.

By this time in the school year the third graders are expected to know place value up to the 1,000 place, solve two-step word problems using the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), rounding numbers to the nearest 10 or 100, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.

Currently in math, the children are hard at work in a chapter in multiplication and division. This will require much memorization and practice! The math book introduces several fun games to help learn multiplication and division facts. Why not play a game or two?

The Third Grade Teachers



Fourth Grade Highlights



Fourth graders are moving along nicely in Math. The teachers are designing their lessons with the six shifts in mind, so math might be looking a little different this year. The fourth graders have learned how to multiply a one digit by a two digit number in different ways. Graph paper is used to show partial products and using the distributive property to find products has also been used. Some students even prefer to use the base ten blocks to find products as well. Those days of having the teacher tell the student place the 2 on top and cross multiply because, "That's what I said to do" is over. Shift 4 which states, "Students deeply understand and can operate easily within a math concept before moving on. They learn more than the trick to get the answer right. They learn the math". So let your child work through their math and show you how they are learning.

It is still imperative that your child becomes fluent with their multiplication and division facts so they can continue to learn concepts easier. Please make sure they are studying these facts at home or in the car on the way to practice.

The students are enjoying one minute math sprints where your child becomes more competitive with themselves than their peers. Math sprints help to build accuracy and speed with math computations. Don't forget there is a Flower Hill bulletin board displaying the Math Word of the Week for grades K-2 and 3-4 and Shape of the Week for K-4. Students need to become more familiar with math words and begin using their math vocabulary more frequently in writing on a daily basis.

Fourth Grade Teachers



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 chose 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 grade 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



Notes from Nurse Pirola



Now that we are into the cold and flu season, here are some reminders on how to keep your family healthy.

- Get vaccinated. A flu shot is recommended for everyone over 6 months old.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizer. Remind your child to wash hands for a full 20 seconds, the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and toss into trash. If tissues are not available, cough into your sleeve.
- If your child is sick, keep home from school. Your child may return to school only after being fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- Consult your physician if you think either you or your child has the flu. Your doctor may prescribe an antiviral drug to treat the flu. The drug must be started during the first 2 days of illness.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

Stay Healthy,
Mrs. Diana Pirola, RN

Mrs. Lofaro's Math Corner

Required Fluencies in the Common Core State Standards for mathematics

Fluent in the Standards means "fast and accurate." It might help to think of fluency as meaning the same thing as when we say that somebody is fluent in a foreign language: when you're fluent, you flow. Fluent isn't halting, stumbling, or reversing oneself. At each grade level in the Standards, one or two fluencies are expected:

Grade	Required Fluency
K	Add // Subtract within 5
1	Add // Subtract within 10
2	Add // Subtract within 20 Add // Subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply // divide within 100 Add // Subtract within 1000
4	Add // Subtract within 1,000,000
5	Multi-digit Multiplication
6	Multi-digit division Multi-digit decimal operations

** Daily practice of basic facts helps to promote fluency. The goal is that students will know math facts as well as they know their name.

E-Board Access

I am excited to announce that my HUFSD E-Board is up. In order to access my e-board you must go to the HUFSD website. Access the quick click menu, scroll down to e-boards. My e-board is listed under Flower Hill Primary School, Grade 4.

5 Ways To Help Your Child's Math Skills

Promote a "positive attitude" about math.
What you say influences how your child thinks.

Incorporate math into your child's daily life.
Have your count out change or help with recipes that are halved and doubled.

Help your child appreciate how math is used in everyday life - for example in sports, when making purchases or paying bills.

Make Math Fun!!! Cards, dominoes, and board games that use counters and paper

Ask for explanations of math assignments so you know what concepts are understood.

Upcoming Events

World Math Day Grades 3 - 4

March 6

NYS Math Assessments Grades 3 - 8

April 24, 25, 26

