

Flower Hill Happenings

Flower Hill Primary • 98 Flower Hill Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 • (631)673-2050 • Hours: 8:45am -3:05pm
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Message from the Principal

Marlon C. Small

The 2008-2009 school year promises to be a fantastic year! The month of September started smoothly and has been very busy for our students and teachers. Our students have settled into their classes. They have quickly adjusted to the daily routines and rules of the building. Our teachers have been getting to know our students as individuals and learners. They have been assessing our students, collecting data, and using that information to guide their instruction.

I would like to thank all our parents who attended our recent Meet-the-Teacher Night. We hope to see all of you again in November during our Parent/Teacher Conferences. As we look toward the upcoming months, it is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to working with each of you as our partners. Please know that we will need your help throughout the course of the school year. You play a vital role in our students' education. Although you may not be able to attend every special event or meeting this year, your partnership is needed to ensure our students arrive at school on time and attend school daily. Please stay involved in your child's education by asking what he or she is studying in class. Help our students keep up with homework assignments and ensure that they read each night. As always, if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to contact his/her teacher.

Again, I would like to thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to our children. As principal of Flower Hill School, it is my conviction that we will establish a school of excellence, which is exemplified by high performing students who are nurtured and supported by a dedicated, loving faculty.

If there is ever anything that you need, please do not hesitate to ask. We are always available for you.



Upcoming Flower Hill Events!



School Closed	10/1
FH Fall Photos	10/10
School Closed	10/13
FH PTA Meeting	10/16
FH Fall Festival	10/31
Halloween Parade	10/31

Students of the Month



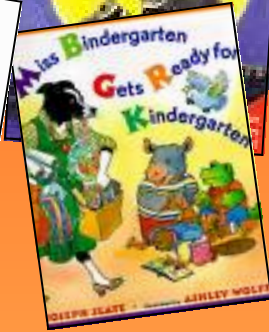
Congratulations to: Aaron Chin, Ava Adkins, Danielle Brite, Aiden Le-febvre, Zachary Gordon, Kyle Dunn, Douglas Kelapire, Karley Matthews, Natalie Ciccone, Stephanie Bermudez, Amanda Blitz, Kelly Warren, Theron Viljoen, Katie Stock, Megan Malone, Alexandra Lourenso, Grace Connell, Matthew Magerle, Sebastian Stamatatos, Olivia Quinn, Anna Adkins, Mia Idler, Josh Yanuck and Vivienne LaVertu. Keep up the good work!



Kindergarten Highlights



September has been a very busy and exciting month for our kindergartners! They are doing an excellent job following routines and school rules. The children have been working in small groups at centers where they are learning many new concepts and skills. They are learning about shapes, colors, letters, letter sounds, number concepts, counting, handwriting and poetry. The children have been exploring themes such as School, Fall, Apples, and The Five Senses.



The children are also reading many kindergarten stories. Some of our favorites are *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready For Kindergarten*, *Leo The Late Bloomer*, *The Kissing Hand* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. We have begun "Writers Workshop," where we are illustrating and writing our very own stories! In addition, we are learning to form letters correctly with practice in our "Handwriting Without Tears" program. Remember: Where do we start our letters? At the Top!!!!

The Kindergarten Teachers



First Grade Highlights



Thank you parents and guardians for helping us make the beginning of the school year a success! The children have made a nice transition to first grade.

Along with a new school year come new expectations. Your child has started the first chapter in math which covers number sense and the beginning of addition. Living things is our science topic in which the students compare and contrast living and non-living objects. We are excited to be using a new social studies magazine designed by New York State. This social studies weekly magazine is designed to meet NYS Standards. Lastly, the teachers have been busy benchmarking each child in the area of reading. As soon as this is completed, guided reading groups will begin.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding school year!

The First Grade Teachers



Flower Hill Lunch Buddies



Kindergarten and first grade parents are invited to have lunch with our students this year on the first Friday of each month. In order for this program to be successful, we are asking parents to adhere to the following guidelines:

- All parents must sign in at the front desk with the receptionist.
- Parents should wait for their child's class in the main lobby and go directly to the dining room with the students.
- Please do not use this time as an opportunity to conference with teachers. Please make an appointment with teachers to discuss problems or concerns.

In an effort to promote healthy eating habits and to be sensitive to other students, parents should not bring in fast food to the dining room.





Second Grade Highlights



The second grade teachers were pleased to meet many families at "Meet the Teacher" night. We will contact families who still need to sign up for November parent teacher conferences.

Language Arts continues to be at the core of our curriculum. We are working on our fall assessments. It is extremely important that children read on a daily basis, during the school day and at home.



Time spent reading at home can include having your child read to you as well as reading aloud to your child. Please review basic math facts and have your child complete all math homework assignments.

We are excited to work with 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*, as we discuss how a globe represents the world and we locate oceans and continents.

We look forward to our first field trip to the Atlantis Aquarium and request that families return their permission slips and money on time. Thank you for your cooperation!

The Second Grade Teachers



Third Grade Highlights



September is a wonderful time for our third graders. They have lots of new and exciting things to learn. They are getting used to using their Agenda books as well as textbooks. In Social Studies they have been learning about communities and the many different kinds of communities in the United States. In Math the students have been learning about place-value and multi-digit addition and subtraction. Students will use drawings to show grouping and ungrouping, and then will describe and discuss the process. Third graders have begun a science unit about buoyancy. In this unit they will explore the following questions:

- * Why do some objects float in water while others sink?
- * How can you find out how much space something takes up?
- * What factors affect how easy it is for something to float?

Third graders have also been working hard in Reading and Writer's Workshop. In Reading Workshop, the students are learning the



importance of choosing the right books to read, how to "buzz" or discuss a book effectively, and about different book genres. The students are also learning how to write in their Reading Journals. In Writer's Workshop, the third graders are learning how to "plant seeds" for future writing projects by sketching and brainstorming ideas in their Writing Journals. The children have already "picked a seed" and are writing their first narrative story. Spelling has also taken off beautifully! Each week during Word Study, a new spelling principle or word principle is introduced. The word and spelling principle focuses on letter/sound relationships as well as spelling patterns that help the students become better readers and spellers.

We are looking forward to another great year!

The Third Grade Teachers





Mental Health Matters



Welcome Back? Some of our students may be saying—but I'm not done with summer vacation! We know how that feels. But as adults, we are more mature and able to delay our desires. I just wanted to let you know that I am available to support the teachers at Flower Hill Primary, while they assist our students in making the transition back to school. You should know that I am certified with a Bilingual Extension to my School Psychologist's license. While my frame of reference when working within the school is presumed to be purely psychometric or behavioral, I am also trained to consider the developmental and cultural contributions to a child's well-being, and capacity to learn from others.

At this time of the year, more than ever, I recognize that the rigors of the class should be balanced with time for the students to discover their strengths, through play. Play is different for different age groups. For the very young, it is driven by spontaneity, and discovering self through displays of strength and independence. We need to let them go, assured that they will be safe. For the older students, who are more capable with both spoken and written language, play has to do with relating to others, and cleverly out witting them. You can see this change in your child's physical play. They go from running and jumping just for the fun of it, to teaming up and competing with others, to win.

A few students are dealing with anxiety and separation issues, right about now. Parents, we need to assure you that your child is in the best place for them, while in school. If not, your child will have apprehension about attending. Teachers also should be assured that they may follow their professional judgment regarding the use of playful mediums for self-expression: (puzzles, drawing time, "hands on" and other imaginative materials.) When children feel safe to explore, their minds are ready to encounter new things. Educational opportunities multiply, and compliance is more likely because the needs and feelings of the student were honored.

Transitions can be difficult for some, and not for others. In either case, they do pass. Let's be purposeful as the time goes by and, once again, "Welcome Back!"

Your School Psychologist, Dr. Fletcher



Library Literary Corner



The Flower Hill Library, along with all of the other libraries in the Huntington School District, are proud to announce that all of the elementary libraries are now "automated" for check out with the use of a "bar code book scanner." All of the librarians in the district worked an extra week in July and August to implement this wonderful procedure. The children are amazed and thrilled to see their names appear on the computer, along with the titles of their library books. The students think that my scanner is the ultimate "magic wand!"



IMPORTANT OCTOBER EVENTS

(1.) International Dinosaur Month (2.) National Popcorn Month (3.) Computer Learning Month (4.) Disney World Opens (Oct. 1971) (5.) Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-11, 2008) (6.) Yom Kippur (Oct. 13, 2008) (7.) Pledge of Allegiance created to celebrate 400 years since Columbus' arrival (Oct 12, 1892) (8.) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. receives Nobel Prize (Oct. 14, 1964), (9.) Noah Webster's Birthday, celebrated annually as Dictionary Day (Oct. 15, 1924) (10.) Thomas Edison invents the incandescent light bulb (Oct. 21, 1879) (11.) Pablo Picasso's Birthday (Oct. 25, 1881) (12.) Jonas Salk's Birthday (Oct. 28, 1914), (13.) President John Adams' Birthday (Oct. 30, 1735) Fun Halloween and National Magic Day (Oct. 31, 2008).

Remember to read 20 minutes or more daily to your children. Have a great school year!!!

Yours in Reading, Mrs. Smith

