Melissa McDonald, Media Specialist, Flower Hill Elementary School

The Flower Hill Media Center has a STEAM Makerspace where students can explore science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics activities during our Monday arts rotation.

Circulation Statistics:
Flower Hill Falcons are a great flock of readers!
August/September: 2514
October: 3366
Total: 5880

The week of October 22-26, 2018, the primary grades participated in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record again this year. Jumpstart is an organization that advocates for early childhood literacy. Maybe Something Beautiful is about a young girl named Mira who lives in a gray and hopeless urban community until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and togetherness to Mira and her neighbors. This fictional story is based on the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California. This book was a Maryland Black-Eyed Susan picture book nominee last school year, so I had read this book with most of my PreK-Grade 5 classes last year. When I read it to my primary grades this year, many remembered it. I had found a book trailer about the book which shows video from the actual Urban Art Trail which my students enjoyed viewing. I used the corresponding bird handout, which PreK-grade 1 students colored with crayons and colored pencils. Many were absolutely beautiful and so creative! On the back side was the certificate of participation. With grade 2 students, we taped together 4 poster-sized papers, and each class created a mural, more-or-less in the style of the illustrator. For all grades I sent home the activity guide for parents in both English and Spanish. I hope you enjoyed learning about the Urban Art Trail!
PTA Reflections is a national student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students of all grades and abilities may participate and explore the arts based on the 2017-2018 theme: Heroes Around Me. Students may create original artwork in six different categories based on what the theme Heroes Around Me means to them. Artwork is due to Ms. McDonald in the media center no later than November 16, 2018. For more information, visit the FHES PTA webpage here: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/flowerhilles/pta/ or call or email McDonald at 301-840-7161 or melissa_a_mcdonald@mcpsmd.org.

November is Picture Book Month! Please celebrate with your child this month by reading his or her (or your) favorite picture books together. Reading aloud together helps to improve your child’s comprehension and fluency, and it is a great way to share a special time together! Please visit the Flower Hill media center or the Gaithersburg public library branch of MCPL to check out lots and lots of picture books! I highly recommend “Love” and “Last Stop on Market Street”, both by Matt de la Peña.

Looking for other title suggestions? Send in a note with your child or email Ms. McDonald at Melissa_A_McDonald@mcpsmd.org, or visit the Montgomery County Public Libraries Kids page here: https://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/kids/books


A first grade student points out the differences between the covers of fiction and nonfiction books about crickets.