

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2018

www.frrsd.org



Winter Clothing Reminder...

Winter has arrived! Please remember to send your child to school with the proper winter clothing as they still go outside for recess.

- Hat
- Mittens/Gloves
- Snow Boots and Pants
- A Warm Winter Coat



Important Dates:

2/5 School Committee 7p

2/8 PTA Meeting 3:15p

2/13 School Council 3:15p

2/14 Valentine's Day



2/14 All School Walk
Random Acts of Kindness Week

1p

2/19 President's Day



2/19-2/23 No School

THE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

All of us here at Farmington River Elementary School go about our work with the children we serve as our highest priority, and we highly value the relationships we forge with families. Thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your child in a safe, enriching environment of growth and learning. Please know that we are committed to doing our best for the children every day.

Our mission at Farmington River Elementary School is to inspire in all students a love of learning and challenge them to grow in heart and mind. We are a community of creative, engaged learners who embrace the challenges of a rapidly changing world. We cultivate a love of learning in a nurturing academic environment that equips our students for life's opportunities.

We were able to use our Blizzard Bags on January 4th. I am pleased to report we had a combined K-6 return rate of over 90%. Feedback received from parents and students has been positive. The second snow day of January 5th will extend our school year by one day. Currently the last day of school will be June 14th, but we have a long way to go before that's set in stone.

Sincerely,

Tom Nadolny
Principal/Superintendent



THE KID'S CAFE NEWS...

January's *Harvest of the Month* was apples! We had applesauce, cinnamon apple wedges, homemade apple crisp and Crispy apple chips! The apple chips were a huge hit and the students would love to have them again!

February's *Harvest of the Month* is Butternut Squash...yummy! Keep an eye out for it on the menu. We purchase our produce locally.

Please check out our new page on Facebook.

We will post our menu daily and keep you up-to-date on any exciting news.

The Kids Café



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS...

Student Council Officers would like to begin to plan to create a school store to raise money for school events and for community/charitable projects. They are writing letters to local businesses to ask for donations of pens and pencils, as well as healthy snacks and other items needed during the school day. They hope to display the items for sale in the glass case between the gym and the cafeteria, and will hold store hours in the morning between 8:30 and 8:45. More on the store soon!

Student Council also hopes to plan for one or two fun events to raise money for a local charity and to help pay for an end of the year dance party for the upper grades. They hope to have feedback from the PTA and school administration to begin planning for one event to be held in early March. If any parents are interested in helping with plans for an end of the year dance, please contact either Laura Catullo, in the art room, or Lisa Crozier in the office.



ART NEWS...

Students in *Grade 6* will be finishing a portraiture project started last month and will begin to prepare for fundamentals of drawing using perspective. *Grade 5* students will be finishing their team sculptures and will place them on display in the main entrance hallway. They worked in groups of 4 to create sculptures that answered questions such as "How Strong is Nature?" and "Is Love Magic?"

Local Artist Ann Jon came for the critique class in early January and provided many interesting suggestions. *Grade 4* has been creating prints from hand assembled textural plates and will be producing copies of their prints over the next few weeks. *Grades 1-3* finished studies in drawing faces and will begin drawing (and later sculpting) students in various action poses. *Grades Pre-K through 1* enjoyed using clay-dough for sculptures and next will be creating collages using winter theme shapes (snowflakes, hearts, etc...), as well as creating animals emerging from the snow using pine cones and other miscellaneous materials.

The Holiday Arts Night Exhibit at the Otis Library in December was well received and featured live music provided by Megan DeCelle and Brooke DellaGiustina. The raffle winner was Megan DeCelle. Thank you to all who attended!

BLIZZARD BAG NEWS...

In the case of a school cancellation, a "Blizzard Bag" for that day will be provided to your student to be completed at home and must be turned in within 7 days.

Parents can email questions specifically related to that days Blizzard Bag assignments directly to the child's teachers. Emails should be sent before 12:00PM on that day. Teachers will respond between Noon and 1PM to any questions. There may be some circumstances where a teacher is unable to respond during the snow day, and in that case the teacher will respond as soon as possible. Teacher email addresses will be placed in the blizzard bag.

In addition, an after school Study Hall will be provided during the Tuesday and Thursday following each Blizzard Bag day from 3-4 PM in the cafeteria.

Study Hall Guidelines:

Each student requesting Study Hall will need a permission note from home.

Parents are responsible for transportation at the end of Study Hall. Students must be picked up promptly at 4:00PM.

Study Hall will be capped at 20 students per Study Hall. Students will be served on a rotating basis if more than 20 students sign up for a Study Hall. Phone calls will be made by the office to confirm student attendance if there are questions or concerns.

Each Study Hall will be staffed by 3 teachers; 1 lower grade teacher, 1 upper grade teacher, and 1 special area teacher.



MCAS DATES...

Please keep these dates in mind when scheduling any appointments:

April 2018

May 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Gr 5 ELA	3 Gr 3 & 4 ELA	4 Gr 5 ELA	5 Gr 3 & 4 ELA	6 Make-Up Day
9 Make-Up Day	10 Grade 6 ELA	11 Make-Up Day	12 Grade 6 ELA	13 Make-Up Day
16 Vacation Week	17 Vacation Week	18 Vacation Week	19 Vacation Week	20 Vacation Week
23	24 Grade 5 STE	25 Make-Up Day	26 Grade 5 STE	27 Make-Up Day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7 Grade 5 Math	8 Gr 3 & 4 Math	9 Grade 5 Math	10 Gr 3 & 4 Math	11 Make-Up Day
14 Make- Up Day	15 Gr 6 Math	16 Make-Up Day	17 Grade 6 Math	18 Make-Up Day

HEALTH & PE NEWS ...

Exercising in the Snow!

Here are some fun ideas to get outdoor activity during Winter:

- * Ice skating - burns 410 calories/hour
- * Shoveling - burns 422 calories/hour
- * Sledding - burns 400 calories/hour
- * Building a snowman - burns 285 calories/hour
- * Snowshoeing - burns between 420-1000 calories/hour
- * Cross country skiing - burns 510 calories/hour
- * Downhill skiing/snowboarding - burns 375 calories/hour

www.healthline.com/health-slideshow/quick-ways-burn-100-calories-snow#1

Check out these great local places for ski and snowshoe rentals and trails!!

Hilltop Orchards - Richmond, MA

Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Rentals

www.xskimass.com/ski-areas/about-hilltop-orchards

Canterbury Farm – Becket, MA

Ski and Snowshoe Rentals

<http://berkshires.org/member/canterbury-farm-cross-country-skiing/>

Arcadian Shop - Lenox, MA

Ski and Snowshoe Rentals

ENRICHMENT CLUB NEWS...

The next Science Club will start on March 5th. This club will be for students to learn how to use design software to create items that can be printed by our school's new 3D printer. There are applications in numerous fields that use this technology- fashion, engineering, manufacturing, medical, art, and many more!

Due to the rigorous nature of this club, 6th graders will have the first chance to sign up, and if any space is left, 5th graders will be given a chance to sign up as well. *This club will not be open to 4th graders.* However, I intend to run this club each year, so this year's 4th and 5th graders may have an opportunity to join this club next year.

Look for the 6th grade sign-up sheets to be sent home the wee of February 12th and 5th grade sign-up sheets (if *space is still available*) the week of February 26th.



STOP FLU

THE SPREAD OF

REMEMBER THE 3 C'S

- 1 CLEAN**
Wash your hands often. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- 2 COVER**
Cover your cough. Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Don't have a tissue? The crook of your elbow will do.
- 3 CONTAIN**
Contain germs by steering clear of others who are sick. If you do get sick, stay at home until you're well again, so you don't spread more germs.

A cluster of five red balloons tied together with white strings.

Tech Bytes

Hour of Code at FRRSD

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching over 100 million students in more than 180 countries. Farmington River participated in The Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week. Students can continue to work on The Hour of Code activities by finding the links on frrs.d.blogspot.com. Students as young as five are learning the language of computers as they participate in coding events in their technology classes.

*Apps...What is it? What does it do?

YouTube Music - is a mobile version of the social media channel focused entirely on music. Unlike [YouTube](http://YouTube.com) proper, there's a safety mode, so kids can search for and find whatever they want with parameters set by a parent. Users get a free trial of the commercial-free YouTube Red, but when that expires they'll either have to pay to continue that service or deal with commercials before select videos and songs.

Ditty - is a third-party messenger app that turns what you write into music. Pick a song, type out your message, and watch it transform into a musical. The next time you want to cheer someone up, do it with a song set to your own, personalized lyrics.

*The descriptions here are informational only. This is not an evaluation or endorsement of app choices for students, but a tool for parent involvement.

THE MARCH MADNESS READING PROGRAM IS COMING UP!

Our Reading Program for grades Pre-K through Grade 6 will begin on Monday, February 26th and end Monday, March 12th.

This March, we'll be celebrating women authors, illustrators, main characters, and historical figures for *Women's History Month*. To earn a participation award this year, students will

have to meet the minimum required reading. Part of the minimum required reading must be about a female historical figure, a book with a female author and/or illustrator, or a book featuring a female main character.

We had a 68% student participation rate last year, and Grades 2-6 read a total of 15,000

minutes. This year, we are aiming for a 75% student participation rate and 17,500 minutes read! Please help us reach our school-wide goal by encouraging your child to read and log their minutes each day of our competition.

Keep an eye out for your student's March Madness Reading Log on Monday, February 26th.