

PTA News

October 2018 Spotlight



Our Spotlight this month features Denise Zuidema, RN at Farmington River, also known as “Mrs. Z” by the kids

Can you give me a bit of background about you?

Where do you live, do you have children/pets or live with someone you'd like to share with us?

I was born and raised in Virginia and went to school there, graduating from John Tyler College with a degree in nursing in 1979. I came to Massachusetts in 1981, and started my family in 1983. I presently live with my husband, one black cat named Cassie, and one black lab named Rex. We are empty nesters, as all of our children have moved: two girls are in the Boston area, with one in the medical laboratory field doing research, and the other is newly married and a special ed teacher; our last child is a hairstylist in West Springfield. He was also a student here at Farmington River at one time.

What was your job before coming to Farmington River?

I have always been a nurse in a nursing home, taking care of the elderly. I continued to do “floor” nursing until this past January 2018. I miss it at times, and I miss my patients.

What are your hobbies, or what do you enjoy doing on your time off?

I enjoy shopping, going to lunch with friends, going to Boston to see my girls and just relaxing.

What is your job at Farmington River, and what does it entail?

My job at FR is to make sure all of the students and at times the staff are

healthy and injury free. I also keep all of the medical records up to date on all of the students to make sure everyone is healthy.

Can you tell us how you feel about working at Farmington River, and what your goals are in your position?

I love seeing the kids smiling and laughing. It makes me sad when they hurt themselves. I know it's my job to make them feel better, and to give them a hug.

What's your favorite part of the day?

My favorite part of the day is seeing the kids smiling and having fun.

What sort of message do you want to give to the children and parents at Farmington River?

I'm very lucky to work in a district where the children are happy, healthy, loved and well cared for. The parents in this district are wonderful and very easy to make contact with, which makes my job easier.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, October 18 at 3:15 pm
in the School Library

Child Care available during PTA meetings!

You are welcome to join us! If so, please send your child with a note mentioning they will stay after during the meeting.

SaveAround Coupon Book Fall Fundraiser

Orders due Monday, September 15

Thunderbirds Hockey!

Sunday, October 14 at 3 pm
Springfield Mass Mutual Center

Family Fun Night

Friday, November 9 at 5:30 pm,
Pizza Dinner served for Farmington families;
Public welcome at 6:30 pm for Dr. Dennis Regling's "Magic of Science" show!

Annual Holiday Shop

Thursday, Dec 13 & Friday, Dec 14
A traditional holiday activity for students!

“We are not what we know, but what we are willing to learn.”

—Mary Catherine Bateson

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Get in touch at PTA@FRRSD.org

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◆ GENERAL PTA NEWS ◆

On Tuesday, October 9th, we observed **School Custodian Appreciation Day** by recognizing our dedicated custodial staff: Mr. Jeff, Matt and Valerie. We truly appreciate all they do to help keep our school in tip-top shape!

It's already upon us! On Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 3 pm, the PTA sponsors a family field trip to the **Springfield Mass Mutual Center** to see the **Thunderbirds** hockey team play. Sign-up flyers were sent home late September. Members of the 4th-6th Grades will perform "God Bless America" under the direction of Farmington River music teacher, Michael Flower.

Students began selling **SaveAround Coupon Books** to raise funds for their classrooms beginning on Monday, October 1st. SaveAround is a coupon book that offers hundreds of BOGO (buy one, get one) discounts, as well as exclusive deals and promotions. The mobile app and on-line coupons allow for easy savings on the go! Buy one book for \$25 to gain \$5,000+ in savings! Orders due Monday, October 15.

Family Fun Night is Friday, November 9th. We will host our Pizza Dinner for attending Farmington families at 5:30 pm, followed by the amazing talents of author, professional educator and master magician, Dr. Dennis Regling and his Wonder Shows' "The Magic of Science" in the school gym at 6:30 pm. Using chemistry, mathematics, electricity, optical illusions and physics, Dr. Dennis demonstrates scientific principals behind the art of magic tricks. The public is invited to join us starting at 6:30 pm!

Our last event of the fall is our annual **Holiday Shop**, scheduled for Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th. This is a traditional PTA-sponsored activity where children enjoy being able to hand-pick affordable gifts for family members, teachers, friends or even pets! Helpers shall be on hand to assist with budgeting and also to wrap two gifts per child. A letter with more details will go home to families in November.

WANT TO HELP THE PTA BUT DON'T HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER OR ATTEND MEETINGS?

Here are a few ways you can participate and help us with little effort (we welcome community members, too!):

JOIN THE PTA: complete a membership application. Becoming a member in no way obligates you to volunteer; rather, it's a way for you to say that you support what we're doing. \$5 fee supports us and the National PTA, who provide resources to help us do what we do. Contact pta@frrsd.org for a form.

COLLECT BOX TOPS! Clip those squares on participating products, attach to a collection sheet and send in with your child's name and grade. For collection sheets and a list of products, see www.boxtops4education.com.

REGISTER YOUR PRICE CHOPPER "ADVANTEDGE" CARD: Log on to the Tools for Schools website at www.pricechopper.com/tools-schools to submit your card number. Our school code is 14062.

REGISTER YOUR STOP & SHOP CARD: Log on to the A+ School Rewards website at www.stopandshop.com/school-rewards to submit your card number. Our school code is 05619.

AMAZON SMILE purchases help us earn money! Simply visit <https://smile.amazon.com> and log into your Amazon account. You can select Farmington River Elementary School as your charitable organization, and Amazon will then donate .5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know: same products, same prices, same service.

DURING THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR, WE RAISED:
 \$ 17,211 through fundraising (Fall Fundraiser & Cash Calendar)
 \$ 666 through Box Tops [compared to \$823 in 2016-2017]

As always, feel free to email us at pta@frrsd.org with any questions.

