

# PTA News

## May 2019 Spotlight

**Our Spotlight this month features Ms. Cat, Farmington Art Teacher and Student Council Advisor**



**Can you share a bit of background about you:**

I met almost all of the children when they were in Pre-K, when saying my last name was a bit of a challenge for them; so shortening my last name (Catullo) to “Ms. Cat” worked for me! Even kids in 6th grade still prefer to call me that.

I live in Monterey, but am originally from New York and before that, Ohio (near Cleveland). I have two adult children who live in TN and CA. I’ve also been a foster parent for 15 years, and have enjoyed having over 20 children with me for varying lengths of time, until they were placed in adoptive homes. I still stay in contact with many of them, who are all grown up!

**What was your job before coming to Farmington River?**

I was, and still am, first and foremost an artist, and then I became an art teacher; next, an expressive arts therapist with a family and children’s risk prevention program; then, an adjunct faculty instructor at SUNY; later, a research consultant and school district grants coordinator; and now, I’m teaching art again!

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

I love having time to create artwork, read, and travel with my family and friends. I have to have my time at the ocean every summer, usually in Maine. I wish I had time for more racket sports, especially badminton and squash. I still try to make time for yoga and meditation.

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

I wear many hats at FRRSD: teaching art two days per week to grades PreK-6, advising Student Council, and assisting with the music department’s Spring drama/musical.

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

I love the community and families at Farmington. I feel blessed to be able to work every year, with every child in the school! I would say my goals, although ever changing, always include finding ways to make the process of learning art (and other subjects) exciting and fun, and something they want to do independently. All of the “specials” teachers work together to create a collaborative program that supports academic subjects and inspires creative thinking, problem solving, mindfulness, and wellness. It makes me very proud to be part of this faculty.

**What’s your favorite part of the day?**

My favorite part of the day is when I first enter the building and greet children who always seem so happy to be at the school, and so happy to see me! I really love having meetings on the carpet with each class before we begin our projects, spending time hearing their ideas and sharing their creations.

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

I would love to say to all of the children and parents at our school to take a moment, stop everything, and look around at all of the wonderful and dedicated teachers and enthusiastic children who make up this unique community. I’d love to say take a mental photograph of that image to keep stored in your memory, because time goes by so very quickly. No matter what else is going on in the world around us, this community is the best — ever. In those moments of feeling so lucky, we can also ask ourselves, “what one thing can I do today to make a positive difference in someone’s life?”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Next PTA Meeting**  
Thursday, May 16, 3:15 pm  
in the School Library

◆ **Child Care during PTA meetings** ◆

Just send your child in with a note

**Student Council  
Olympic Games & Dance**  
May 3

**School Lunch Hero Day**  
May 3

**Staff Appreciation Week**  
May 6 - 10

**School Nurse Day**  
May 8

**Screen Free Week**  
May 13 - 17

*“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.”*

—B.F. Skinner

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Welcoming your comments and ideas! Get in touch at PTA@FRRSD.org  
See more online at FRRSD.org/PTA

## ◆ GENERAL PTA UPDATES ◆

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL RECAP

Recently, the PTA held their annual **Ice Cream Social** in the cafeteria! It was dessert-time in the early afternoon, with the entire school invited, all grades accompanied by their teachers. It's the PTA's way of saying "thanks" for being such troopers and hard workers with our annual Cash Calendar fundraising event!

### STUDENT COUNCIL'S OLYMPIC GAMES & DANCE NIGHT IS HERE

As of this writing, and after much exciting planning, the **Student Council**—along with **advisor Ms. Cat** and many energized **parent volunteers**—shall host their **Olympic Games & Dance Night** at the school **Friday, May 3!** Activity stations and pizza and refreshments will be on hand and served to Grades K-6. After the Olympic Games, the upper Grades 4-6 will be invited to join into a **DJ dance** in the gym. A flyer with **permission sign-up form** was sent home earlier in April. This event promises to make for lively memories!

### STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK: MAY 6 - 10

We look forward to our upcoming opportunity to thank the **hardworking, dedicated Farmington staff** for all they do during this year's event, which will be taking place next week.

### SCREEN FREE WEEK: MAY 13 - 17

This year's events will feature:

Monday, May 13: **Bingo Night with Pizza Dinner**

Tuesday, May 14, **Boot Camp with Justin Soules**

Wednesday, May 15, **Spring Concert with Spaghetti Dinner**

Friday, May 17, **Swimming at Berkshire South with Snacks & Treats**

These activities lend many opportunities to shut down devices and join in the fun!

### FIELD DAY IS COMING SOON

Be on the lookout for **Field Day 2019** order forms! **FREE** t-shirts go to students having sold **5 or more Cash Calendars!**



*Photo, courtesy of Linda Curtiss*



◆ **Box Tops are truly the most simple way to raise money!** Each Box Top you see on products may only have a value of 10 cents, but they really do add up! Idea: try keeping a small, clear baggie pinned to your kitchen bulletin board, to easily clip and add to. We use this money to help support activities and programs throughout the year. Our school usually earns over \$700 annually that way! For a list of products, visit: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)



◆ **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.



◆ **Price Chopper Tools for Schools:** This program allows you to earn points to help our school get needed equipment, such as school supplies, musical instruments, and playground equipment. Simply sign up at the store, or visit: [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com)



◆ **Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards offers customer opportunities** to be rewarded by earning money for their designated school!