

PTA News

September 2018 Spotlight

Our September Spotlight features Katherine Graham, 3rd Grade Teacher at Farmington River



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 live in Sheffield, MA with my fiancé, Matt. My family lives all over the country. My parents live in Orlando, Florida. I have one brother in Georgia, and another brother in Colorado.

What was your job before coming to Farmington River?

I grew up in Miami, Florida. I went to the University of Florida (go Gators!), and then moved to New York City. I lived there for 8 years before moving to Sheffield, MA. Before working at Farmington River, I taught kindergarten and 2nd grade in Florida, and then taught 1st grade in Queens, NY. Last year, I taught 4th, 5th and 6th grade here at Farmington River. Before I was a teacher, I used to help my parents with the family business and worked in a book store.

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

When I am not working, I like to get outdoors. I enjoy hiking, kayaking and rock climbing. I also love to read, and to visit my family and friends whenever I can!

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

I am the 3rd grade teacher at Farmington River. I'm so happy that I get to spend my day sharing books with my class,

working on writing and listening to my 3rd graders tell me stories about their lives! I come to school early each morning to plan for the day, and I enjoy thinking of fun activities for the class to do!

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

I love working at Farmington River! The students, families and staff have all been wonderful since I started working here last year. I appreciate how everyone has welcomed me to the school.

What's your favorite part of the day?

My favorite part of the day is the morning when students arrive to school, because they always greet me with a smile and tell me the fun and interesting things they have done outside of school!

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

I would like to tell the Farmington River families how excited I am to start a new adventure in 3rd grade—and I know it will be a fun school year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, October 18 at 3:15
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.

Back to School Night

Wednesday, September 19 at 6 pm
Please join us to meet Farmington teachers, staff, PTA members, and other families!
Our PTA will be hosting its annual membership drive, and for the first time, we'll be presenting a fun skit!

Fall Fundraiser

Save-Around Coupon Books are coming, late September or early October! Stay tuned.

Thunderbirds Hockey!

Sunday, October 14 at 3:15 pm
Back by popular demand, at the Springfield Mass Mutual Center



"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."
— Chinese Proverb

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◆ GENERAL PTA NEWS ◆

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

On the first day of school, students and staff were greeted by a colorful walkway welcoming them to school! New teachers received a kind note, Amazon gift cards, and a bar of Lindt chocolate as a welcome gift. Teachers and staff were treated to Mrs. Murphy's donuts, fruit, coffee, and an assortment of flavored creamers. A sign placed on the table in the Teacher's Lounge read, "Donut ever forget how much we appreciate you." In order to encourage and bolster new membership, Aimee addressed the parents in **Mrs. Maxton's Kindergarten** class, as well as the parents in **Mrs. Higgin's PreK** classes. She was able to make some new friends, and gather new members!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night is **September 19, 2018 at 6:00 pm**. The PTA will hold its annual membership drive, and present a skit on, "The many joys of being a PTA member."

THUNDERBIRDS HOCKEY RETURNS!

On Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 3:15 pm, the PTA is sponsoring a family field trip to the **Springfield Mass Mutual Center** to see the **Thunderbirds** hockey team play. Informational sign-up flyers will be coming home soon. The school chorus will be singing, "God Bless America" and the PTA will be paying for chorus members' tickets.



◆ **Box Tops** are the simplest way for us to raise money! Anyone can participate. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents, and it really does add up! We use this money to help support activities and programs throughout the year. During the 2017-18 school year, we earned over \$700 ... that's free money for us! For a list of products, visit: 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



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

FALL FUNDRAISER 2018

This year, our Fall Fundraiser will be the selling of *Save Around Coupon Books* for \$25 each. Student profit will be 50%! Starting date September or early October. Stay tuned!