

PTA News

December 2018 Spotlight

Our Spotlight this month features Rebecca Hamill, Preschool Teacher



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 with my husband, Dan (known as Officer Dan to the kiddos at school). We are in the process of building a new house, and we hope to move in after the first of the year. Dan and I have one dog, Bella, and a baby on the way! Our baby is due this March and we are VERY excited!

What was your job before coming to Farmington River?

Before coming to Farmington River, I was doing a lot of substitute teaching in Sheffield and New Marlborough at Southern Berkshire Regional School District. My very first job was in high school, at *The Gifted Child* in Great Barrington. That was a lot of fun!

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

Some of my hobbies are reading, singing, baking, and going for motorcycle rides with my husband. During my time off, I enjoy traveling, spending time with my family, and doing fun things with my two little nephews.

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

This is my eighth year working at Farmington River. For the first five years, I was a paraprofessional in Mrs. Costa's preschool classroom. This is my third year as the half-day preschool teacher teaching 3 and 4 year-olds, and I absolutely love it! Besides teaching academics like math and ELA, some of the other things I teach my students are how to share with their friends, the appropriate way to act and behave in school,

and other important social skills to help them become successful learners at school.

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

I feel extremely fortunate to be working at an amazing school like Farmington River. We are such a close-knit community where all of the teachers know each student in school by name. My goal as a teacher, and what inspired me to become a preschool teacher in particular, is to help my students feel safe, comfortable, and genuinely enjoy coming to school. Preschool is a child's first exposure to school, and it is an extremely important time for a teacher to help set the stage for their students' future success.

What's your favorite part of the day?

My favorite part of the day is story time, when I get to sit in front of my students and read to them. I love being able to expose them to different books and literature, in hopes that they will fall in love with reading, as I have. I enjoy watching their faces as I read to them and to see how engrossed they get in the story. I also enjoy the questions and conversations that develop during and after the story.

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

The message I would like to give not only to the children and parents at Farmington River, but to everyone who I meet and who is reading this, is a simple one (and one that Ellen DeGeneres says at the conclusion of every one of her shows) ... be kind to one another.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, December 13 at 3:15 pm
in the School Library

◆ **Child Care during PTA meetings** ◆
Please join us! Just send your child in with a note to stay after during meeting

Annual Holiday Shop

Thursday, Dec 13 & Friday, Dec 14
The PTA's traditional event for students!

Beginner's Day At Otis Ridge

Saturday, Dec 8 starting at 10:30 am
Use equipment and ski for free!

Holiday Arts Festival & Farmington Winter Concert

Thursday, Dec 20
Music and Arts — all day!
Details, see flyer recently sent home

Family Ski Night Program

Wednesdays, Jan 2 - Feb 6



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Welcoming your comments and ideas!
Get in touch at PTA@FRRSD.org



See more online at FRRSD.org/PTA

"I believe that we learn by practice. Whether it means to learn to dance by practicing dancing, or to learn to live by practicing living — the principles are the same. Practice means to perform, over and over again in the face of all obstacles, some act of vision, of faith, of desire. Practice is a means of inviting the perfection desired."

—Martha Graham

◆ GENERAL PTA NEWS ◆

AND JUST LIKE THAT, we're already approaching the winter holidays! Our annual **Holiday Shop** is scheduled for **Thursday, December 13** and **Friday, December 14**. Children love this traditional PTA-sponsored activity, which has been an ongoing event since the 1970s.

Children enjoy being able to independently shop for affordably-priced gifts, hand-picking items for family members, teachers, friends, and even pets. Prices range \$1-\$5. Helpers will be on hand to assist your child with shopping lists and budgeting, and also to wrap two gifts per child. We have a range of locally-crafted donations this year, including jewelry, maple syrup, home goods and ornaments! A letter with an attached shopping list to clip was sent home earlier this week. **Please send your child with their money in an envelope, labeled with their name and a reusable shopping tote!**

OTIS RIDGE SKI PROGRAM 2019

The PTA is sponsoring the **Family Ski Night Program** in conjunction with Otis Ridge for students in K-6 and their families. PreK can ski with a parent, but there are no lessons available. The program will run **Wednesday evenings starting at 6 pm, January 2** through **February 6**. Details and enrollment paperwork sent home early in December. If you have any questions, please contact the PTA at PTA@FRRSD.org.

BEGINNER'S DAY at the RIDGE

By way of mention, as related to the PTA ski program, will be a **Beginner's Day** on **Saturday, December 8**. Families are invited to use equipment and ski for free! There will be lessons for Level 1 or 2 skiers ages 6 and up, and Riders ages 8 and up, starting at 10:30 am. Come out and join the fun!

MERRIEST OF HOLIDAYS TO OUR FARMINGTON FRIENDS AND FAMILIES!



◆ **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!