



PTA News

February 2019 Spotlight

Our Spotlight this month features Jonina Decker, Special Education 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?

The students at Farmington River Elementary School call me Mrs. Decker. Parents are welcome to call me by my first name, Jonina. Many people wonder about my name. My mother named me after her roommate from college because she liked her name and thought it was unique. She had Icelandic heritage, and it was a tradition in her family to combine family names. Jonina came from combining her grandparents' names, Joseph and Nina.

I live in Lee with my husband, my son and my dog. My husband, Bob is a Golf Course Superintendent at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, MA. Our dog, Chelsea goes to work with him at the golf course. Our son, Jackson is in the 7th grade at Lee Middle and High School in Lee, MA.

What was your job before coming to Farmington River?

This is my 18th year teaching at Farmington River Elementary School. Before teaching at Farmington River, I worked at the Bryant School in Great Barrington (that building is now used for Jane Iredale Cosmetics). I also spent two years teaching at a private school in Vermont. For a summer job when I was in college, I worked for The Other Brother Darryl's Fish Market, here in Otis.

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

I enjoy going for walks and hikes with my husband, son and dog. Our favorite place to

go hiking is called Kennedy Park in Lenox, MA. We are members of the Trustees of Reservations, so we also hike at many other places, as well. I also enjoy reading. My son and I go to the library quite often to check out books. He loves to read, also. One of my favorite places to be is in Maine. I love to walk on the beach in Maine.

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

I am a Special Education Teacher who works with the lower grades at Farmington River. 'Lower grades' refers to Preschool to Grade 3. I also conduct Preschool and Kindergarten Screenings in the Spring and Fall.

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

Farmington River Elementary School is a wonderful school, and I enjoy working with my students and their families. My goal as a teacher is to always do my best for my students. I also want my students to learn, make progress, and to feel good about themselves as learners.

What's your favorite part of the day?

My favorite part of the day is the time that I spend with my students.

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

I want my students and their families to know that my door is always open, and I will be there for them, whenever they need me.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, February 28 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

Pizza Wrap Party for Otis Ridge PTA Ski Program Families

Wednesday, Feb 6 at 6 pm

Reminder: no lessons this last night of the PTA Ski Program — enjoy "open ski" time

Tubing at Butternut

Friday, February 8 (details on reverse)

Ca\$h Calendar Update

Sales take place during month of February

Box Tops Due

Friday, Feb 15

Read Across America

Friday, March 1
Annual celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday!



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

—Sydney J. Harris



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◆ GENERAL PTA NEWS ◆

OTIS RIDGE SKI PROGRAM—CAPPING IT OFF WITH A PIZZA PARTY

The PTA has sponsored our annual **Family Ski Night Program** in conjunction with **Otis Ridge** for students in **K-6** and their families for many years now. The program has been very popular this year, as always. Our last night of the program shall be **Wednesday, February 6**. Please enjoy open, free skiing—reminder there will be no lessons on this final night. We will be hosting our traditional Pizza Wrap Party for PTA Ski Program families, starting at 6 pm!

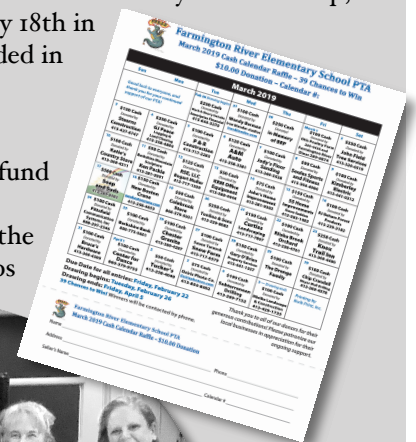
DUE TO FREEZING TEMPERATURES, OUR 2ND ANNUAL TUBING AT BUTTERNUT RESCHEDULED

It's been crazy-brrrr cold! We've rescheduled our annual tubing trip on a wing and a prayer that this **Friday 2/8** will present with temperatures warm (and dry) enough to **let it fly on down the hill** on a tube! Our PTA-sponsored **Annual Tubing at Butternut Ski Resort** for **Grades K-6** has been rescheduled for **Friday, February 8th**. Reminder it is a daytime field trip, no money required! Reminder that all students must have submitted signed waiver forms by January 18th in order to attend. Remember to bundle kids up well for a great time in the snow! All details included in info packets sent home early January. Any questions, please contact us at PTA@FRRSD.org.

CASH CALENDAR SALES HAVE BEGUN, NOW WITH 39 CHANCES TO WIN!

Our popular **Cash Calendar** is back! With more chances to win than ever before, this how we fund the great majority of our PTA programs, features and events! We are most appreciative of local businesses and families who sponsor a calendar "square." We hope you will continue to support the PTA and purchase calendars for **\$10 each** from one of our students or staff members. Your stubs will be put into a daily drawing, all throughout March, with a few days into the months prior and following. Best of luck at your chance to win up to \$500!

"READ ACROSS AMERICA" is a celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday that will take place at the school on Friday, March 1.



Recently, a crew of us got together to do a little Cash Calendar collating ... with a special visiting guest!



◆ **Reminder: Box Tops DUE Feb 15— the simplest way 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.bboxtops4education.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!