

# PTA News

## April 2019 Spotlight

**Our Spotlight this month features Dawn Lemon, Farmington parent and retiring PTA Treasurer**



**Can you share a bit of background about you, and where do you live?**

I was born and raised in Falls Village, Connecticut. I moved out west to Vail, Colorado and down south to Wilmington, North Carolina before settling in Sandisfield in 2005. I come from a small family and a smaller town than Sandisfield (if that's at all possible).

**What is your line of work?**

Currently, I am the Assistant Program Manager of a Housing Rehabilitation Program. I have had many different roles and have done a lot of different work prior, from a Personal Assistant to an Accountant — and everything in-between! (Literally.) I enjoy the diversity of the many different positions and the opportunities that arise with each profession.

**Tell us about the family ...**

My husband Gary and I have two children: Olivia Ann, age 5 who is a Kindergartener, and Ethan Cooper, age 8 who is a 2nd Grader. I don't have any pets (and fact be known, I don't like animals!)

**What things are special to you about Farmington River?**

Where do I begin? I love the intimacy of the school! I believe that students at small schools develop strong relationships with their peers and teachers, and in return, the school builds a foundation for our children, providing academic achievement and unique opportunities. I attended a similar grammar school, small and intimate, and 35 years later, three out of seven of us who grew up together from Kindergarten to 8th Grade are still best friends today! I know that both my kids will have lifelong friends and branch out from FRRSD. Teachers here know the students on a personal level

and foster citizenship, leadership and social-emotional skills. The communication between parents and staff is exceptional and throughout my 5 years at FRRSD, I have found the staff and teachers are nothing but personable, caring and professional. Most importantly, my kids LOVE Farmington! Which speaks volumes over my opinion and judgment ...

**What are your hobbies, and what do you enjoy doing on your downtime?**

Really, do we moms have downtime? When I'm not working, I love to travel and explore new places. The beach is my happy place for the sun and warmth (winters are extremely long and painful here in Sandisfield)! I enjoy shopping. I don't cook, nor care to, and I'm not very adventurous outdoors ... but I AM very fond of, and love spending quality time with my kids, family, and friends.

**How will you refocus your energy and efforts once you step down from your role as a PTA officer?**

What role? Am I a member of the PTA? I wasn't going to join the PTA! It's hard to believe that my 3-year term of Treasurer is coming to an end, but I'm not going anywhere. I will continue to support the PTA, and the amazing team we have! I am happy to extend my contribution driving the Cash Calendar Fundraiser, and continuing to do WHATEVER needs to be done to broaden and enhance the lives of our children. The PTA has presented all the students here at Farmington with more opportunities and unique activities and I will continue contributing to what puts a smile on our kid's faces. I am honored to have been (and will be) a part of the PTA, regardless if I was suckered into it or not! You might think you are getting rid of me, but you're not ...



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, April 25, 3:15 pm, School Library

### ♦ Child Care during PTA meetings ♦

Just send your child in with a note

### Annual Ice Cream Social

April 10

### Administrative Professionals Day

April 24

### School Principal's Day

May 1

### 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

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everychild. one voice.

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***"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."***

—William Butler Yeats

## ◆ GENERAL PTA NEWS ◆

### **STUDENT COUNCIL SEEKS A FEW MORE PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR AN EXCITING OLYMPIC GAMES & DANCE NIGHT ON FRIDAY, MAY 3**

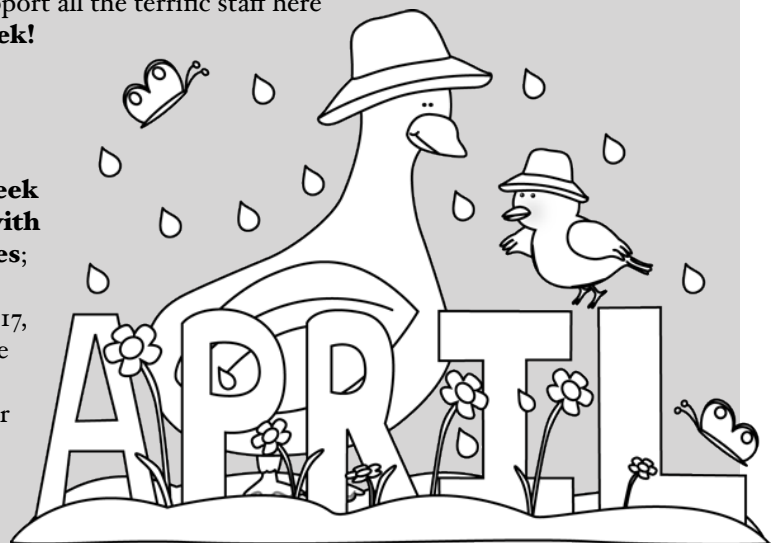
On **Friday, May 3**, the **Student Council** is excited to host an **Olympic Games & Dance Night** at the school! There will be activity stations, pizza and refreshments for Grades K-6. Later on, Grades 4-6 are invited to join in a DJ dance in the gym. There will be a small fee to support purchase of food. A flyer with **permission sign-up form** shall be sent home shortly, and will include all details of this event. **The Student Council seeks a few more parent volunteers.** Please contact the school or **Laura Catullo** at [lcattullo@frsd.org](mailto:lcattullo@frsd.org).

### **STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK: MAY 6 - 10**

Please watch your email for opportunities to help cater to and support all the terrific staff here at Farmington River, during each day of **Staff Appreciation Week!**

### **SCREEN FREE WEEK: MAY 13 - 17**

The time of spring activities rising and down with the screen has returned! Mark your calendars for some exciting **Screen Free Week** events. This year we 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**; Thursday, May 16, **Yoga with Heather Bilotta**; and Friday, May 17, **Swimming at Berkshire South with Snacks & Treats**. These family-fun activities represent many opportunities to turn off the electronics and devices, and join in on group events! Stay tuned for more details, soon to come.



## ✿ APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS ✿



◆ **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.bboxtops4education.com](http://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](http://www.pricechopper.com)



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