

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WEEKLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

January 27, 2023

Edition #19

Dear Farmington River Families,

Learning and teaching continued apace despite the difficult weather this week. The school was once again treated to a visit from Officer Messina, Sgt. Tammy, and K9 comfort dog Archer. Below you will also see a letter from our new School Committee member Alex Bowman, an invitation to the reformation of our Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SPED PAC), news from the Student Council, writing in third grade, and much more. You can share this newsletter with extended family members so they too can see the great things that are happening at the Farmington River Elementary School.

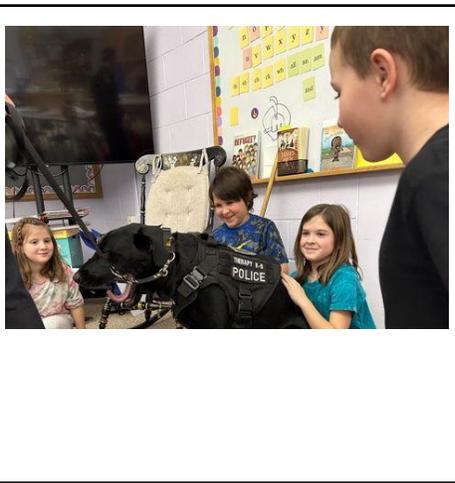
Sincerely,

Rob Putnam

You can access all previous editions of the Farmington River Elementary School Weekly Family Newsletter at this link: [Newsletter Archive](#)

Second Graders with Officer Messina and Archer

The second graders were thrilled to have a visit from Officer Messina, Sgt. Tammy, and K9 comfort dog Archer. All the students were able to pet Archer and ask the officers questions about his duties as a comfort dog. We learned that Archer loves being around people, sits on your lap if you ask him to, and knows many tricks. He demonstrated his tricks and even sat on a few second graders! The students were smiling the whole time he was in the room and are asking for a class pet already!



Meet Our New School Committee Member Alexander Bowman

Dear Farmington River Families,

I am honored to have been appointed by the Sandisfield Select Board to serve as a school committee member until the May annual election. As a dedicated member of the community, I look forward to working with administrators to ensure we provide a top-quality public education environment for our community.

For work, I am the cofounder of a startup focused on helping retailers handle the ever-increasing volume of ecommerce returns. I also work with a regional food distributor, Marty's Local, to improve the distribution of locally produced food in order to strengthen our regional economy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or concerns at abowman@frrsd.org.

Best,

Alex Bowman



Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SPED PAC)

Please join us Monday, January 30 at 3:30 in the FFRES Library for a meeting to form a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SPED PAC). At the meeting, we will discuss the role of the PAC in addressing the needs of our students and advising the School Committee regarding the program. Mike Saporito, our SPED Director, will join us to discuss parents' rights in the process.

The meeting will also be available by zoom, with a link listed below. Refreshments will be served and if you need childcare, let me know and we will arrange care for your child in the after school program. If you wish to join us and are unable to at that time, please let me know, so we can schedule the next meeting at a time that meets the needs of most families. You can reach me at denisehardie122@gmail.com.

Again, hoping to see you or hear from you. Working together we can enhance the education for all of our students in the district.

ZOOM INFORMATION:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202724184?pwd=VXN0YnZITWlrQ1JGNk1pcUkwNlZzd09>

Student Council WINTER DANCE, FEBRUARY 10TH

The Student Council will be sponsoring a 2023 Winter Dance on Friday, February 10th, from 6 until 7 for grades pre-k through 3, and from 7 until 8:30 for grades 4-6. The cafeteria will be set up with games and art supplies for kids in the lower grades to enjoy after their dance ends, so parents with kids in both lower and upper grades can stay for both dances. DJ Mr. Mike and Mr. Flower will host the music for the evening. We would also like to hold a bake sale to raise money for Student Council and have a 50-50 raffle. If you would like to bake some cookies for the bake sale, please email Ms. Cat at lcatallo@frrsd.org. Thank you! Emma Pachulski, Student Council Reporter

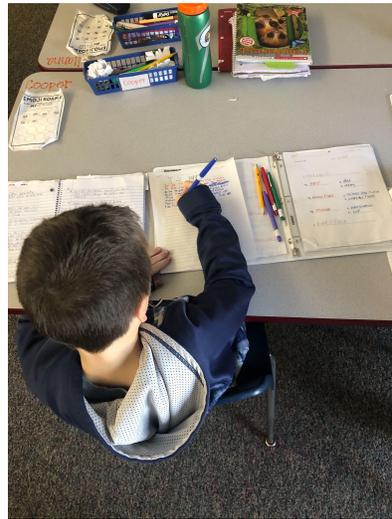
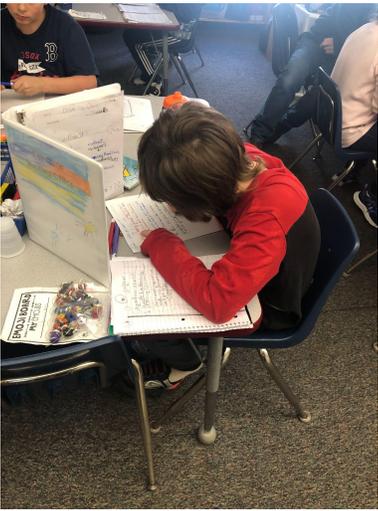
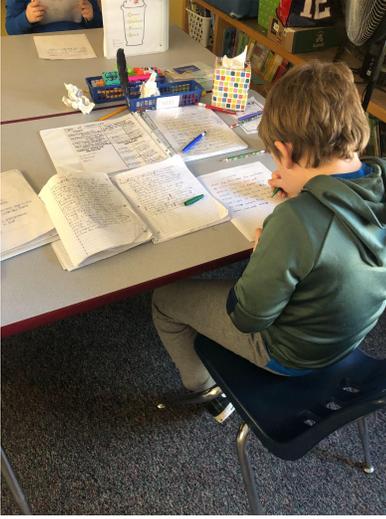
Officer Messina & Archer's Visit with 4th Graders!

Fourth grade enjoyed Officer Messina and Archer's visit! They started off by circulating around the desks a few times allowing students to say "Hi!" and pet him! Officer Messina did a wonderful job introducing himself and his teammate and describing how they help people in our community in a variety of ways including visits to schools and homes as well as supporting people with life's ups and downs! We are excited about the possibility of regular visits throughout the school year and having opportunities to read to Archer or teach him math! We are grateful they took the time to come share and extend their teamwork with us!



Third Grade Essay Writing

Third graders are working on expository essays about the rainforest. They have gathered their research and organized it into a plan. Now they are working on color coding their paragraphs so they can make sure they have all the parts of a strong paragraph! Next they will revise and edit their rough drafts and then type up their final drafts!

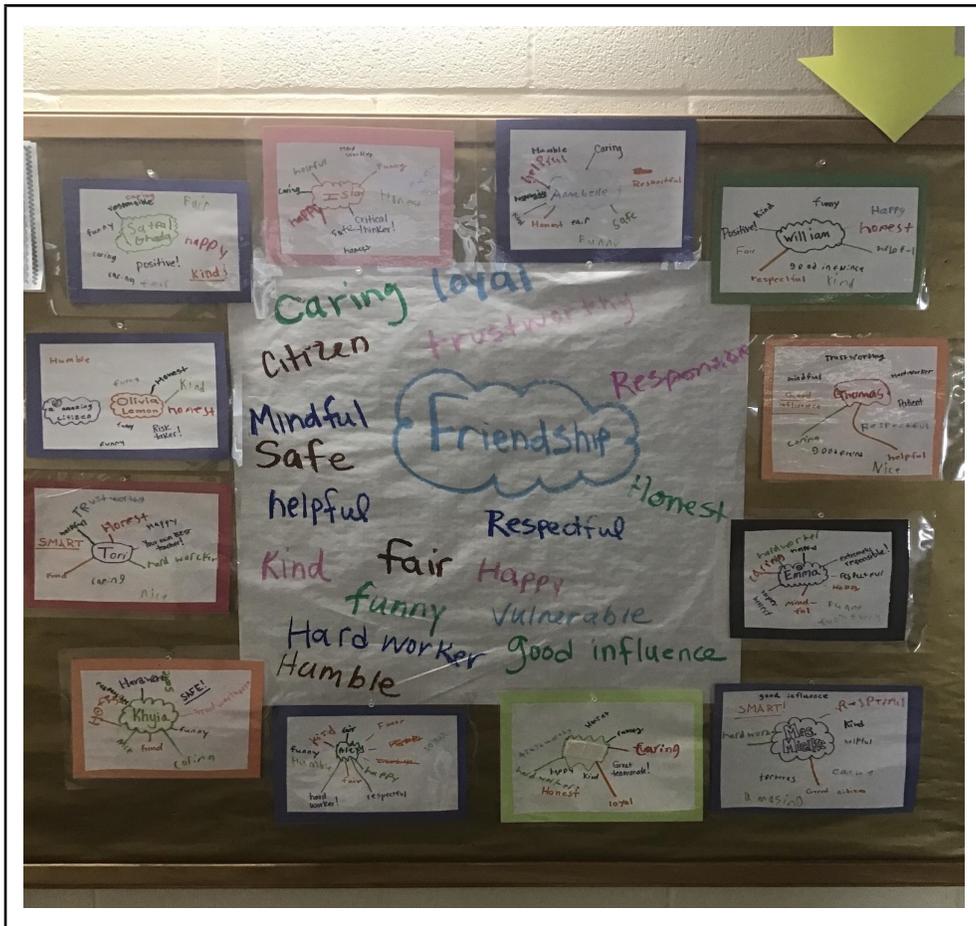


Superintendent Putnam Reading to Kindergarten



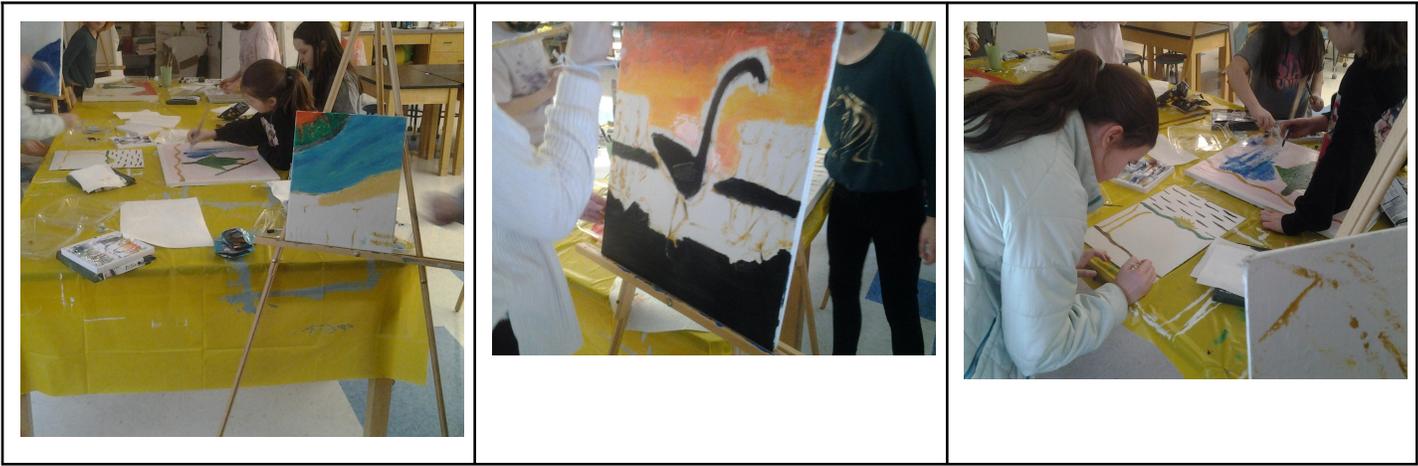
Miss Terri Time in 4th Grade!

Complimenting an incredible discussion around what it means to be a friend, fourth graders all began with a blank piece of paper upon which they wrote their own name. Then, they passed each paper around the room and classmates added words or phrases that describe qualities each student has as a friend and teammate!



ART CLUB

Art Club for grades 3-6 started a few weeks ago, with an introduction to Oil Painting. Everyone gessoed their chosen canvas, and learned about the use and care of oil paints. Now the canvases are being painted and the results are quite impressive!!



ART Gallery of Favorite Places in Otis



Nurse's Corner

January is National Winter Sports Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Awareness Month

I am sure many of you have some weekend plans of getting out on the slopes after the snow we just had! Just wanted to remind everyone of these important safety measures and signs of concussion to watch out for. Prevention is always best!

Wear a helmet! Helmets have been shown to dramatically decrease the possibility of traumatic brain injuries associated with snow sports. Make sure your helmet feels snug, covers your head, undamaged, and labeled as ASTM certified to ensure it has been tested and meets safety standards.

Know before you go! Make sure you are aware of the conditions before you go out. Check weather forecast, and maps before you hit the slopes. This preparation can help you have the optimal experience in the snow.

When you can, stay near medical care. Seeking medical attention is critical for all brain injuries. As you immerse yourself in the season's sports, be aware of a few signs and symptoms of brain injuries from the CDC.

Concussion Signs Observed:

- Unable to recall events prior to or after a hit or fall.
- Appears dazed or stunned.
- Forgets an instruction, is confused about an assignment or position, or is unsure of the game, score, or opponent.
- Moves clumsily.
- Answers questions slowly.
- Loses consciousness (even briefly).
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes.

Concussion Symptoms Reported

- Headache or "pressure" in head.
- Nausea or vomiting.

- Balance problems or dizziness, or double or blurry vision.
- Bothered by light or noise.
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy.
- Confusion, or concentration or memory problems.
- Just not “feeling right,” or “feeling down”.

Hope you all have a fun and safe weekend being able to enjoy some safe outdoor activities!

PE News

Students in 1st-3rd grade spent their Wednesday morning working with a partner to complete "Activity BINGO!" The students worked so hard and I was so impressed with them!

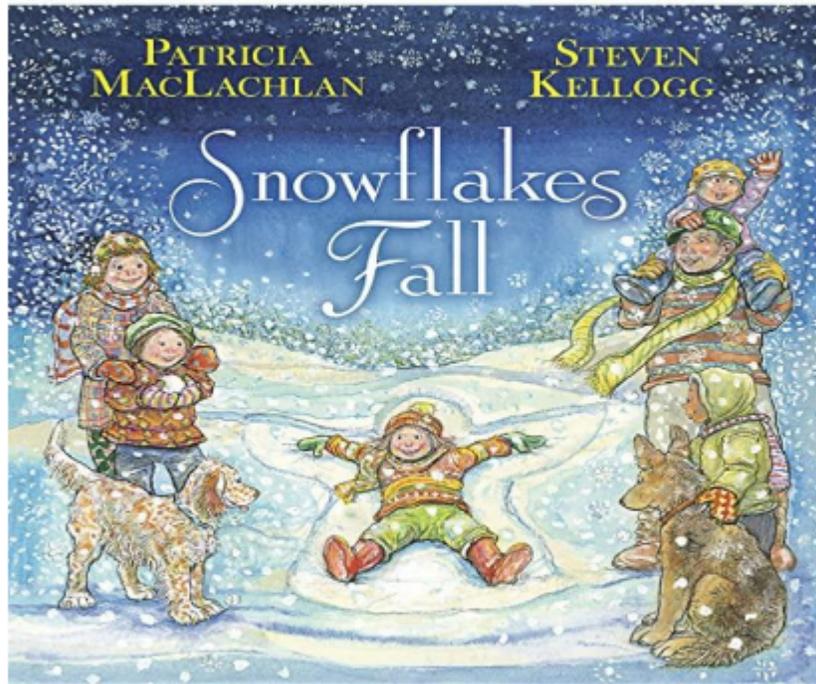


Family Contact Information

Please be sure to contact Caroline Stamm at frontoffice@frrsd.org if there are any changes in your contact information such as telephone or email. We use these contact for our robocall system so it is important to keep our records up to date.

LOOKING AHEAD

OTIS LIBRARY STORYWALK



WHAT: A walk on the Farmington River Trail

WHEN: The story will remain UP through February 5, 2023!!!

WHERE: Behind St. Mary's of the Lake Church, 48 N. Main St.
Otis

Musical Auditions for students in grades 4-6 will be held on Thursday, February 9th, from 3 until 4:30 pm. If your child is interested in performing in the Spring Musical, please be sure to send back a permission to participate form before the 9th of February. Children in grades 2 and 3 who wish to participate as endangered Rainforest Birds in the musical should not attend this audition. They should, however, return a permission to participate in the musical form by the 9th of February. Ms Catullo has extra forms in the Art Room for anyone who wishes to participate but has not yet received permission from their parents.

Farmington River Winter Dance Night Friday, February 10th, 2023

Family Dance for Grades
pre-k -3
6 pm -7 pm



7 pm - 8:30 pm Grade
4-6 Winter Dance

An adult must be present
with child
Hokey pokey
Chicken Dance
Cha cha slide
Macarena
And more!!!
Refreshments
50-50 raffle
DJ Mike in the House!!!



(Parents who attend the first program with a younger child may relax with their child in the cafeteria while their older children attend their dance program. There will be legos, games, and art supplies for fun family time.)

WINTER DANCE



*FREE Event
All ages welcome!*

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee invites **EVERYONE** to dance those winter blues away! Join us for music by DJ Jonny Jams, appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, chocolate fountain and more!



RSVP by 1.28.23 to sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info or (413) 269-7357

*Saturday, February 11th
5pm - 8pm*

**Fire station #2
Route 57**

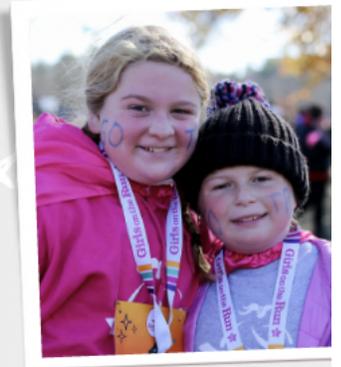


Girls on the Run is for **EVERY** girl.



Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other!

Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3rd - 5th-grade girls through interactive lessons and movement activities. The season ends with a celebratory 5K event.



Why it matters

It's fun. It's effective.

Participating in Girls on the Run transforms girls' lives by helping them increase their self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel good about themselves, inside and out.



Girls who were the least active at the start of the program increased their physical activity by more than 40%*



97% of participants said they learned critical skills to manage emotions, resolve conflict, help others or make intentional decisions*

*Results based on a independent study conducted by Positive Youth Development expert Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D.

SEASON DETAILS

Farmington River
3rd-6th grades
Mon/Thurs 3:10-4:40pm

Registration Opens: 1/23/2023

Program Starts: Week of 3/13/2023

Program Fee: \$5-\$160 Sliding Scale

Financial assistance is available to all upon registration

Contact: molly.hoyt@girlsontherun.org

Learn more and register today at www.girlsontherunwesternma.org

OTIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

with the Farmington River Elementary School

Food Drive

JANUARY 23 -
FEBRUARY 10, 2023

Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone. Every donation of food helps.

We accept donations of non-perishable food in jars, cans and sealed packets. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables in cans or jars, peanut butter, jelly, boxed juices, long-life milk, macaroni and cheese, snacks, and tuna fish.



Donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

*Papa's, *Knox Trail Inn, *Katie's, *Otis Town Hall,
*Bruce's Hardware, *Otis Poultry Farm

Food donations benefit families in the Otis and Sandisfield communities. Thank you!

LOOKING FORWARD

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SE PAC) MEETING NOTICE

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee will host a meeting on January 30th 2023 at 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm in the Farmington River Elementary School Dining Room.

This meeting will include a review of Special Education Regulations as well as other agenda items. Additional sessions will also be scheduled in the future. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

The meeting will be hosted by Denise Hardie, former long term school administrator and Otis resident as the District acting SEPAC chairperson and Michael A. Saporito – FRRSD Director of Student Services