



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

10/17/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we settle into the fall season, I want to take a moment to share some exciting updates and initiatives happening at our school.

The new theme for our Dragon Eggs Program will focus on respect. We encourage our students to demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, and our school community in various ways. Students can show respect by listening attentively, using polite language, helping others, and celebrating differences. For each act of respect, students earn dragon cards that they can exchange for a dragon egg (ping pong ball) to add to the tube in the entrance hallway of the school. When the tube is full, the whole school earns a fantastic reward! By fostering a culture of respect, we aim to create a supportive and nurturing environment for all our dragons.

Additionally, I am excited to announce that we are introducing a new online Accelerated Reader (AR) program to our school! This program features a point system that rewards students for their reading achievements and automatically recommends books that are just right for them—challenging enough to promote growth but not so difficult as to cause frustration. This personalized approach will motivate students to read more while providing valuable insights into their reading progress. We believe this program will empower our students to become confident and enthusiastic readers.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we can foster a positive and enriching learning environment for all our students.

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

"When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves."

— **William Arthur Ward** (Author)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

I hope you will join us!

ALL SCHOOL WALK

THURS., OCTOBER 17

Wear blue for National Bullying Prevention Month

WELLNESS NIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

THURS., OCTOBER 24 3:15-4:15

Community members are invited to attend and help plan this wonderful event. Please contact the front office if you are interested in participating on the committee.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG

MON., NOVEMBER 4th

ELECTION DAY/COUNTY-WIDE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TUES., NOVEMBER 5th

NO SCHOOL

VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCE

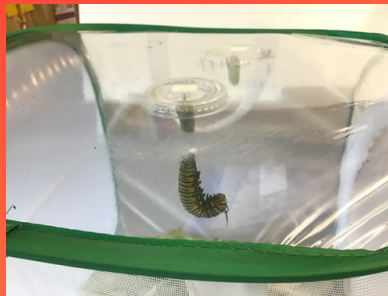
MON., NOVEMBER 11

NO SCHOOL

4TH GRADERS RAISE CATERPILLARS

It was very fun and enjoyable to raise caterpillars. One reason is we got to watch the life cycle of the caterpillars! This was fun because they grew so much and so fast! Another reason is we got to see them turn into butterflies. This was enjoyable because we got to hold them. These are only a few reasons why raising caterpillars was fun and enjoyable.

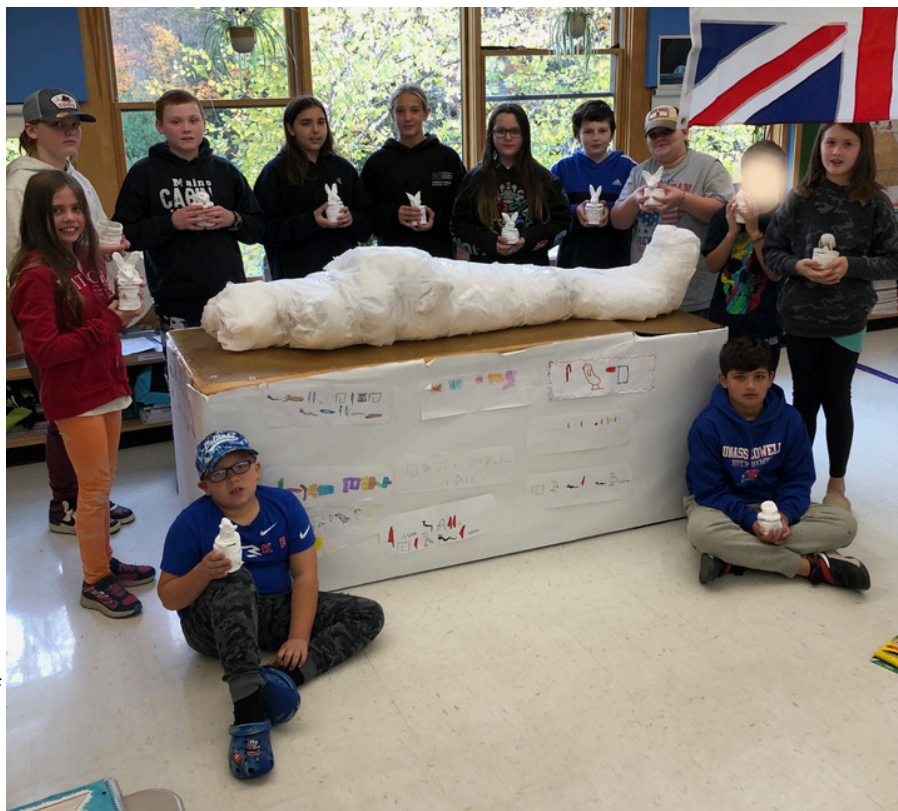
By: Clarrise, Olivia, Makenna, and Leona



MUMMIES IN 6TH GRADE!



(LEFT) Six graders are busy wrapping a mummy named Pharaoh Keller, as part of their unit on Africa in social studies. Mr. Keller's class focused on the country of Egypt, studying its geography and culture.



(RIGHT) The sixth graders are holding their finished canopic jars, (containers for a mummies vital organs) as they pose by the finished tomb of Pharaoh Keller. Note the ancient hieroglyphic messages created by the students wishing him a successful journey to the afterlife.

STUDENT TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: JULIA BARTIET

ABOUT ME:

I am so excited to be back at Farmington River Regional this year! I have been student teaching for 2 years, and Farmington River was the first school I was able to work with. Some students might remember me from when I worked with them in the 2nd grade two years ago! I have had such a great time so far seeing how the students have grown as learners since I've last seen them. I graduated from Westfield State University last spring and am working with Ms. Mather during the fall to complete the rest of my requirements. At Westfield State I am the captain of the volleyball team and spend a lot of my time in the gym or with my teammates! I have always known I wanted to be a teacher and I strive to make an impact on every child's life. With this amazing opportunity to work with Ms. Mather, I am excited to learn different teaching strategies and apply them!



FAMILY:

I have an older sister who is also a teacher! She teaches middle school social studies in Connecticut, where her and I both grew up together. I am from a small town named Cheshire, CT, but have always known I wanted to live in Massachusetts! My mom also went to Westfield State University and once I stepped foot on campus, I knew I was going to follow her footsteps!



HOBBIES:

I love being active! In my free time I love either staying indoors and baking or going to the beach and enjoying the sun. I have played volleyball for 12 years, and played softball and basketball up until highschool. In highschool, I had an amazing opportunity to play softball for Team USA in Spain and had so many great experiences there!

FUN FACTS:

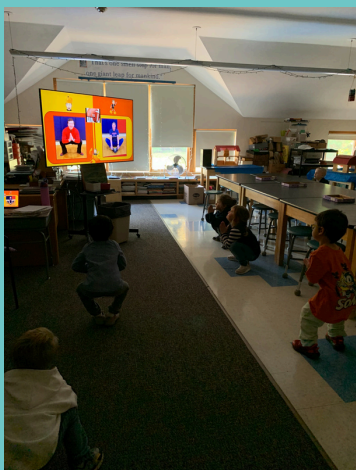
- I love animals and have a pet cat of my own named Spencer
- I am from a small town called Cheshire, Connecticut
- My sister is a middle school teacher
- I love going to yoga classes

PE & HEALTH

Students in K-6th have been working hard during our Soccer Unit. Students have learned about dribbling, ball handling, passing, shooting at the goal, juggling, positioning, spacing and CONTROL of their soccer ball.



Here is Kindergarten showing off what they learned during some Soccer Stations: passing, dribbling and soccer bowling!



Kindergarten began class with a quick movement break. October is Fire Safety Awareness Month and they were asked to have families check the batteries in their smoke detectors at home. They learned about the gear Firefighters wear, all about the Fire Engine, and played a game call Hot, Not Hot, or Sometimes Hot.

4th Graders are learning ways to embrace their unique qualities as well as strategies to increase their self-confidence and self-image.



SNEAKER REMINDER!!



Students must have sneakers to participate in PE classes. Here are the days for each grade!

EK:

Monday

Kindergarten, 3rd & 4th:

Monday & Thursday

1st, 2nd, 5th, & 6th:

Wednesday & Friday

PK & EK VISIT RIISKA ORCHARDS

Mrs. Hamill's early kindergarten and Miss Egan's preschool classes from Farmington River Elementary at their annual apple picking field trip to Riiska Brook Orchard on September 27th.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Greetings to the FRRSD Community! It's hard to believe that we're almost two months into the school year. I'd like to recognize and thank the staff at FRES for their work in making this a great start to 2024-2025.

The school committee and other community members have been working on a revision of the Regional District Agreement (RDA) for more than a year. The RDA is a comprehensive document that spells out how the towns will collaborate to meet the educational needs of their children. FRRSD's current agreement was written over 30 years ago.

Property values of the two member towns have changed across this time period and economic limitations have arisen prompting one member town to request terms for withdrawal from the district if options for cost apportionment could not be found. After months of deliberation and consideration of about 15 cost apportionment alternatives, the school committee unanimously agreed on September 23 to a proposed apportionment model that would narrow the difference in financial effort between the two towns.

The new proposed RDA, including the proposed apportionment method, is currently under review by the department of elementary and secondary education. After DESE review, the document will return to towns for approval by vote. In the meantime, members of the school committee and I will be scheduling multiple opportunities for the public to learn about the new RDA; and for those interested, the DESE Review Draft and the original regional agreement can be found on our [website](#).

I'd also like to let families know that there will likely be a few adjustments to our bus and van routes on October 28. Every year routes may be adjusted after ridership is confirmed and travel times are verified. When these updates are confirmed by the bus company this week, we'll update route information on our website and I'll prompt families to check these changes with a robocall.

In related transportation news, FRRSD currently seeks a part-time van driver. The hours are early am and/or pm and the school district will assist with acquisition of the MA DOT 7D Pupil Transport Certificate. Please inquire by sending me an email at tlee@frrsd.org.

Thanks for reading and be well!

Timothy Lee, *Superintendent*

PTA REMINDER!

FUNDRAISER FORMS DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Just a reminder that fundraiser order forms, with payments, must be sent to school Friday, October 18, with your students. Please make sure your students' physical address is written on the top of the form and checks are made payable to Farmington River Elementary School PTA. And don't worry -- [online orders](#) will still be accepted through Friday.



Farmington River Elementary

VETERANS DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

ASSEMBLY & BRUNCH November 12th

Farmington River Elementary School would like to formally invite Veterans and other members of the Community on **Tuesday, November 12th** to join us in honoring, celebrating, and thanking our veterans for their service!

Brunch @ 9:00 AM (Veterans & their guests only)
Assembly @ 9:45 AM (open to all community!)
at the Farmington River Elementary School

Call 413-269-4466 to Sign-Up

CHARACTER COUNTS SPIRIT WEEK

MONDAY (10/21):

Caring is Always Comfy

Wear your pajamas or comfortable clothing!



TUESDAY (10/22):

Respect and Trustworthiness are all you need in a friend.

Dress like a twin/quadruplet/or the whole class!



WEDNESDAY (10/23):

Salute our Citizens

Wear your favorite hat!



THURSDAY (10/24):

We all win in the game of life when we are responsible and fair.

Wear your sports gear!



FRIDAY (10/25):

Respect all staff and students.

Students dress like your teachers/staff, and staff dress like the students!



SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

2024 FLU & COVID VACCINE NO COST CLINIC

OTIS TOWN HALL
Tuesday, 11/5 from 11am- 1pm
1 N Main Road, Otis
Registration Assistance is Available
Weds, 9/25 from 10 - 11am at the Otis Town Hall
Please Bring Your Insurance Card

Pre-Registration is Required
home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown

NEED HELP? Call (413) 243-5540 x109 for assistance registering or to see if you are eligible for an in-home vaccination

Standard (6 mos+) and senior (65+ yrs) flu and COVID vaccine (6 mos+) will be available

www.southernberkshirehealth.com



Fall 2024 Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinic Schedule

Pre-Registration is Required- Assistance Available
<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown>



Day	Date	Time	Clinic Site	Town	Registration Workshops
Tues	10/8/2024	3- 6pm	Lenox Memorial Middle/High School	Lenox	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Weds	10/9/2024	3 - 6pm	Lee Middle/High School	Lee	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Tues	10/15/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Sandisfield Old Town Hall	Sandisfield	Weds, 8/21 & 9/18, 10-11am @ Sandisfield COA
Thurs	10/17/2024	1 - 3pm	Claire Teague Senior Center	Gt Barrington	Thu, 9/19, 10-11am @ Senior Center
Tues	10/22/2024	10am -12pm	Tyringham Town Hall	Tyringham	Thurs, 9/26, 10:30-11:30am @ Tyringham Town Hall
Weds	10/23/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	New Marlborough Fire Station	Southfield	Tues, 9/17, 10-11am @ NM Town Hall
Tues	10/29/2024	12 - 2pm	Alford Town Hall	Alford	Tues, 9/17, 10-11am @ Alford Town Hall
Weds	10/30/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	St. Ann's Catholic Parish	Lenox	Tues, 8/13 & 9/10, 9-10am @ Lenox Com Cntr
Thurs	10/31/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Sheffield Senior Center	Sheffield	Thurs, 9/12, 9:30 - 10:30am @ COA
Tues	11/5/2024	11am - 1pm	Otis Town Hall	Otis	Weds, 9/25, 10-11am @ Town Hall
Thurs	11/7/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Lee Senior Center	Lee	Thurs, 8/29 & 9/26 9:30 - 10:30am @ Lee Senior Center
Tues	11/12/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Housy Dome	Housatonic	Thurs, 9/19, 10-11am @ Senior Center
Tues	11/19/2024	10am -12pm	Monterey Community Center	Monterey	Weds 8/14/ & 9/11 11:30am - 12:30pm @ Monterey Library
Thurs	11/21/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Stockbridge Town Hall	Stockbridge	Tues, 9/3, 10:30-11:30am @ COA
Fri	11/22/2024	3pm - 6pm	W.E.B. Dubois Middle School	Gt Barrington	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Tues	11/26/2024	3pm - 6pm	Mt Everett Regional School	Sheffield	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Saturday	December	TBD		Gt Barrington	DATE AND TIME TBD
	Ongoing	By Appt	Tri-Town Health Department	Lee	Ongoing flu, covid and childhood vaccines. Call to schedule.

Vaccines available at these clinics include the fall updated COVID vaccine (ages 6 months+), regular dose flu (ages 6 months+) and senior dose flu (ages 65+) Contact SBPHC staff for assistance registering or to schedule a homebound appointment by calling 413 243 5540 x109

LOCAL EVENTS

5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN RIISKA BROOK ORCHARD SANDISFIELD MA SATURDAY OCTOBER 19



TO BENEFIT DU BOIS 8TH GRADE CLASS

Support Du Bois 8th grade and get outside in the 5k and 1 mile fun run! All registration fees go to the field trip scholarship fund, and the race finishes in the beautiful hilltop orchard with donuts, apple picking, and cider

For more information and to register:



[HTTPS://WWW.RUNREG.COM/RIISKA-BROOK-5K-FUN-RUN](https://www.runreg.com/riiska-brook-5k-fun-run)

Otis Library StoryWalk



Creepy Crayon! Written by Aaron Reynolds Illustrated by Pete Brown

Jasper Rabbit finds a purple crayon in the gutter that seems to want to help him with his schoolwork. At first, everything goes great, but the crayon starts acting weird and Jasper must find a way to get rid of it.

WHEN: Throughout the month of October.

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

Great Barrington Rotary Presents

TRUCK DAY & PUMPKIN FEST

SUN. OCT. 20TH



10am - 3pm

\$20 per Car

Enjoy hands-on interaction with Fire Trucks • Backhoes • Cranes Cherry Pickers • Snow Groomers Dump Truck • Race Car Police Vehicles and MORE

Additional activities include Kid's Truck Pull • Pumpkin Painting Duck Race Raffle • Silent Auction Paint-a-Car and the GREAT PUMPKIN DROP

Sponsored in part by:
Ski Butternut • Kwik Print, Inc. • Ray Murray, Inc. • WSBS • Autobahn Service Robin's Candy Shop • Ameriprise Financial • Only In My Dreams Events Fiber Connect of the Berkshires • Berkshire Hathaway/Barnbrook Realty Pittsfield Cooperative Bank



All proceeds benefit Rotary community projects and local scholarship program.

South Berkshire Kids CFCE Grant October 2024 Program Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
*Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:00am-11:30am. Drop in. *Location change for 10/22 & 10/29	*Lenox Play @ Lenox Community Center, 10am-11am. Drop in.	*Brain Builders @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Registration required. *Richmond Reads @ Richmond Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Ski Gym @ Crossways Gym, 10am-11am. Drop in.
	*Sing & Dance @ Bushnell-Sage Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. *StoryWalk Opening Day @ The Mount, October 1st, 10am-3pm	*New Marlborough Storytime @ New Marlborough Library, 10:00am-11:00am. Drop in. *No program 10/23	*Let's Hike @ Parsons Marsh/Lenox October 10th & 24th, 10:00am. Registration required. *Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes, October 16th, 7pm Zoom.	

*All programs are free & open to the community!

- Babies & Books with Jess** @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Mondays 10:30am-11:30am. This program is for infants, ages birth to 12 months. Join us as we sing, play and chat about the joys & challenges of being a parent. Drop in.
- Otis Explore & Play with Anina** @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly playgroup will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in. *Location change for 10/22 & 10/29, program will be held at the Sandisfield Library/23 Sandisfield Road.
- Sing & Dance with Michelle** @ Bushnell-Sage Library, 48 Main Street/Sheffield. Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am. This program will include music, movement, and dance. Drop in.
- Lenox Play with Michelle** @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street. Wednesdays 10am-11am. Join us for this center-based playgroup with tabletop activities, free play, crafts & more. Great for toddlers & preschoolers. Drop in.
- New Marlborough Storytime with Jess** @ New Marlborough Library, 1 Mill River Rd Road. Wednesdays 10am-11am. This program includes a circle time with stories and songs, followed by a craft. Drop in.
- Brain Builders with Michelle** @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Thursdays 10:30. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirkids@gmail.com
- Richmond Reads with Jess** @ Richmond Library (located in the new town building), 1751 State Rd/Richmond. Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am. Join us for a storytime and craft. Drop in.
- Let's Hike with Taylor** October 10th & 24th @ Parsons Marsh/Lenox 10:00am. Join us for this outdoor classroom. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirkids@gmail.com
- Lee Gym** @ Crossways Gym, 21 Crossways Street/Keef Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this gym time playgroup with balls, blocks, books and more! Drop in.
- StoryWalk** @ The Mount, October 1st Opening Day, 10am-3pm. Join us for opening day and visit with South Berkshire Kids staff, we will be handing out learning bags, while supplies last. The walk will be up all month!
- Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes**, October 16th Zoom, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirkids@gmail.com

Visit us online for additional resources & information:
www.SouthBerkshireKids.org www.Mass211.org

Berkshire County STEAM Challenge Night

STEAM: SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ART MATH
OCTOBER 22, 2024 • 4-7PM
HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE

Join us for an evening of hands-on science, art, and engineering challenges led by some of your favorite Berkshire STEM and art organizations! Free for all Berkshire youth in Grades K-8 and their families.



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?
CONTACT FLYING CLOUD INSTITUTE:
ADMIN@FLYINGCLOUDINSTITUTE.ORG
413-645-3058
WWW.FLYINGCLOUDINSTITUTE.ORG



Young FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

Presented by THE TRIPLEX CINEMA
Submissions open from August 31st to October 27th



Comedy. Documentary. Sci-Fi.
Whatever your story looks like, we want to see it on the big screen!

Work with our group of movie-making mentors to create a short film that will play at The Triplex on November 16th!

Want to be paired with a mentor? Let us know what you need help with by sending an email to yff@thetriplex.org

Open to everyone between the ages of 13-19 in the Berkshires and surrounding areas. Movies can be shot on camera, cellphones — whatever you want! Movies must be under 12 minutes and you must hold all rights. Please submit your film in DCP or mp4 format.

To learn more and submit your film visit thetriplex.org/yff

2023-2024 FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES



Mark your calendars!
Join us from the comfort of your home!
Parent Workshops with
Scott Noyes on ZOOM!!!

*Thursday, September 26th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm

Topic: Routines, Rituals & Transitions

Bedtime hassles, homework blues, and dinner-time struggles are challenges this workshop will cover. Whether we are smoothing out the edges on "who had it first" or working with the challenges of a temper tantrum, there are times when every parent could use a few fresh ideas! Find out why bribery, sarcasm, and threats don't work, especially in the long run.

*Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm

Topic: Children's Rivalry

Stop the fighting!! We will learn how to help children with rivalry, competition, resentment, envy, and conflict. This workshop will discuss active listening, working with all feelings, parental fairness, labeling problem children and how to help when children are fighting. Bring your concerns and leave with a few helpful parenting tips!

*Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm

Topic: Supporting Positive Social Emotional Development

Realizing that a child's first relationships are crucial to the ones that follow, this presentation looks at attachment research and the efforts adults can make to help children gain these vital skills.

**Registration required to receive the Zoom link.

Email Jessica: southberkshirkids@gmail.com

*Participants who sign up AND attend will be entered to win a Barnes & Noble gift card.

