

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

11/30/2023

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

With the end of the first trimester, our focus turns to our standards-based report cards. They are designed to provide a comprehensive view of your child's progress based on specific learning standards. Understanding these reports can be pivotal in recognizing your child's strengths and areas for growth. To help you navigate them, we've prepared some useful tips and guidance to provide clarity and insight into the assessment process.

1. Each subject area has distinct criteria that outline what students should know and be able to do at their grade level, giving insight into expectations for your child.
2. Focus on detailed feedback per standard, not just grades, to pinpoint strengths and areas for improvement accurately.
3. Communicate openly with teachers for explanations, clarifications, and insights into your child's progress on the report card.

While the holiday season brings joy and celebration, it's essential to maintain a balance between festivities and academic priorities. Our collective goal remains to keep students engaged and focused on their studies as we approach this festive time. We encourage parents and guardians to reinforce the importance of consistent study habits and staying on track with schoolwork. By ensuring a conducive learning environment at home and maintaining open communication with teachers, we can collectively support our students in staying motivated and dedicated to their academics during this time.

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

"Let us make this holiday season an opportunity to celebrate education, kindness, and unity among all cultures and religions."

- Malala Yousafzai



UPCOMING EVENTS:

REPORT CARDS GO HOME
THURS, NOVEMBER 30

DENTAL CLINIC
FRI, DECEMBER 1

Remember to turn in your sign-up sheets if you would like your child to participate!

PTA HOLIDAY SHOP
TUES, DECEMBER 12 -
WED, DECEMBER 13

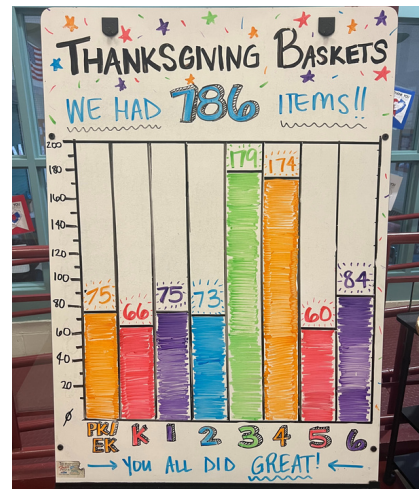
Holiday shopping event in the library.

WINTER CONCERT
WED, DECEMBER 20 @ 6PM

WINTER BREAK
FRI, DECEMBER 22 (1/2 DAY) -
MON, JANUARY 1

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

A heartfelt thank you bursts from our school to each of your homes for the incredible generosity displayed during our Thanksgiving food drive. Thanks to your kindness and support, our food drive was an enormous success, ensuring that many in our community will have a bountiful Thanksgiving feast. Your support has truly made a difference and has shown the spirit of giving that makes this season special. We appreciate your generosity and support more than words can express.



The FRES Winter Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 20th, 2023 at 6:00 PM for all grades.

PreK, EarlyK, and Kindergarten will also have an in-school morning performance at 9:00 AM that day if you would like to attend. This should take no longer than 15 minutes from beginning to end. PK/EK and Kindergarten will also be on the program to perform at the 6:00 PM program. We encourage you to return for the all-school evening concert with your little ones but understand if their bedtimes keep you at home.

Winter Concert

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 DECEMBER 20, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
 OPEN TO FAMILIES & COMMUNITY MEMBERS
 PK/EK/K IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE @ 9:00 AM

GRADE 1 MATH



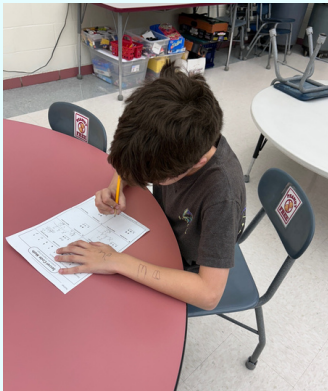
First Grade students have been working hard to master their addition facts within 20. Our current math topic has taught them many strategies to do this such as counting on, double plus one, and double minus one. This week we have been working on strategies to help us add 10. First grade students used 10 frames to help them with these skills, along with their favorite part where they were allowed to write their addition sentences on their table. I am so proud of how hard they have been working on these difficult strategies.



First grade also had 3 students this week who have completed a new level on Lexia. Lexia is a supplemental, computer based reading program that offers explicit, systematic, and personalized instruction at each child's individual reading level.



The students organized and played Duck Duck Goose without any adult help! Some students decided to play on their chromebooks, or to read after finishing their homework



DRAGON EGGS/PBIS UPDATE



We're thrilled to share the fantastic news that our students have achieved their goal of filling the dragon tube with eggs while we focused our attention on Bullying Prevention Month! Through acts of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion, our school community has come together to work hard on creating an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Each egg in the dragon tube represents a meaningful gesture, a moment of acceptance, and a step towards a more inclusive and compassionate school. We're immensely proud of our students for embracing these values and making our school a place where kindness shines brightly.



DRAGONS DEN: AFTER SCHOOL

Students work studiously for the first half of the Dragons Den after school program completing homework, reading, or using academic apps on their chromebooks!

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR'S BOOK COLLECTION!



5TH GRADE SCIENTISTS

Grade 5 students use a digital scale to mass (weigh) debris from a weathering experiment. The question for this lab experiment was "which rock type weathers the fastest...igneous, metamorphic or sedimentary?"

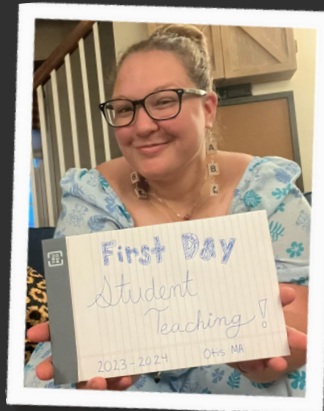


The fifth grade scientists used containers as mini rock tumblers to mimic the weathering process known as abrasion.

STUDENT TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: EMILY LAESK

ABOUT ME:

I am currently a senior at Westfield State University pursuing my degree in Elementary Education. I have always known that I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was young and it has always been a dream of mine that is finally coming true! I am so happy and grateful to get the opportunity to work with Mr Keller and his fifth grade class in order to help me to further pursue that dream!

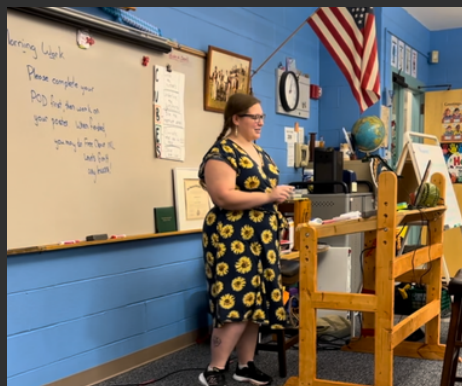


PHILOSOPHY:

I am currently a senior at Westfield State University pursuing my degree in Elementary Education. I have always known that I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was young and it has always been a dream of mine that is finally coming true! I am so happy and grateful to get the opportunity to work with Mr Keller and his fifth grade class in order to help me to further pursue that dream!

FAMILY:

I am from Newington Connecticut which is a small town right outside of Hartford Connecticut. I am the oldest of two kids, as I have a younger brother, Jake (19). I don't have a dog or a cat for a pet but I DO have a whole aquarium of tropical fish, including clownfish! When I am not teaching, I love to craft and create things. I love being creative and getting to just let myself free to make and create! I am also a big Disney fan and love all things Disney!



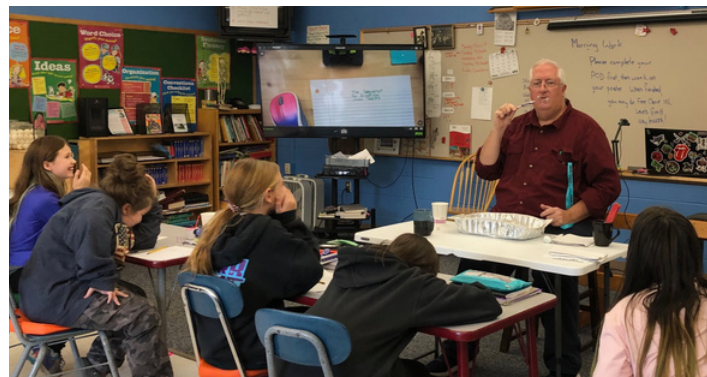
FUN FACTS:

1. I have kept journals of my life since I was 9 years old and still keep up with it to this day
2. I am a third generation teacher
3. I make my own earrings and I have a full collection of fun and creative earrings that I wear
4. I can recite the entire movie of Finding Nemo



5TH GRADE WRITERS

Mr. Keller is pictured here brushing his teeth in front of his fifth graders. This is part of a writing lesson on both sequencing and the use of transition words. Students wrote the sequence to brushing their teeth and Mr. Keller acted out their steps to the letter. The kids would quickly realize the importance of writing with careful detail and how important clear transitions are in sequence writing!





Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Farmington River Elementary School ~ Lunch Menu 2023				Pizza Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit
Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Soft Turkey Taco Lettuce, Tomato Fresh Fruit	Pasta Meat or Marinara Sauce Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty Oven Fries Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Pizza Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit
Waffles Sausage Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Meatball Grinder Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Hamburger Oven Fries Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Pizza Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit
Chicken Tenders Brown Rice Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Hot Dog Baked Beans Fresh Fruit	Macaroni and Cheese Vegetable Fresh Fruit	Pizza Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit	1/2 Day Grab-N-Go SBJ or Bagel
Happy Holidays No School	December Break No School	December Break No School	December Break No School	December Break No School
Accommodations can be made for students with dietary needs. FRRSD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.		1% milk & fat free milk available for lunch and breakfast Alternate Lunch: Salad Bar or SBJ or Grilled Cheese Sandwich		Universal free breakfast and lunch to all students Adult lunch \$ 3.60



JOIN THE FRRSD WELLNESS COMMITTEE!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR INTERESTED PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO JOIN!

NEXT MEETING:
DEC. 14TH @ 3:15 PM

The Wellness Committee is comprised of school staff and community representatives whose purpose is to recommend, review, and help implement school district policies addressing school nutrition, nutrition education, physical activity, and related issues that affect student health.

The Committee meets up to 4 times per school year in the afternoons and can be done via Zoom.

Interested in joining? Please reach out to Caroline at cstamm@frrsd.org or calling 413-269-4466.

ALLOWABLE FOODS FOR SHARE TABLE:

- Unopened pre-packaged items, such as a bag of baby carrots or sliced apples, stored in a cooling bin
- Whole pieces of fruit with a peel, such as bananas or oranges
- Whole pieces of fruit with an edible peel, such as apples and pears, must be rewashed unless wrapped.
- Unopened milk, if not immediately stored in a cooling bin maintained at 41°F or below.

UNALLOWABLE FOODS FOR SHARE TABLE:

- Foods not provided by the School Meal Programs (e.g., foods brought from home)
- Unpackaged items, such as a salad bowl without a lid
- Packaged items that can be opened and resealed
- Open items, such as an opened bag of baby carrots or sliced apples.
- Perishable foods, when a temperature control mechanism is not in place.

BREAKFAST

A full student breakfast may include a combination of the following:



To receive the student meal price, please choose a fruit and at least 2 other breakfast items.

LUNCH

A full student lunch includes a combination of the following:



To receive the student meal price, please select at least 3 foods with one or more being a fruit or vegetable.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Sodium. School breakfasts offered to each age/grade group must meet, on average over the school week, the levels of sodium specified in the following table:

School Breakfast Program: Sodium Limits

Age/Grade Group	Target 1 (mg)
K-5	≤ 540
6-8	≤ 600
9-12	≤ 640

Sodium. School lunches offered to each age/grade group must meet, on average over the school week, the levels of sodium specified in the following table within the established deadlines:

National School Lunch Program: Sodium Timeline & Limits

Age/Grade Group	Target 1: Effective July 1, 2022 (mg)	Interim Target 1A: Effective July 1, 2023 (mg)
K-5	≤ 1,230	≤ 1,110
6-8	≤ 1,360	≤ 1,225
9-12	≤ 1,420	≤ 1,280

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

2014-15

School Dental Clinic- 12/1/2023



***DENTAL EXAMS*CLEANINGS*
*SEALANTS*FLORIDE VARNISH***

**** OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH & WITHOUT DENTAL/HEALTH INSURANCE** IF YOUR CHILD HAS NOT HAD A ROUTINE DENTAL EXAM IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS AND DOES NOT HAVE AN UPCOMING APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY. PERMISSION SLIPS TO FOLLOW. PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS GRACE TERRY, RN**

SAVE THE DATE! MATH NIGHT JANUARY 18TH

at Farmington River Elementary School

Open to parents, students, siblings, & community members!

Learn activities to make math fun at home while boosting your child's math skills and confidence!

MATH NIGHT > A NIGHT AT HOME

Snow date is Wednesday January 25th.

More details coming soon!

1st Annual Community Tree Lighting Event

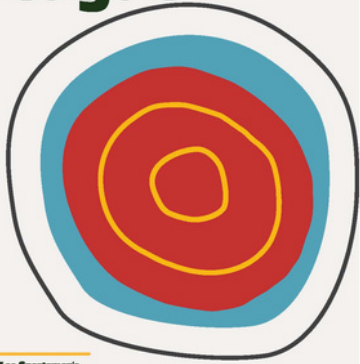
**SAT., DECEMBER 2ND
4:30 PM**

Otis Town Hall

Bring the entire family!

**Hot Chocolate Station,
Holiday Caroling, and
a visit from Santa!**

Saturday Youth Archery League



Lee Sportsman's Association
565 Fairview Street, Lee, MA 01238

Lee & Otis Join the Saturday Youth Archery Program. If you're 6 years old, you're ready

Youth are taught the fundamentals from target shooting to 3D archery in the indoor range at Lee Sportsman's Association. The program is led by certified USA Archery instructors who have been COBI checked and all share a love for the sport.

**Jan 6th-Mar 9th
Session 1 9-10am,
Session 2 10:30-11:30am,
Session 3 12:30-1:30pm**

Ages 6-16

Registration Cost is \$40 per participant. Registration required on Saturday, Dec 16th, 2023: 10am-12pm. Youth borrowing LSA equipment must attend in person. For forms and additional information <https://www.lee-sportsman.com/youth>

Includes Archery range use, bows, arrows, targets, and t-shirts for new students

Coach Head Coach Charles Miskoff, USA Archery Level 2 Instructor

Location Lee Sportsman's Association Clubhouse
565 Fairview Street, Lee, MA 01238

Interested? Contact Stephanie DuPont
youth@lee-sportsman.com 215-668-7808



2023-2024

FRES

NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES

Otis Explore & Play

**Otis Town Hall
Every Tuesday morning
10:00am-11:30am**

***Join Anina every Tuesday for this caregiver/child playgroup. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories and songs. A great time to meet up with friends and meet new friends! Best for ages birth to 5 years old.

*No registration is required. Drop in when you can!
*This program is free and open to the community.



www.SouthBerkshireKids.org



**We Love Our
Community**

Our summer camp is the perfect choice for families looking for a fun and safe summer experience for their children. With a wide range of activities and programs, we offer something for everyone, ages 3-16, from sports and outdoor adventures to arts.

**resident
discount**
\$175 off per week

**Register for 4-7 weeks, get 1 week free
Register 8-9 weeks, get 2 weeks free**

Our experienced staff members are dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive environment where campers can make new friends and learn new skills.

*valid thru 12/15/23
offer applies to full time residents of The Berkshires only

Questions?
(413) 528-0940
www.kimmarthalfmoon.org



OTIS LIBRARY StoryWalk*

Bear Says Thanks

karma wilson & jane chapman
The creators of the internationally bestselling
Bear Snores On



WHAT: A walk on the Farmington River Trail

WHEN: The story will remain UP through November 30, 2023!

WHERE: Behind St. Mary's of the Lakes Church, Otis, MA

Lego Club: November 18, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the library
Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01238-0109, www.otislibraryma.org

*Founded in 2007 by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, StoryWalk® was created to promote a love of reading and physical activity.

Town of Otis GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 9th, 2023
Two sessions: 11am-12:30pm & 1pm-2:30pm

One FREE house per family for Otis Residents/Taxpayers

\$15 charge for each additional house and non-Otis residents

All payments are required to be received at the Otis Town Hall by Monday December 4th.
(Town Hall hours 8am-3pm Mon-Thurs)

One North Main Road, PO Box 237, Otis, MA 01253

Registration closes Monday, December 4th.

Registration Required! No Drop-Ins!

Sign Up Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/_/10C084BACA823A4FBC24



"Santa Claus is coming to town!"

Santa arrives 1PM

Fire Station 2, Rte 57

Join us at the Annual Holiday Fair* from 10AM to 2PM for seasonal crafting and Santa Claus! (arrives at 1PM)

*Holiday Fair Sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society

sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info