

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

03/14/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we enter the midpoint of March, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the unwavering support and generosity of our amazing community, whose contributions have made a profound impact on the success of our school. From the generosity of our incredible PTA, to all the donors who participated in the Cash Calendar fundraiser, and the invaluable support of the Otis and Sandisfield Cultural Councils and the Fire Fund, each contribution has played a vital role in enriching the educational experiences of our students. Additionally, we extend our deepest appreciation to our community and parent volunteers who serve on the School Committee, the School Council, the SEPAC, and the Wellness Committee. Your commitment to our school community is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for the countless hours you dedicate to ensuring the well-being and success of our students.

Your commitment to our school community not only enhances the educational opportunities available to our students but also fosters a sense of belonging and pride within our school family.

I also want to mention the success of our Dragon Eggs Program, which shows our commitment to creating a positive and welcoming school atmosphere. The program helps us encourage good behavior by rewarding positive actions. Through consistent rewards, recognition, and clear expectations, we are working on building a culture of respect and responsibility. By focusing on positivity instead of punishment, our Dragon Eggs program has made our school feel even more like a community where everyone belongs. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible education and support for our students.

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- HELEN KELLER



UPCOMING EVENTS:

BASH THE TRASH ASSEMBLY

WED, MARCH 13

TIME: 1:00 PM

Grades: EK-6th

*Sponsored by a grant from the
Otis Cultural Council*

REPORT CARDS GO HOME

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

HALF DAY OF SCHOOL - PD

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Dismissal at 11:45 AM

FLYING CLOUD EVENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

**TIME: From dismissal (11:45) -
5:00 PM**

Grades K-6th

ALL SCHOOL WALK

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



Celebrating Read Across America Week was an absolute blast! Throughout the week, our students dove into the wonderful world of books, exploring new stories and adventures. From themed dress-up days to mystery readers and guest visitors, there was never a dull moment. But beyond the fun, this special week offered valuable learning opportunities. It encouraged a love for literacy, helping our students develop essential reading skills while fostering creativity and critical thinking. As our students immersed themselves in the pages of their favorite books, they not only had a great time but also gained a deeper appreciation for the power of storytelling and the diverse perspectives found in literature. Thank you to everyone who joined in the celebration and helped make Read Across America Week a memorable and enriching experience for our entire school community!



PK had 2 guest Readers: Mrs. Heidi & Sandra Hart



1st Grade's guest reader: Mr. Chris

DRAGON EGGS REWARD - ALL SCHOOL DANCE

A couple of months ago, our school community rallied together to promote a culture of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion in recognition of No Bullying Month, and our students rose to the occasion in spectacular fashion. As a reward for their outstanding efforts, we had originally planned a snow sculpture event, eagerly anticipating the arrival of fluffy white snow to sculpt into creative masterpieces. However, Mother Nature had other plans, and despite our hopeful wait, the weather didn't cooperate. But fear not, because when life gives us a lack of snow, we dance! So, in a spontaneous twist of fate, we called an audible and transformed our snow sculpture event into a school-wide dance extravaganza! From groovy moves to infectious laughter, the dance floor was alive with energy and excitement as our students celebrated their achievements and embraced the spirit of unity. We are immensely proud of our students for their unwavering dedication to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all!

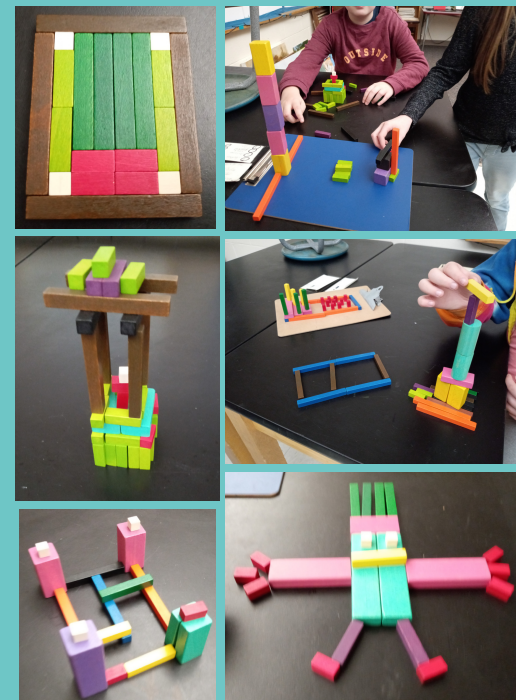


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ART ROOM??

Over the past few weeks students in grades 4 and 5 have been learning about creating symmetrical and asymmetrical designs and will work with partners to create a symmetrical design on paper next. They used blocks to build models showing their understanding of the difference between symmetrical and asymmetrical.

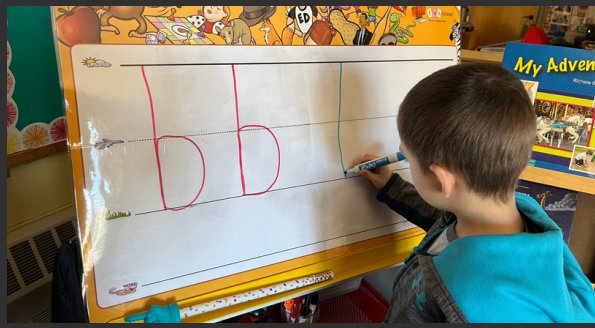
Grade 6 artists worked on drawings of dragons for their yearbook and are preparing to create a painting on canvas that shows perspective.

Artists in grades 1 - 3 finished their Henri Rousseau inspired jungle paintings and explored creating patterns inside of shapes, while preK, eK, and K artists had fun with patterns and creating name plaques for their own bedrooms at home.



LETTERS WITH EARLY K

Early K students have been learning how to write lowercase letters using Foundations. Students first practice as a whole group by "sky writing" the letters in the air. They are then able to take turns writing the letters on the large writing grid and then on their own individual smaller grids. Every time a letter is written, the students verbally echo the teacher of the step by step letter formation. So far we have learned how to write lowercase letters t, b, and f.



GRADE 3 SCIENCE

As part of their science unit on using fossils to describe prehistoric animals and their environments 3rd graders had to figure out if they could out run a dinosaur! They measured their leg length and found a dinosaur with a similar leg length. Then students had to run a set amount of steps and mark where they finished. After that we used dinosaur-sized footprints to measure the same amount of steps. Most of us could not outrun our selected dinosaurs although we decided as a class if we were actually being chased by dinosaurs we could move much faster!



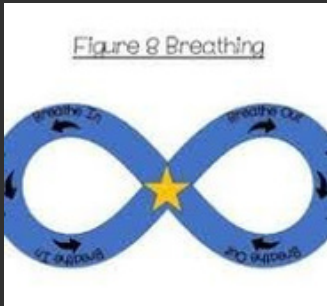


BASH THE TRASH ASSEMBLY

The recent "Bash the Trash" Assembly, held on March 13th, was an absolute hit with our students and families! Thanks to a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, our school was treated to a memorable musical experience unlike any other. "Bash the Trash" brought their unique instruments made from recycled materials, sparking excitement and curiosity among our students. From the catchy tunes to the interactive demonstrations, the assembly was a whirlwind of fun and learning. Our students were not only entertained but also gained valuable insights into environmental sustainability. They learned about the importance of recycling and repurposing materials in a way that was engaging and accessible. It was a joy to see our students fully engaged and inspired by the power of music and environmental awareness.



SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR'S CORNER!!



New Additions to the School Adjustment Counselor's Library!



During Ms. Terri time in the classrooms we have been focusing on coping skills for when we have big feelings!!! The students have been learning how to recognize our internal body cues when we have big feelings, and what healthy coping skills can be used to help manage that big feeling! We are learning and practicing different breathing skills at this time! Make sure to ask your child about "5 finger or roller coaster breathing" or "figure 8 breathing"

LOCAL EVENTS

Hop Into Spring
with the
Sandisfield Recreation Committee

Everyone is invited! Join us for seed planting, flowerpot painting/crafting, light refreshments and...
Berkshire Bunnies!!

RSVP by 3.15.24 to
sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

Saturday, March 23rd
10AM to 12PM

Old Town Hall
3 Silverbrook Rd.
Sandisfield, MA

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

2023-2024
FRES NEWSLETTER
ARCHIVES