

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

04/11/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

It's been a busy and invigorating time for our school community, filled with learning, growth, and plenty of fun!

On a fun note, last Monday, April 8th, we had an exciting celestial event—a 95% solar eclipse! ☀️🌑 This incredible phenomenon occurred during dismissal, giving us a fantastic opportunity to witness the magic of the universe. To ensure everyone stayed safe while experiencing this amazing event, the district purchased solar eclipse viewing glasses for all students and staff. With these special glasses, we were all able to enjoy the eclipse safely and marvel at the wonders of the cosmos together. It was truly an unforgettable sight!

Our current Dragon Egg initiative is focused on environmentalism in honor of Earth Day on April 22, aimed at promoting sustainability and eco-conscious practices among our students. Throughout this initiative, we will be encouraging students to demonstrate their commitment to caring for our planet by reducing waste, conserving energy and water, reusing materials, recycling, and more. This challenge provides an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about environmental stewardship and make a positive impact on the world around them.

Additionally, I am incredibly proud to commend our students for their exceptional display of grit and perseverance during this week's MCAS testing. Facing challenges with determination and resilience, our students approached the tests with confidence and a positive attitude. It's inspiring to witness our students rise to the occasion and demonstrate their readiness to tackle any obstacle that comes their way.

Next week, I encourage the staff, students, and families to kick back and enjoy some downtime during April break. Spend some quality time together and recharge your batteries!

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

"Knowing how to think empowers you far beyond those who know only what to think."

-NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON (American astrophysicist and writer)



UPCOMING EVENTS:

MCAS ELA TESTING GRADES 3-6:

Grades 5 and 6: April 8 & 9

Grades 3 and 4: April 10 & 11

PTA ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

APRIL BREAK

APRIL 15 - APRIL 19

PTA READY TECH GO EVENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

TIME: 5 PM

PK & EK REGISTRATION

Enrollment Screenings:

PK & EK: FRI., APRIL 26

TIME: 9:00 - 3:00

Screenings are required for newly enrolled students and are by appointment only.

STUDENT COUNCIL MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

DETAILS COMING SOON!



SOLAR ECLIPSE

The partial solar eclipse on April 8th was a mesmerizing spectacle, captivating the imaginations of our elementary students. With their solar eclipse viewing glasses on, they gazed in wonder at the beginning stages of the moon passing in front of the sun. It was a fantastic learning experience, fostering curiosity and excitement about the wonders of the universe. Students were able to take their glasses home with them to share the experience with their families.



ENVIRONMENTALISM

During the all-school walk and around the school, and right after the announcement of the new Dragon Egg's initiative, many of our students picked up trash and debris around the school, without any prompting by adults. With a spirit of environmental stewardship, they worked together to beautify our school grounds and surrounding areas. Their actions exemplify our commitment to caring for our environment and making a positive impact in our community.



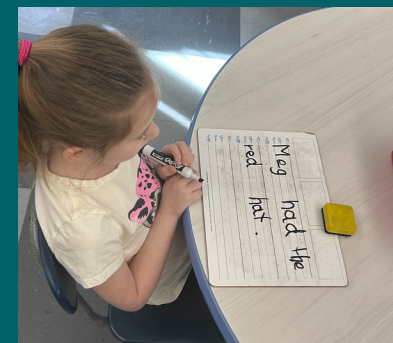
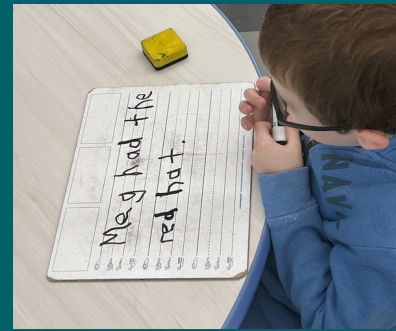
AFTER SCHOOL

Dominoes and Legos are a crowd favorite in Dragons' Den After School Care. Students explore the endless creativity of building new creations and toppling endless dominoes!



KINDERGARTEN WRITING

Kindergarten students' writing has really taken off this month! Students are using their letter-sound knowledge from Unit 3 of Foundations to write sentences that have been dictated to them. They are also practicing spacing, punctuation, and high-frequency words.



READY, TECH, GO! WITH THE PTA!

Is technology a hot topic in your household? Is your student asking for their own device, more freedom online, more screen time? How will you know they are ready?

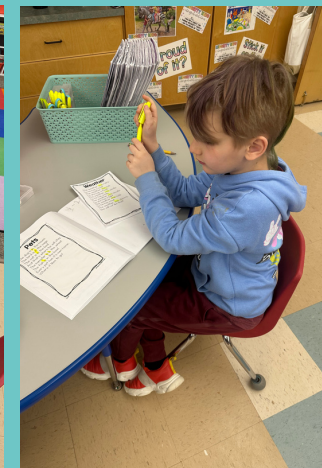
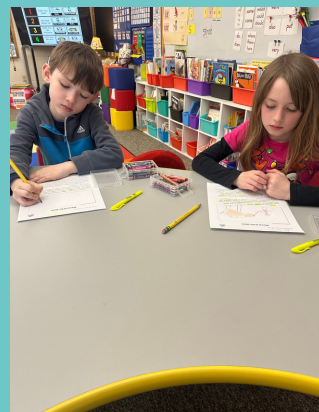
Join the PTA and other families for a workshop and conversation to help you answer these questions for your family on **Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 at Farmington River Elementary!** We'll reflect on screen readiness, talk about tools and resources that help families determine screen readiness, and discuss digital life. Dinner will be provided, along with supervised activities for the kids!

[Click here to register to join this exciting event!](#)



LITERACY CENTERS IN GRADE 1

First grade students work on improving their reading and writing skills through a variety of different activities each day. Our ELA block starts out with drilling all of our sounds and trick words. The line leader leads this daily activity. After our phonics lesson, students practice the daily phonics skill(s) through the use of magnet boards or white boards. Students enjoy using popits to help them sound out their words. First graders then move into literacy centers. This consists of 2, 20 minute centers that they rotate through each day. Centers include Guided Reading with Mrs. Martin, Poetry Center or Scholastic News with Mrs. Olds, and a variety of independent centers that include the listening center, work on writing, word work, or independent work. On Fridays we rotate through a variety of literacy games. Below is a collage of first graders at work during their literacy block.



STUDENT TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: GRACE EGAN



ABOUT ME:

This is my second year at Farmington River! I started in the fall of 2022 working as a student teacher in 4th with Bethany Mielke. I graduated from Westfield State in May 2023 with my Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Liberal Arts. I was able to come back full-time for this academic school year. I've been bouncing around as a building substitute, but most recently, I'm finishing up my practicum in 2nd grade with Sarah Tracy!

LESSON:

I recently finished up my two-week takeover in second grade! Throughout the two weeks, we had many different areas of focus. In ELA, we spent time looking at the elements of fairytales. We read different classic stories such as Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, and Goldilocks. In math, we learned about measurement. We used different tools to measure length like tiles, rulers, yardsticks, and tape measures. We even made our own rulers! In science, we learned about landforms. We created postcards that included landforms, and then physically built those landforms out of clay. It was a fun two weeks!

PHILOSOPHY:

I believe in creating a positive classroom environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. I believe in uplifting students while also differentiating instruction to best fit their individual needs.

HOBBIES:

I love to cook, bake, swim, exercise, watch movies, and spend time with my family and friends. I was a dancer for fifteen years, and danced competitively for 8! I loved it and have so many great memories of traveling to dance competitions. I love all things Disney!

FAMILY:

I have two brothers and one sister. I'm the third out of four kids! My older brother is 29, my older sister is 26, and my younger brother is 19. I'm from Cape Cod, and my parents live in Barnstable. We have two standard poodles named Copper and Koda! They are the life of the party.



SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FRES STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH



6:00 PM

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN GRADES K - 6TH | POPCORN WILL BE SERVED
MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

Save the Date: FRES Spring Musical

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HARRY

AT FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THURSDAY, MAY 30TH, 2024 6:30 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 31ST, 2024 1:15 PM

This is the 5th year of the FRRSD Community Productions project, funded in part by grants from MCC, Otis and Sandisfield Cultural Councils. The program promoted student-driven productions with assistance from local community experts in theater and dance/choreography. This year Berkshire Pulse choreographer, Tom Truss, has been providing choreography workshops for the cast so they can learn about stage movement and choreography for the musical numbers. Also returning is our extraordinary accompanist, Isabel Marcheselli, from Westfield. Isabel has also volunteered to work with cast members on voice lessons to help them sing with more confidence.

This year's show is centered around a Harry Potter-type character and his family who are living as undercover environmental activists attempting to stop a villain from exerting mind control over chemical plants dumping toxic waste in rivers and streams. The cast is composed of students in grades K through 6, with a backstage crew to handle scenery changes and lights.

There will be a 50-50 raffle as well as refreshments for sale.
The performance is free and open to all!

SAVE THE DATE!
LITERACY NIGHT
MAY 8TH, 2024
4:30 - 7:00 PM
AT FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PIZZA DINNER FOLLOWED BY FUN CENTERS
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
PRIZES!



LOCAL EVENTS

otis library presents
a weekly
STORY HOUR

Birth to age four

WEDNESDAYS
9:00 - 10:00 AM
BEGINNING APRIL 24, 2024

Stories
Movement
Music

FRIENDS OF THE OTIS LIBRARY, BOOK SALE AND MORE!

at Otis Ridge Ski Lodge, Rte. 23, Otis
Saturday, April 20, from 10 am - 4 pm

Tons of gently used books, puzzles, games, CDs and DVDs, very reasonable prices.
Stock up for rainy days. The Ridge Canteen will be open for soft drinks and light snacks (ice cream, chips, candy).

For info, contact
FriendsOtisLibrary@gmail.com,
or call/text 413 429-1083.



OTIS LIBRARY STORYWALK

Celebrate Earth Day!

What: A walk on the Farmington River Trail reading *We Are Water Protectors* by Carol Linstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade.

When: April 1 through April 30, 2024.

Where: Behind St. Mary's of the Lake Church, 72 N. Main Road, Otis, MA.

NEW WEEKLY STORY HOUR!
The Otis Library invites all children from birth to age four every Wednesday from 9:00 - 10:00 AM in the library on April 24.

FREE SCIENCE & ART WORKSHOP AT FLYING CLOUD FARM

Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math for children in grades 1-6

SAT. APRIL 13 @ 9:30 - 12:30
at the Flying Cloud Farm in New Malborough

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
Contact Jane at janesburke@gmail.com or text 413-429-6103

FREE thanks to the Cultural Councils of Monterey, New Malborough, Sandisfield, and Sheffield.

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