

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

05/16/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

In the midst of May, as the weather gets warmer and summer draws near, it's essential for our students to remain focused on academics. With the fast approaching end of the year, there are still many Massachusetts learning standards to cover. I urge all families to ensure that their children arrive at school on time and minimize early dismissals. Consistent attendance and punctuality are crucial for maximizing learning opportunities and academic success. Together, let's prioritize academic achievement and finish the school year strong!

On May 30th at 6:30 PM, we are excited to present our spring drama musical performance, "Whatever Happened to Harry," a student-written play that promises to delight and entertain audiences of all ages. Additionally, mark your calendars for June 4th at 6:00 PM for our Spring Concert, featuring songs from grades PreK-6, as well as performances by the school band and chorus. We can't wait to showcase the incredible talent and hard work of our students in these unforgettable performances. Be sure to join us for an evening of music and entertainment!

In addition, please be aware that we have an important evacuation and reunification drill scheduled for the half-day of school on Friday, May 24th. This drill is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff in the event of an emergency. Detailed information about the drill will be provided to you via email over the next couple of days, so please be sure to read it carefully. All families, PreK- Grade 6, will be asked to pick up students beginning at 11:15 at the Otis Town Hall on that day. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated as we work together to maintain a safe and secure learning environment for everyone.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

<b>MCAS Dates:</b>	<b>Gr. 3</b>	<b>Gr. 4</b>	<b>Gr. 5</b>	<b>Gr. 6</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	May 15 - 16	May 15 - 16	May 13 - 14	May 13 - 14
<b>Science</b>	-	-	May 20 - 21	-

**"The only source of knowledge is experience."**

**- ALBERT EINSTEIN**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### PTA SCREEN FREE EVENTS:

Cliff Brodeur Hoedown - May 17

### PTA ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FRIDAY, MAY 17

### MCAS SCIENCE TESTING

MON., MAY 20 - TUES., MAY 21  
(GRADE 5)

### HALF DAY OF SCHOOL

Evacuation/Reunification Drill

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Dismissal Begins at 11:15 AM  
Otis Town Hall

### MEMORIAL DAY

MON., MAY 30 - No School

### SPRING DRAMA MUSICAL

"Whatever Happened to Harry"

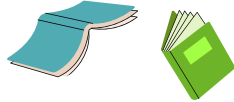
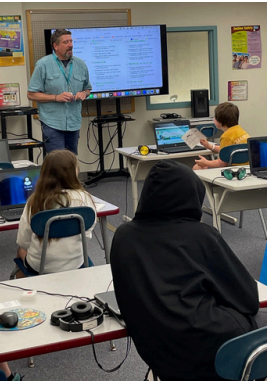
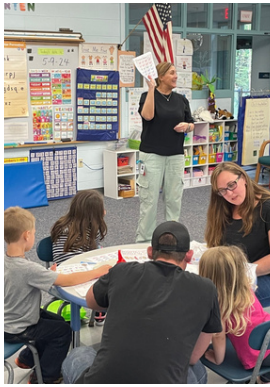
THURS., MAY 30 @ 6:30 PM

FRI., MAY 31 @ 1:30 PM

### SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY, JUNE 4 @ 6:00 PM

# LITERACY NIGHT



What a wonderful literacy night! Our literacy extravaganza had it all, including a bustling book fair that had everyone flipping pages with excitement! Huge thanks to all the community volunteers who added their expertise to the event —you rock! From engaging activities to book recommendations flying left and right, it was a whirlwind of fun and learning. Our community truly shines when we come together like this. Here's to many more adventures in literacy!

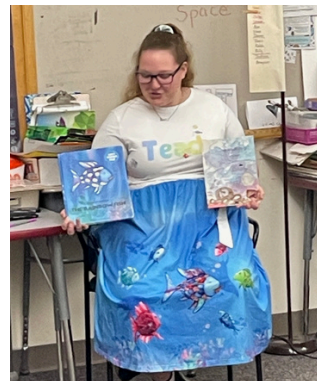


Special thanks to our dedicated literacy committee whose hard work and creativity made this event an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Your passion for literacy shines through, and we're incredibly grateful for all that you do!

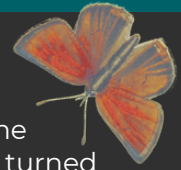


Congrats to our Passport Raffle winners!





# BUTTERFLIES IN PRE-K



In pre-k we are learning about metamorphosis and the life cycle of butterflies. We watched as our five caterpillars turned into chrysalis' and eventually the preschoolers released 5 painted lady butterflies back into their natural habitat.



**DONT FORGET** 

## EVACUATION AND REUNIFICATION DRILL: FRI, MAY 24TH

We will conduct an evacuation and reunification drill on Friday, May 24th (a half-day) as the dismissal process.

**All students must be picked up at the Otis Town Hall beginning at 11:15 AM.**

Parents and guardians will be asked to fill out a brief form and **present photo identification**. Please stay in your vehicle and drive in the south driveway, and follow the loop around to exit the north driveway.

We ask for your patience and cooperation as we reunite students with their families.

## 2024 - 2025 CALENDAR

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

The 2024 - 2025 School Calendar has been posted on the FRRSD website!

**Farmington River**  
**2024 - 2025**

JULY 2024						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

0 days of school

7/04 H - Independence Day

Please take a look at it and plan your vacations accordingly to minimize your student's absences from school.



## BUGGIN' OUT IN EK MATH!

Students in Early K had fun exhibiting many skills during their ladybug math craft lesson last week. To go along with their unit on insects, students practiced their fine motor skills by first cutting and gluing the ladybug parts. Then, they practiced counting and writing their numbers as they assembled the final parts of their ladybugs.



### LADYBUG FUN FACT:

The ladybug is the official state insect of Massachusetts, Ohio, Delaware, and New Hampshire

*Save the Date!*  
class of

# 2024

GRADUATION CEREMONY

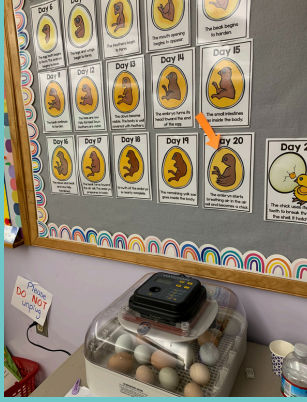
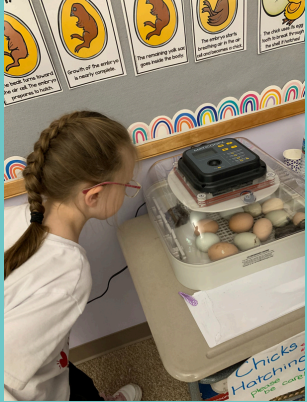
 Tuesday, June 11th, 2024  
1:00 PM

 Farmington River Elementary School  
555 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01255

We hope to see you there to celebrate with us!

# HATCHING CHICKENS IN 2ND GRADE!

The second graders have been learning all about plant and animal life cycles. To bring this concept to life we have been incubating chicken eggs for the past 21 days. During the incubation period we tracked the embryo growth and controlled their environment to give them the best chance of hatching. This week we finally reached day 21 and as of right now we have 5 baby chicks in our classroom! We have been lucky to watch a few chicks hatch live and some have graduated into their brooder where they will live for the next 12 days.



# 4TH GRADE NEWS: HENRY FINISHES XTRAMATH!

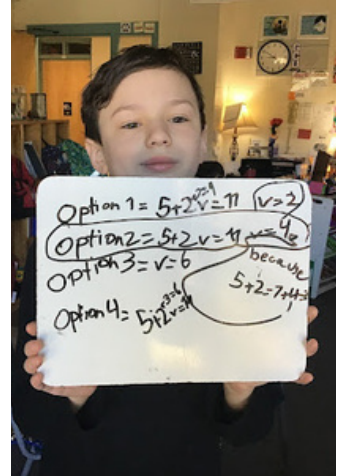
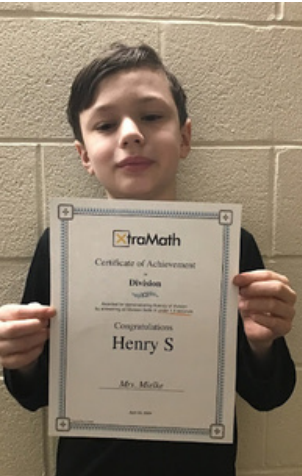
By: John, Cooper, Henry, and Shawn

Some people can beat XtraMath and some can't! This is the first fourth grader in FRRSD to finish XtraMath! We asked Henry how he did it, and this is what he said, "I did it by persevering through it." Mrs. Mielke was so surprised by Henry's completion, that she had to think of what to do with him! We suggested, "Maybe IXL math arena?" Mrs. Mielke replied, "That was a good choice!" So, that is what he did, and he persevered through that, too!

Other classmates are inspired by his unbelievable work! A bunch were so surprised and were congratulating him for his hard work. Ms. Paige was so proud that day that she chose to give him a learner link (an in-class incentive to earn extra computer time, team teaching time, and/or moving around the room).

This is so cool that it inspired us to write this letter just for fun so we chose to celebrate and are so proud to see him push through this. He also told us that he has a very smart grandfather who wrote over 50,000 lines of code to help people who do not know how to read.

When asked "How do you feel about finishing Xtramath?" Henry said, "Proud."



# PTA'S SCREEN-FREE CRAFTERNOON A SUCCESS!

Over two dozen students and grown-ups gathered last week for a PTA-sponsored "crafternoon". Using yarn and recycled cardboard, everyone learned to weave -- project ideas included doll blankets, coasters and wallhangings! Thanks to all the kids and adults who joined in the fun!

# READY, TECH, GO! WORKSHOP NEXT WEEK!

Don't forget, registration is still open and all Farmington River families are invited to join the PTA at our upcoming Ready, Tech, Go! workshop, on Wednesday, May 22 from 6 to 7pm.

[Click here to register!](#)

National PTA's Ready, Tech, Go! workshop, designed to help you answer questions about how to make the right digital choices for your family. Topics include device readiness, setting boundaries and building a contract around family tech rules that works for your entire family. Dinner is provided, as well as supervised activities for the kids!



# THIRD GRADERS' WAX MUSEUM EXPLORES MA HISTORY



Third graders have been immersed in all things wax museum! They have picked a famous person from Massachusetts' history and have researched all about their life. Students used their research to write an essay to teach others about their person. Then students used their essay to write a speech that highlighted the contributions their person made to Massachusetts and the world! Students will then dress up as their person and present their research and speech to the school and families on May 22nd from 9:30-10:30AM. Here students are practicing their speeches in costume.




## SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR: EMPATHY & FRIENDSHIPS

Students continue to understand their feelings, develop empathy, and work on their friendship skills as we finish the school year up. Our younger grades finished up working on their emotions, and how we can begin to understand how someone else is feeling by their facial expressions and body language. They had fun looking at themselves in the mirror to identify the different social cues. They were able to draw themselves in all the different zones using a mirror to see their facial expressions and connect the facial expressions with the emotions.




Empathy has been our main discussion with the upper grades. We were able to define empathy as the understanding of a person's feelings and emotions. We also discussed feelings and how we can connect our feelings as thoughts in our mind or reactions in the body, which can help us connect to the person who may be feeling a certain way, develop empathy for them, and what to do when this happens. We looked at different pictures to identify the cues/ clues of the different emotions that person was feeling and how we could empathize with the person. Many of the students shared their experiences when they saw the picture, and then were able to share what they would do in the situation.



## THANK YOU PTA!

### TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the PTA for their extraordinary efforts in recognizing Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Their thoughtful gestures, from the delicious breakfast spread to the mouthwatering taco bar lunch and refreshing smoothie bar, filled our hearts and stomachs with joy and appreciation. The heartfelt thank-you notes from our students added an extra layer of warmth and gratitude to the week. And the special surprise of various seedlings/house plants on Friday was the cherry on top, leaving us feeling cherished and valued by our incredible school community. Thank you, PTA, for your unwavering support and for making Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week a truly memorable and special occasion for all of us.




## CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENT TEACHERS!

Congrats to our student teachers, Ms. Donahue, Ms. Lasek, Ms. Paige, and Ms. Grace who all recently graduated from Westfield State!

# BUCKET BASS IN MUSIC!

Mason Tetreault demonstrates the "Bucket Bass" he built at home after being inspired by a One String, Tunable Canjo (pictured below), created from recycled and repurposed materials in Mr. Flower's Music Class.



## LOCAL EVENTS

# SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS

**What Ever Happened To Harry?**

**ORIGINAL MUSICAL PREMIER**

**THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024**  
**FRRSD 6:30 pm**

**Sandisfield Memorial Day Parade and BBQ**  
**Sunday, May 26th**

Sponsored by the Sandisfield Fire & Police Departments and the Recreation Committee

- 9AM Bike Decorating\* at Old Town Hall
- 10AM *Sharp* Parade begins at Old Town Hall, Parade participants must arrive at 9AM
- 10:15AM Honor Guard & Service at New Boston Cemetery

The parade will make a stop at Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and end at the American Legion with the wreath ceremony. BBQ to follow.

If you would like to decorate a float, drive in the parade, or volunteer to assist with the BBQ, please email us at sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

\*Sponsored by the Cultural Council

**SANDISFIELD Arts Center**

**Sat., April 27, 10 am**  
**THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SANDISFIELD AND THE LIVES OF ITS PASTORS**  
Book talk and slide show by Sandisfield historian Ron Bernard covering 200 years of Sandisfield's history through its churches and people. \$10

**May 4 - June 2**  
**AFTER THE TRAW**  
Guided of Berkshire Artists Group Show Opening reception 4-6 pm

**Sun., May 5, 2-4 pm**  
**MEMORIAL GARDEN OPENING AND RECEPTION IN HONOR OF VAL COLEMAN**  
Poetry and Remembrances. Light refreshments. Free

**Sat., May 25, 7:30 pm**  
**ANDRE LAMBERTSON, AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER AND FILMMAKER**  
Screening of the music video "The Whole Gritty City," a unique window into the world of New Orleans school marching bands and discussions with the musician. \$20 / \$12 Under. Free

**June 8 - July 7**  
**NOTES FROM THE INTERIOR**  
Group Show featuring works on paper Opening reception 4-6 pm

**July 13 - August 11**  
**UNHEARTED**  
Group show featuring three-dimensional work. Opening reception 4-6 pm

**Sat., June 15, 7:30 pm**  
**TOMAS KUBINEK: CERTIFIED LUNATIC AND MASTER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**  
Meet a comic genius, wit, actor, and award-chamber who gives audiences an utterly joyous experience to remember for a lifetime. He has won the hearts of thousands in theaters, opera houses, TV specials and on Broadway. \$20 / \$12 Under. \$10

**Sat., June 22, 7:30 pm**  
**TRIPLE PLAY**  
Back for an evening of music, dance and collecting fun led by Chris Brubaker and featuring Joel Brown and Peter "Rocky" Tully. \$25

**Sun., June 30, 2 pm**  
**PICK UP THE PENS: START YOUR WRITING PROJECT**  
The Arts Center hosts Lara Tupper's community writing workshop. See website for registration.

**Sun., July 7, 4 pm**  
**LUNCHTIME AT THE OLYMPIAD, AN EXCERPT FROM JAMES JOYCE'S ULYSSES**  
Narrated by Ann Luzzo. Irish songs by tenor, Dan Luman. Piano, Josh Luzzo-Robinson, cello Lucy Barbo. \$20

**Fri., July 12, 7 pm**  
**OPEN MIC VARIETY SHOW**  
Bring your jokes, poems, songs and other talents to share with your neighbors. Free

**July 28, 4 pm**  
**ROMANCE IN THE AFTERNOON**  
Josh Luzzo-Robinson returns to our stage with a selection of romantic piano music. \$20

**August 10, 10 am**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND THE ROLE OF THE SUPREME COURT**  
Talk by Ken Cohen, retired attorney, who taught both Constitutional Law and the course on the federal courts at Boston College Law School. \$10

**August 17 - September 8**  
**SHALL WORKS**  
Group show featuring small works. Opening reception 4-6 pm

**September 15 - October 6**  
**3RD ANNUAL DANIEL MANACHER PRIZE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS**  
Opening reception 4-6 pm

**Sat., Sept. 21, 6 pm**  
**GALA ANNUAL DINNER**  
Delicious dinner prepared by chef Adam Manacher followed by a star-studded salute to and clips of Sandisfield Players performances. \$75

**Sat., Sept. 28, 7 pm**  
**DECK AND JAZZ**  
Original play by poet/playwright Neil Silverblatt traces the friendship between photographer Richard Avedon and sculptor/actor James Sabin and their artistic collaboration on the 1964 book Nothing Personal. \$20 / \$12 Under. \$10

**Oct. 5, 10 am**  
**BERKSHIRE LANDSCAPE GEOLOGY: ART MEETS SCIENCE**  
Over a billion years of earth's history are visible in the iconic Berkshire landscape; a rocky terrain that is captured in classic paintings. Talk by Professor Paul Karabinis, Williams College. \$20

**Sun., Oct. 6, 4 pm**  
**BILL TAYLOR AND FRIENDS**  
Creative ensemble playing original and classical contemporary music with Bill on piano accompanied by woodwinds and voice. \$20

**October 13 - November 10**  
**WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Opening reception 4-5:30  
5:30 Show and talk by Amy Arbus, world renowned award-winning photographer

**Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am**  
**TRANSFORMING CARE DURING SERIOUS ILLNESS**  
Talk by Diane Heac, MD, Director Emerita & Strategic Advisor of the Center to Advance Palliative Care. \$20

**Sat., Oct. 19, 7 pm**  
**BOBBY SWEET IN THE CABARET**  
Singer/producer Bobby Sweet returns with his unique mixture of folk and jazz. \$20

**November 16 - December 15**  
**ART ON POSTCARDS**  
Postcard-size works, all \$300 or less. Proceeds to be split 50-50 as a benefit for the Arts Center. Opening reception 4-6 pm

All events in the gallery are free.

Please check our website for schedule changes and November events.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donate at [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org/donate](https://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org/donate) or call the 01088 or text SAC to 64-222.

otis library presents a weekly **STORY HOUR**

Birth to age four

**Stories**  
**Movement**  
**Music**

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

**Otis Library StoryWalk**

**WHAT:** A walk on the Farmington River Trail reading the book Families, Families Families! by Suzanne and Max Lang.

**WHEN:** Throughout the month of May.

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

- Lego Club Saturday, May 18th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Otis Library
- Otis Library Story Hour, every Wednesday, 9:00 - 10:00 am, birth through age four, older siblings welcome.

**2023-2024 FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES**

**THE FRES PTA INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE SCREEN-FREE SPRING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 AFTER SCHOOL: HIKE WITH MR. KELLER FOR GRADES 4-6**  
**STORY WALK FOR GRADES PRE-3**  
SNACKS PROVIDED

**THURSDAY, MAY 2 AT 6PM: BINGO NIGHT**  
**DINNER SERVED FOR ALL!**  
SPONSORED IN PART BY THE OTIS RECREATION COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY, MAY 7 3-4PM: GARDEN PLANTING FOR ALL AGES, SNACKS PROVIDED**

**FRIDAY, MAY 10 3-4:30: CRAFTAFTERNOON**  
**FIBER FUN FOR ALL AGES**  
SNACKS PROVIDED

**FRIDAY, MAY 17 AT 6PM: SQUARE DANCE**  
**HOEDOWN FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**  
SNACKS PROVIDED

SPONSORED IN PART BY THE SANDISFIELD CULTURAL COUNCIL

**click here to register or visit**  
<https://forms.gle/afrcomDDaRFTZN679>