

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

05/02/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we approach the merry month of May, I want to update you on some exciting events happening at our school.

Our upcoming Literacy Night on May 8th promises to be a wonderful celebration of the joys of reading and storytelling. Our dedicated teachers have been hard at work preparing engaging activities to foster a love for literacy in our students. It's a fantastic opportunity for families to come together, enjoy a community dinner, and immerse themselves in the world of books. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be back for this amazing event.

In addition to Literacy Night, I want to remind everyone about the upcoming Math MCAS assessments for grades 3-6. Please take a look at the dates below to see when these tests take place. It's crucial for our students to review important concepts and practice problem-solving skills in preparation for these assessments and to try their best. The results from MCAS tests help us as educators identify areas of strength and areas in need of improvement, allowing for targeted instruction and support to enhance student learning outcomes.

I also want to take a moment to give a big shout-out to our incredible PTA for all of their amazing upcoming events in recognition of National Screen-Free Week. Their dedication to providing enriching experiences for our students while promoting healthy screen habits is truly commendable. Thank you for all that you do!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can make this a fantastic end to the school year!

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	-

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

- Frederick Douglass



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### PTA SCREEN FREE EVENTS:

Walk w/ Mr. Keller - May 1

Bingo Night - May 2

Planting After School - May 7

Crafternoon - May 10

Cliff Brodeur Hoedown - May 17

### LITERACY NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

### MCAS MATH TESTING

MONDAY, MAY 13 -

THURSDAY, MAY 16

(GRADES 3-6)

### PTA ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FRIDAY, MAY 17

### MCAS SCIENCE TESTING

MONDAY, MAY 20 -

TUESDAY, MAY 21

(GRADE 5)

SAVE THE DATE!

# LITERACY NIGHT

MAY 8TH, 2024  
4:30 - 7:00 PM

AT FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FREE PIZZA DINNER FOLLOWED BY FUN CENTERS  
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!  
50/50 RAFFLE & PRIZES!

## LITERACY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS!

- Buy one, get one free Scholastic Book Fair
- 50/50 Raffle
- Book Walk presented by the Otis Library - focused on Revolutionary War Hero Henry Knox and his journey through Otis
- Reader's Theaters
- Fun Fluency and Sight-Word themed centers
- How to choose a good read-aloud for all ages
- Fabulous Prizes
- Reading Technology Resources
- Local Library Displays

## PARKING FOR LITERACY NIGHT!

We want to ensure safe parking, so we have made the following arrangements:

- We will have a parking attendant who will direct families to available spaces.
- Families may park on the left side of the circular driveway, but the right side must be left open for emergency vehicles per the order of the police department.
- The Otis DPW has kindly offered their parking lot for overflow, and we will be running shuttle vans back and forth from the school to the Otis DPW located at 1 N Main Rd, Otis, MA 01253.
- There is no parking along Route 8 near the school.
- Staff parking will be on the back playground, so it will be closed for the evening.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR INFO:



## LOCAL EDUCATOR AND ALUMNA BETHANY MATHER HONORED WITH MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR ALUMNI AWARD

On Thursday April 25th, our very own 4th Grade teacher Bethany Mielke was in Boston at the State House to receive the Massachusetts State Universities Educator Alumni Award. This award, given to alumni of Massachusetts State Universities, recognizes contributions to the field of education. Bethany is a 2012 alumni of Westfield State University's Masters in Elementary Education program. She earned a PhD in Educational Psychology from Grand Canyon University in 2022. During the 2019 - 2020, Bethany served as a Teacher in Residence at WSU and spent the year in the Education Department teaching undergraduate courses and mentoring teacher candidates. She currently serves as an adjunct professor at WSU, in addition to teaching 4th grade at Farmington River, and hosts student teachers in her classroom. In addition to teaching at the elementary and college level, Bethany works with area educators through her membership in the Western Mass Writing Project. Her contributions to the field of education include two journal articles on her research into peer observation professional learning opportunities and the impact that has on student learning. Congratulations Bethany on your award!



## 2024 - 2025 CALENDAR

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

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

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

### Farmington River Region 2024 - 2025 School

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			

7/04 H - Independence Day

AUGUST 2024			
S	M	Tu	W
4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28

8/26 PD - Full Professional Development Day  
8/27 PD - Full Professional Development Day  
8/28 First Day of School



# K - 2ND VOLLEYING IN PE!

We have begun a Volleying (using a long handled implement) Unit! Students grades K-2 are learning basic racket skills as well as lead up games to build upon those skills! Pickleball, badminton and tennis are in their future in the upcoming years.



# PICKLEBALL IS BACK!

Students in grades 3rd-6th are settling in nicely learning the basic rules of pickleball. We started with a fun intro of 4-square pickleball and have transitioned nicely into game play. We've learned about the serve, the "kitchen" and other rules - ask your students about them!



# EK GYM TIME!

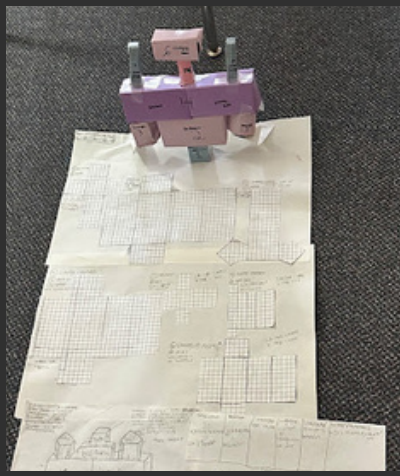
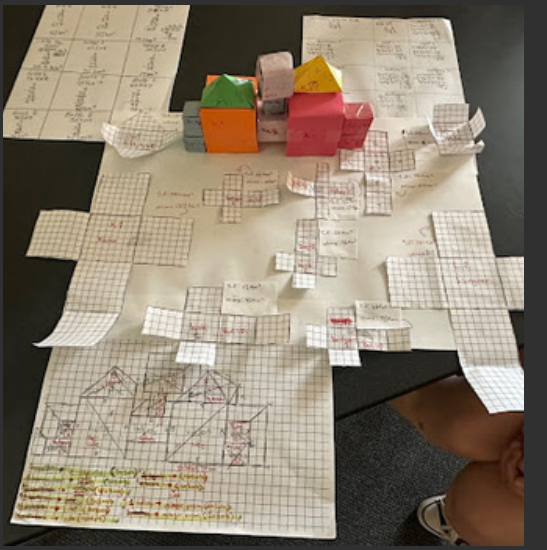
Here are some pictures of EK in the gym moving their bodies and having fun!!



# GEOMETRY IN GR. 6!

The 6th grade students are wrapping up their Geometry Unit as we wind our way towards the Math MCAS Test. As part of this unit, students have been creating space stations out of Geometric Solids. By taking information from the Geometry Unit involving area, surface area, volume, and nets, students have applied this

information to make space stations. Each group was tasked with designing a station that had all the comforts of space living. After their design was completed, students had to create a 3-D model complete with the dimensions of shape as well as the type of solid it is (rectangular prism, square pyramid, etc.). From there students created nets based on their dimensions to ensure that their shapes would fold together. Next, students traced their nets onto construction paper, cut them out, and folded them to create the solids. Along with creating and designing their space stations, students had to calculate the surface area and volume of each shape. When all of the groups are finished, we plan on displaying their creations in the lobby. Stop in and see what the 6th grade has created!



Save the Date!

class of

# 2024

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Tuesday, June 11th, 2024  
1:00 PM

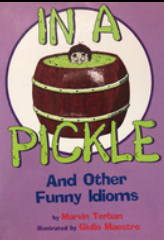
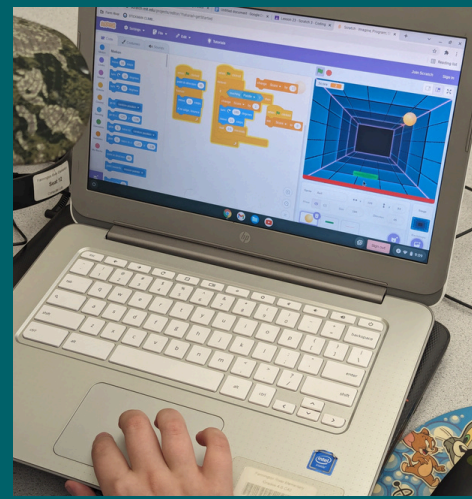
Farmington River Elementary School  
555 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01255

We hope to see you there to celebrate with us!



# EXPLORING THE WORLD OF CODING IN COMPUTER CLASS

MIT Scratch provides an accessible and intuitive platform for young learners to grasp the fundamentals of coding. Using a block-based interface, students piece together commands to create interactive stories, animations, and games. It's more than just lines of code; it's a canvas for imagination to flourish.



## SPEECH

We have an "Idiom of the Week" poster up in the speech room. Students have fun



with these but they can also be tricky! Here are a few that you can share with your child. If your child wants to explore more idioms, "In a Pickle" may be available in a local library or bookstore (& also available in our school library).

<p><b>Don't put all your eggs in one basket</b> Do not put all your resources in one possibility</p>	<p><b>Have a blast</b> To have a good time or to enjoy</p>
<p><b>Hit the sack/sheets/hay</b> To go to bed</p>	<p><b>It takes two to tango</b> Actions or communications need more than one person</p>
<p><b>Miss the boat</b> Someone missed his or her chance</p>	<p><b>Off the hook</b> To escape a situation of responsibility, obligation or (less frequently) danger</p>
<p><b>Picture paints a thousand words</b> A visual image is far more descriptive than words</p>	<p><b>Piece of cake</b> A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple</p>
<p><b>He/she's a big fish</b> Being the boss, the leader</p>	<p><b>Spill the beans</b> To reveal someone's secret</p>

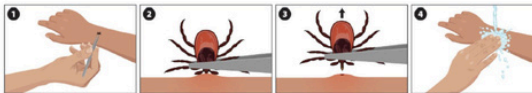
# NURSE'S CORNER

## Tick Bite: What to Do

Ticks bites can make people sick. Below are some steps that you can take after a tick bite to reduce your chances of getting sick and how to get treatment promptly if you do get sick.

### Remove the tick as soon as possible

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as you can.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick.
3. After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Dispose of the tick by flushing it down the toilet. If you would like to bring the tick to your healthcare provider for identification, put it in rubbing alcohol or place it in a sealed bag/container.



### Consider calling your healthcare provider

In general, CDC does not recommend taking antibiotics after tick bites to prevent tickborne diseases. However, in certain circumstances, a single dose of doxycycline after a tick bite may lower your risk of Lyme disease. Consider talking to your healthcare provider if you live in an area where Lyme disease is common.

### Watch for symptoms for 30 days

Call your healthcare provider if you get any of the following:

- Rash
- Headache
- Fever
- Muscle pain
- Fatigue
- Joint swelling and pain

Treatment for tickborne diseases should be based on symptoms, history of exposure to ticks, and in some cases, blood test results. Most tickborne diseases can be treated with a short course of antibiotics.

### Common questions after a tick bite

#### Should I get my tick tested for germs?

Some companies offer to test ticks for specific germs. CDC strongly discourages using results from these tests when deciding whether to use antibiotics after a tick bite.

- Results may not be reliable. Laboratories that test ticks are not required to meet the same quality standards as laboratories used by clinics or hospitals for patient care.
- Positive results can be misleading. Even if a tick contains a germ, it does not mean that you have been infected by that germ.
- Negative results can also be misleading. You might have been bitten unknowingly by a different infected tick.

#### Can I get sick from a tick that is crawling on me but has not yet attached?

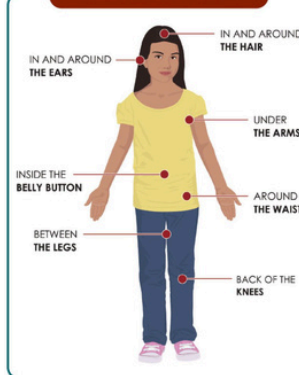
Ticks must bite you to spread their germs. Once they attach to you, they will feed on your blood and can spread germs. A tick that is crawling on you but not attached could not have spread germs. However, if you have found a tick crawling on you, it's a sign there may be others; do a careful tick check.

#### How long does a tick need to be attached before it can spread infection?

Depending on the type of tick and germ, a tick needs to be attached to you for different amounts of time (minutes to days) to infect you with that germ.

Your risk for Lyme disease is very low if a tick has been attached for fewer than 24 hours. Check for ticks daily and remove them as soon as possible.

### WHERE TO CHECK FOR TICKS



Free Covid test kits are available to be sent home upon request or can be made available in the front office for pick up. Please reach out if you need any!

*School Dental Clinic - June 5th*

**"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**

DENTAL FORMS COME HOME THIS WEEK AND ARE DUE BACK, WITH BOTH SIDES COMPLETED, BY MAY 29TH

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

413-269-4466 X 146 OR GTERRY@FRRSD.ORG

GRACE TERRY, RN



# WAYS TO PRACTICE MATH FROM OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS!

There are many ways to practice math at home with your child(ren). We have a few suggestions which are outlined below:

1. Practice basic math facts. Depending on your child's age, you could review basic addition, subtraction, multiplication or division facts. They should make flashcards which is a great way to review basic facts. Additionally, you can practice math facts while in the car.
2. For younger students, practice counting with one to one correspondence (counting objects and moving each one as he or she counts) and practice number identification. You can count items in your house including blocks, stuffed animals, or another kind of toy. You can also count things outside (birds, insects or things that you pass while in the car).
3. Children could also practice with money, you can work on coin identification and counting combinations of coins then introduce and count bills. For older students, have them figure out the change you should get back when you purchase something, or various coin and dollar combinations to pay for something. Or, have them figure out a tip.
4. Knowing the days of the week and how to read a calendar are things you can practice at home. There are many days-of-the-week songs and calendar songs available online.
5. Any time you see an analog or digital clock, ask them the time! Also, they should tell you if it's a.m. or p.m.



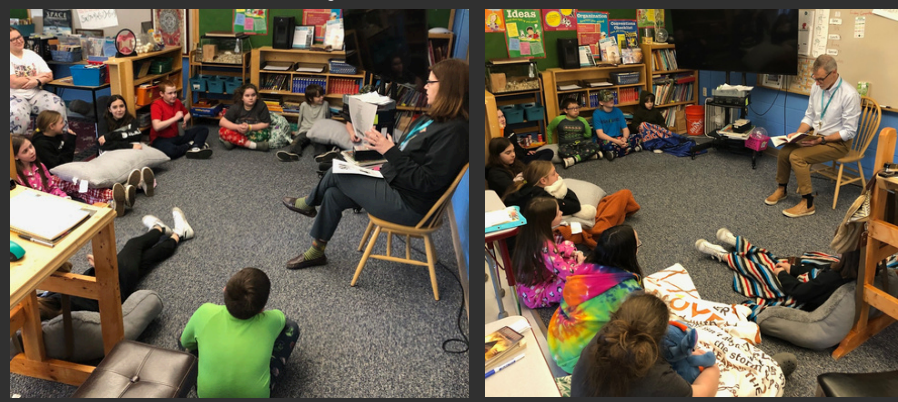
## 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

As a culminating event to Fifth Grade's partnership with The Berkshire Museum, students enjoy a personalized guided tour last week of the museum collection. This included examining a centuries old Egyptian mummy, and a great hands-on physics lesson.



## 5TH GRADE GUEST READERS!

Superintendent Lee and Principal Flower are guest readers to fifth grade. Mr. Lee read from the book *Holes* by Lewis Sachar and Mrs. Flower read *The Twits* by Ronald Dahl.



## ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Fifth grade students discover the world of animal adaptations during a very engaging lesson here at school directed by Mr. Joseph Magtronarvi of The Berkshire Museum.



## INVESTIGATION!

Fifth graders make close observations as they discover the effects of acid rain on living plants.





# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Gathered in the gymnasium under the glow of twinkling lights and a movie-sized screen, students and families had a blast at the student council's free family movie night. With popcorn in hand and excitement in the air, laughter and cheers filled the space as they immersed themselves in the delightful story of Luca. It was a cozy and lighthearted evening, bringing everyone together for a shared experience of joy and fun.



## LOCAL EVENTS



### WILDCAT SPORTS GROUP YOUTH SOCCER SIGNUPS

**SOCCER IS BACK!!!**  
Interested in playing Soccer this spring?  
WSG is offering Youth Soccer clinics  
For more details see below!

E-MAIL - [WILDCATSPORTSGROUP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WILDCATSPORTSGROUP@GMAIL.COM)  
OR  
CALL - 413-297-6901  
FOR QUESTIONS, INFO & HOW TO REGISTER.

- \*\*\* IMPORTANT INFORMATION \*\*\*
- WSG will be offering Soccer clinics this spring.
  - Clinics will take place on the following Saturdays
    - May 4th, May 11th & May 18th
  - Clinics are open to children in Pre-K Through 2nd grade
  - Clinics will be held between 9:30-11am on Saturday mornings
    - \*\*\* We will confirm your time spot in an email \*\*\*
  - Clinics will take place in Lee on Route 102.
  - Cost of clinic is \$50 and includes a t-shirt.
  - Email [Wildcatsportsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:Wildcatsportsgroup@gmail.com) to confirm your spot!
  - AND don't forget to follow us on FACEBOOK!

Saturday, May 4th  
5PM - 8PM  
Fire House #2, Rte. #57

Refreshments and Non-Alcoholic beverages will be served

### SPRING FLING DANCE

with DJ Johnny Jams

RSVP by 4.26.24 to [sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info](mailto:sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info)

# SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS

**What Ever Happened To Harry?**

ORIGINAL MUSICAL PREMIER

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024  
FRRSD 6:30 pm

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.

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/afrcrmDDaRFTZN679](https://forms.gle/afrcrmDDaRFTZN679)

2023-2024  
FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES