



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

09/19/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

I am delighted to report that our transition back into learning this year has been incredibly smooth. It's heartening to see our students quickly adapt to their new routines and embrace the exciting challenges that lie ahead. Our classrooms are buzzing with energy, and it's clear that everyone is ready for a fantastic year of growth and discovery.

We have several exciting events coming up that will further enrich our students' learning experiences. Our Back to School Night will be a wonderful opportunity for you to learn more about the curriculum and how we plan to engage students in meaningful ways throughout the year. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be returning, offering a diverse range of books that will help foster a love for reading and support literacy development. Additionally, Gerry's Music will provide important information about instrument rentals for students in grades 4-6, encouraging musical exploration and enhancing their creative skills.

I'm also thrilled to announce that the Juckett's Bluegrass Band will be performing this Friday, featuring our own Farmington River staff member, Jana Pfiefer. This performance is more than just a musical treat; it offers a unique learning experience that highlights the value of cultural and artistic enrichment. Music can significantly enhance cognitive development and emotional expression, and I'm excited for our community to enjoy and learn from this special event.

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

I hope you will join us!

BACK TO SCHOOL & INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL INFORMATION NIGHT

THURS., SEPT. 19 @ 6:00 PM

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn more about the school year ahead! Gerry's Music will be here to provide information about renting flutes, alto saxophones, clarinets, and drum kits.

JUCKETTS BLUEGRASS BAND ASSEMBLY

FRI., SEPT. 20 - TIME TBD

PICTURE DAY

WED., OCTOBER 9

** Please note that this is a change in date! **



"Through music, we can communicate ideas and feelings that cannot be expressed in words."

— VICTOR HUGO (*Writer*)

DRAGON NAMING CONTEST: THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Last week, we kicked off an exciting school-wide contest to name our adult and baby dragons. We encouraged everyone to submit names that reflect our school values—names that are fun, easy to remember, and fitting for each dragon's character. After a school-wide vote, we're thrilled to announce the winning names: Spirit for the adult dragon and Fire for the baby dragon.

A big congratulations to Russell for his submission of the name Fire, and to Mrs. Hamill's EK class for naming the adult dragon Spirit!



GIRLS ON THE RUN IS BACK!

Girls on the Run kicked off their 4th season at Farmington River this past Monday. Coached by Ms. Daley and Mrs. Martin, girls in grades 3-6 will meet twice per week for 8 weeks. They will have fun, make new friends, increase their physical activity levels, and learn important life skills by working together as a team. The season will end with a celebratory 5k at Stanley Park in Westfield on Sunday, November 24th.

There is still time to join! Please reach out to Ms. Daley or Mrs. Martin by this Friday, September 20th so that we can get your child enrolled.

Girls on the Run - So Much Fun!!



JOIN US FOR

BACK TO SCHOOL

& INSTRUMENT RENTAL INFORMATION NIGHT

THURS, SEPT. 19
6:00 - 7:00 PM



EGYPTIAN JARS IN 6TH GRADE



Grade 6 students are creating ancient Egyptian canopic jars, which will decorate a pharaoh's tomb in the sixth grade classroom. This project compliments their study of Africa, it's geography and it's cultures.

FRES Respiratory Illness Procedure Snapshot

Staff or Students who have new, significant, symptoms of respiratory illness such as cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, not explained by other causes: Allergies, lingering cough, etc., should stay home. Additionally, stay home when any of the following are present:

- Fever above 100 ° F
- Student who is unable to easily manage secretions (body fluids) due to coughing or runny nose/eyes (able to manage when able to wear mask and/or cover coughs and sneezes using a tissue or inner elbow , not their hands)
- Student does not feel well enough to participate fully in classroom activities/play.
- Student is having a hard time staying awake due to not feeling well.
- Student is not eating due to illness
- Student has tested positive for respiratory illness and have any of the above symptoms, consider staying home for 48-72 hours to help stop the spread of illness. If you have questions about how long to stay out, please contact the health office.

When you start to feel better: You may begin to resume normal activities/school with precautions if : 1. You have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; AND 2. Your other symptoms are improving.

For at least 5 days after you resume normal activities, **take these extra precautions:** 1. Wear a mask anytime you are indoors around other people. 2. Practice good hand hygiene. **If your symptoms get worse again:** If fever comes back or any other symptoms start to get worse, you should go back home until you are feeling better again and refer back to "When you start to feel better" section above.

If you have tested positive for a respiratory illness but do not have any symptoms please refer to the complete procedure located in the wellness section of our website.

NURSE'S CORNER



Welcome back to school!

The Local Vaccination Clinic flyer is being sent out this week. This year the Otis clinic will be held at the Town Hall on election day, Nov 5th. Registration is required. Please take a few minutes to review our respiratory illness procedure that was sent out last week.

I hope you are all able to get out and enjoy some of the beautiful fall weather.

If you ever have questions please give me a call or reach out via e-mail.

NurseGrace Terry
gterry@frrsd.org
413-269-4466

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!

REMINDER:

PLEASE RETURN YOUR STUDENTS INFORMATION PACKET IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY. THE GREEN INFORMATION CARD AND HEALTH FORMS ARE USED IN THE HEALTH OFFICE.

STUDENT TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: CARLIE MCINTYRE

ABOUT ME:

I am Miss Carlie and will be a student teacher with Jonina Decker in Special Education, grades PreK-3, at Farmington River Elementary this year! After graduating from Westfield State University in May 2024 with my Bachelor's in Elementary Education, I started working toward my Master's in Moderate Disabilities at WSU. Being a teacher is something I have always wanted to do, so I am so excited to practice the skills I am learning with a variety of different students! I will be at Farmington for the duration of the school year, even after my student teaching is over in December! I also would love the chance to bring a PenPal program from WSU to Farmington River this year, as I have done at previous schools.

PHILOSOPHY:

My teaching philosophy revolves around the fact that we are all lifelong learners and deserve the chance for equitable education. As a teacher, I want to bring the love of learning to each and every student. I also want students to know that school is a space for us to build relationships and community. I am in support of growing together and learning from each other.

HOBBIES:

In my free time I love to craft, read, or spend time with friends. I create all kinds of crafts from diamond paintings to latch hooks to paint by stickers. I also love going on long walks and listening to music.

FAMILY:

I am from North Branford, CT which is around the New Haven area. I currently live at Westfield State and serve as a Resident Assistant in the dorms. I am the older sister to my little brother who is now 19 years old. I have a pet bunny named Hunny Bun that is my love. She is the star of the residence halls!

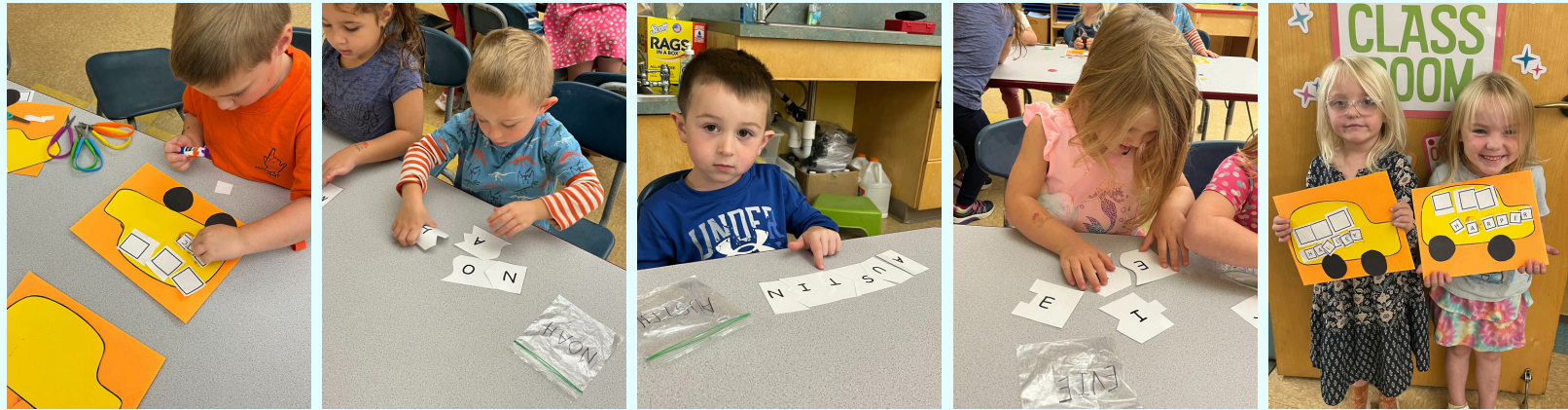
FUN FACTS:

1. I am following in my mother's footsteps as she has been my role model as a teacher for 22 years
2. I love to foster animals, specifically dogs, in the summer
3. I have acted and directed about 16 plays in my past

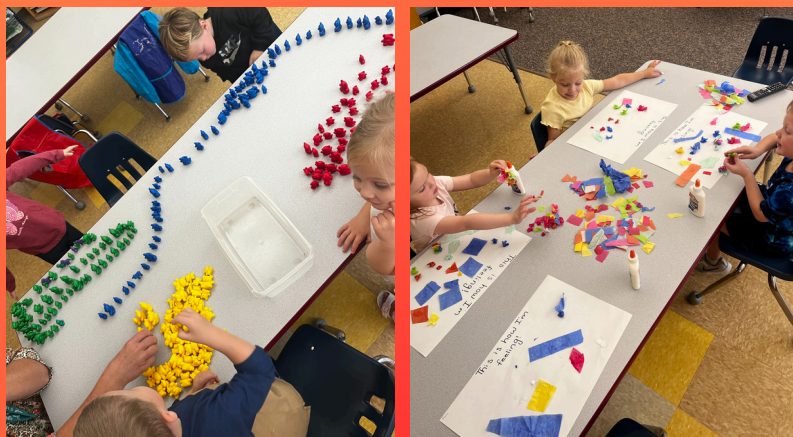


EK PRACTICES NAME RECOGNITION

Mrs. Hamill's Early K class has been busy practicing name recognition through many different fun activities, such as name puzzles and a school bus name craft.



EXPLORING COLORS & EMOTIONS IN PREK



In preschool we have been learning all about colors and emotions! We discussed primary colors and explored how mixing them creates new colors. We did an activity where students had to find their assigned color from a tub of bears. They sorted through red, yellow, blue, and green bears. We made happy-face masks out of paper plates and talked about how faces can look when we're happy, sad, angry, nervous, or surprised. We discussed what our bodies feel like when experiencing these different emotions, as well. We finished off our week by making a collage using different colored tissue paper to express how we were feeling that day. We're off to a great start!



PTA FUNDRAISER STARTS TODAY!

Dear FRES Families,

We are so pleased to introduce you to our 2024 Fall Fundraiser, with Meadow Farms. Offering items such as Kringle Candles, gift wrap, snacks and chocolates, Meadow Farms is a leader in the fundraising world that is headquartered locally, in the Pioneer Valley!

Students should have come home today with a fundraising packet. Within the packet you will find catalogs your family and friends can order from as well as an order form. Please note that your student's name and PHYSICAL address needs to be written on the order form so orders can be sent directly to your home, without the hassle of picking up your orders at school.

We are once again excited that this year Meadow Farms allows for online shopping, giving friends and family members who don't live nearby the opportunity to shop and support our school! All they have to do is pay a low shipping fee, and their selections will be shipped directly to them. Simply click here to set up your student's online selling account. Once set up, you will be provided a Shopping Link you can send to family and friends.

You now have until Friday, October 18 to turn in your orders!

Thank you in advance for your efforts! This fundraiser supports many of the programs that make our school so special, and we literally couldn't do it without you.

24-25 DRAGONS DEN:

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



MONDAY - THURSDAY

AFTER SCHOOL
UNTIL 4:30 PM



HOMESCHOOL HELP
SNACKS PROVIDED
FUN & GAMES

**LIMITED SPACE
AVAILABLE!**

The Farmington River Elementary **Dragons Den** After School Program runs Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. This program will start on **September 30th, 2024**. It will follow the district calendar and conclude on **May 29th, 2025**. *There will be some days when the After School Program is canceled so staff can attend monthly Staff Meetings.*

Space is limited. We will try our best to accommodate your requested schedule; however, due to limited space, we may not be able to guarantee that space on all requested days will be available. A lottery system will be used to determine participants if needed.

Farmington River offers a wide variety of academic and athletic clubs for students from Kindergarten through Grade 6. Generally, these clubs run from 3:00 - 4:00 PM. Students may then transition into the Dragons Den After School Program until 4:30 PM. Please pack a water bottle as these are not provided.

The Dragons Den After School Program (3:00 - 4:30 PM) contact number is **413-564-9842**.

DRAGONS DEN APPLICATION

I give permission for _____ in Grade _____ to stay after school,
and request the following schedule:

___ **Monday:** ___ 4:00 PM ___ 4:30 PM

___ **Wednesday:** ___ 4:00 PM ___ 4:30 PM

___ **Tuesday:** ___ 4:00 PM ___ 4:30 PM

___ **Thursday:** ___ 4:00 PM ___ 4:30 PM

I agree to pick up my student promptly at the above-specified time. I understand that if I am consistently late for pickup, my child may lose their placement in the Dragons Den Program. Attendance is taken. I understand that space is limited, and by filling out this application, I am not guaranteed space in the after-school care for any or all of the requested days. I understand that if, for any reason, my student's schedule changes and needs to be dismissed at the regular dismissal time, I will contact the school as soon as possible.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Phone Number #1: _____ Phone Number #1: _____

Email Address: _____



Pre-Registration is Required- Assistance Available
<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown>

2024 FLU & COVID VACCINE NO COST CLINIC

OTIS TOWN HALL
 Tuesday, 11/5 from 11am-1pm
 1 N Main Road, Otis
 Registration Assistance is Available
 Weds, 9/25 from 10 - 11am
 at the Otis Town Hall
 Please Bring Your Insurance Card

Pre-Registration is Required
home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown



NEED HELP? Call (413) 243-5540 x109 for assistance registering or to see if you are eligible for an in-home vaccination

Standard (6 mos+) and senior (65+ yrs) flu and COVID vaccine (6 mos+) will be available

www.southernberkshirehealth.com

Day	Date	Time	Clinic Site	Town	Registration Workshops
Tues	10/8/2024	3- 6pm	Lenox Memorial Middle/High School	Lenox	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Weds	10/9/2024	3 - 6pm	Lee Middle/High School	Lee	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Tues	10/15/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Sandisfield Old Town Hall	Sandisfield	Weds, 8/21 & 9/18, 10-11am @ Sandisfield COA
Thurs	10/17/2024	1 - 3pm	Claire Teague Senior Center	Gt Barrington	Thu, 9/19, 10-11am @ Senior Center
Tues	10/22/2024	10am -12pm	Tyringham Town Hall	Tyringham	Thurs, 9/26, 10:30-11:30am @ Tyringham Town Hall
Weds	10/23/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	New Marlborough Fire Station	Southfield	Tues, 9/17, 10-11am @ NM Town Hall
Tues	10/29/2024	12 - 2pm	Alford Town Hall	Alford	Tues, 9/17, 10-11am @ Alford Town Hall
Weds	10/30/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	St. Ann's Catholic Parish	Lenox	Tues, 8/13 & 9/10, 9-10am @ Lenox Com Cntr
Thurs	10/31/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Sheffield Senior Center	Sheffield	Thurs, 9/12, 9:30 - 10:30am @ COA
Tues	11/5/2024	11am - 1pm	Otis Town Hall	Otis	Weds, 9/25, 10-11am @ Town Hall
Thurs	11/7/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Lee Senior Center	Lee	Thurs, 8/29 & 9/26 9:30 - 10:30am @ Lee Senior Center
Tues	11/12/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Housy Dome	Housatonic	Thurs, 9/19, 10-11am @ Senior Center
Tues	11/19/2024	10am -12pm	Monterey Community Center	Monterey	Weds 8/14/ & 9/11 11:30am - 12:30pm @ Monterey Library
Thurs	11/21/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Stockbridge Town Hall	Stockbridge	Tues, 9/3, 10:30-11:30am @ COA
Fri	11/22/2024	3pm - 6pm	W.F.B. Dubois Middle School	Gt Barrington	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Tues	11/26/2024	3pm - 6pm	Mt Everett Regional School	Sheffield	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Saturday	December	TBD		Gt Barrington	DATE AND TIME TBD
Ongoing	By Appt		Tri-Town Health Department	Lee	Ongoing flu, covid and childhood vaccines. Call to schedule.

Vaccines available at these clinics include the fall updated COVID vaccine (ages 6 months+), regular dose flu (ages 6 months+) and senior dose flu (ages 65+) Contact SBPHC staff for assistance registering or to schedule a homebound appointment by calling 413 243 5540 x109

JOIN THE FRRSD WELLNESS COMMITTEE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR INTERESTED PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO JOIN

NEXT MEETING:
SEPT 26TH @ 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 will be done via Zoom.

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

LOCAL EVENTS

Oktober Fest

**Sunday, October 13th
11AM-3PM**

Available for purchase

Music * Drink * Food * Beer

Presented By:
Looking Glass Gardens and the Sandisfield Recreation Committee
 19 Dodd Road, Sandisfield

RSVP by 10/4/24 to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

Autumnal Crafting Live Music \$2 Pony Rides Hayrides

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS South Berkshire Kids CFCE Grant **September 2024 Program Schedule**

* If you have further questions, please contact Jess at 413-464-5095 southberkshirekids@gmail.com Department of Early Education and Care

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
*Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:00am-11:30am. Drop in. No program 9/3	*Lenox Play @ Lenox Community Center, 10am-11am. Drop in.	*Brain Builders @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Registration required.	*Tyringham Play , Tyringham Park, 10am-11am. Drop in.
*Sing & Dance @ Bushnell Sage Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. No program 9/17	*New Marlborough Storytime @ New Marlborough Library, 10:00am-11:00am. Drop in.	*Richmond Reads @ Richmond Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Let's Hike @ The Mount/Lenox Sept 12 th & 26 th , 10:00am. Registration required.	
*StoryWalk opening day @ The Mount, September 3rd, 10am-3pm.		*Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes, September 26 th , 7pm Zoom.		

***More info on our website: www.SouthBerkshireKids.org** All programs are free & open to the community!

- **Babies & Books** with Jess @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Mondays 10:30am-11:30am. This program is for infants, ages birth to 12 months. Join us as we sing, play and chat about the joys & challenges of being a parent. Drop in.
- **Otis Explore & Play** with *Anina* @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly caregiver/child playgroup will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in.
- **Sing & Dance** with *Michelle* @ Bushnell-Sage Library, 48 Main Street/Sheffield. Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am. This program will include music, movement, and dance. Drop in.
- **Lenox Play** with *Michelle* @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street. Wednesdays 10am-11am. Join us for this center-based playgroup with tabletop activities, free play, crafts & more. Great for toddlers & preschoolers. Drop in.
- **New Marlborough Storytime** with *Jess* @ New Marlborough Library, 1 Mill River Gt Road. Wednesdays 10am-11am. This program includes a circle time with stories and songs, followed by a craft. Drop in.
- **Brain Builders** with *Michelle* @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Thursdays 10:30. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing jess@southberkshirekids@gmail.com
- **Richmond Reads** with *Jess* @ Richmond Library (located in the new town building), 1751 State Rd/Richmond. Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am. Join us for a storytime and craft. Drop in.
- **Let's Hike** with *Taylor* September 12th & 26th @ The Mount/Lenox 10:00am. Join us for this outdoor classroom. Registration required by emailing jess@southberkshirekids@gmail.com
- **Tyringham Play** @ Tyringham Playground, Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this outdoor playgroup...balls, bubbles, books, crafts & more! Drop in, weather permitting.
- **StoryWalk** @ The Mount, September 3rd Opening Day, 10am-3pm. Join us for opening day and visit with South Berkshire Kids staff, we will be handing out learning bags, while supplies last. The walk will be up all month!
- **Parent Workshop** with *Scott Noyes*, September 26th Zoom, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Registration required by emailing jess@southberkshirekids@gmail.com

Visit us online for additional resources & information
www.SouthBerkshireKids.org www.Mas211.org

Like us on facebook Follow us on twitter

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Mark your calendars!
 Join us from the comfort of your home!
 Parent Workshops with **Scott Noyes** on ZOOM!!!

***Thursday, September 26th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Routines, Rituals & Transitions
 Bedtime hassles, homework blues, and dinner-time struggles are challenges this workshop will cover. Whether we are smoothing out the edges on "who had it first" or working with the challenges of a temper tantrum, there are times when every parent could use a few fresh ideas! Find out why bribery, sarcasm, and threats don't work, especially in the long run.

***Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Children's Rivalry
 Stop the fighting!! We will learn how to help children with rivalry, competition, resentment, envy, and conflict. This workshop will discuss active listening, working with all feelings, parental fairness, labeling problem children and how to help when children are fighting. Bring your concerns and leave with a few helpful parenting tips!!

***Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Supporting Positive Social Emotional Development
 Realizing that a child's first relationships are crucial to the ones that follow, this presentation looks at attachment research and the efforts adults can make to help children gain these vital skills.

****Registration required to receive the Zoom link.**
Email Jessica: southberkshirekids@gmail.com
***Participants who sign up AND attend will be entered to win a Barnes & Noble gift card.**

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care

Otis Library StoryWalk

2023-2024 FRES NEWS-LETTER ARCHIVES

Different by Heather Avis, illustrated by Sarah Mensinga

Different by Heather Avis, illustrated by Sarah Mensinga

This joyful rhyming book encourages children to value the "different" in all people, leading the way to a kinder world in which the differences in all of us are celebrated and embraced. Macy is a girl who's a lot like you and me, but she's also quite different, which is a great thing to be.

WHEN: Throughout the month of September.
 WHERE: Behind St. Mary's of the Lake, 48 N. Main St. Otis.