



10/29/2026

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

Striving to Be the Best Students and Citizens

UPCOMING EVENTS

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - TURN
CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
@ 6PM**

**GRADES 2-5 FIELD TRIP -
MAHAIWE THEATER
TANGLEWOOD CHILDREN'S
OPERA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

**VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
BRUNCH at 9AM
ASSEMBLY at 9:45AM**

**VETERANS DAY - NO SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

**PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**PROFESSIONAL DAYS FOR
STAFF - NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22 &
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK
NO SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 -
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26**



LOOKING FORWARD TO CONNECTING!

As October comes to a close, we look forward to connecting with families at our upcoming parent-teacher conferences on Thursday, November 19, during the afternoon and evening. Our students have been working hard, and conferences are a wonderful opportunity to hear about your child's progress and celebrate their accomplishments. It's also a chance to talk about areas where a little extra support can help them feel more confident in their learning.

Your perspective is an important part of that conversation, so please bring questions and share what you're noticing at home. If you haven't already scheduled your conference, you'll find more information about signing up later in this newsletter. Thank you for your continued partnership and the support you give our students and teachers each day. We look forward to seeing you!

Warm regards,
Laurie Flower, Principal



ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHT

Growing Strong Readers



We're excited to share that Farmington River has received a \$96,625 PRISM grant to strengthen literacy instruction! Through this work, our goal is for students in preschool through third grade to take a more active role in reading and writing lessons, spending more time discussing challenging texts and using evidence to explain their thinking. We're also working to give students more opportunities to practice foundational reading skills in connected text, helping them link those skills to understanding what they read and hear. We'll track our progress toward these goals through June 2027 using the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Early Literacy Observation Tool.



CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK
IS AWESOME!

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Nov. 10, 2026

ASSEMBLY & BRUNCH

Join us in honoring, celebrating, and thanking our local veterans for their service.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Farmington River Elementary School Cafeteria & Gym
555 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253

Brunch @ 9:00 AM
(Veterans & Their Guests Only)

Assembly @ 9:45 AM
(Open to all in the Community)

RSVP to the Veteran's Day Brunch & Assembly

Scan the **QR code** to fill out the online form
OR
Call the FRES Front Office at **413-269-4466**



SCAN ME

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up, **Thursday, November 19, from 12:30 to 7:00!**

If you still need to sign up, please click on or copy and paste the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/262913648726164>



To ensure a consistent message during Parent-Teacher Conferences, families with dual households should attend their student(s)' conference(s) together. If you have already signed up for a conference and need to reschedule to accommodate both parties, please call (413) 269-4466 to speak with Cecily, or email frontoffice@frsd.org as soon as possible with both parties' availability.

Any questions or concerns? Give us a call or email.

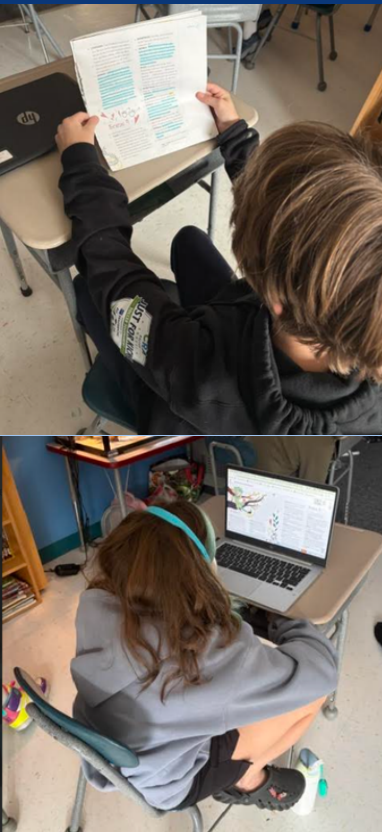
SIXTH GRADE IS GETTING CREATIVE!

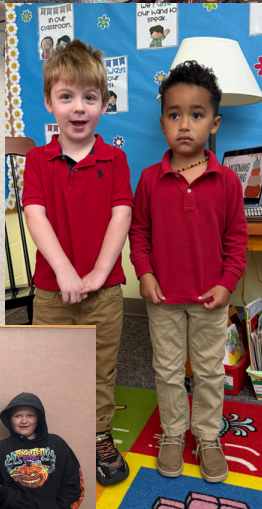
In Social Studies, we are traveling back thousands of years to ancient Mesopotamia, where students are uncovering



the secrets of one of the world's earliest civilizations. But we aren't stopping at research! Students will soon team up to turn their historical discoveries into an original song parody, combining history, teamwork, and creativity. In ELA, we are stepping into the world of theater with Upside Down and Backwards, a playful twist on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students are exploring what makes drama unique while discovering how

characters, dialogue, and unexpected conflicts bring a story to life on stage. Between history-inspired songwriting and bringing classic drama to life, sixth graders are finding new ways to show what they know!





CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK 2026





FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES, IT'S THE FARMINGTON RIVER WAY



As always, we will be collecting food for local families again this year. This special tradition helps instill in our students the importance of community, and brings to life one of our core character traits, **Citizenship**. Below is a grade-by-grade list of suggested donations.

Please have donations in by November 16th. Teachers and staff will provide the turkeys.



Pre-K/ EK: paper products, sandwich bags, foil, etc.



Kindergarten: snacks, popcorn, nuts, pretzels, crackers, granola bars, dried fruit



Grades 1 & 2: boxed goods - pancake & cake mixes, cereals, oatmeal, pudding, stuffing



Grades 3 & 4: canned goods - soup, gravy, vegetables, fruits, pie filling, pickles, olives, peanut butter, jelly, cranberry sauce



Grade 5: drinks - juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate



Grade 6: staples - pasta, rice, flour, sugar, seasonings, ketchup, mustard

HIT THE SLOPES WITH THE PTA



Registration is officially **OPEN** for the **2027 Otis Ridge Ski & Snowboard Program!**

Thanks to your amazing fundraising efforts and the generosity of a local donor, we are thrilled to offer this program to ALL Farmington River Elementary students in grades 1-6

completely free!

When: Wednesdays, January 6 – February 10, 2027

Lesson Time: 6:00 PM (Arrive 45 min early to get ready)

Ski Lessons: Available to students in grades 1-6

Snowboard Lessons: Available to students in grades 3-6

Cost: \$0 for FRES students!

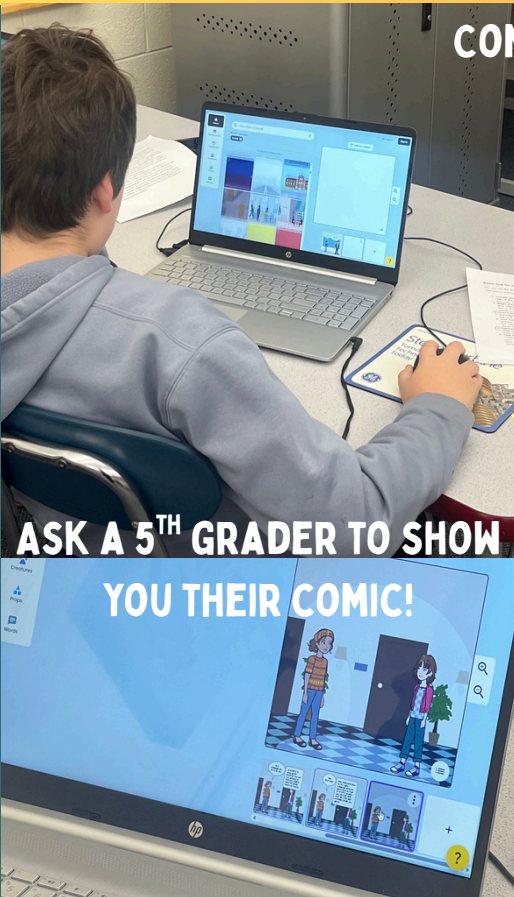
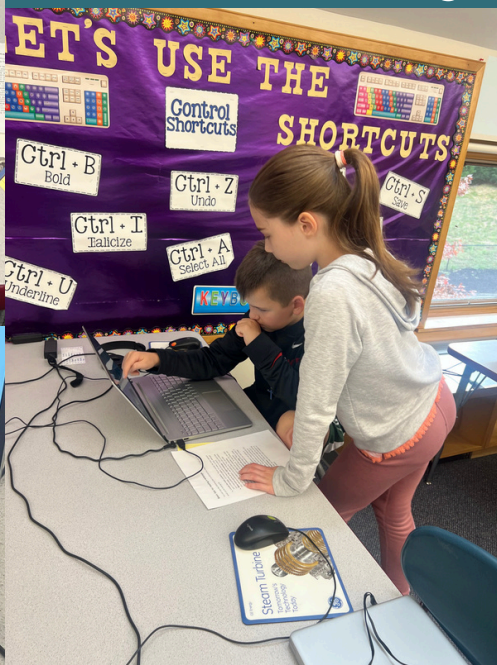
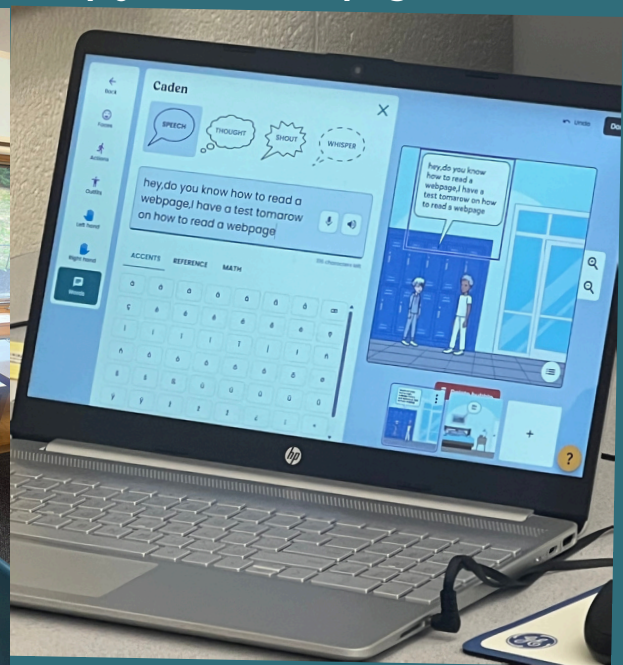
Don't wait 'til it's too late – register for the Otis Ridge Ski and Snowboard Program today!

[Click Here to Register](#)

Use code **FARMINGTON100** for free FRES registration.

COMPUTER CLASS: TIPS FOR READING A WEBPAGE WITH 5TH GRADE

Fifth graders are working on a cool tool to help others navigate the internet more easily. Using a program online, students are building a comic, incorporating tips such as, **Locate the main content**, and **Use headings to help you skim the page**.



KINDERGARTEN IS LEARNING SOUNDS

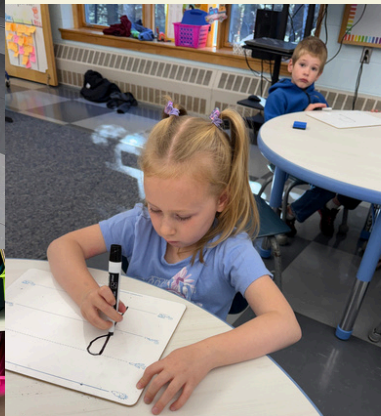
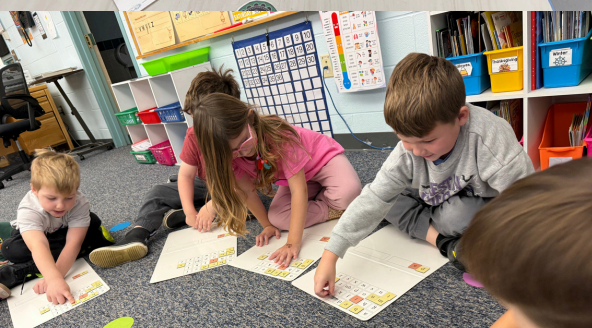
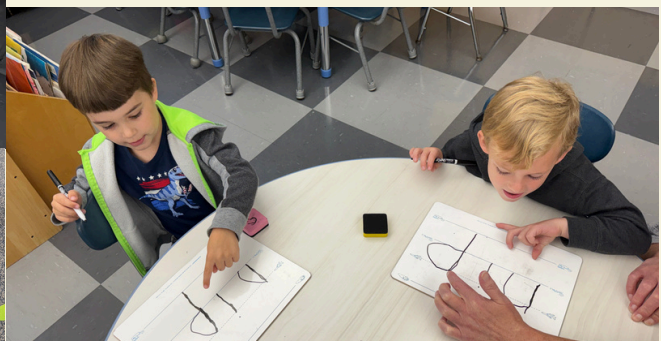
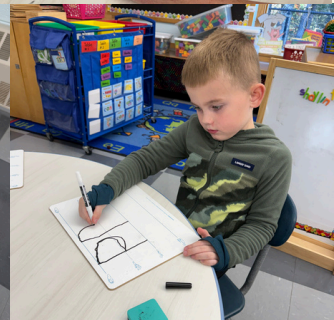


The kindergarten students are learning their letter sounds, practicing how to form letters, and discovering how to put sounds together to make words! Through hands-on activities, students are building important early reading and writing skills.

Students practice by arranging letter tiles to build words, writing letters and words on whiteboards, and forming letters in shaving cream. These playful activities help students connect letters with their sounds and develop

proper letter formation while keeping learning fun and engaging.

It is exciting to see our young learners grow in confidence as they use the sounds they know to become readers and writers!



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

***Wednesday, September 9th, 2026 @ 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 14th, 2026 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Helping Children Develop Healthy Sleep Habits

Bedtime battles? Not sleeping through the night? No naps? Early risers? This workshop is for you! This presentation will review the facts about the importance of sleep and how to help children establish and maintain healthy sleep habits.

***Wednesday, November 11th, 2026 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: High Octane Kids!

Do you have a child who is bouncing off the walls? Constantly in motion? This workshop looks at causes, prevention, and intervention with energetic kids. Avoiding labels like hyper and difficult helps to start this session on a positive note. Strategies that help the child, family and childcare providers are discussed.

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

Saturday, October 31, 2026
5-6:30 pm
Otis Ridge 159 Monterey Road Otis

Trunk signups required to decorate your car & hand out goodies.
Set up starts at 2pm.
To sign up email kawsonotiser@gmail.com your Name Contact Number
Trunk Theme Vehicle Make, Model, and Color.
If you will be bringing a trailer, please let us know as well so we can coordinate spaces appropriately.

Sign ups are not required for Trunk or Treaters. Come in your costume and walk through the haunted lodge before or after Trunk or Treat!!

Event sponsored by Otis Ridge, Otis Rec Center, FRSD PTA, & Otis Police Dept
Follow us on Facebook for updates and more information.

TRUNK OR TREAT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 2026
3-5 PM
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION
81 South Main Street
Sandisfield, MA 01255

CANDY COSTUMES COMMUNITY FUN FOR ALL AGES!

FREE OR TREAT

COME IN YOUR BEST COSTUME!

SEE BACK FOR MORE INFORMATION

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
AMVETS Post 77
Otis/SANDISFIELD School
RT 8
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
November 15th
Everyone E
\$5.00

VETERANS EAT FOR FREE

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!