11/12/2026

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

Striving to Be the Best Students and Citizens

UPCOMING EVENTS

ABSENTEE PICTURE DAY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
12:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
6:00 PM

WINTER CONCERT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
9:00 AM (PreK- K) and 1:30 PM (Grades 1-6)

HOLIDAY BREAK
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 (Half Day) -
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1



With parent-teacher conferences coming up on Thursday, November 19, I want to encourage all of our families to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to connect with your child's teacher. Conferences are a great time to celebrate your child's accomplishments, talk about their progress, and work together to support their continued growth. Before your conference, consider asking your child what they enjoy most about school, what they're proud of, and what they might be finding challenging. It's also helpful to come with a few questions of your own about their learning, friendships, or ways you can support them at home.

One of the things I appreciate most about our school is the strong partnership we have with our families. Our teachers care deeply about your children and look forward to sharing all the wonderful things happening in their classrooms. Thank you for being such an important part of your child's education. We look forward to seeing you on November 19!

Warm Regards,
Laurie Flower, Principal

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHT

Celebrating Strong Student Growth



Our 2026 MCAS results show that Farmington River students made strong progress in both English language arts and math! MCAS measures growth by comparing students with others across Massachusetts who had similar scores in previous years. Typical growth falls between the 40th and 60th percentiles. Our students averaged 64.5 in English language arts and 64 in math, exceeding typical growth and earning the highest possible accountability score of 4 out of 4 points for growth in both subjects. We are proud of their hard work and thankful for the teachers and families who support their learning!



Our Annual Veterans Day breakfast and assembly brought generations together for an inspiring day of gratitude and remembrance.

The event was a heartwarming tribute to our nation's heroes, with students demonstrating their understanding of the importance of honoring those who have served. The school was able to recognize over a dozen local veterans, many of whom have children and grandchildren in the building. After the assembly, grades 4-6 attended a Q&A session with several veterans who shared stories and experiences (and cool gear) with a rapt audience. The overwhelming support and engagement from our school community underscore the values of respect and unity that make Farmington River Elementary School truly special.

VETERANS DAY
November 11th





















REMINDER: APPROPRIATE RECESS ATTIRE

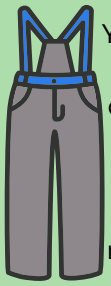




Students will have outdoor recess if temperatures **feel like 20 degrees** or above.

Please ensure they arrive at school dressed appropriately with coats, hats, and gloves.





Younger students (**grades PK-3**) eager to explore the snow beyond the cleared blacktop will need snow boots and pants.



Boots and snow pants are recommended for students in **grades 4-6;** however, we trust our older students to make responsible choices, ensuring they stay warm and dry while enjoying their time outside.

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

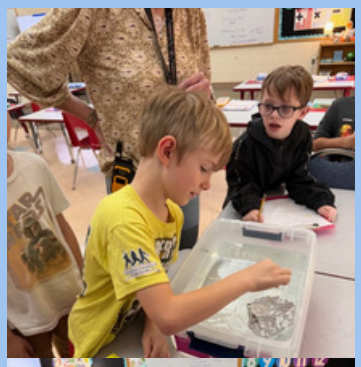
To ensure a consistent message during Parent-Teacher Conferences, families with dual households should attend their student(s)' conference(s) together. If you have already signed up for a conference and need to reschedule to accommodate both parties, please call (413) 269-4466 to speak with Cecily, or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

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

A BOAT LOAD OF FUN!!!

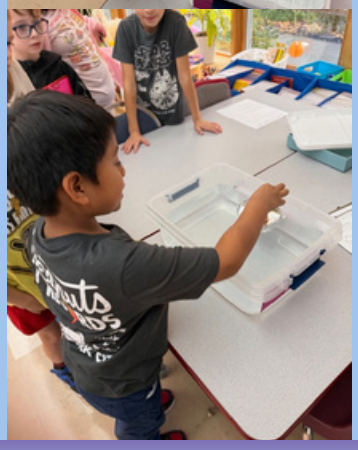


Our third-grade students became engineers during a fun, hands-on STEM challenge! They designed and built aluminum foil boats, then added pennies to see how much weight their boats could hold before sinking. Along the way, they explored floating, balance, and how a boat's shape affects its ability to carry weight, all while practicing teamwork and problem-solving!









ACCELERATED READER UPDATE

The Accelerated Reader program awards students points for taking quizzes on books they have read. Throughout the year, students who have taken part enjoy AR Awards, such as extra recess.

AR POINTS THROUGH 11/6/26:

1 POINT:

AJ T. (2)
Levi A. (3)
Olivia M. (3)
Ryan R. (3)
Hunter S. (3)
Ella S. (3)
Bjorn S. (3)
Maggie T. (3)
Carter T. (3)
Hazel G. (4)
Mathei T. (4)
Thaila F. (5)
Jadah M. (5)

DRAGON (5PTS):

Clementine G. (3)
Mila A. (4)

HYDRA (30 PTS):

Amos B. (4)


















HALLOWEEN 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 next Monday, 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.

SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKES ARE COMING UP 11/18

Whether you missed it the first time around or your photos came back with one eye shut, **school picture retakes** are coming up **Wednesday, November 18!**

If your student(s) will be taking photos, please email or call the front office so we can add them to the photographer's list.

If your student was absent on picture day, they should bring in their original envelope; if you need a new envelope, reach out to the front office. If your student was here for picture day and you would like to have photos retaken, please return the original photos in their envelope with your student on or before November 18.

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR

BOOK FAIR eWALLET

Create your child's Book Fair eWallet so they can shop cash-free, worry-free, and independently!

It's easy to set up and easy for others to contribute funds!

SCAN TO START:

Start here:
https://www.scholastic.com/bf/farmingtonriverelemschool

JOIN US AT THE BOOK FAIR!
Thursday, November 19
Held during Parent/Teacher Conferences.
Shop before or after your conference!

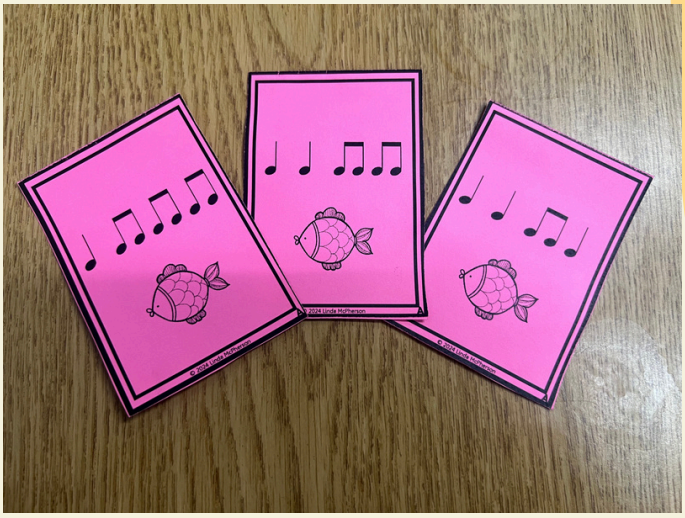
#ScholasticBookFairs





READING MUSIC WITH GO FISH!

Over the past month, our 1st and 2nd graders have been hard at work learning to read quarter notes, eighth notes, half notes, and quarter rests. To put their new skills into action, students played a lively game of Music Go Fish, practicing reading rhythms out loud to a neighbor to collect matching pairs. It was a fun, hands-on way to bring their new musical knowledge to life!



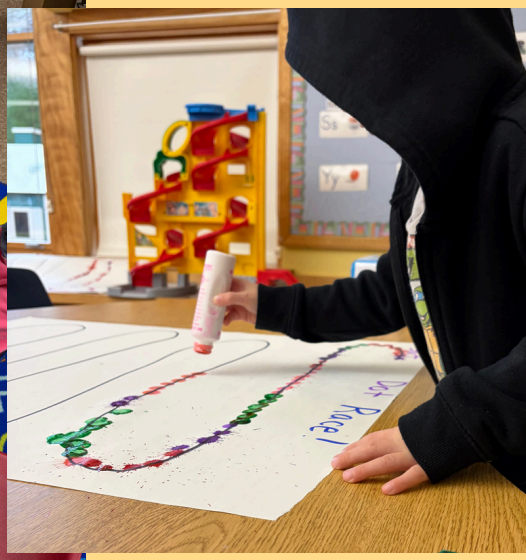
PRE-K AND EARLY K LEARN AND PLAY

The PreK and EK classroom is full of fun leaning! In math we did a dot race with dice to practice counting, and built towers on number lines. We've also been busy using dot markers to dot our names, making letters out of magnet tiles, making turkeys out of paper plates and out of play dough, and celebrating the season. We even had a birthday celebration with glow sticks!

During fun Friday, EK students made a huge tower!



















LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD AT THE TANGLEWOOD LINDE CENTER

Last week, 2nd through 5th graders recently enjoyed an unforgettable field trip to the Tanglewood Linde Center to see a children's opera of Little Red Riding Hood, performed by talented students from the New England Conservatory. For many of our students, this was their first time visiting Tanglewood, and for most, their very first experience seeing an opera. It was a wonderful milestone to share across so many grade levels, all of whom loved the show! This special opportunity was made possible through a generous partnership between Tanglewood and the New England Conservatory, along with an anonymous Tanglewood donor, who collectively covered the entire cost so the trip was completely free for our students and school. We are so grateful for their support and look forward to many more enriching experiences like this in the future!





