



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

04/09/2026

Dear Farmington River Families,

April is here, and that means it's National Poetry Month! We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible power of words and creativity in our school community. Poetry is such a wonderful way for children to explore language and find their own unique voices as both readers and writers.

We're also really lucky to have Patty Melville, our new reading specialist and former school librarian, on board. She's bringing fresh energy and innovative ideas to our library and literacy programs. Patty's passion for reading is already making a noticeable difference, and together we're excited to build a vibrant collection of books in our classrooms and the library, especially in the realm of poetry.

Throughout the month, our students will have plenty of chances to read, write, and share their poems in fun and creative ways. We're particularly looking forward to "Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day" on April 30th. On this special day, students can choose a favorite poem to carry with them and share with friends, teachers, and family. We believe this simple act will spark joy and encourage conversations about poetry both at school and at home.

We also want to take a moment to recognize the hard work our students put in during the MCAS testing. Their perseverance and focus truly stood out, and we appreciate the support from families. Having students present on testing days made a huge difference in helping everyone feel prepared and confident.

As we head into this busy spring season, our calendar is starting to fill up with important events and celebrations. We encourage you to take a few moments each week to check out school newsletters, emails, and flyers sent home, so you don't miss any important dates or opportunities to get involved. Your partnership is essential in helping us have a smooth and successful end to the school year for all our students.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought
and the thought has found words."**

— Robert Frost

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
BAND VISITS FRES** 
WED., APRIL 15

APRIL BREAK - NO SCHOOL
APRIL 20-24

PTA SCREEN FREE WEEK
Monday, April 27

DENTAL CLINIC 
Tuesday, April 28

**GREENAGERS VISITING
GRADE 3**
Friday, May 1

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG
7:00 PM
Monday, May 4

**GR. 3 FIELD TRIP:
STORROWTOWN VILLAGE** 
Tuesday, May 5

MCAS MATH GRADES 3-6
MON., MAY 11 THRU
THURS., MAY 14



ACCELERATED READER!

Congrats to the following students who earned enough Accelerated Reader points to participate in our recent AR Award for extra recess on March 26th!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| DRAGON: (5 PTS) | SPIRIT: (15 PTS) |
| Fallyn P. (1 st) | Rosa M. (1 st) |
| Thomas G. (1 st) | Clem G. (2 nd) |
| Arya P. (1 st) | Ellie G. (3 rd) |
| Cayden W. (1 st) | Matheo T. (3 rd) |
| Ryan R. (2 nd) | Ashley B. (3 rd) |
| Hunter S. (2 nd) | Lucy F. (3 rd) |
| Olivia M. (2 nd) | Luke C. (3 rd) |
| Levi A. (2 nd) | Freya S. (3 rd) |
| Logan W. (2 nd) | Liam F. (5 th) |
| Scarlett M. (3 rd) | Colin R. (5 th) |
| Evelyn M. (3 rd) | Jordan P. (5 th) |
| Robert P. (3 rd) | HYDRA: (30 PTS) |
| Victoria R. (3 rd) | Mila A. (3 rd) |
| Maewen W. (4 th) | Ava M. (3 rd) |
| Griffin S. (5 th) | Mackenzie S. (3 rd) |
| Brett O. (5 th) | Hazel G. (3 rd) |
| Jasper K. (5 th) | Beatrice B. (4 th) |
| Thalia C. (6 th) | Travis R. (5 th) |
| Henry S. (6 th) | FIRE: (75 PTS) |
| Jackson A. (6 th) | Ryan B. (3 rd) |
| John B. (6 th) | BEAST: (225 PTS) |
| | Amos B. (3 rd) |



GREAT WORK AND KEEP READING TOWARDS OUR NEXT AR AWARD!

HAPPY READING!

MARCH MADNESS

FINAL ASSEMBLY CELEBRATION



Farmington River Elementary celebrated the conclusion of its March Madness school-wide program with an exciting Final Four Assembly. School spirit filled the air as the students entered with pep-rally music from our band led by Ms. Beauregard. Students were recognized for their hard work and dedication to reading throughout the month of March. The March Madness tournament began with 68 teams and was narrowed down to this year's Final Four: Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, and UConn. Student who chose these four schools shared what they learned through their college research.



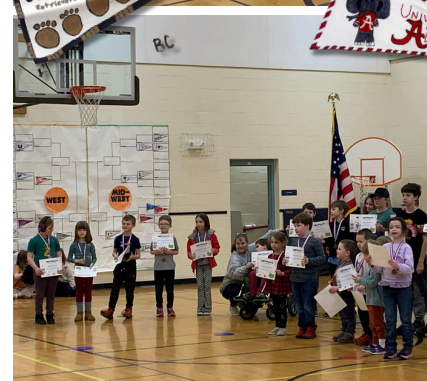
Reading remained a major focus, with **74% of students participating!** A total of 81 out of 109 students took part in the challenge. Students in PK through Kindergarten read a combined **374** books, while grades 1 through 6 earned **468.6** Accelerated Reader points. First grade and third grade were recognized for reaching **100% participation**, with third grade achieving this for the second year in a row. All participating students received a basketball-themed prize to celebrate their efforts.



Top readers from each grade level were honored during the assembly. Students were also recognized for their basketball skills, with awards given to top free-throw shooters in each grade. Many of the top shooters were also strong readers, showing the connection between practice and opportunity.



The assembly ended with the Hot Shot Shooting Contest. Top shooters from grades 3 through 6 competed to score as many points as possible in one minute. Students showed effort and strategy while being supported by their peers. It was a great way to celebrate a unit that brought together reading and school spirit.



A huge thank you extends to all our specialist teachers for making this program happen: Ms. Daley, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Terri, Ms. Catullo, Ms. Caroline, and Ms. Beauregard! Also, thank you to the PTA for their support providing supplies and awards for this program!





KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS EXPLORE THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS!

Our kindergarten students recently enjoyed an exciting and enriching field trip to the Springfield Museums! The day was filled with curiosity, laughter, and hands-on learning as students experienced two engaging shows and explored the wonders of science.

The first show, students visited the planetarium for a special show about the night sky. Inside the darkened dome, they learned how the stars change throughout the seasons and where to find them in the sky. The program helped students understand that the stars we see in winter are different from those we see in summer, and it sparked many questions about space and the universe. Next, *Cats, Hats, & Balancing Acts*, delighted students with its playful combination of storytelling, movement, and surprising demonstrations. Students watched in amazement as performers used balance, coordination, and creativity to bring the show to life. It was a wonderful way to introduce concepts like motion and balance while keeping everyone entertained.

A big thank you to the Springfield Museums for providing such a memorable and educational day for our kindergarteners and the Sandisfield Cultural Council for funding it!



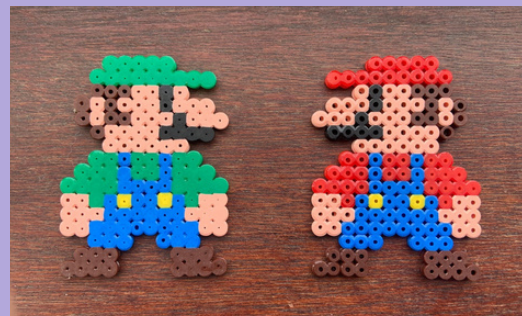
ART + COMPUTERS COLLABORATE THROUGH 5TH GRADE PIXEL ART!

Our 5th-grade students are taking part in an engaging cross-curricular project that combines creativity, technology, and hands-on learning! Working between art and computer classes, they are designing colorful Pixel Art using Perler beads.

In computer class, students use spreadsheets to carefully plan their designs, with each cell representing a bead and its color. This process helps them develop planning skills, attention to detail, and an understanding of how digital tools can support creativity. Then, in art class, students bring their designs to life by placing real beads on pegboards, matching their digital plans. This hands-on step encourages patience and precision while allowing students to see their ideas become tangible artwork.

This project highlights how technology and art can work together to inspire creativity and deeper learning. Thank you in advance to the PTA for their grant to provide the perler beads and supplies to get this project started!

Stay tuned for their finished work later this spring!



School Dental Clinic - 4/28/26



***DENTAL EXAMS*CLEANINGS*
*SEALANTS*FLORIDE VARNISH***

**** OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH & WITHOUT DENTAL/HEALTH INSURANCE** IF YOUR CHILD HAS NOT HAD A ROUTINE DETAL 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**

CELEBRATING GREAT STUDENT TEACHING IN ACTION: MS. MURPHY'S 1ST GRADE GEOMETRY LESSON

Our classroom recently had the pleasure of participating in an engaging and thoughtfully designed math lesson led by our student teacher, Ms. Murphy. As part of our geometry unit, Ms. Murphy guided students through an exploration of the attributes of two-dimensional shapes.

The lesson began with a hands-on review, where students examined familiar shapes such as triangles, squares, rectangles, and hexagons.

Ms. Murphy encouraged students to describe what they noticed, prompting them to think about key attributes like the number of sides, vertices (corners), and whether the sides were equal in length. This approach helped students build on prior knowledge while actively participating from the start.

One highlight of the lesson was a collaborative sorting activity. Students worked in small groups to classify shapes based on shared attributes. As they discussed their reasoning, Ms. Murphy circulated the room, asking thoughtful questions that pushed students to explain and justify their thinking. This not only deepened their understanding but also strengthened their math vocabulary.

Ms. Murphy also incorporated visual aids and anchor charts, which supported learners at all levels. By the end of the lesson, students were confidently identifying and comparing shapes using precise language, a clear sign of meaningful learning.

We are proud of the dedication and creativity Ms. Murphy brings to our classroom. Her ability to create an interactive and supportive learning environment is already making a positive impact on our students. We look forward to seeing her continue to grow as an educator!



FARMINGTON RIVER STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT ON STAGE WITH THE FRES TALENT SHOW!

Farmington River's Got Talent event on March 26th was a wonderful success showcasing so much talent in our school! There were 14 acts, ranging from singing and piano solos to yo-yo tricks and pantomimes.

The student council judged each performance with an 8, 9 or 10 and rewarded the top high scoring performers with the opportunity to select their prizes first. All the acts received a prize!

The 5 top scoring performances were: Saul Warren who sang "Cheese Coney Club" fully costumed as a hot dog, Leona Russo who played "Chilly Guy" on the piano, Thomas Giusti who played "Twinkle Twinkle" on the piano, Amos Brown who played two pieces on the piano, "Spanish Caballero" and "Jumpin' Jazz Cat", and the group of girls who danced and lip synched to "Hard Knock Life", Mila Antoniazzi, Hazel Gallagher, Ellie Giusti, and Mackenzie Slater.

Congratulations also to Scarlett Madden for her presentation of a painting, Ellie Giustie for singing Katy Perry's "Roar", Ava Maldonado and Lucy Ferreira with an explosive science trick, Cora Malbaurn who sang a song "In the Stars" and played a piano piece, "Aunt Rhody", the group who sang "Someone You Love" including Olivia and Charles Dieterle, Cora Malbaurn, Beatrice Buckley, and Ms. Paige Jalliffe; Tori Ransom, Evelyn Middleton and Freya Simonelli who performed a pantomime about life in nature, and Mason Tetreault who performed yo-yo tricks.

WILDLIFE ON WHEELS BRINGS LEARNING TO LIFE IN PREK AND EK!

We were thrilled to welcome Wildlife on Wheels from the Zoo at Forest Park to our PreK and EK classroom for a truly unforgettable, hands-on learning experience! Thanks to the generous support of the FIRE Fund, our youngest learners had the opportunity to meet and learn about a variety of fascinating animals up close.

The presentation introduced students to several unique creatures, including cockroaches, a bunny, a snake, a turtle, and a bearded dragon. Each animal sparked curiosity, excitement, and plenty of thoughtful questions from our students. For many children, this was their first time seeing these animals in real life, let alone having the chance to pet them!

Our visitors from Wildlife on Wheels shared age-appropriate information about each animal's habitat, diet, and special characteristics. Students practiced important skills such as listening, observing, and asking questions, all while building a deeper understanding of the natural world. There were plenty of smiles as children bravely interacted with animals they may have once found scary or unfamiliar.

Experiences like this help foster empathy, respect, and appreciation for living things, all important values we strive to nurture every day in our classrooms. It was especially meaningful to see students making connections between what they've learned in class through our unit on Animals and the real-world animals they encountered.

We are incredibly grateful to the FIRE Fund for making this enriching experience possible.



SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR'S CORNER

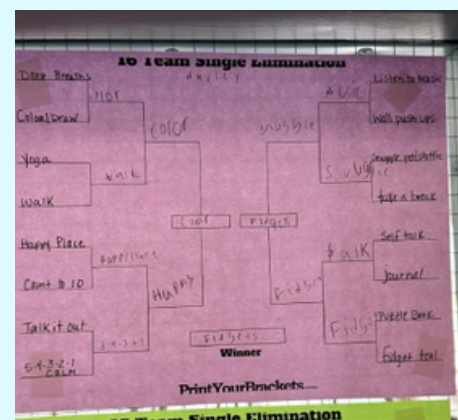
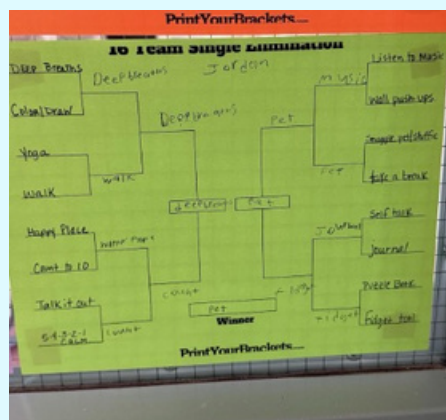
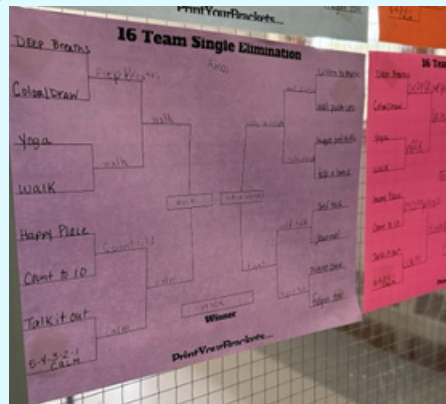
COPING SKILLS TAKE THE WIN! OR..... EMOTIONAL SLAM DUNK!

March Madness brought more than just a focus on reading, and basketball, it also inspired a fun and meaningful way for students to explore coping skills.

Our students participated in creating their own Coping Skills Brackets. Through this activity, students were reminded of a variety of strategies to help manage big feelings. As they moved through each round, they had the chance to think and practice which coping skills worked best for them and "advance" their favorites along the way.

Along the journey, we talked about how different feelings call for different support, what helps when we feel frustrated might be different from what we need when we feel sad. The students practiced applying coping skills to different situations and began to discover what feels most helpful for them.

While each student chose a "winning" coping skill, the most important message was that they have many tools to choose from. Their coping skills "toolbox" is always available, and they can use any of these strategies whenever they need a little extra support.



LOCAL EVENTS

Enrolling children entering grades 1 – 8
Counselors in Training going into 9th grade

LYA SUMMER CAMP

June – August 2026
8am to 5pm
(early dropoff at 6:30am available)



Camp Highlights:

- Outdoor Adventures
- Creative Arts & Crafts
- Field Trips
- Pizza Fridays

Lee Youth Association Summer Day Camp focuses on building friendships and seeking adventure this 2026 season. Our mission is to create a safe and inclusive environment where children can play, grow, and learn. We will be exploring nature and building confidence, while enjoying games, encouraging teamwork and making memories!

Register Now!

The number of campers per day will be limited so please get your registrations in ASAP – once we have reached that limit we will not be able to take any more registrations



OTIS LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF THE OTIS LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE

Saturday April 18th 9-3
Sunday April 19th 9-12

Otis Ridge Ski Lodge

Used Books - Puzzles
Something For Everyone
Bargain Prices



LEE YOUTH ASSOCIATION T-Ball and Rookie League BASEBALL REGISTRATION



T-Ball
(4 and 5 year olds) – must be 4 by the start of the season

Rookie League Baseball (coaches pitch)
(6 and 7 year olds)

Please sign up online
OR

Bring your registration in person to the LYA

Registration fee - \$55

you may sign up online at www.leyouthsports.com

Any questions please contact:

The Lee Youth Association: SharonTerry-243-5535 x 1

IF YOU HAVE AN OUTSTANDING BALANCE WITH THE LYA YOU MUST PAY YOUR BALANCE IN FULL BEFORE REGISTERING – NO EXCEPTIONS!



Registration is Open!

- February Vacation Camp: Feb. 17 to 20
- April Vacation Camp: April 21 to 24
- Eight weeks of Summer Sessions: June 22 to Aug. 17
- Monday through Friday, 9 a.m to 3 p.m



For more information, visit:
Berkshirebotanical.org/camp

Berkshire Botanical Garden
5 West Stockbridge Rd, Stockbridge, MA
413-931-3194
campinfo@berkshirebotanical.org

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

April Break Camp
April 20-22, 2026
(Monday - Wednesday)
9:00 am - 3:30 pm



► Science investigations, art projects, engineering challenges and nature explorations!

► Ages 7-13 • \$200 tuition
Financial Aid available

► April Hill Education & Conservation Center
62 North Undermountain Rd
South Egremont, MA

Register at
flyingcloudinstitute.org

This program is not endorsed or sponsored by any school district.



LYA HOOP CAMP

Skill Development - Teamwork - Coachability - Communication - Confidence
Hard Work - Discipline - Leadership - Responsibility - Sportsmanship

2026 Summer Basketball Camp Information

Boys & Girls entering grades K - 2
One Week: June 22 - June 26
Boys & Girls: 9:00 - 11:30
(Drop-off: 8:30 - 9:00)

Boys and Girls entering grades 3 - 8
Week #1: June 29 - July 2 (NoCamp on 7/3)
Week #2: July 6 - July 10
Boys & Girls: 8:30am - 11:30am (Coed)

Camp Philosophy

The philosophy of the LYA basketball camp is to provide boys and girls the opportunity to learn about the game of basketball and the skills required to play it in an environment where they feel safe and have lots of fun. We stress to our campers the importance of individual growth as a basketball player. Consequently, a primary goal is to teach campers how to become better players. We will show them skills and drills that they can use to continue their improvement when they leave camp, and we will incorporate team building activities and games to help them learn how to work with others. We believe and emphasize that playing the game of basketball is a great way to learn important life skills, applicable both on and off the court, and build positive character.

Facilities

The LYA Basketball Camp is held at the Lee Middle and High School Gymnasium.

What to Bring

- Basketball sneakers, appropriate clothing (Shorts, t-shirt), a water bottle (labeled with name)

Camp Director

Dan Korte is directing the LYA Basketball Camp for the 18th year. He was the varsity boys basketball coach at Lee Middle and High School for nine years (2005-2014), the coordinator of the LYA youth basketball leagues for 11 years (2015-2025), and coached the varsity boys basketball team again this past season (2025-2026). Assisting at the camp will be local high school student-athletes.

Contact Information

- Coach Korte (413)329-1168 - lyahoop@gmail.com
- LYA (413)243-5535

Registration

Register online at www.leyouthsports.com. Enrollment in the camp may be limited, so please register early. ***Register by June 15 to receive a LYA Hoop Camp t-shirt. T-shirts may not be available for late registrants.***

Pricing:

Week #1 = \$90, Week #2 = \$75, Week #3 = \$90, Week #2 & #3 = \$150

Families with 3 or more children attending camps get 15% off the price of each child's registration fee.

Documentation of a physical exam completed within the past 13 months is required by the first day of camp.

GREAT BARRINGTON SOFTBALL SPRING 2026

Juniors: Grades 2/3/4/5 Seniors: Grades 6/7/8

Both divisions will play games against teams from Great Barrington, Lee, Sheffield and Canaan.

1 - 2 practices a week, 1 - 2 games a week, starting - April 20th
No Games Saturday or Sunday

Please register your softball player(s) using this online jotform link.



form.jotform.com/260685410534152

Please complete and submit the JotForm for each player separately.

Registration Deadline: April 10th
Single Player: \$65.00
Family Max: \$100.00

CHECKS PAYABLE/MAIL TO:
Great Barrington Girls Softball
c/o Elynn Dupont
355 North Plain Rd
Housatonic, MA 01230
Coaches, Assistants and Volunteers always needed.
Sherie Ross
sherieross17@gmail.com

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:
aboyouthsoftball@gmail.com
Elynn Dupont
413-446-8567
VENMO: @ellyndupont

REGISTRATIONS - OPEN -

WILDCAT SPORTS GROUP
SPRING SOCCER

PLAYERS ELIGIBLE - GRADES 2ND THRU 8TH
PROGRAM WILL OFFER TRAINING, TOURNAMENTS & GAMES

SIGN UP NOW!
WILDCATSPORTSGROUP.COM
Email us at wildcatsportsgroup@gmail.com

REGISTRATIONS - OPEN -

WILDCAT SPORTS GROUP
SPRING BASEBALL

PLAYERS ELIGIBLE - GRADES 2ND THRU 7TH
PLAYER ASSESSMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH
PROGRAM WILL OFFER TRAINING & GAMES

SIGN UP NOW!
WILDCATSPORTSGROUP.COM
Email us at wildcatsportsgroup@gmail.com

REGISTRATIONS - OPEN -

WILDCAT SPORTS GROUP
SPRING SOFTBALL

PLAYERS ELIGIBLE - GRADES 3RD THRU 6TH
ASSESSMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH
PROGRAM WILL OFFER TRAINING & GAMES

SIGN UP NOW!
WILDCATSPORTSGROUP.COM
Email us at wildcatsportsgroup@gmail.com