



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

05/14/2026

Dear Farmington River Families,

Our entire staff wants to extend our sincere thanks to our incredible PTA for their outstanding efforts over the past few weeks. Their dedication and creativity were displayed during both Screen-Free Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

For Screen-Free Week, the PTA organized a series of events that brought our community together in meaningful ways. From the nature hike to the engaging “crafternoon” and the fun-filled bingo night, these opportunities gave our students and families time to connect and enjoy being together away from screens.

During Teacher Appreciation Week, the PTA once again went above and beyond. They provided thoughtful treats and gestures of gratitude that made our staff feel super valued and appreciated. Their generosity and attention were amazing.

Our PTA plays a vital role in our school community. Their commitment and involvement help make our school a welcoming and supportive place for students and staff alike. We are deeply grateful for all they do to enrich our school experience.

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, we are proud of the growth our students have shown. These last weeks are an important time to continue working hard and showing kindness. We look forward to celebrating many end-of-year milestones together as a community. Please join me in thanking our PTA members for their continued dedication and support.

With appreciation,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.”**

— Margaret Mead

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MCAS SCIENCE GRADE 5
MONDAY, MAY 18 - TUESDAY,
MAY 19

GR. K FIELD TRIP:
LUPA ZOO
Wednesday, May 20



HALF-DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday, May 22
PK/EK Dismissal @ 11:30 AM
Gr. K-6 Dismissal @ 11:45 AM

MEMORIAL DAY
NO SCHOOL
Monday, May 25th



GR. 1 & 2 FIELD TRIP:
CT SCIENCE CENTER
Friday, May 29



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG.
Monday, June 1 - 7:00 PM

**PK/EK FIELD TRIP: AMELIA
PARK**
Tuesday, June 2





SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

The Scholastic Book Fair made a vibrant return this spring, featuring the fan-favorite Buy-One-Get-One-Free sale! Students enjoyed browsing the shelves during the school day, and the excitement continued with special shopping hours right before our spring concert. It was a wonderful success that put even more books into the hands of our young readers. We truly appreciate our families for their incredible support and for making literacy such a priority in our community!



MCAS SCHEDULE

Thank you for helping students arrive well-rested and on time during testing days.

MCAS Dates:	Gr. 5
Science	May 18-19

7 MCAS TESTING TIPS FOR FAMILIES:

Preparing for the MCAS can be a team effort! Here are some ways families can help students feel confident and ready for testing:

- 1. Prioritize Sleep** – Ensure your child gets plenty of rest, especially the night before testing. A well-rested brain performs better!
- 2. Eat a Healthy Breakfast** – A nutritious breakfast fuels focus and energy. Choose protein-rich foods and avoid too much sugar.
- 3. Arrive on Time** – A calm and punctual morning helps students start the day with confidence and without added stress.
- 4. Encourage a Positive Mindset** – Remind your child that effort matters most. A confident attitude can make a big difference.
- 5. Ensure Daily Attendance** – Consistent school attendance leading up to the test helps students stay on track with learning.
- 6. Encourage Reading Every Day** – Strong reading skills support success across all subjects. Make reading a daily habit!
- 7. Celebrate Effort, Not Just Scores** – Praise your child for their hard work and perseverance, no matter the outcome.

With support from home, students can approach the MCAS feeling prepared and confident!

FARMINGTON RIVER COMMUNITY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

DRAGONWOOD ACADEMY OF MISCHIEF AND MAYHEM

Please join us for the sixth annual performance of the Farmington River Community Productions Spring Musical, with grant funding from MCC and, for the third year, in partnership with Berkshire Pulse Dance Studio in Great Barrington.

This year's script was partially written and edited by students, along with several of the songs. Ms. Catullo met with student script writers, combined all of their ideas into a rough story outline and worked with the students to organize and edit the scenes, create the dialogue, and select or write music/songs. This year, there are many original songs in the show, as well as some old and new favorites. The theme of this year's show is a funny spoof on school life at Farmington River Elementary School, where all of the characters are dragons learning how to control their flame power!



The number of students who take on this huge commitment is so impressive! They all work so hard to learn their cues, lines, songs and choreography so their performance is the best it can be for their families and friends.

It's a show you won't want to miss and it's free for all community members! There will be refreshments and a 50-50 raffle at intermission. See you all there!

THURSDAY
JUNE 4TH
@ 6:30 PM



FRIDAY
JUNE 5TH
@ 1:15 PM



MCC Mass Cultural Council

Save the Date!
class of

2026

GRADUATION CEREMONY



Tuesday, June 16th, 2026
1:00 PM



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

We hope to see you there to celebrate with us!

BERKSHIRE COUNTY TRACK & FIELD

Four students from our school participated in the Special Olympics Berkshire County Track and Field Games. Our student athletes placed second overall and each athlete came home with individual medals. Athletes participated in three events including a running race, the long jump and softball throw. They also participated in a banner parade holding a banner made by students in our art classes. A group of student spectators and staff members came along to cheer on our athletes with signs to show their support. Please join us in congratulating our student athletes, Lilly, AJ, Eevee and Tony!



POEMS IN EVERY POCKET: A CELEBRATION OF READING

Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day was a joyful and engaging celebration of poetry across our school, bringing National Poetry Month to life in a meaningful way. Students and staff proudly carried their favorite poems and shared them with others throughout the day. Classrooms were filled with creativity as students explored poetry through a variety of meaningful activities. Adding to the excitement, our Reading Interventionist, Patty Melville, shared her love of poetry by visiting each classroom and reading aloud. Her engaging approach helped introduce students to different poets, styles, and topics, showing that poetry can be both enjoyable and accessible. The day celebrated creativity while strengthening literacy skills & encouraging a lasting appreciation for reading and self-expression.



3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP TO STORROWTOWN VILLAGE

Our third graders recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Storrowton Village Museum for an interactive "Look Back Tour." Students stepped back in time as they explored historic buildings, learned about daily life in the 1800s, and participated in hands-on activities that brought history to life. This engaging experience helped deepen their understanding of the past while making meaningful connections to what they are learning in the classroom.

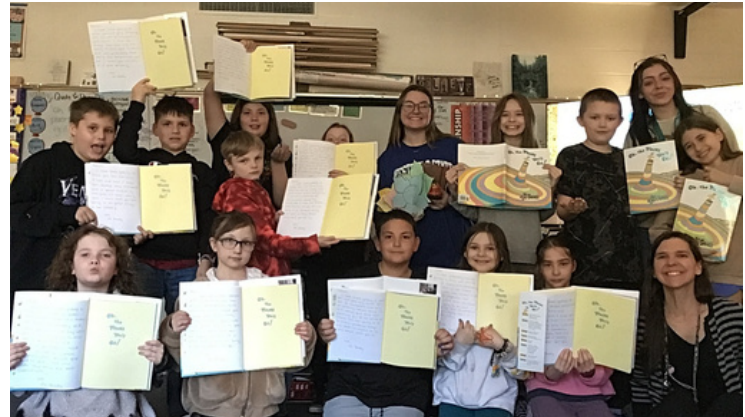
Thank you to the Otis Cultural Council for making the 3rd Grade field trip possible!



4TH GRADE BIDS FAREWELL TO MS. BRADY!

We are so proud to celebrate Sam Brady, our amazing student teacher from Westfield State University!

Sam has been an incredible addition to our 4th-grade team at Farmington River, bringing fun, creativity, and dedication to our classroom every single day. We hope she learned as much from us as we learned from her! On her final day, she shared the perfect goodbye by reading *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss and gifting each student their very own copy, complete with a special personalized note inside. It was such a meaningful and memorable way to celebrate her time with us. Congratulations, Ms. Brady, on this major accomplishment, and thank you for choosing 4th grade at Farmington River to complete your bachelor's degree in elementary education. BEST OF LUCK TO YOU and all of the future "places you'll go"!





ACCELERATED READER!

DRAGON: (5 PTS) SPIRIT: (15 PTS)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fallyn P. (1 st) | Clem G. (2 nd) |
| Thomas G. (1 st) | Mattheo T. (3 rd) |
| Arya P. (1 st) | Ashley B. (3 rd) |
| Cayden W. (1 st) | Lucy F. (3 rd) |
| Alex P. (1 st) | Luke C. (3 rd) |
| Ryan R. (2 nd) | Freya S. (3 rd) |
| Hunter S. (2 nd) | Scarlett M. (3 rd) |
| Olivia M. (2 nd) | Evelyn M. (3 rd) |
| Levi A. (2 nd) | Robert P. (3 rd) |
| Logan W. (2 nd) | Victoria R. (3 rd) |
| Maewen W. (4 th) | Liam F. (5 th) |
| Griffin S. (5 th) | Jordan P. (5 th) |
| Brett O. (5 th) | |

HYDRA: (30 PTS)

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| Rosa M. (1 st) |
| Ava M. (3 rd) |
| Mackenzie (3 rd) |
| Hazel G. (3 rd) |
| Ellie G. (3 rd) |
| Beatrice B. (4 th) |
| Travis R. (5 th) |
| Colin R. (5 th) |

FIRE: (75 PTS)

- | |
|----------------------------|
| Ryan B. (3 rd) |
| Mila A. (3 rd) |

BEAST: (225 PTS)

- | |
|----------------------------|
| Amos B. (3 rd) |
|----------------------------|



HAPPY READING!



SPRING MUSICAL

Our school community recently gathered for the annual Spring Musical, showcasing a wide range of musical talent across all grade levels!

The concert showcased a number of fun musical numbers, including "Mr. Blue Sky," "Yellow Submarine," "Cruella De Vil" and even "Sponge Bob Square Pants!" There were also delightful performances from our Band, Chorus, and piano soloists. Earlier that day, younger students delighted audiences during a morning concert featuring fun songs about a great big moose and "Zip A Dee Do Dah".

Congratulations to all our performers on a fantastic evening of music!



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



LYA HOOP CAMP

Skill Development - Teamwork - Coachability - Communication - Confidence
Hard Work - Discipline - 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 theLYA 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

TheLYABasketball Camp is held at the Lee Middle and High School Gymnasium.

What to Bring

- Basketballsneakers, 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

Registeronlineat www.leeeyouthsports.com. Enrollment in the camp may be limited, so please register early. ***RegisterbyJune1sttoreserveaLYAHoopCamp-shirt.T-shirtsmaynot beavailableforlaterregistrants***

Pricing:

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

Familieswith3ormore childrenattending campget\$10offthe priceof each child's registration fee

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



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

Berkshire Pulse

Youth

Summer Programs

July 6-10

DANCE DISCOVERY (ages 8-13) - BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

This week-long program provides an introduction to dance forms including ballet, modern, African, and more.

July 13-17

DANCE ADVENTURE (ages 4-7) - BEGINNER

This program for our youngest dancers invites them on an expedition into the exciting, engaging, and rewarding world of dance. Classes will include creative dance, tumbling, drumming, and more!

July 20-24



HIP HOP & STREET STYLE (ages 10+) - ALL LEVELS

Learn foundational movements and techniques of hip-hop and street-style dance, alongside discussions about the cultural meaning and significance of these dance forms.

July 27 - August 1

MUSICAL THEATER (ages 10+) - ALL LEVELS

Jump right into the world of musical theater with classes in tap, Broadway jazz, voice, acting, and improvisation.

August 3-7 and 10-14

YOUNG DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS (ages 11+) - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

The 1st week will focus on interdisciplinary dance technique, including classes in ballet, modern, Simonson Jazz, African, Salsa and Flamenco. Week two This week will focus on contemporary forms, dance-making, dance filmmaking, improvisation, and partnering.

*Older students have the option of choosing one of the weeks to participate instead of both.

Our offerings range in style and genre, from contemporary and choreography, to musical theater, hip hop, and more! Tuition assistance is available.

For more information and registration, please visit our website berkshirepulse.org or call 413-274-6624.



BERKSHIREPULSE.ORG
413-274-6624