



# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

06/11/2026

Dear Farmington River Families,

As we reach the close of another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we have achieved together. Our success this year is a true testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire community. To our families, teachers, support staff, and most importantly, our students, thank you. The incredible growth we have seen is truly a team effort!

This year, our district has made remarkable strides, and I am thrilled to share some of our top accomplishments with you:

- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently released data confirming our continuous progress. Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez specifically highlighted that Farmington River Regional is one of just 13 districts in the entire state to reach or exceed pre-pandemic (2019) MCAS scoring levels in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.
- We were also recently recognized by the Commissioner for our improved attendance. We are one of only 55 districts out of approximately 400 in the state to improve student attendance by 5% or more!
- Our students are showing incredible academic momentum, with our ELA student growth percentile sitting at 64%, well above the statewide average.
- A recent state review of our PreK-3 instruction across three observation visits throughout the year confirmed that our teaching and implementation of our new ELA curriculum has been exceptional.
- Observers noted a strong, districtwide implementation of our "Into Reading" curriculum. By the end of the year, 100% of observed classrooms provided students with consistent access to high-quality, grade-level texts and tasks.
- Our foundational skills instruction remained highly aligned across the school, with 93% of observed lessons demonstrating these strong practices by the end of the year.

While we have always had strong practices in place, our success in implementing this new curriculum means we are perfectly positioned for even more student growth next year. But before we think too much about the fall, it's time to take a well-deserved break. Please enjoy the time off and have a wonderful summer. We cannot wait to see everyone back here next year!

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day... is by no means a waste of time."**

— John Lubbock

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### FIELD DAY

Tuesday, June 9



### FIELD DAY RAIN DATE

Wednesday, June 10

### GR. 6 FIELD TRIP: BOSTON

Thursday, June 11



### GR. K FIELD TRIP: ERIC CARLE

Thursday, June 11



### POPSICLES WITH POP K-1

Friday, June 12 - 2:00 PM

### EK BRIDGING CEREMONY

Monday, June 15 - 1:30 PM



### EK BUS RIDE

Tuesday, June 16 - 9:00 AM

### GRADE 6 GRADUATION

Tuesday, June 16 - 1:00 PM



### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

#### ½ DAY

Wednesday, June 17

Dismissal PK/EK 11:30 AM

Dismissal K-6 11:45 AM





# THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING FIELD DAY 2026!

Field Day 2026 was an absolute blast! Hosted by our amazing PTA, the day was packed with high-energy activities like the bounce house, giant soccer, an obstacle course, a parachute, and a wild water balloon fight. Students kept cool at the hydration station with temporary tattoos and popsicles, and a visit from the ice cream truck perfectly capped off the day. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who planned and ran the stations—seeing the pure joy and laughter on our students' faces was the ultimate reward, and we couldn't have done it without our incredible school community!





# 4TH GRADE FIELD TRIP: TANNERY PARK WITH THE GREENAGERS!

Our 4th graders had an exciting day of outdoor learning at Tannery Park along the Farmington River with Greenagers!

Students explored the concepts of weathering, erosion, and deposition through hands-on activities, including a leaf race time lab, investigating evidence along the riverbank, and examining different sediment deposits in the water.

They also discovered examples of mitigation efforts used to naturally protect the land. Along the way, students observed crawfish, toads, and beautiful wildflowers, making meaningful connections between science and the natural world around them.

Thank you to Greenagers for providing such an engaging experience and to our PTA for funding this incredible opportunity for our students to learn and explore the beauty of our own community!



## SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR'S CORNER

As we wind down the end of the school year, and look forward to summer break and sleeping in! Summer offers kiddos a chance to slow down, explore new interests, and enjoy time with family and friends. While routines may shift during the break, a little balance can help children feel happy, rested, and ready for summer adventures.

### Tips for a Healthy & Relaxing Summer:

- Enjoy a mix of activity and downtime each day.
- Keep water nearby during outdoor play and warm-weather activities.
- Explore books, crafts, games, or other favorite hobbies.
- Spend time outdoors and notice the sights, sounds, and beauty of nature.
- Create moments for relaxation with deep breaths, stretching, quiet reading, or listening to music.
- Make time for movement through walks, bike rides, playground visits, or backyard fun.
- Enjoy a variety of nutritious foods while still making room for favorite summer treats.
- Connect with friends, family, and community through shared activities and experiences.
- Look for opportunities to balance screen time with play, creativity, and outdoor fun.
- Check in with one another and make space for conversations about feelings, experiences, and summer memories.
- HAVE FUN!!!

Most importantly, summer is a time to rest, recharge, and enjoy simple moments together. Wishing all of our students and families a safe, happy, and memorable summer!



# GRADE 3 MASSACHUSETTS MINGLE: CELEBRATING FAMOUS MASSACHUSETTS FIGURES THROUGHOUT HISTORY

On June 1, Grade 3 students proudly participated in the Massachusetts Mingle, sharing their projects with classmates, families, and visitors. Students dressed in costume to bring their research to life and showcase all they had learned. The event highlighted weeks of planning, writing, researching, creating, and practicing. It was a wonderful celebration of hard work, creativity, and learning, and a fun experience for everyone involved!



## PREK/EK EXPLORES & LEARNS AT AMELIA PARK CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The PreK/EK class recently enjoyed an exciting field trip to the Amelia Park Children's Museum in Westfield! Students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences that brought science, creativity, and imagination to life.

One of the highlights of the day was exploring dinosaurs and fossils. Students learned about prehistoric creatures, examined fossil displays, and participated in interactive activities that helped them discover how scientists study the past. The class also enjoyed dramatic play exhibits, where students used their imaginations to role-play and collaborate with their classmates. In addition, they explored a variety of STEM activities that encouraged problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity through hands-on challenges and experiments.

The field trip was a fun and educational experience that allowed students to learn through exploration and play. We are grateful to Amelia Park Children's Museum for providing such an engaging day of discovery!

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!



# 2026 SPRING MUSICAL: THE DRAGONWOOD ACADEMY OF MISCHIEF AND MAYHEM



The Farmington River Dragons came to the stage roaring in this year's musical, "Dragonwood Academy of Mischief and Mayhem" on Thursday evening, June 4th and again on Friday afternoon, June 5th. Over 25 students participated in this year's show, directed by Ms. Catullo, with assistance from Cecily Goulange. The cast featured student dragons, baby dragons just bursting from their shells, adult dragon teachers and a mighty backstage crew.

The show's script was developed by 8 students in grades 4-6 along with Ms. Catullo (for the 6th year in a row) and included a humorous peek of daily school life at Farmington River, from the point of view of dragons, our school's mascot. Memorable characters included Professor Flameflower and Professor Scorcharito, Ms. Harmonyflare, Professor Paintflame, Mrs. Driftwing, and Nurse Healscale, as well as many student dragons and chirples (baby dragons) learning how to control their flame powers and grow into dragons with character traits of kindness and empathy.



The show featured 5 dancing dragons in tuxedos and top hats singing and dancing to old show tune favorites like, "Another Opening", "Puttin' on the Ritz", and "Straighten up and Fly Right." There were also several original songs developed by Ms. Catullo and Isabel Marcheselli, the accompanist, as well as the closing number, "Fly" by Avril Lavigne, performed by most of the cast.

Cast members worked hard since February to learn their lines and all the songs so they could bring the story to life for the FRES community. The Massachusetts Cultural Council (Otis and Sandisfield chapters) provided generous funding enabling our partnership with Pulse Dance Studio in GB for the third year in a row, and providing funding for our accompanist, Isabel Marcheselli. The audience enjoyed delicious bake sale refreshments provided by parents of the cast and crew.

Thank you to all parents, teachers, community members, and especially the students who helped make this show a success!



# LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>

(1/2 DAY, DISMISSAL = 11:45)

## ACCELERATED READER!



- DRAGON:** (5 PTS)     **SPIRIT:** (15 PTS)
- Fallyn P. (1<sup>st</sup>)     Clem G. (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 Thomas G. (1<sup>st</sup>)     Ashley B. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Arya P. (1<sup>st</sup>)     Lucy F. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Cayden W. (1<sup>st</sup>)     Luke C. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Alex P. (1<sup>st</sup>)     Freya S. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Ryan R. (2<sup>nd</sup>)     Scarlett M. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Hunter S. (2<sup>nd</sup>)     Evelyn M. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Olivia M. (2<sup>nd</sup>)     Robert P. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Levi A. (2<sup>nd</sup>)     Victoria R. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Logan W. (2<sup>nd</sup>)     Liam F. (5<sup>th</sup>)  
 Maewen W. (4<sup>th</sup>)     Jordan P. (5<sup>th</sup>)
- HYDRA:** (30 PTS)
- Rosa M. (1<sup>st</sup>)  
 Ava M. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Mackenzie (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Matheo T. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Hazel C. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Ellie G. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Beatrice B. (4<sup>th</sup>)  
 Travis R. (5<sup>th</sup>)  
 Colin R. (5<sup>th</sup>)
- FIRE:** (75 PTS)     **BEAST:** (225 PTS)
- Ryan B. (3<sup>rd</sup>)     Amos B. (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Mila A. (3<sup>rd</sup>)



# LIST OF FREE COMPUTER WEBSITES

### Websites with no password required:

- **PBS Kids (pbskids.org)** – Helps children build skills in reading, math, science, and social-emotional learning.
- **Sesame Street (sesamestreet.org)** – Supports early literacy, math, emotional development, and healthy habits.
- **Code.org (code.org)** – A beginner-friendly coding platform that teaches computer science through interactive lessons, puzzles, and projects.
- **Scratch (scratch.mit.edu)** – Encourages creativity, problem-solving, and computational thinking.
- **Britannica Children (library.eb.com/levels/children)** – Provides reliable information on a wide variety of school subjects and research topics.
- **ABCmouse (abcmouse.com)** – Designed to support early childhood learning and foundational skills.
- **IXL (ixl.com/signin/farmriver)** – Provides personalized practice in math, language arts, science, and social studies.

### Websites with Login Required

- (school accounts - contact croberts@frrsd.org):
- ABC Mouse (Grades EK-3)
  - IXL (Grades 1-6)



## GRADE 3 SPECIAL VISITOR & MAPPING PROJECT

Grade 3 students were excited to welcome Kate Meierdiercks to our classroom. Students learned about her work as a cartographer and scientist and had the opportunity to ask questions about her career and the work she does with maps and our environment.

As part of their social studies learning, students also created maps of our school. They practiced using map language and labeled important features, including natural features, human-made features, boundaries, and transportation routes. This hands-on project helped students develop their understanding of maps and how they represent the world around us.



# KINDERGARTEN'S COLORFUL FIELD TRIP TO THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM

Our kindergarteners had a wonderful time exploring the magical world of Eric Carle during their recent museum field trip to the Eric Carle Museum! The students loved discovering the fascinating process he used to create his iconic, hand-painted paper. Inspired by his classic picture books, our young artists then stepped into the workshop to create their very own colorful masterpieces. It was a joyful day filled with creativity, and we are so proud of how beautifully they brought their own big ideas to life!

Thank you to the Eric Carle Museum for providing the grant to make this field trip possible!



# GRADE 1 HATCHED CHICKENS!

The 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom was buzzing with excitement this month as we watched a clutch of chicken eggs successfully hatch! Through this hands-on life science unit, students learned about the incubation process and are now doing a wonderful job caring for the fluffy chicks in our classroom.



# BERKSHIRE PULSE DANCE STUDIO VISITS PK/EK

The PK/EK classroom came alive with movement during an energetic 10-session series with instructor Sarah Daunt from the Berkshire Pulse Dance Studio, who led her specialized program, "Dance for the Special Child." Students had a blast exploring rhythm, coordination, and creative expression through fun, active movement. A huge thank you to both the Otis Cultural Council and the Sandisfield Cultural Council for funding this program and bringing the joy of dance to our youngest learners!



# FROM THE AQUARIUM TO QUINCY MARKET: 6TH GRADE'S BIG FIELD TRIP TO BOSTON

Our sixth graders had an unforgettable day exploring the historic and vibrant city of Boston on their recent field trip! The adventure began at the New England Aquarium, where students got up close with fascinating marine life, from the bustling penguin colony to the mesmerizing four-story giant ocean tank. Afterward, the group headed over to Quincy Market to immerse themselves in local history while enjoying a fun lunch filled with diverse food options. It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, city exploration, and bonding memories for the 6th grade class!



# 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF THE CT SCIENCE CENTER!

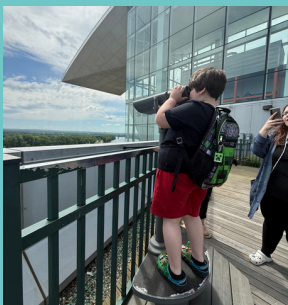
Our first and second grade students recently enjoyed an exciting field trip to the Connecticut Science Center, where learning came to life through hands-on exploration and discovery!

Throughout the day, students explored a variety of interactive exhibits that sparked their curiosity about science, technology, engineering, and math. From investigating forces and motion to learning about the natural world, students eagerly participated in activities that encouraged them to ask questions, solve problems, and think like scientists.

One highlight of the trip was the opportunity to engage with exhibits that allowed students to experiment, build, and discover through play. Students were especially excited to explore the hands-on displays and learn new facts about animals, space, weather, and engineering.

The field trip provided a wonderful extension of classroom learning while fostering teamwork, critical thinking, and a love of discovery. We are proud of how respectfully and enthusiastically our students represented our school throughout the day.

A special thank you to the Otis Cultural Council who helped make this memorable learning experience possible. We look forward to many more adventures in learning!



# KINDERGARTEN AND 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE GATHERED WITH THE GALS!

Earlier in May, our kindergarten and first-grade classrooms were filled with love and laughter during our special "Gathering with the Gals" event! Students welcomed the important women and female guardians in their lives for a beautiful afternoon dedicated to celebrating them. Our young learners proudly presented thoughtful, handmade gifts they had prepared, followed by a sweet reception complete with cake and smiles all around. It was a heartwarming afternoon, and we want to extend a huge thank you to all the amazing women who joined us and made the afternoon so memorable!



# 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*



## 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](http://Berkshirebotanical.org/camp)

**Berkshire Botanical Garden**  
5 West Stockbridge Rd, Stockbridge, MA  
413-931-3194  
[campinfo@berkshirebotanical.org](mailto:campinfo@berkshirebotanical.org)

GREENOCK COUNTRY CLUB | 9:00 SHOTGUN

# 9th Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT

## 8-5 2026 Junior Open

Boys 8-11 (9Holes)  
12-15 and 16-18 (9-18 Holes)  
Girls (9-18 Holes)  
Format: Individual Stroke Play

Prizes: Scholarships for Boys & Girls Pro Shop Merchandise for All Winners

SPONSORED BY:  
DR. & MRS. SUKUMARAN

(413) 243-3323

220 West Park Street

Lee MA 01238

[proshop@greenockcc.com](http://proshop@greenockcc.com)

or scan to register

Limited to 72 players



**TOWN OF OTIS COMMUNITY DAY**

*Otis is the Place to Be!*

**JUNE 13, 2026**

**1:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**OTIS RIDGE**

**159 MONTEREY RD, OTIS**

LEE BANK

Otis Ridge

MC

# 2026 FAMILY SAFETY & FUN DAY

**JUNE 20, 11AM-1 PM**

LEE BANK PARKING LOT  
75 PARK ST, LEE, MA

LEE FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE EXHIBITS, HANDS ON ACTIVITIES, SMOKEY THE BEAR, RED CROSS, LIONS CLUB PRE SCREENING, BIKE TUNE UPS WITH BERKSHIRE BIKE & BOARD AND MORE

**BIKE RAFFLE & HELMET GIVEAWAY**

### Taste of Otis

Grouse House  
Sweet Daisy Charcuterie  
Knox Trail Inn  
Crescent City Shaved Ice  
Paige's Place  
Rustik Eats  
Cookie's Cupcakes  
Katie's Country Store

### Live Music

1:00 Lesley Rosenthal & Larry Southard  
1:30 The Juckets  
3:00 Eric Danforth & Lucas Solarzano  
4:00 Monday Project  
5:45 Bruce Mandel  
6:30 Bobby Sweet

### Games & Activities

1-5 Face Painting  
2-3 Potted Planting  
3-6 Cookie Decorating

More activities, plus colonial games throughout the day!

**Come meet Otis Businesses, Artisans & Community Groups**

**Bring your blankets and chairs, no outside alcohol permitted. Rain plan: Town Hall**

*Thank you to our generous sponsors: Otis Ridge, Otis Cultural Council, Chaffee Construction & Lee Bank!*

## Berkshire Pulse Youth Summer Programs

July 6-10	<b>DANCE DISCOVERY (ages 8-10) - BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE</b> This week-long program provides an introduction to dance forms including ballet, modern, African and more.
July 13-17	<b>DANCE ADVENTURE (ages 4-7) - BEGINNER</b> This program for our youngest dancers invites them to explore various styles of dance, including, but not limited to, ballet, modern, African and more.
July 20-24	<b>HIP HOP &amp; STREET STYLE (ages 10+) - ALL LEVELS</b> 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	<b>MUSICAL THEATER (ages 10+) - ALL LEVELS</b> Bring your own world of musical theater with classes in hip, Broadway jazz, voice, acting, and improvisation.
August 2-7 and 10-14	<b>YOUNG DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS (ages 11+) - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED</b> The set work will focus on choreographing dance between including drum to rhythmic, modern, African, Latin, and Flamenco. Week two this week will focus on contemporary forms, dance-making, dance film-making, 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](http://berkshirepulse.org) or call 413-274-6664.

## LYA HOOP CAMP

Skill Development • Teamwork • Coachability • Communication • Confidence

**2026 Summer Basketball Camp Information**

<b>Boys &amp; Girls entering grades K - 2</b> One Week: June 23 - June 26 Boys & Girls: 9:00 - 11:30 (Drop-off at 8:30 - 9:00)	<b>Boys &amp; Girls entering grades 3 - 8</b> Week #1: June 29 - July 2 (Drop Camp #0173) Week #2: July 6 - July 10 Boys & Girls: 8:30am - 11:30am (Coed)
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**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 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**  
This basketball camp is held at the Lee Middle and High School Gymnasium.

**What to Bring**

- Basketball shoes, appropriate clothing (shorts, t-shirt), a water bottle (labeled with name)

**Camp Director**

- Don 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 (2009-2014), the coordinator of the LYA youth basketball leagues for 11 years (2015-2025), and coached the varsity boys basketball team again this past season (2023-2025). Assisting at the camp will be local high school student-athletes.
- Contact Information: Coach Korte (413)329-1168 | [ljacob@otismail.com](mailto:ljacob@otismail.com) | (413) 432-9835

**Registration**  
Registration form: [www.berkshirepulse.org](http://www.berkshirepulse.org). Enrollment in the camp may be limited, so please register early. \*Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. \*Tuition and travel expenses are extra.

**Pricing:**  
Week 1 = \$90, Week 2 = \$75, Week 3 = \$90, Week 4 = \$30  
\*\*Registration forms are available until the first day of camp.

\*Registration of a physical exam completed within the past 12 months is required by the first day of camp.