

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

09/21/2023

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we step into the second newsletter of the year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've embarked upon together. It has been a remarkable start to the year, and I couldn't be more proud of our Farmington River Elementary community.

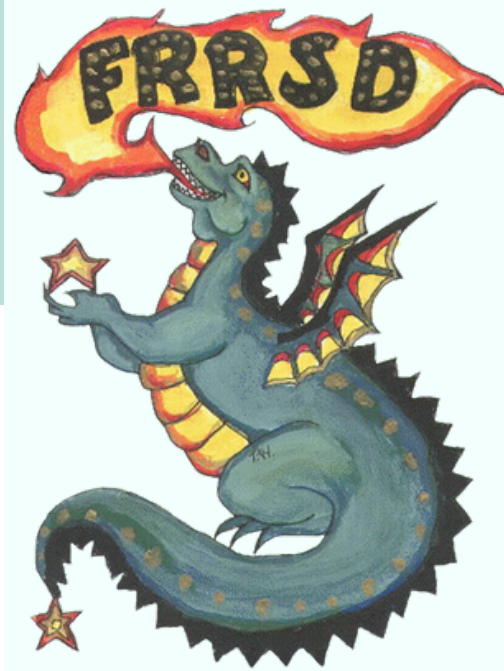
In the coming weeks, we have several important events to look forward to. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming PTA meeting, Picture Day, a PreK and EK trip to Riiska Brook Orchard, a flu clinic, and a lockdown drill. We will provide more detailed information about these events as we get closer to their respective dates, ensuring you have all the necessary information to participate and fully understand the procedures involved in the lockdown drill.

One of the cornerstones of our success to begin this year has been the unwavering support we've received from our families and the community. Your dedication and involvement in our school have created a vibrant and nurturing environment that fosters growth, learning, and a sense of belonging. It's truly heartwarming to see how our students thrive when they know they have a strong support system in the community, at home, and at school.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."**

**- Maya Angelou**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

We hope you will join us!

### PTA MEETING

Thursday, September 21 - 7:00 PM  
Join Us for a Stronger School Community

### PK & EK TO RIISKA BROOK ORCHARD

Friday, September 22 - 9:00-10:30  
It promises to be bushels of fun and learning for everyone!

### PICTURE DAY

Tuesday, September 26  
Capture memories in a single click. Look for ordering forms coming home in your student's backpack or directly to your email inbox.

### FLU CLINIC

Monday, October 2 - 3:00 PM  
Join us at Farmington River for your free flu shot.

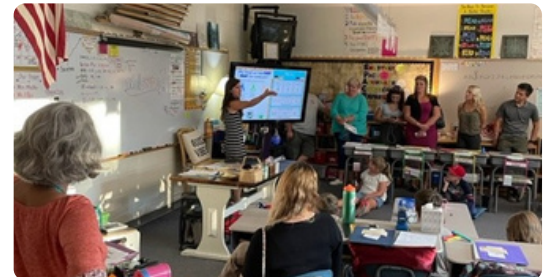
### LOCKDOWN DRILL

Wednesday, October 4 - 10:15 AM  
To ensure preparedness and safety for our students



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Back-to-school night was a tremendous success, with an exceptional turnout of supportive families. The enthusiasm and active participation from parents demonstrated the strong sense of community we have in our school.



## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

The recent Scholastic Book Fair was an incredible event that brought immense joy to students. The fair, filled with enchanting books and engaging activities, became a hub of excitement and learning. Students couldn't contain their enthusiasm as they explored the wide variety of books, from thrilling adventures to heartwarming tales.







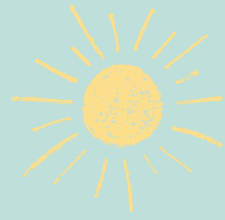
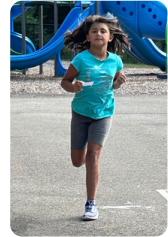
## GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run kicked off its 3rd season last week with 10 amazing girls in grades 3-5. After establishing our Girls on the Run names( Magnificent Meg, Jolly Jenna, and Amazing Amy) the girls have not only been increasing their physical activity, but learning some valuable life lessons as well. Week 1 focused on making connections and the difficult choices we face daily. Week 2 has focused on activating our "star power" and how we can use that star power to help others push away the dark clouds that may loom over them. Participants will partake in 18 more lessons, culminating the program with a celebratory 5K at Western New England College in Springfield with over 500 young ladies from all over Western Mass.



There are still 6 slots open on the team if you are a female in Grades 3-6 who was hesitant about joining. Please email Meg Martin ([mmartin@frrsd.org](mailto:mmartin@frrsd.org)) if interested and she can help you get your child enrolled. If your family is having difficulty with the cost of the program, please reach out and we are happy to help. No child will be turned away.

"Girls on the Run, So much fun!"



**CIRCLE TIME:**  
**WHERE LITTLE MINDS**  
**SHINE BRIGHT IN**  
**EARLY**  
**KINDERGARTEN!**





## ART ROOM NEWS:

It has been wonderful to see all of the students again back in the art room, and to welcome our new friends! We are starting the year off with some activities to refresh our "artist etiquette" and to reacquaint ourselves with some of the art materials.

Students in the upper grades 4th-6th are beginning projects about collage, drawing and shading, and color blending. Grades K-3rd are enjoying projects about drawing animals and will move into painting in a week or so.

This year I hope to feature some artwork done by parents in our community. If you are an artist who would like to share your artwork and talk to the class about your process, please let me know. I would be so very happy to schedule a day you can come for a visit and "show and tell"!

Thank you! Ms. Catullo



## MUSICAL SCRIPT WRITING CLUB:

As many of you know the annual musical is written by the students and includes themes of environmental concern. This year a group of budding screenplay writers will meet after school to start outlining the script for this Spring's musical. If your child is in grade 4-6 and would like to join us in the Art room on Tuesdays from 3 - 4 pm (Sept. 19th through October 24th - with no meeting on Oct. 17th) to help with writing the script, please let the front office know, and we will send home a permission form for you to sign and return.

## STUDENT COUNCIL:

This year's Student Council will begin in about a month! Students in grades 4-6 who would like to run for a Student Council Office should come to the Art Room to get a sign-up sheet that must be signed by their parents. The sign-up sheet will have the information about each of the offices that your child may like to hold. Any questions about this can be directed to Laura Catullo at [lcatullo@frrsd.org](mailto:lcatullo@frrsd.org)

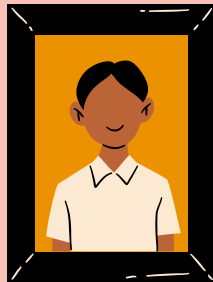
## SCHOOL PICTURE DAY:

School Picture Day is coming up next **Tuesday, September 26th!**

O'Connor Studios sent out emails directly to all parents with information on pre-ordering school photos, including a personalized access link to pre-order on their website:

<https://oconnorstudio.com/order-central>

Hard copy forms to order photos will be sent home by the end of the week.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE:

Terry Gould and staff were kind enough distribute the items collected by the Otis Police Department to local families in Otis and Sandisfield, and to let us use their space at the town hall. They also provided snacks, fruit and juice.



# DRAGON'S DEN:

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



MONDAY - THURSDAY

AFTER SCHOOL  
UNTIL 4:30 PM



HOMEWORK HELP  
SNACKS PROVIDED  
FUN & GAMES

**LIMITED SPACE  
AVAILABLE!**

The Farmington River Elementary **Dragon's Den** After School Program runs Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. This program will start on **October 2nd, 2023**. It will follow the district calendar and conclude on **June 1st, 2023**. *There will be some days when the After School Program is canceled so staff can attend monthly Staff Meetings.*

- **Space is limited.** We will try our best to accommodate your requested schedule; however, due to limited space, we may not be able to guarantee that space on all requested days will be available. A lottery system will be used to determine participants if needed. A second lottery may be used if deemed necessary to determine enrollment for the second half of the school year.

Farmington River offers a wide variety of academic and athletic clubs for students from Kindergarten through Grade 6. Generally, these clubs run from 3:00 - 4:00 PM. Students may then transition into the Dragon's Den After School Program until 4:30 PM. Please pack a water bottle as these are not provided.

The Dragon's Den After School Program (3:00 - 4:30 PM) contact number is **413-564-9842**.

## DRAGON'S DEN APPLICATION

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ in Grade \_\_\_\_\_ to stay after school as follows:

\_\_\_ **Monday:** \_\_\_ 4:00 PM \_\_\_ 4:30 PM

\_\_\_ **Wednesday:** \_\_\_ 4:00 PM \_\_\_ 4:30 PM

\_\_\_ **Tuesday:** \_\_\_ 4:00 PM \_\_\_ 4:30 PM

\_\_\_ **Thursday:** \_\_\_ 4:00 PM \_\_\_ 4:30 PM

I agree to pick up my student promptly at the above-specified time. I understand that if I am consistently late for pickup, my child may lose their placement in the Dragon's Den Program. Attendance is taken. I understand that space is limited, and by filling out this application, I am not guaranteed space in the after-school care for any or all of the requested days. I understand that if, for any reason, my student's schedule changes and needs to be dismissed at the regular dismissal time, I will contact the school as soon as possible.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

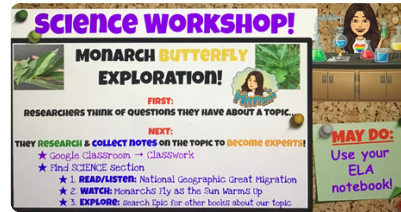
Phone Number #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# 4TH GRADE RAISES A MONARCH BUTTERFLY!

To begin the school year, fourth graders raised a monarch from a teeny tiny caterpillar to a cool chrysalis and then a bright and beautiful butterfly! We investigated closely each day and discussed observations as it went through each step of its transformation. We also explored the milkweed plant that is on the caterpillar's menu and got to pull apart the pods to see what was inside!



## LOCAL EVENT FLYERS:

**Sunday, October 8th  
11AM-3PM**

**FREE Admission**  
RECREATION COMMITTEE  
All Ages Welcome  
\*Available for purchase

**Music \* Drink \* Food \* Beer**

**Presented By:**  
Looking Glass Gardens  
and the Sandisfield  
Recreation Committee  
19 Dodd Road, Sandisfield

RSVP by 9/24/23 to (413) 269-7357 or  
sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

**RUE'S BEANS & THE DOGS**  
Autumnal Crafting  
Baking Contest  
\$2 Pony Rides  
Hayrides

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee  
INVITES YOU TO A

**HALLOWEEN**  
Dance  
WITH DJ JONNY JAMS COSTUMES WELCOME!

**FREE Event**  
RECREATION COMMITTEE  
All Ages Welcome

**SUNDAY, OCT 22ND | 5PM - 8PM**  
FIRE STATION #2, RTE 57, SANDISFIELD

RSVP BY 10/7/23 TO (413) 269-7357 OR  
SANDISFIELDEVENTS@RECREATIONCOMMITTEE.INFO

## OTIS LIBRARY StoryWalk



**WHAT:** A walk on the Farmington River Trail

**WHEN:** UP through September 29, 2023!

**WHERE:** Behind St. Mary's of the Lakes Church, Otis, MA

**\*Lego Club:** Saturday, September 23, at the Otis Library at 1:00 PM

**\* Otis Book Club, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 4:00 pm at the library.

**All welcome. Book Selection "The Wind Knows my Name" by Isabel Allende. Copies are available at the library.**

**TRICK OR TREAT?**  
Do you want to see Trick-Or-Treaters on Halloween? RSVP by 10/21/23 to join the map. We will provide house markers prior to Halloween. Trick-Or-Treating will be on Tuesday, October 31st from 5pm to 7pm.  
(413) 269-7357  
sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

**FREE EVENT**  
RECREATION COMMITTEE  
All Ages Welcome

With 96 miles of road, there's  
no reason NOT  
to be on the map!

**Sandisfield Halloween Trail**