



# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

01/23/2025

**Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,**

It's hard to believe we are already at the midpoint of Trimester 2. Time is flying by, and our students have been hard at work achieving their academic and personal goals. As we move into the heart of the school year, I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of homework in supporting your child's learning journey. Homework reinforces the skills and concepts taught in the classroom, helping students retain and apply their knowledge. It also teaches valuable life skills like time management, responsibility, and self-discipline. Thank you for supporting your child by creating a quiet space for study and encouraging them to complete assignments with care and effort. Together, we can help them build a strong foundation for success.

I'm also excited to share that the NED Show will be visiting our school on Monday, January 29, at 9:00 AM! For those unfamiliar, the NED Show is a school-wide assembly that promotes three key messages: Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. These principles align beautifully with our school's commitment to character development and fostering a positive school culture. The NED Show incorporates storytelling, humor, and interactive activities, and one of the highlights is the use of yoyos to illustrate these lessons. The yoyos serve as a practical tool to teach persistence, focus, and practice. Students see firsthand how effort leads to improvement, a skill that translates far beyond mastering yoyo tricks. Thanks to the generous support of our PTA, every student will receive a yoyo to take home, allowing them to continue practicing the lessons learned during the assembly. We are so grateful for the PTA's commitment to enhancing our students' experience.

As we gear up for the rest of Trimester 2, let's keep the momentum going. Please reach out if you have any questions or need additional resources to support your child's learning. Thank you for being such an integral part of our school community.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

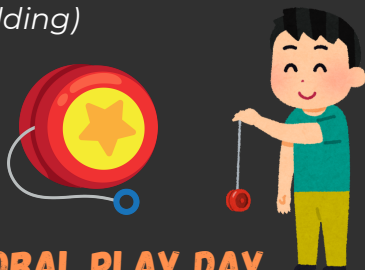
**"Energy and persistence conquer all things."  
– Benjamin Franklin**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### THE NED SHOW ASSEMBLY

WED., JANUARY 29 @ 9:00 AM

*(Inspires students with mindset, perseverance, and character-building)*



### GLOBAL PLAY DAY

WED., FEBRUARY 5

### 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

THUR., FEBRUARY 6

### MASS MOCA GR. 6 FIELDTRIP

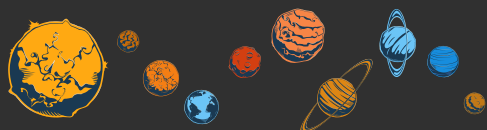
WED., FEBRUARY 12

### WINTER BREAK

MON., FEB 17 - FRI., FEB 21

### PTA SKYDOME PLANETARIUM ASSEMBLY

FRI., MARCH 7



# WHEN ARE SPEECH SOUNDS LEARNED?

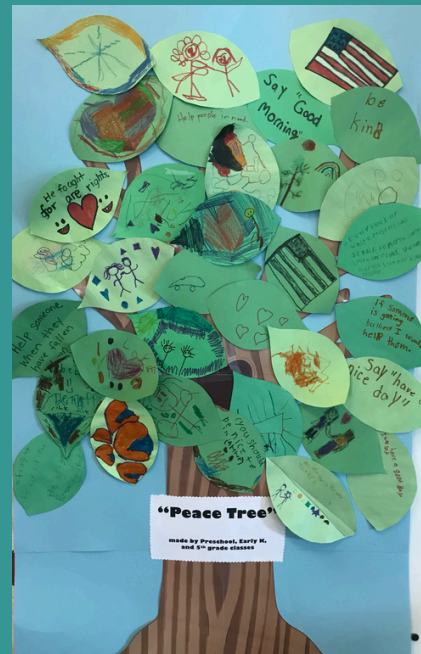
Families often wonder about age ranges of speech sound development. Below is one chart showing norms of consonant and vowel production, (others may vary slightly). Please remember that this is just a general guide and that all children may develop sounds at different ages.

	Age Level							
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
p								
b								
m								
n								
ng								
t								
d								
g								
k								
j								
ch								
sh								
z								
s								
v								
w								
h								
th								
ch								



# DRAGON EGG INCENTIVE

Congratulations to all our students for filling the Dragon Egg tube for the second time this year! Their acts of kindness and respect are a shining example of how we all work together to build a positive and supportive school community. The Dragon Eggs Positive Behavior Program encourages everyone to make thoughtful choices and treat others with care. We are so proud of their hard work and commitment to showing great character every day. As a reward for your efforts, we'll celebrate with a special Pajama Stuffy Day on **Friday, January 31!** Get ready to enjoy a cozy day filled with fun and smiles!



# MLK JR. DAY IN EK

Last week, the Early Kindergarten class learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his messages of kindness, equality, and the importance of treating everyone with respect, no matter their skin color. Students were reminded that being kind to everyone is very important and Martin Luther King Jr. believed all people should be treated the same, no matter what they look like. Students discussed how we can solve problems peacefully, by talking and being respectful. To put what they learned into practice, the Early K students, along with the preschool class and their 5th grade reading buddies, created a "Peace Tree." The older and younger students worked together to decorate leaves to place on the tree with different examples of ways to show kindness, peace, and how to be respectful. Once the tree was completed, it was placed on display at the foyer of the school where it welcomes everyone as they enter the building.





# ACCELERATED READER AWARD WINNERS!

Congrats to the following students who earned enough Accelerated Reader points to participate in our first AR Award: a lego & board Game Party!

## 1ST GRADE

(AT LEAST 2 PTS):

- Clementine G.
- Scout K.
- Isla M.
- Ryan R.
- Hunter S.
- Ella S.
- Lotus S.
- Logan W.

## 2ND GRADE

(AT LEAST 3 PTS):

- Mila A.
- Amos B.
- Hazel G.
- Ellie G.
- Ava M.
- Tori R.
- Mackenzie S.

## 3RD GRADE

(AT LEAST 4 PTS):

- Beatrice B.
- Charlie C.
- Alyssa C.
- Declan C.
- Caden D.
- Thaila F.
- Leah F.
- Sparrow K.
- Ronan S.
- Indica S.
- Madison T.
- Mason T.
- Maewen W.
- Lucas W.

## 4TH GRADE

(AT LEAST 5 PTS):

- Travis R.
- Griffin S.
- Saul W.

## 5TH GRADE

(AT LEAST 5 PTS):

- Jackson A.
- John B.
- Thalia C.
- Harlan K.
- Lilianna N.
- Ava S.

## 6TH GRADE

(AT LEAST 5 PTS):

- Pip C.
- Alex G.
- Satpal G.
- Olivia L.
- Tori R.
- Ryder S.

**GREAT WORK AND KEEP READING TOWARDS OUR NEXT AR AWARD!**

**HAPPY READING!**

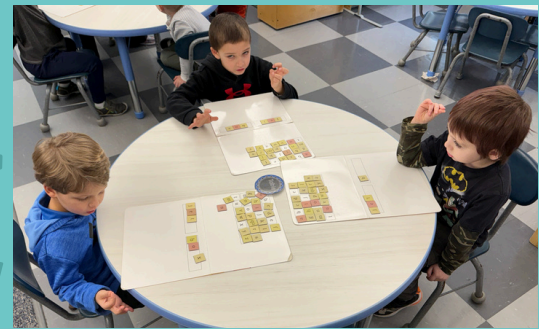
# DON'T FORGET: PTA SPONSORED THUNDERBIRDS GAME THIS SUNDAY!

**When:** Sunday January 26th @ 3:05 PM

**Where:** MassMutual Center, Springfield MA

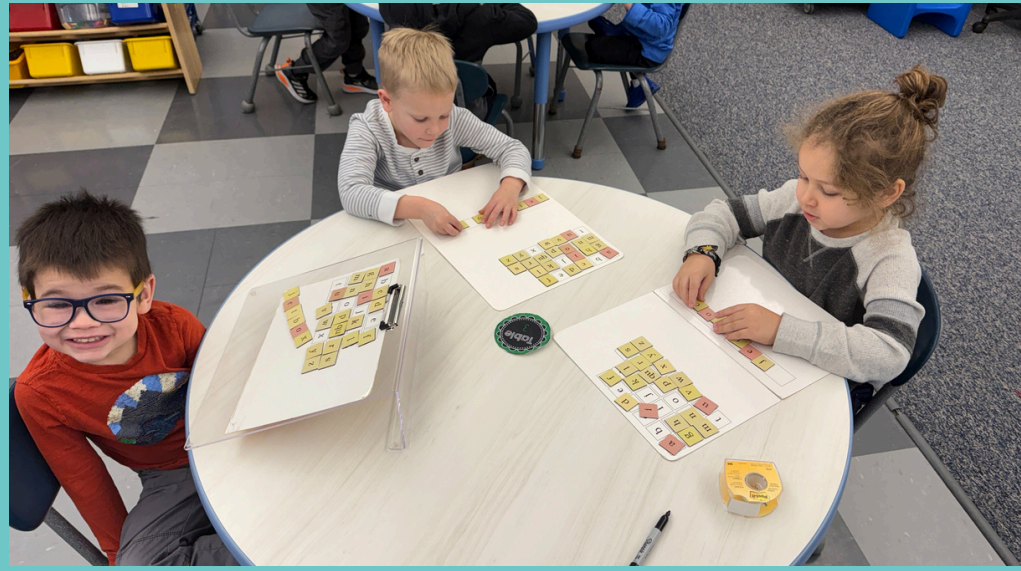


# TAPPING SOUNDS OUT IN KINDERGARTEN!



Our kindergarteners are making incredible strides learning all of their letter sounds! This month, they will be focusing on using their letter-sound knowledge to write CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, such as "cat," "dog," and "sun." Through engaging activities and hands-on practice, students are learning to listen for the individual sounds in words (phonemes) and match them to the corresponding letters. For example, when writing "bat," they're breaking the word into its sounds: /b/, /a/, and /t/.

This foundational skill not only supports their ability to decode words when reading but also boosts their confidence as budding writers. In class, we use games, white boards, and magnetic letters to make learning fun and interactive. You can support your child at home by practicing CVC words together. Encourage them to "stretch" the sounds in a word and write down the letters they hear. Praise their efforts—even if the spelling isn't perfect yet, they're building essential skills! We're so proud of our kindergarteners and look forward to seeing their progress as they continue to grow as readers and writers!



# 3RD GRADE DISCOVERS WHY POPCORN POPS!

If you “popped” into third grade before the holidays, you would have seen us celebrating with a live sing along with instruments. Jana Pfeiffer came into our room to play music for us and we got to sing along and celebrate with songs. Also included in our celebration was a reading and science discovery time in which we learned about the science of “why popcorn pops?” We learned by watching an informational video and by reading and taking an interactive quiz about the history of popcorn on Epic! We ended our celebration and science discovery time with a popcorn party popped with a hot air popcorn popper. We got to see first hand how popcorn pops.



THE NED SHOW  
ASSEMBLY

JAN. 29TH  
9:00 AM



## DRAGON'S DEN AFTER SCHOOL



Students in the Dragon's Den enjoyed playing with new games purchased by a grant received by the Farmington River PTA. Some of the items that the student requested and were bought were Kerplunk, Operation, Connect 4 Spin, Guess Who, Tapple, Hedbanz, and Jenga.



### 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.





# JOIN OUR TEAM AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!

Are you looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a difference in our school community? Farmington River Elementary is seeking enthusiastic and dedicated substitute teachers to support our students and staff. Whether you're a retired teacher, a recent graduate, or someone who loves working with children, we'd love to hear from you!

Substitute teaching offers flexibility and the chance to be part of our vibrant school community. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact us at [frontoffice@frrsd.org](mailto:frontoffice@frrsd.org) for more details.

## SCHOOL-SPONSORED: FREE DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH PULSE GRADES 1-6

Thanks to a generous MCC grant, PULSE Dance Studio of Great Barrington will be hosting dance and movement workshops for students at FRRSD. The workshops are free and open to all students in grades 1-6 and will introduce students to many styles of dance including jazz, hip hop, and contemporary. All Workshop Sessions will be held on Tuesdays starting in February, 2025 from 3 until 4:15. Space is limited so be sure to sign up now! A permission form will be sent home to all interested parents!



**Tentative Workshop Dates:** Tuesdays: February 2, February 11, March 4, March 11, March 18th and March 25th, April 1, and April 15th

<https://massculturalcouncil.org>



## LOCAL EVENTS

**SWE@SMITH PRESENTS**

**INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY 2025**

# SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**March 8, 2025**

**Curious about Engineering?**  
Come join an engineering workshop facilitated by Smith College engineering students and learn how you can make a sustainable future!  
**(Grades 6 - 8)**

For more information, email [swe@smith.edu](mailto:swe@smith.edu)

Register Here!

**FLYING CLOUD**  
WHERE SCIENCE MEETS ART

**Greenagers**  
youth environment community

## February Break 2025

Calling all young scientists, artists, and engineers!

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

**February 17 - 20**  
**9:00 am - 3:30 pm**  
**Cost: \$250\***  
**Ages 7-13**

- Science investigations
- Art projects
- Engineering challenges
- Outdoor explorations

**Register at**  
[flyingcloudinstitute.org](http://flyingcloudinstitute.org)  
Financial aid and early drop off available

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

## Saturday Youth Archery League



## Lee & Otis Join the Saturday Youth Archery Program. If you're 6 years old, you're ready

Youth are taught the fundamentals from target shooting to 3D archery in the indoor range at Lee Sportsman's Association. The 10 week program is led by certified USA Archery Instructors who have been COBI checked and all share a love for the sport.

**Jan 4th-Mar 8th**  
**Session 1 9-10am,**  
**Session 2 10:30-11:30am,**  
**Session 3 12:30-1:30pm**

**Cost:** \$40 per participant. Registration required on Saturday, December 14th, 2024, 10am-2pm & Sunday, December 15, 2024, 2-6pm. Youth borrowing LSA equipment must attend in person. For fees and additional information: [eesportsman.com/youth](http://eesportsman.com/youth)

**Includes:** Archery range use, bows, arrows, targets, and t-shirts for new students

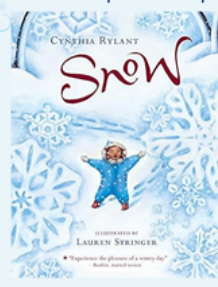
**Coach:** Head Coach Charles Minkoff, USA Archery Level 2 Instructor

**Location:** Lee Sportsman's Association Clubhouse  
565 Fairview Street, Lee, MA 01238

**Questions?** Please contact LSA Youth Programs Co-Chair Stephanie DuPont at [youth@eesportsman.com](mailto:youth@eesportsman.com) or call/text (215) 668-7808 with any further questions or concerns.



## Otis Library StoryWalk



Snow by Cynthia Rylant  
Illustrated by Lauren Stringer

A book about a young girl, her friend, and her grandmother who enjoy the sights and feelings of a snowy day. Through lyrical writing and beautiful art this book will inspire you to enjoy a snowy day with loved ones.

WHEN: Throughout the month of December

WHERE: Behind St. Mary's of the Lake, 48 N. Main St. Otis.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Babies &amp; Books</b> @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. <b>*No program 1/20</b>	<b>*Otis Explore &amp; Play</b> @ Otis Town Hall, 10:00am-11:30am. Drop in.	<b>*Lenox Play</b> @ Lenox Community Center, 10am-11am. Drop in. <b>*No program 1/1</b>	<b>*Brain Builders</b> @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Registration required.	<b>*See Gym</b> - Crossways Gym, 10am-11am. Drop in.
<b>*Sing &amp; Dance</b> @ Southwell-Sage Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	<b>*New Marlborough Storytime</b> @ New Marlborough Library, 10:30am-11:00am. Drop in. <b>*No program 1/1</b>	<b>*Richmond Reads</b> @ Richmond Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.		
	<b>*Parent Workshop</b> , with Scott Noyes on Zoom, 7:00pm, January 15th			

**\*All programs are free & open to the community!**

- Babies & Books** with Jess @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Mondays 10:30am-11:30am. This program is for infants, ages birth to 12 months. Join us as we sing, play and chat about the joys & challenges of being a parent. Drop in.
- Otis Explore & Play** with Anino @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly playgroup will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in.
- Sing & Dance** with Michelle @ Southwell-Sage Library, 48 Main Street/Sheffield. Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am. This program will include music, movement, and dance. Drop in.
- Lenox Play** with Michelle @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street. Wednesdays 10am-11am. Join us for this center-based playgroup with tabletop activities, free play, crafts & more. Great for toddlers & preschoolers. Drop in.
- New Marlborough Storytime** with Jess @ New Marlborough Library, 1 Mill River Rd Road. Wednesdays 10am-11am. This program includes a circle time with stories and songs, followed by a craft. Drop in.
- Brain Builders** with Michelle @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Thursdays 10-10. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing Jess at [sp@southberkshires.org](mailto:sp@southberkshires.org)
- Richmond Reads** with Jess @ Richmond Library (located in the new town building), 1751 State Rd./Richmond. Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am. Join us for a storytime and craft. Drop in.
- Lee Gym** @ Crossways Gym, 21 Crossways Street/Lee. Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this gym time playgroup with balls, blocks, books and more! Drop in.
- Parent Workshop** with Scott Noyes, Zoom, Wednesday, January 15th 7pm-8:30pm. Topic: Helping Children Develop Healthy Sleep Habits. Email Jess at [southberkshireskids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshireskids@gmail.com) to sign up and we will send you the zoom link and workshop materials.

Visit us online for additional resources & information  
[www.SouthBerkshiresKids.org](http://www.SouthBerkshiresKids.org) [www.Mass11.org](http://www.Mass11.org)