

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

01/25/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am thrilled to share the excitement and success of our recent Math Night, where students, parents, and teachers came together for a night filled with mathematical exploration and fun. The energy and enthusiasm from everyone made it a truly memorable event, showcasing the collaborative spirit that makes our school community so special.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who braved the cold weather to join us for Math Night. Your presence and participation made the evening a great success.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to announce the return of our All-School Walk events, starting with the first one scheduled for January 29th. Please find more information about the theme for our walk on page 4. These events not only promote physical activity but also foster a sense of unity and community within our school. It's an excellent opportunity for students and staff to come together, enjoy the outdoors, and celebrate our shared commitment to a healthy and active lifestyle.

Also, just a quick reminder that students do have outdoor recess if the feels like temperature is 15 degrees or above. Heading outside for recess, even in chilly weather, is important for our students because it gives them a break to have fun and recharge, leading to improved focus and productivity when they return to their schoolwork.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**"It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment."**

**- Carl Friedrich Gauss**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### MUSICAL AUDITIONS

**Thurs, JANUARY 25**

**TIME: 3:00 - 4:30 PM**

*For Gr. 4th-6th who have already signed up for the musical*

### LEAVE 'EM KINDER WITH JOHN BERMAN ASSEMBLY

**MON, JANUARY 29**

**GRADE 6: 10:00-11:00**

**GRADES 4-5: 11:00-12:00**

*Sponsored by the PTA*

### ALL SCHOOL WALK

**MON, JANUARY 29**

**TIME: 2:10PM**

### WINTER DANCE

**FRI., FEBRUARY 9**

**GRADES K-4: 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

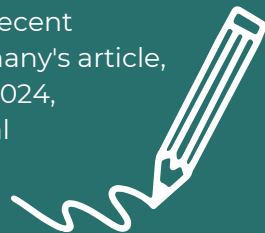
**GRADES 5-6: 7:00 - 8:15 PM**

*Sponsored by Student Council*

# STAFF NEWS



We proudly congratulate Bethany, our fourth-grade teacher, on her recent publication in the Journal of Educational Research and Practice. Bethany's article, "Peer Observation to Improve Teacher Self-Efficacy," featured in the 2024, Volume 14, Issue 1, reflects her commitment to advancing educational practices and enhancing the teaching profession. We celebrate Bethany's well-deserved recognition and appreciate her invaluable contributions to our school community.



Bethany's dedication to academic excellence shines through in her published work, and we are fortunate to have her on our teaching team. Join us in applauding Bethany for her significant achievement, as her passion for teaching continues to inspire both students and fellow educators. We look forward to the positive impact her research will have on education at large, and we are privileged to have Bethany as an integral part of our school. Congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment!

## BUS SAFETY REMINDERS



Please review these bus safety rules with your child/children.

1. WALK STRAIGHT TO YOUR SEAT
2. SIT WITH YOUR LEGS FACING FORWARD
3. SPEAK IN QUIET VOICES
4. KEEP THE AISLES CLEAR
5. ALWAYS LISTEN TO THE DRIVER
6. GET ON & OFF THE BUS SLOWLY AND SAFELY
7. KEEP THE BUS CLEAN & WITHOUT DAMAGE
8. BE RESPECTFUL TO ALL STUDENTS & THE DRIVER
9. IF NECESSARY, RAISE YOUR HAND TO GET THE BUS DRIVERS ATTENTION

## FUN WITH GINGERBREAD IN KINDERGARTEN!



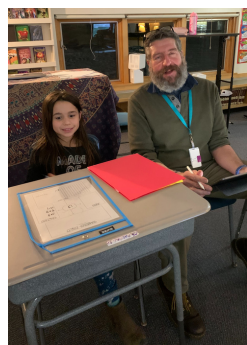
Kindergarten students listened and then discussed several Gingerbread themed stories in a mini unit. The students compared the characters, setting, events, and endings of the stories. Some of the texts were favorites like; The Gingerbread Boy, The Gingerbread Girl, The Gingerbread Cowboy, The Gingerbread Baby, And The Ninjabread. At the end of the unit, the children got a surprise visit from the Gingerbread Man and decorated gingerbread cookies. Thank you so much to Katie Murray for making the delicious cookies and volunteering to help the children decorate their cookies!



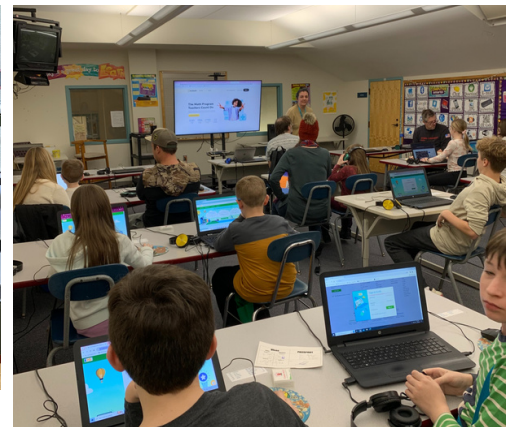




Math Night was an evening of joyous exploration and learning at our Elementary School, as students and parents joined forces to celebrate the wonders of mathematics. The event began with a pasta dinner and featured a variety of interactive stations, each designed to bring math concepts to life through hands-on activities and engaging games. From math challenges that encouraged critical thinking to family-oriented activities fostering teamwork, the night was filled with laughter and collaboration. Teachers and volunteers, including the PTA and National Honor Society members from both Lee High School and Monument Mountain High School—several of whom were our former students—skillfully conducted live demonstrations showcasing the practical applications of math in everyday scenarios, making the subject more relatable. Participants entered a raffle for prize baskets and every student who participated received a mechanical pencil and a big colorful eraser, motivating them to view math as both enjoyable and rewarding. The event was a resounding success, leaving a positive impact on students, parents, and educators alike, as it highlighted the relevance and fun inherent in the world of mathematics.



**OUR RAFFLE WINNERS: ALEX, LIAM, & LUKE**





# ALL-SCHOOL WALK - COMPASSION

Our All-School Walk is scheduled for January 29th and will bring our school community together for a special purpose. We'll be infusing a touch of whimsy and warmth by celebrating National Hat Day during our walk. As we don our favorite hats, we'll be metaphorically donning our "thinking caps," too. This playful theme invites our students to reflect on ways we can collectively make a positive impact and pay it forward to those in need.

To turn these thoughts into action, we're initiating a school-wide effort throughout the month of February. We'll be collecting spare change as a tangible way of expressing our empathy and transforming it into compassion through action. This endeavor not only teaches our students about the power of giving but also underscores the notion that even small acts of kindness can create a ripple effect of positive change. By actively participating in this cause, our students learn the profound impact of their contributions, fostering a sense of responsibility and community spirit.



## LIBRARY NEWS:

New additions to our library thanks to our Spring Scholastic Book Fair points!



Students on the hunt for "Just Right" Books to check out along with DEAR reading time.

## INTRAMURALS

4th - 6th Grade Intramurals having fun warming up with a game of flag tag and transitioning to flag football. Be sure to ask your students about some football terms we have been learning!





# 4TH GRADE WHITEBOARDS ARE AWESOMESASAURUS!

4th grade whiteboards are cool for many reasons. One reason is because they are all around the room. For example, they are stuck to tables and they are plastered to the sides of our cubbies. This makes growing our learning muscles a little more fun while doing wicked wonderful work like Think Central, IXL, and Spelling Training! These are only a few reasons why whiteboards are awesomesasaurus in 4th grade.

By: Mrs. Mielke, Henry Salzano, Carlee Herlihy, and Ava Smigel



## PTA UPDATE

### BUTTERNUT TUBING WITH PTA!

The PTA is excitedly preparing for our annual tubing party at Butternut on Sunday, February 4 from 4-6pm. Get ready for tubing fun, snacks and good company around the firepit -- all are welcome, and tubing is free for FRES students and staff! (Additional family members must pay a partial ticket price of \$5 this year, as our ticket prices have gone up.) If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late -- we've extended the deadline to sign up to Monday, January 29! Forms were sent home last week; make sure you fill out a [Butternut Tubing waiver form](#) for anyone joining us.



### OTIS RIDGE SKI AND SNOWBOARD PROGRAM UPDATE

This year's Ski and Snowboard Program at Otis Ridge is drawing to a close, but the fun isn't over yet! With approximately half of our students taking part, Wednesday nights at the Ridge are packed full of Farmington River families out sliding on the snow. Our last lesson is on Wednesday, January 31, with a night of celebration and free skiing & riding on Wednesday, February 7. Did you know, several Farmington River alumni come back to teach our program on Wednesday nights? It's a true community effort, made possible by our ski & snowboard teachers, our partnership with Otis Ridge, our PTA fundraising, and a generous community donor.



### JON BERMAN BRINGS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING TO FRES

The PTA is thrilled to bring Jon Berman, respected educator (and former FRES parent!), to FRES with his Leave 'Em Kinder Tour. Jon will spend Friday, January 26 in the building, hosting two assemblies for grades 4-6 and visiting classrooms to help reinforce the lessons he imparts with songs and stories. This acclaimed program is brought to us in partnership with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's FIRE Fund and their Arts Build Community Initiative.

### CASH CALENDAR SALES UNDERWAY

It's that time again, Cash Calendar season! This important fundraiser brings in the money to support the majority of our PTA programming (like tubing and the Ski & snowboarding program you just read about!), and we need everyone's help! Calendars went home several weeks ago. Sold all yours already, and looking for more to sell? Awesome! Email [fresptacashcal@gmail.com](mailto:fresptacashcal@gmail.com) to request more sent home with your student. Not going to sell the ones you received? That's okay too, just send them in to school as soon as possible so that they can be redistributed for selling. Thanks in advance for your hard work and support -- together, we are doing amazing things to make each FRES student's potential a reality!

**Interested in learning more, helping out, or becoming a member? Email [PTA@frrsd.org](mailto:PTA@frrsd.org), or join our February Zoom meeting on Thursday, February 8 at 7pm!**



# SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

## ALL SCHOOL WALK

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**

put your thinking caps on!

## HAT DAY



FARMINGTON  
RIVER  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

Student Council Sponsored

**WINTER DANCE 2024**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 2024

**Family Dance for Children in Grades K-4** 6pm-7pm

Refreshments and Prizes

Children must be accompanied by a parent.

**Dance for Grades 5 and 6** 7pm - 8:15 pm

Refreshments and Prizes

Families with children in both grade groups may stay for both dances. There will be tables set up for games and art activities in the cafeteria for the younger children after their dance.

A 50-50 Raffle will be held at 7pm.



## LOCAL EVENTS

### Otis Explore & Play

Otis Town Hall  
Every Tuesday morning  
10:00am-11:30am

\*\*\*Join Anina every Tuesday for this caregiver/child playgroup. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories and songs. A great time to meet up with friends and meet new friends! Best for ages birth to 5 years old.

\*No registration is required. Drop in when you can!!  
\*This program is free and open to the community.

[www.SouthBerkshireKids.org](http://www.SouthBerkshireKids.org)



**2023-2024**

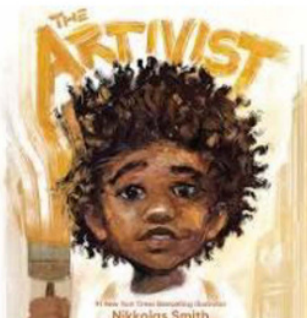
**FRES**

**NEWSLETTER**

**ARCHIVES**



### OTIS LIBRARY StoryWalk\*



"The artist (artist + activist) uses their artistic talents to fight and struggle against injustice and oppression—by any medium necessary. The artist merges commitment to freedom and justice with the pen, the lens, the brush, the voice, the body, and the imagination." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artistism#:~:text=The%20artist%20\(artist%20%2B%20activist\),the%20body%2C%20and%20the%20imagination.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artistism#:~:text=The%20artist%20(artist%20%2B%20activist),the%20body%2C%20and%20the%20imagination.)

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

**WHEN: The story will remain UP through February 2, 2024!**

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

**Lego Club: January 20, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the library**

Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 413-269-0109, [www.otislibraryma.org](http://www.otislibraryma.org)

\*Founded in 2007 by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, StoryWalk\* was created to promote a love of reading and physical activity.

### The Sandsfield Recreation Committee

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

**Valentine Themed Crafting + Refreshments**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH | 10AM - 12PM**  
**FIRE STATION #1 RTE. 8**

Decorate, paint and bedazzle mini keepsake boxes for your Valentine. Light refreshments will be served as well. Please join us for this free event, all are welcome.



RSVP BY 2/2/24 TO:

[SANDSFIELDEVENTS@RECREATIONCOMMITTEE.INFO](mailto:SANDSFIELDEVENTS@RECREATIONCOMMITTEE.INFO)



**SWE@SMITH PRESENTS**

**INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY 2024**

## CITIES OF TOMORROW

March 2, 2024

**Curious about Engineering?**

Come join an engineering workshop facilitated by Smith College engineering students and learn how you can build the Cities of Tomorrow! (Grades 6-8)

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



Sign Up Here!

