



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

Striving to Be the Best Students and Citizens

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
@ 6:00 PM

PTA CHILI COOK-OFF
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
@ 5PM

PTA MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
@ 7PM VIA ZOOM

**PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Building Math Confidence

Our students are strengthening their math skills through hands-on learning and daily problem solving. Asking your child to explain how they solved a problem is a great way to build confidence and mathematical thinking at home.

Learning Through Writing

Students are working hard to grow as writers! Across grade levels, they are learning to organize their ideas and add details to make their writing stronger. Ask your child what they have been writing about in class!

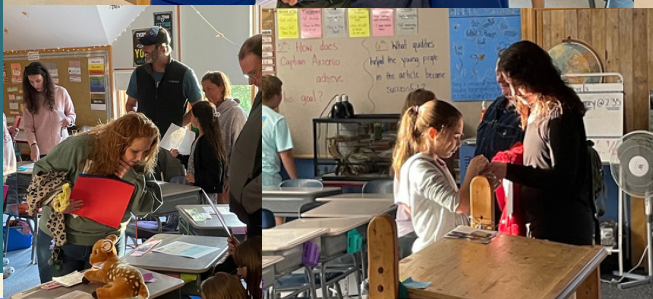
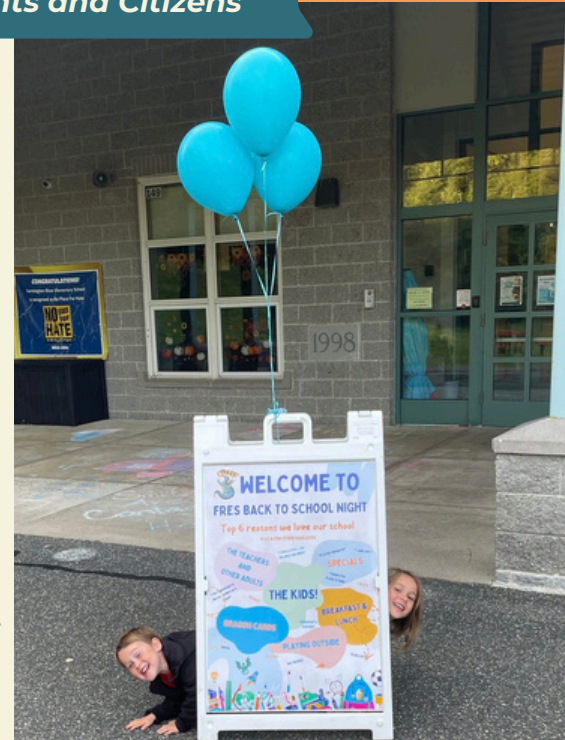
A WONDERFUL START TO FALL!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Back-to-School Night! It was wonderful to see so many families filling our hallways and classrooms. We loved having the opportunity to connect with you, share some of what your children have been learning, and give you a glimpse into the exciting year ahead. The energy throughout the school made it such a fun and special evening.

We are so grateful for the partnership we have with our families. Your involvement, encouragement and support truly make a difference for our students and help make Farmington River such a welcoming and positive place to learn and grow.

As we head into October, we have lots to look forward to! From classroom activities to special fall events, there will be many opportunities for our students and families to have fun and come together as a school community. We look forward to sharing it all with you!

Warm regards,
Laurie Flower, Principal





BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

FOURTH GRADE METAMORPHOSIS

Our fourth graders had an exciting time studying butterflies! We hatched seven butterflies and were lucky enough to witness the miraculous transformations from caterpillar to chrysalis twice and from chrysalis to butterfly twice. After naming one of our butterflies Big Joe, we released them on the playground to enjoy the goldenrod, singing "Happy Birthday" as they flew away. Ask a fourth grader how you can tell whether a butterfly is male or female!



GIRLS ON THE RUN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!



Our Farmington River GOTR team is off to an amazing start! GOTR's mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively incorporates running and physical activity.

Our team has been working hard, building confidence, supporting one another, and having lots of fun along the way. We're excited for a great season as we continue working toward our final 5K celebration!



FARMINGTON FACES: TALIA KING

Our newest Paraprofessional, Talia King, works with FRES students both upstairs and down. She lives with her partner, Blake, in a house they built in Sandisfield, with her black lab / golden retriever mix, Philip J. Fry, and has a degree in special ed! Talia's love of STEM is evident in her interactions with students, and also in her resume – she worked with Flying Cloud Institute before coming to Farmington River. She's an avid gamer (Splatoon is a favorite!) and even works with EA games play testing new products! When she's not working, gaming, or hanging with Fry & Blake, Talia can be found practicing yoga at Kripalu, singing karaoke, and dancing. Talia studied ballet for 15 years. If she wasn't here with us, she'd likely be on stage performing – luck for FRES she chose us 🎮



EVERY ONE OF US HAS A STORY TO TELL!

First graders in Mrs. Hamill's class have been exploring the idea that everyone has a story to tell!

We recently read *Ralph Tells a Story* by Abby Hanlon, a fun and relatable story that helped us think about where writers get their ideas and how our own experiences can become stories.

After reading, we practiced becoming oral storytellers!

Students shared stories from their own lives, using details and expression to bring them to life. We reviewed the important parts of a story, characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end, and talked about how these elements help our listeners follow along.

Our young authors then had the opportunity to draft their own stories. Instead of worrying about writing every word, students used illustrations and key words to capture their ideas and help guide them as they told their stories. This allowed them to focus on developing their ideas, adding details, and putting their stories in a logical order.

We also took a closer look at author's purpose and discussed why authors write stories. Students discovered that authors may write to entertain, inform, teach, or share an idea, and that sometimes a story can do more than one of these things.

Most importantly, our first graders learned that their experiences, ideas, and imaginations are worth sharing. Whether it's a big adventure, a funny moment, a family tradition, or an ordinary day that became something special, every child has a story waiting to be told! We are so proud of our young storytellers and can't wait to see where their stories take us next!



GETTING ACTIVE IN PE

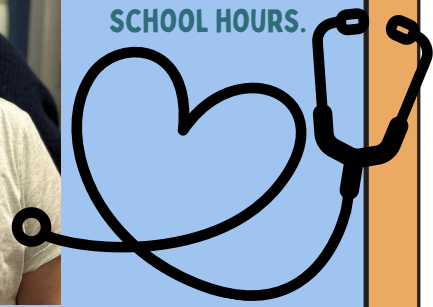
PE classes are off to an energetic start! Students have enjoyed learning new games with a new piece of equipment: the Omnikin ball. They've played a version of basketball, learned Poison Ball, and worked together to use the ball during stations. There have been lots of smiles, teamwork, and creative ways to keep it moving!

Grades 3-6 have also started playing badminton, working hard on their serves and understanding the rules. Meanwhile, students in K-2 are exploring locomotor skills and pathways as they discover different ways to move through the gym. We're looking forward to building on these skills throughout the year!





**NURSE GRACE TERRY
SUPPORTS STUDENT
NEEDS 5 DAYS A
WEEK DURING (AND
SOMETIMES AFTER)
SCHOOL HOURS.**



REPORTING ABSENCES & CHANGES IN DISMISSAL

STUDENT ABSENCE

**Call 413-269-4466
Press 5 for the School Nurse**

If your student will be absent, please call and press 5 when prompted to reach the school nurse. Alternatively, email gterry@frsrd.org.

CHANGE IN DISMISSAL

**Call 413-269-4466
Press 1 for the Front Office**

If you need to change your student's dismissal plan, please call and press 1 when prompted to reach the front office. Alternatively, email frontoffice@frsrd.org before 2:30pm.

Please leave a message with your student's name and information about the absence or dismissal change. Dismissal changes must be communicated by 2:30pm. Please **DO NOT** email Caroline Stamm with dismissal changes.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

We are always looking for new members! Whether you are a parent, staff member, or community member, you belong on our wellness committee!

We meet four times a year, on Zoom or in person, 3:15-4pm on a Tuesday.

2026-2027 Meeting Dates:

October 13 December 8
February 9 April 13



WHAT DOES THE WELLNESS COMMITTEE DO? WE SUPPORT THINGS LIKE...

-  All-School Walks
-  Wellness Night 2025
-  Staff Chair Massages
-  PTA Grant to Support Social-Emotional Learning



NURSE'S CORNER



Updated Procedure for Exclusion of Contagious Illnesses at Farmington River Elementary

- Influenza and Febrile Illnesses: The student must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications like Motrin (ibuprofen) or Tylenol (acetaminophen).
- If a student has a fever of 100° or higher, has vomited or had diarrhea (not explained by other causes), the student must remain out of school for a minimum of 24 hours after the symptoms have resolved.
- Strep infections: The student may not return to school until has been on antibiotics for a full 24 hours. (This is an MDPH state regulation)
- Conjunctivitis: The student may return to school 24 hours after treatment has been administered.

Welcome back to school!

Save the Date and check out some updates to our Exclusion for Illness Procedure.

- Vaccine Clinic at FRES 10-20 3-5pm
- Dental Clinic: 10-27

I hope you are all able to get out and enjoy some of the beautiful fall weather.

If you every have questions please give me a call or reach out via e-mail.

gterry@frsrd.org
413-269-4466

Otis & Sandisfield Vaccine Clinics



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Friday Oct. 9th	11 am-1 pm	Sandisfield Old Town Hall 3 Silverbrook Rd, Sandisfield, MA
Monday Oct. 19th	11 am-1 pm	Otis Town Hall 1 N Main Rd, Otis, MA
Tuesday Oct. 20th	3 pm - 5 pm	Farmington River School 555 N Main Rd., Otis, MA

Pre-Registration Required

home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown
or call 413-243-5540 x 109



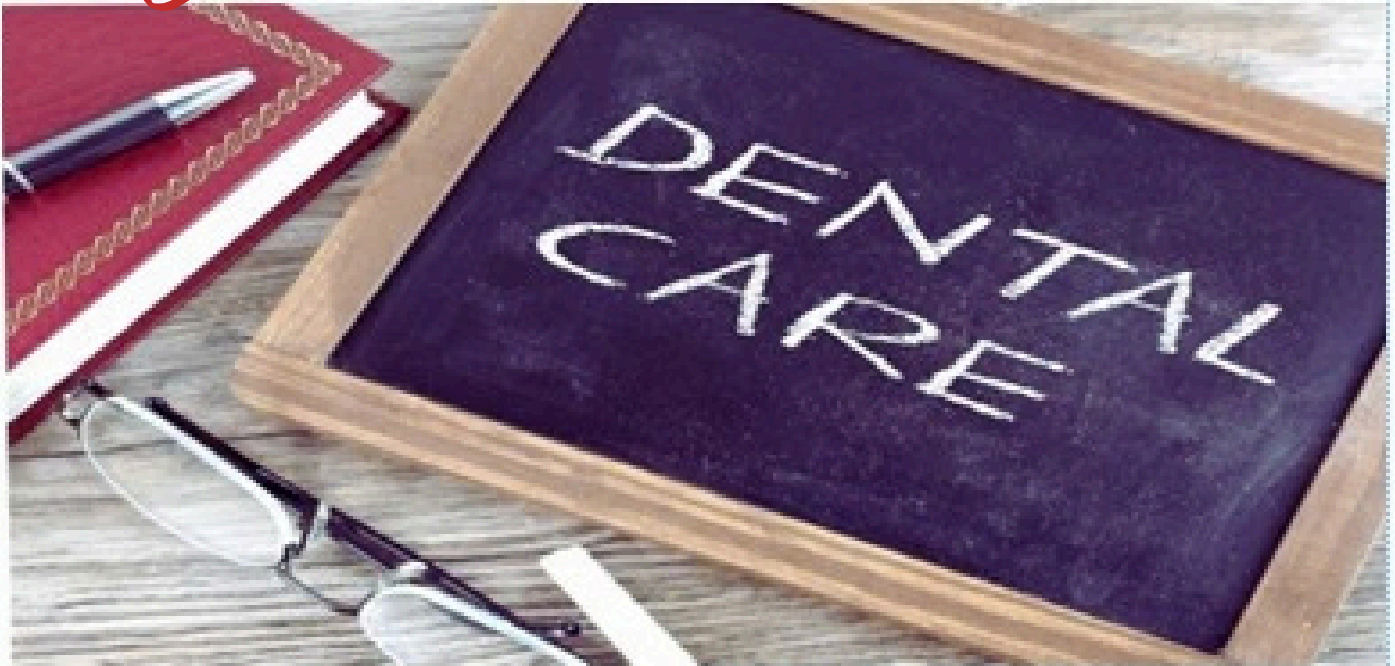
For more info and the full fall schedule, visit:
www.southernberkshirehealth.com

FLU: Regular (6 months+) & Senior dose (65+)
COVID: 65+ & High Risk
At-Home or In Office
Appointments Available
call 413-243-5540 x 109
Please Bring Insurance Card





School Dental Clinic-10/27/26



DENTAL EXAMS*CLEANINGS
SEALANTS*FLORIDE VARNISH

**** OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH & WITHOUT
DENTAL/HEALTH INSURANCE** IF YOUR CHILD HAS
NOT HAD A ROUTINE DETAL EXAM IN THE LAST 6
MONTHS AND DOES NOT HAVE AN UPCOMING
APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS
OPPORTUNITY. PERMISSION SLIPS TO FOLLOW.
PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
GRACE TERRY, RN**

PTA NEWS

October is a busy month for the PTA! Check out all the updates below and email pta@frrsd.org for more information or to help!

The Chili Cook-off is Tuesday,

October 6! Click the link on the flyer to learn more.

Our members-only apple picking

event is Sunday, October 11 at 11am. If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time to join!

The PTA sponsors Halloween events in both Otis and Sandisfield – stay tuned for more information about the Otis Trunk-or-Treat and the Sandisfield Town Hall-oween Party!

Next week, we will be sending out information and a link to sign up for the Otis Ridge Ski and Snowboard program for students in grades 1-6. Watch your email!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Farmington River Elementary Van Drivers, Substitute Teachers & Substitute Van Drivers



Love the Farmington River Community?

Love being in a happy building with a positive working environment? Love kids?

Join the team at Farmington River Elementary School as a substitute teacher!

Substitutes work on a per-diem / on call basis for either a whole or half day; van driver schedules vary. Requirements include a high school diploma and successful background checks. Substitute teacher rates start at \$120/day; van driver rates start at \$20.28/hour.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION

Interested applicants can also visit

www.frrsd.org/district-information/employment/

or call (413) 269-4466 to learn more

Oktober Fest

Saturday, October 3rd 12PM-4PM

Music * Drink * Food

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

RSVP to recreation@sandisfieldma.gov

Food Truck Kids Crafts Live Music \$5 Pony Ride Hayrides

***Available All Ages**

FARMINGTON RIVER PTA presents a CHILI COOK-OFF!

A FUNDRAISER

Good food. Great people. A stronger FRES community!

Join us for a fun, family-friendly evening full of spicy competition, great food, and community spirit! All proceeds benefit Farmington River PTA programs and initiatives.

Everyone is welcome!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

THE KNOX TRAIL INN 1898 East Otis Road East Otis, MA 01253

GREAT FOOD GREAT COMPANY GREAT CAUSE!

click here for more info & tickets

FALL CLOTHING SWAP

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2026 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM FRES GYM

A community event to exchange gently used fall and winter items and help our families!

ITEMS ACCEPTED: Coats, Hats & Gloves, Scarves, Mittens, Socks, Boots, Sleepers, Blankets, Stuffed Animals, Toys, Books, Games, Puzzles, etc.

Cleaned items can be dropped off ahead of time in the bin near the front door of the school.

Strong Families. Great Cause!

Berkshire County STEAM Challenge Night

OCTOBER 22, 2026 • 5:00-7:30 PM BERKSHIRE MUSEUM 39 SOUTH STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA

Join us for an evening of hands-on science, art, and engineering challenges led by some of your favorite Berkshire Science and Art organizations!

Free for all Berkshire youth in Grades K-8 and their families.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?
Contact Flying Cloud Institute: admin@flyingcloudinstitute.org 413-645-3058

FLYING CLOUD INSTITUTE
BERKSHIRE MUSEUM
MASS STEAM WEEK

OCTOBER STORY WALK

CREEPY CRAYON!

JASPER FINDS A PUSHY PURPLE CRAYON THAT DOES ALL HIS SCHOOLWORK FOR HIM!

THIS IS LOCATED BEHIND ST. MARY'S CHURCH

South Berkshire Kids

October 2026 Program Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chili & Bites @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. *New program 2026!	Chili & Bites @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	Chili & Bites @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	Chili & Bites @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	Chili & Bites @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.
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***All programs are free & open to the community!**

Community Resource Spotlight: WIC

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) is a free nutrition program providing healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and healthcare referrals to Ma Families. Support is for pregnant, babies and children up to 5 years of age. Income eligible.

2026 Fall Parent Workshop Series
With Scott Hayes, Zoom, 7pm-8:30pm
Registration required: southberkshirkids@gmail.com and we will send you the zoom link.

***October 14th, Topic: Helping Children Develop Healthy Sleep Habits**
***November 11th, Topic: High Octane Kids!**

ASQ: Ages & Stages Questionnaires
Do you want to learn more about your child's development? ASQ is a free tool that will tell you about your child's skills! Use the above QR code to access our free family page or set up an appointment by calling Jessica @ 413-664-5095 or email: southberkshirkids@gmail.com

YOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS
Visit us online! www.southberkshirkids.org
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.