



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

10/03/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we move into October, I want to take a moment to update you on the exciting happenings at our school. Our students are deeply engaged with the new curriculums we've introduced this year. From "Into Reading" and "Wit & Wisdom" to the updated GoMath materials, we're seeing a lot of growth and enthusiasm in the classrooms. It's been wonderful to see our youngest learners thriving as they explore these new tools. We're also continuing with our morning Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) activities, which have really helped set a positive tone for the day and strengthen the classroom communities.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who attended Back-to-School Night! Your turnout and engagement made the evening a success, and it was great to connect with so many of you. The recent Juckets Bluegrass Band performance was also a hit, and it was wonderful to see our students so captivated and engaged.

Looking ahead, I'd like to invite everyone to our first School Council Meeting of the year on Thursday, October 3, from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in the library. This is a wonderful opportunity for teachers, staff, parents, and community members to come together and discuss school improvement planning and the budget process. Together, we can ensure that our students feel supported and excited about their learning journey. Thank you for your continued engagement and support!

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

"When schools, families, and community groups work together, children do better in school."

— ANNE HENDERSON (AUTHOR)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

I hope you will join us!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS

MON., SEPTEMBER 30

Time: 3:00-4:30

Please check your email for a confirmation notice if you sent in an application. If you have questions, please contact Caroline in the front office

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG

MON., OCTOBER 7

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG

MON., OCTOBER 7

PICTURE DAY

WED., OCTOBER 9

** Please note that this is a change in date! **

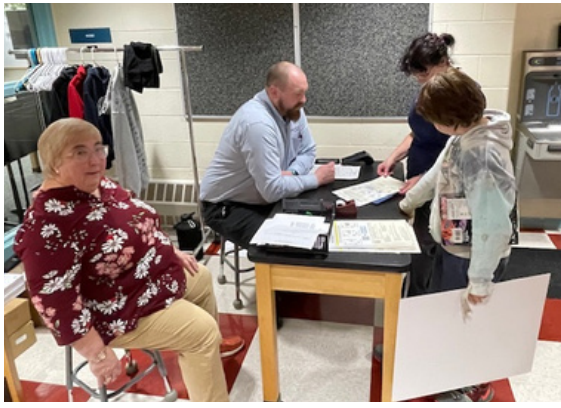


HOLIDAY

MON., OCTOBER 14

NO SCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



3RD GRADE MATH & SCIENCE WITH SUNFLOWERS!

In third grade during our science lessons, we have learned about how flowering plants reproduce. We took sunflowers outside and dissected them to see all of the different parts of the flower. After taking all of the seeds out of the sunflowers, we incorporated our math lesson into this project as well. We estimated how many seeds were in the sunflowers that we used. We kept track of our estimates on the whiteboard to see who came the closest to their estimate without going over. After that we found the actual total count of the seeds, which was 2,300 seeds. One of the third graders was only off with their estimate by 275!!!



STUDENT TEACHER HIGHLIGHT:

SAMANTHA BRODY

ABOUT ME:

I am a senior at Westfield State University pursuing my degree in Early Childhood Education, with a minor in reading and a concentration in social and emotional learning. I have always known I wanted to become a teacher for as long as I can remember. I am very excited to be able to work with Mrs. Martin in her first grade class this year!



PHILOSOPHY:

My teaching philosophy is to nurture each individual child by creating a developmentally appropriate learning community for children to learn, grow, and thrive. It is important to me for a classroom to be a place where students are excited to go every day and feel safe. I encourage students to become independent learners, and mistakes are welcome. I love sharing my passion and love of learning with students.

I value creating an inclusive learning environment that embraces and celebrates diversity, where all students have a sense of belonging so that they can grow and thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. Students are just as valuable a resource to one another as a teacher is to them; students should learn about and celebrate each other's differences.

FAMILY:

I am from Newton MA which is 20 minutes from Boston. I have a younger sister who is 19. I am a second generation teacher, who's parent is a 1st grade teacher in Newton Public Schools.

HOBBIES:

When I am not teaching, I am part of the Westfield State Dance Company as a co-president. I also enjoy going to the beach and reading books.



PTA REMINDERS:

FALL FUNDRAISER REMINDER

We have just over two weeks left in our big fall fundraiser. Have you set up your online store yet? Friends and family can shop to support your student and (for a low shipping fee) have their purchases shipped directly to the address of their choice! Go to meadowfarms.com/register, then enter your email address and a password to create an account; existing accounts can login. Click the "Join a Fundraiser" button, and complete the registration process by using our Group ID: 1193367 Use the links and information provided to share your student's fundraising page on social media! Did you know that sales from the Fall Fundraiser support class accounts, which follow your child's class through 6th grade, where the account helps fund graduation, the big 6th grade field trip, and more? When you turn in your fundraising packet, don't forget to include your information on the order sheet, including your full physical address. Orders are shipped directly to you via FedEx, so any missing information could result in delayed orders.

GET READY FOR THE THUNDERBIRDS!

Once again, the FRES PTA is sponsoring a game with the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey team! Join us as we cheer Boomer and the T-birds as they defeat (we hope!) the Hartford Wolf Pack on Sunday, January 26th at 3pm! FRES student and staff tickets are just \$10 (family and community tickets are \$19), and we have vouchers available for food, as well!

COMING SOON:

OTIS RIDGE SKI & SNOWBOARD LESSON REGISTRATION

Don't worry, you haven't missed it! Registration for Ski & Snowboard lessons for Farmington River students at Otis Ridge is not yet open. At this time, there is no need to go to the Otis Ridge website to register -- a dedicated link will be provided by the PTA late next week! Questions? Email PTA@frrsd.org. Watch for the sign-up sheet coming home in your student's backpack, and be sure to send in your form by November 15 so you don't miss out on this fun event! Email phil@magovern.com with questions.

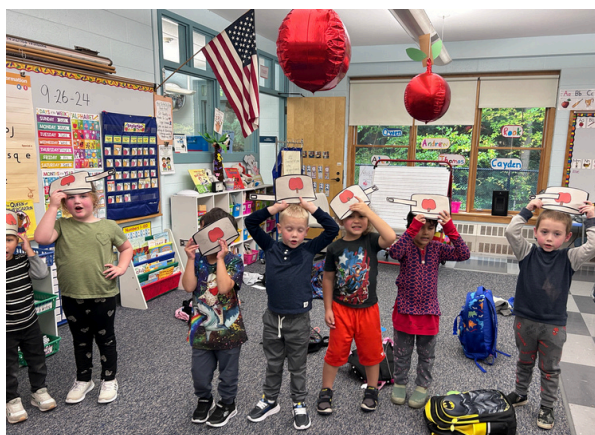
BLUEGRASS BAND BRINGS MUSIC TO LIFE FOR OUR STUDENTS!

Two weeks ago, our school had the pleasure of hosting the Juckets Bluegrass Band, and it was an unforgettable experience for the students. A huge thank you goes to Jana Pfiefer, who not only organized this special event but also played in the band! The performance captivated the students, many of whom heard bluegrass music for the first time. The band entertained with lively tunes while explaining the history behind bluegrass and the role of each instrument. Students were thrilled to see and hear traditional instruments like the banjo and fiddle, even getting the chance to try them out. It was inspiring to see their engagement and excitement during the interactive performance. We're grateful for experiences like these that enrich our students' learning!



JOHNNY APPLESEED DAY IN KINDERGARTEN!

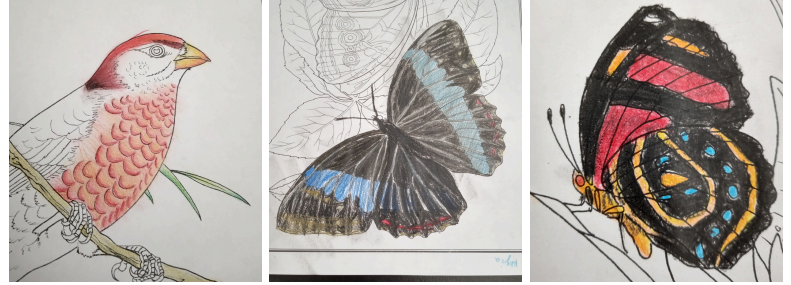
Kindergarten students participated in a whole day of apple themed work on Thursday September 26th for Johnny Appleseed's birthday. Students added cinnamon and sugar to the cooking apples in the crock pot, the apples would later be put in individual pie cups with whipped cream for their snack! They listened to a book, watched a short video, and read an emergent reader to learn all about Johnny Appleseed and how he planted apple trees all over the United States. The students taste tested different kinds of apples, graphed which kinds they liked the best, and made pot hats like Johnny's. One of their favorite activities of the day was making an apple volcano. The students could not wait to see what would happen when we added vinegar to the apple that had baking soda inside it.



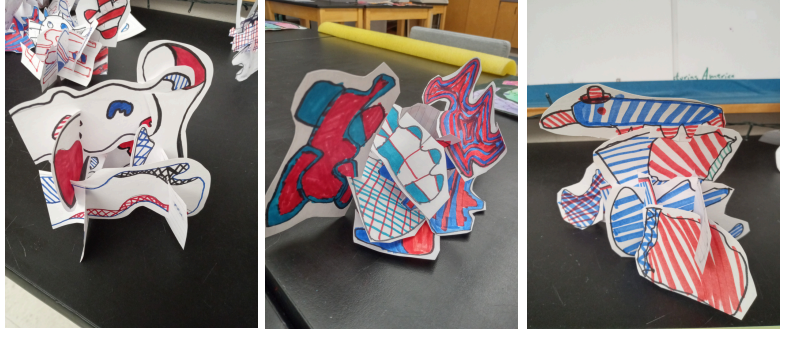
Creativity was contagious in the art room among our FRRSD young artists during the month of September! The students were very happy to welcome Caroline Stamm as the Student Art Teacher for the year. She has already introduced a small group project to those students who finished their previous assignments, about Crocs and personalized charms.



The 6th grade learned about color blending techniques of layering, blending and burnishing to create stunning replicas of colorful prints. They are looking forward to starting a wood working unit next week.



Fifth grade artists learned about French sculptor, John Dubuffet, and created mini card sculptures inspired by his style.



ART ROOM UPDATE!

Third and fourth grade artists reviewed how to use wet on wet watercolor techniques to create snakes with rainbow color patterns.



Artists in grades 1 through 4 began the year creating posters using watercolor paints to show how they use their body and senses in the art room.



SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

2024 FLU & COVID VACCINE NO COST CLINIC

OTIS TOWN HALL
Tuesday, 11/5 from 11am-1pm
 1 N Main Road, Otis

Registration Assistance is Available
 Weds, 9/25 from 10-11am
 at the Otis Town Hall

Please Bring Your Insurance Card

Pre-Registration is Required
home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown

NEED HELP? Call (413) 243-5540 x109 for assistance registering or to see if you are eligible for an in-home vaccination

Standard (6 mos+) and senior (65+ yrs) flu and COVID vaccine (6 mos+) will be available

www.southernberkshirehealth.com



Fall 2024 Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinic Schedule 8.8.2024

Pre-Registration is Required- Assistance Available
<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown>



Day	Date	Time	Clinic Site	Town	Registration Workshops
Tues	10/8/2024	3- 6pm	Lenox Memorial Middle/High School	Lenox	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Weds	10/9/2024	3 - 6pm	Lee Middle/High School	Lee	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Tues	10/15/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Sandisfield Old Town Hall	Sandisfield	Weds, 8/21 & 9/18, 10-11am @ Sandisfield COA
Thurs	10/17/2024	1 - 3pm	Claire Teague Senior Center	Gt Barrington	Thu, 9/19, 10-11am @ Senior Center
Tues	10/22/2024	10am -12pm	Tyringham Town Hall	Tyringham	Thurs, 9/26, 10:30-11:30am @ Tyringham Town Hall
Weds	10/23/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	New Marlborough Fire Station	Southfield	Tues, 9/17, 10-11am @ NM Town Hall
Tues	10/29/2024	12 - 2pm	Alford Town Hall	Alford	Tues, 9/17, 10-11am @ Alford Town Hall
Weds	10/30/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	St. Ann's Catholic Parish	Lenox	Tues, 8/13 & 9/10, 9-10am @ Lenox Com Cntr
Thurs	10/31/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Sheffield Senior Center	Sheffield	Thur, 9/12, 9:30 - 10:30am @ COA
Tues	11/5/2024	11am - 1pm	Otis Town Hall	Otis	Weds, 9/25, 10-11am @ Town Hall
Thurs	11/7/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Lee Senior Center	Lee	Thur, 8/29 & 9/26 9:30 - 10:30am @ Lee Senior Center
Tues	11/12/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Housy Dome	Housatonic	Thur, 9/19, 10-11am @ Senior Center
Tues	11/19/2024	10am -12pm	Monterey Community Center	Monterey	Weds 8/14/ & 9/11 11:30am - 12:30pm @ Monterey Library
Thurs	11/21/2024	1:30 - 3:30pm	Stockbridge Town Hall	Stockbridge	Tues, 9/3, 10:30-11:30am @ COA
Fri	11/22/2024	3pm - 6pm	W.F.B. Dubois Middle School	Gt Barrington	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Tues	11/26/2024	3pm - 6pm	Mt Everett Regional School	Sheffield	Call 413 243 5540 x109
Saturday	December	TBD		Gt Barrington	DATE AND TIME TBD
Ongoing	By Appt		Tri-Town Health Department	Lee	Ongoing flu, covid and childhood vaccines. Call to schedule.

Vaccines available at these clinics include the fall updated COVID vaccine (ages 6 months+), regular dose flu (ages 6 months+) and senior dose flu (ages 65+) Contact SBPHC staff for assistance registering or to schedule a homebound appointment by calling 413 243 5540 x109

LOCAL EVENTS

Presented by **THE TRIPLEX CINEMA**

Young

Submissions open from August 31st to October 27th

FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL



Comedy. Documentary. Sci-Fi.

Whatever your story looks like, we want to see it on the big screen!

Work with our group of movie-making mentors to create a short film that will play at The Triplex on November 16th!

Want to be paired with a mentor? Let us know what you need help with by sending an email to yff@thetriplex.org

Open to everyone between the ages of 13-19 in the Berkshires and surrounding areas. Movies can be shot on camera, cellphones — whatever you want! Movies must be under 12 minutes and you must hold all rights. Please submit your film in DCP or mp4 format.

To learn more and submit your film visit thetriplex.org/yff

5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN RIISKA BROOK ORCHARD SANDISFIELD MA SATURDAY OCTOBER 19



TO BENEFIT DU BOIS 8TH GRADE CLASS

Support Du Bois 8th grade and get outside in the 5k and 1 mile fun run! All registration fees go to the field trip scholarship fund, and the race finishes in the beautiful hilltop orchard with donuts, apple picking, and cider

For more information and to register:



[HTTPS://WWW.RUNREG.COM/RIISKA-BROOK-5K-FUN-RUN](https://www.runreg.com/riiska-brook-5k-fun-run)

Berkshire County STEAM Challenge Night

STEAM: SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ART MATH
**OCTOBER 22, 2024 • 4-7PM
HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE**

Join us for an evening of hands-on science, art, and engineering challenges led by some of your favorite Berkshire STEM 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
WWW.FLYINGCLOUDINSTITUTE.ORG



SCAN ME



Oktober Fest

**Sunday, October 13th
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 10/4/24 to sandisfieldvents@recreationcommittee.info

BURR'S BEANS & THE DOGS
Autumnal Crafting
Live Music
\$2 Pony Rides
Hayrides

ARR ME MATEY, PARTAKE IN ME PIRATE PARTY ADVENTURES ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH!!!

PRESENTED BY ED THE WIZARD



Where: Sandisfield Library (23 Sandisfield Rd.)
Time: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

What: Treasure Hunt for Rings, Dubloons, Tattoos, and Gem Stones
Each Pirate receives an eye patch, pirate hat, treasure chest to fill and a balloon sword. Cookies and Ice Cream after.

Sponsored by the Sandisfield Cultural Council and the Sandisfield Free Public Library

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
*Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:00am-11:30am. Drop in. *Location change for 10/22 & 10/29	*Lenox Play @ Lenox Community Center, 10am-11am. Drop in.	*Brain Builders @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Registration required.	*Lee Gym, Crossways Gym, 10am-11am. Drop in.
	*Sing & Dance @ Bushnell-Sage Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*New Marlborough Storytime @ New Marlborough Library, 10:00am-11:00am. Drop in.	*Let's Hike @ Parsons Marsh/Lenox 10th & 24th, 10:00am. Registration required.	
	*StoryWalk Opening Day @ The Mount, October 1st, 10am-3pm.	*No program 10/22	*Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes, October 16th, 7pm Zoom.	

***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 Anina @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main St/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly program will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in. *Location change for 10/22 & 10/29, program will be held at the Sandisfield Library/23 Sandisfield Road.
- Sing & Dance with Michelle @ Bushnell-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 GB 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 10:30. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirekids@gmail.com
- 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.
- Let's Hike with Taylor October 10th & 24th @ Parsons Marsh/Lenox 10:00am. Join us for this outdoor classroom. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirekids@gmail.com
- Lee Gym @ Crossways Gym, 21 Crossways Street/Keel Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this gym time program with balls, blocks, books and more! Drop in.
- StoryWalk @ The Mount, October 1st Opening Day, 10am-3pm. Join us for opening day and visit with South Berkshire Kids staff, we will be handing out learning bags, while supplies last. The walk will be up all month.
- Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes, October 16th Zoom, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirekids@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook | Visit us online for additional resources & information | Follow us on Twitter

www.SouthBerkshireKids.org | www.Mass211.org

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Mark your calendars!
Join us from the comfort of your home!
Parent Workshops with **Scott Noyes on ZOOM!!!**

***Thursday, September 26th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Routines, Rituals & Transitions
Bedtime hassles, homework blues, and dinner-time struggles are challenges this workshop will cover. Whether we are smoothing out the edges on "who had it first" or working with the challenges of a temper tantrum, there are times when every parent could use a few fresh ideas! Find out why bribery, sarcasm, and threats don't work, especially in the long run.

***Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Children's Rivalry
Stop the fighting!! We will learn how to help children with rivalry, competition, resentment, envy, and conflict. This workshop will discuss active listening, working with all feelings, parental fairness, labeling problem children and how to help when children are fighting. Bring your concerns and leave with a few helpful parenting tips!!

***Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**
Topic: Supporting Positive Social Emotional Development
Realizing that a child's first relationships are crucial to the ones that follow, this presentation looks at attachment research and the efforts adults can make to help children gain these vital skills.

****Registration required to receive the Zoom link.**
Email Jessica: southberkshirekids@gmail.com
***Participants who sign up AND attend will be entered to win a Barnes & Noble gift card.**

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS
MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care

2023-2024 FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

Otis Library StoryWalk

Different by Heather Avis, illustrated by Sarah Mensinga

This joyful rhyming book encourages children to value the "different" in all people, leading the way to a kinder world in which the differences in all of us are celebrated and embraced. Macy is a girl who's a lot like you and me, but she's also quite different, which is a great thing to be.

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