



# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

10/31/2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG

MON., NOVEMBER 4th

### ELECTION DAY/COUNTY-WIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TUES., NOVEMBER 5th

NO SCHOOL

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

WED., NOVEMBER 6 - 3:30 PM

### MULTIBANDS FIELD TRIP

THURS., NOVEMBER 7

(Grades 5 & 6 - leaving at 8:30 AM  
and will be back in time for regular  
dismissal)

### VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

MON., NOVEMBER 11

NO SCHOOL

### VETERANS DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

TUES., NOVEMBER 12

BRUNCH 9:00 AM

ASSEMBLY - 9:45 AM

### PARENT TEACHER

### CONFERENCES

THURS., NOVEMBER 14

½ DAY OF SCHOOL

### Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we head into November, we're all getting ready for an inspiring Professional Development Day ahead! Our teachers will focus on data analysis to enhance student outcomes and refine their instructional practices and strategies to improve student resilience and independence. Paraprofessionals will engage in meaningful growth through mini-courses covering topics like supporting instruction, behavior management, and assisting students with disabilities. In addition, our art, music, technology, and PE teachers will attend subject-specific sessions, acquiring innovative strategies to enrich their instruction. Even our nursing and kitchen staff will participate in sessions to enhance their practices, ensuring a well-rounded support system for our students. We're eager to see how these fresh ideas will enhance the student experience across all disciplines and foster creativity in our classrooms. This investment in professional growth reflects our commitment to providing the best educational opportunities for our students.

We are also looking forward to our annual **Veterans Day Brunch and Assembly** on **November 12**. This is always a special day at our school, where we honor and celebrate our local veterans. Our staff will provide a delicious brunch, and the students—led by our music department—will perform a selection of songs they have been rehearsing. Students will also share poems, cards, and other creative expressions of gratitude. One of our regular veteran attendees, Tom Soules, recently shared his excitement, saying, "It will be the best event our local veterans attend all year!" We are honored to make this event as memorable as possible for those who have served our country.

Included in this newsletter and your email is the sign up link for upcoming **Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 14**. We look forward to connecting with you and discussing your child's progress! Thanks for being such great supporters of our school community! I can't wait to see you at some of our upcoming events!

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"**

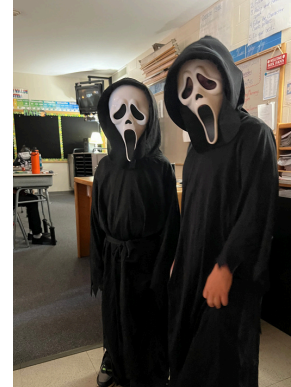
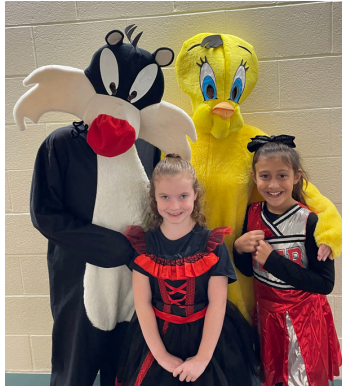
— **Martin Luther King Jr.**



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



The PreK through Grade 1 Halloween costume parade was a delightful display of creativity, with little witches, superheroes, villains, cheerleaders, and more joyfully marching down the hallway and in classrooms, their excitement lighting up the school!



## PUMPKIN CARVING

The staff pumpkin carving contest was a lively showcase of creativity, with each staff member unveiling their unique and spooky designs. Students eagerly cast their votes for the most spooktacular pumpkin!



The students have spoken and the winner of the Staff Pumpkin Carving Contest is: **Caramel Apple made by Ms. Bridget**





# ALL SCHOOL WALK: BLUE FOR BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

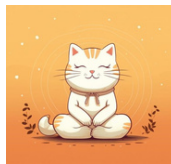
The school-wide all-school walk for mental health awareness was a vibrant event, uniting students and staff in support of this important cause. Students were energized as they strolled together, proudly joined by our spirited dragon mascot, who encouraged everyone to spread positivity and promote mental well-being. The walk not only raised awareness but also fostered a sense of community and solidarity among all students and staff!



With the holidays around the corner, we'll shift our focus to kindness, empathy, and gratitude for the next couple of months during our SEL class time. Students will explore how to express thankfulness and appreciate the little things in life. Although most love the holiday season, for some students it can be a challenging time. It is always helpful to remind everyone to be kind to all and have a great deal of empathy and gratitude for all. A lovely way to nurture this is by starting a gratitude journal or sharing what they're thankful for during family meals.

## SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR'S CORNER

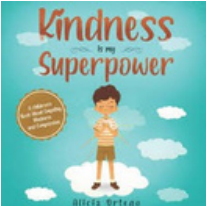
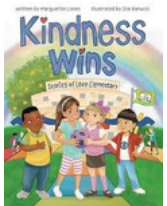
As we welcome the cozy autumn months, I'm excited to share some thoughts and resources to support our wonderful students' social and emotional well-being. This time of year reminds us to embrace gratitude, and kindness as we connect.



Mindfulness can help our children feel calm and centered. Simple practices like deep breathing or gentle meditation can be wonderful tools. Apps like **Calm** or **Headspace** have kid-friendly resources to explore.



### SEL BOOKS OF THE MONTH:





# SAFETY FIRST: BUS EVACUATION DRILL

Last Tuesday, the bus evacuation drill was executed smoothly and successfully, with students demonstrating excellent cooperation and attention to safety procedures. Guided by staff, everyone efficiently practiced exiting the bus, reinforcing their preparedness for any potential emergencies. The drill not only boosted confidence among students but also highlighted the importance of teamwork in ensuring everyone's safety.



## 5TH GRADE NEWS:

Our 5th grade students have been exploring many different topics so far this year. We have completed a Science unit on Earth's place in the Solar System as well as built a model about the relationship between the Sun, Earth, and Moon. Currently, students are learning about the water cycle, gaining an understanding of how water moves through our environment in its various forms. They've been studying evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection, and how these processes interact in a continuous loop. It's been a great opportunity for them to deepen their connection to the natural world around them.

Meanwhile, in Social Studies, 5th graders are taking a journey back in time to the beginnings of Colonial America. They've been learning about the early settlers, their daily lives, and the challenges they faced in the New World. Students have been reading about the first colonies like Jamestown and Plymouth, learning about the interactions between European settlers and Native American tribes, and how these encounters shaped the early history of the United States.

In Math, students have worked through the first three chapters of Go Math!, which lay the foundation for key concepts they'll build upon throughout the year. The focus has been on place value, multiplication, and division, as well as basic algebraic thinking. In Chapter 1, students worked to strengthen their understanding of place value with numbers into the millions, ensuring they can read, write, and compare large numbers. As they moved into Chapter 2, they were mastering multi-digit multiplication using a variety of strategies, including the standard algorithm, and Chapter 3 has helped them sharpen their skills with long division. Through a combination of problem-solving exercises, group activities, and interactive lessons, students are gaining the confidence to tackle more complex math problems as the year progresses.



In ELA, our 5th graders are focusing on sentence structure—a fundamental aspect of writing that will serve them well in all subjects. They have been learning how to craft clear, grammatically correct sentences, starting with understanding the difference between simple and compound sentences. As they practice identifying subjects and predicates, students are gaining an appreciation for how to use conjunctions to join ideas and add variety to their writing. Through daily writing exercises and sentence-building activities, they are developing stronger sentence fluency, which will help them in future writing assignments, whether they're crafting essays, stories, or reports. We have also incorporated paragraph and essay writing, on topics from Science and Social Studies, into our ELA block.

The 5th graders recently partnered with our Pre-K and Early-K students for reading buddies. This was a great opportunity for the younger students to see the older students reading in action. We are planning on continuing this activity on a weekly basis. A big shout out to Mrs. Hamill, Ms. Egan, and Ms. Daley for helping to make this happen!



# GRADE 2

Second graders eagerly dive into hands-on science experiments exploring the states of matter. They have been learning about how matter changes from one state to another. As they experiment with different materials they discover that some items float while others sink. They learn that not all liquid is created equally and density is important! They look on in amazement as they watch rubber gloves inflate with air, transforming their understanding of gases. Through these engaging activities, the young scientists not only learn about solids, liquids, and gases but also develop critical thinking skills and a love for exploration



## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: SIGN UP LINK!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up in just a few weeks on **Thursday, November 14th**, from 12:30 - 4:30 PM and 5:15 - 6:45 PM.

We strongly encourage you to sign up for your conference(s) no later than Tuesday, November 12th, to give teachers enough time to prepare.

Click the following link to sign-up: <https://form.jotform.com/cstamm/2024-2025-FRES-parent-teacher>

## Farmington River Elementary

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**VETERANS DAY**  
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**ASSEMBLY & BRUNCH**  
**November 12th**

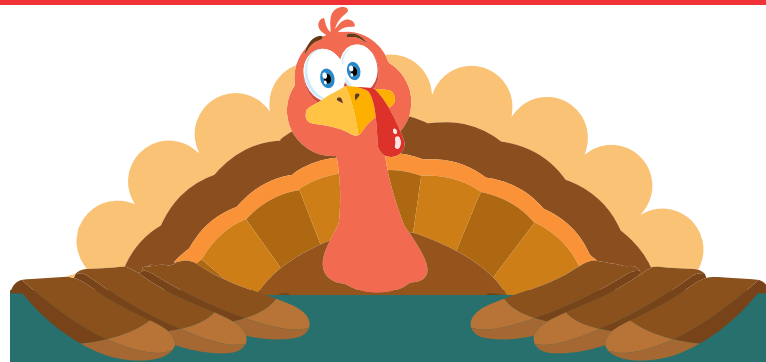
Farmington River Elementary School would like to formally invite Veterans and other members of the Community on **Tuesday, November 12th** to join us in honoring, celebrating, and thanking our veterans for their service!

**Brunch @ 9:00 AM** (Veterans & their guests only)  
**Assembly @ 9:45 AM** (open to all community!)

at the Farmington River Elementary School

Call 413-269-4466 to Sign-Up  
or at the link below:

<https://forms.gle/du1bgMvFwQxxa9o27>



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

As is our tradition, we will be collecting food for the local families again this year.

Below is a list by grade of suggested donations.

**PreK/EK:** Paper products - sandwich bags, foil, napkins, etc.

**Kindergarten:** Snacks - popcorn, peanuts, pretzels, crackers, granola bars, dried fruit.

**Grades 1 & 2:** Boxed Goods - pancake mix, cereal, oatmeal, cake mix, pudding, stuffing

**Grades 3 & 4:** Canned Goods - soup, gravy, vegetables, fruit, pie filling, pickles, olives, peanut butter, cranberry sauce

**Grade 5:** Drinks - juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate

**Grade 6:** Staples - pasta, rice, flour, sugar, seasonings, ketchup mustard.

**Please have donations turned in by November 21st.  
The teachers and staff will provide the turkeys.**



# PTA UPDATE

**Ski and Snowboard Program Registration is Open!** It's time to register for the 2025 Otis Ridge Ski and Snowboard program -- spots are limited, and we're about 3/4 full at this point. This year's program is open to students in grades 1 through 6 and runs for six weeks with a one hour lesson each week. [Click here to register](#) and email [pta@frrsd.org](mailto:pta@frrsd.org) with questions. Register today so your student doesn't miss out! See you on the slopes! And think snow!

**Thunderbirds Hockey!** Ticket order forms were sent home in backpacks for the PTA-sponsored January 26 Thunderbirds Hockey game in Springfield! Forms are due November 15 so we can secure our seats! Email [phil@magovern.com](mailto:phil@magovern.com) with questions or if you need a new order form.

**Feeding Teachers for Parent Teacher Conferences:** The PTA is once again feeding our teachers so they have the stamina and energy to enjoy a full day of Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 14. If you'd like to help, please email [pta@frrsd.org](mailto:pta@frrsd.org) to sign up!

## LOCAL EVENTS

**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](http://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](http://www.southernberkshirehealth.com)

Berkshire Waldorf School's

# 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY HANDCRAFT FAIR

**Saturday, November 16, 2024**  
 10am-4pm | Rain or Shine  
 Free Admission and Parking

**BERKSHIRE WALDORF SCHOOL**  
 Waldorf Education in the Berkshires since 1971

For more information, call 413.528.4015 or visit [berkshirewaldorfschool.org](http://berkshirewaldorfschool.org)  
 35 West Plain Road | Great Barrington MA

Don't miss a chance to bid in our ONLINE AUCTION and support our tuition assistance program!



# Annual Holiday Fair!

Co-Sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society & Recreation Committee

**12/07/2024 10AM-2PM**

**SANTA ARRIVES AT 11AM**

- OVER 40 VENDORS
- HOLIDAY CRAFTING
- VISIT FROM SANTA
- PENNY AUCTION

Join the fun!

Fire Station #2 Rt #57  
 207 Sandisfield Rd  
 Sandisfield, MA

[sandisfieldevents.com/recreationcommittee/info](http://sandisfieldevents.com/recreationcommittee/info)

**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, resentfulness, 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](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)**  
**\*Participants who sign up AND attend will be entered to win a Barnes & Noble gift card.**

**2023-2024 FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES**

## Otis Library StoryWalk



**Creepy Crayon!** Written by Aaron Reynolds  
 Illustrated by Pete Brown

Jasper Rabbit finds a purple crayon in the gutter that seems to want to help him with his schoolwork. At first, everything goes great but the crayon starts acting weird and Jasper must find a way to get rid of it.

WHEN: Throughout the month of October.

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

**SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS**

South Berkshire Kids  
 CFCE Grant  
**October 2024**  
 Program Schedule

\* If you have further questions, please contact Jess at 413-464-5095 [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
*Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:30am-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.	*Richmond Reads @ Richmond Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	
	*StoryWalk Opening Day @ The Mount, October 1st, 10am-3pm.	*Let's Hike @ Parsons Marsh/Lenox October 10th & 24th, 10:00am. Registration required.	*Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes, October 16th, 7pm-9pm.	

**\*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 Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly playgroup 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 Rd.
- 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 10:30-11:30. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing Jess at [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> @ Parsons Marsh/Lenox 10:00am. Join us for this outdoor classroom. Registration required by emailing Jess at [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)
- Lee Gym @ Crossways Gym**, 21 Crossways Street/Kee/Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this gym time playgroup 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 16<sup>th</sup> Zoom, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Registration required by emailing Jess at [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)

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