

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PTA MEETING

THURS., DEC. 5 @ 7:00 PM

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

THURS., DEC. 6 @ 3:15 PM

DENTAL CLINIC

MON., DEC. 9

PTA HOLIDAY SHOP

THURS. DEC. 12 - FRI., DEC. 13

WINTER CONCERT

THURS., DEC. 19 @ 6:00 PM (PTA Baked Potato Dinner will begin at 5:00 PM)

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL

FRI., DEC. 20

WINTER BREAK

DEC. 23 - JAN. 1

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

12/05/2024

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we enter the busy and exciting holiday season, I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of staying focused on academics and completing homework during this time. While the festivities bring joy and togetherness, maintaining consistent routines and study habits is essential for your child's continued success. Setting aside time each day for reading, practicing math facts, or completing assignments can help students stay on track and feel confident as we move into the second half of the school year.

You recently received your child's standards-based report card, and I'd like to take a moment to explain why we chose this approach over traditional letter grades. Standards-based report cards focus on specific skills and learning objectives aligned to state and national standards, providing a clearer picture of your child's strengths and areas for growth. Unlike traditional grades, which can sometimes be influenced by factors like participation or extra credit, standards-based grades reflect your child's progress toward mastering each standard. If a standard has not been fully met yet, it doesn't mean your child isn't doing well-it simply indicates that they are still developing that particular skill, which is normal at this stage of learning.

When reviewing the report card, focus on the specific areas marked as "progressing" or "meeting" the standards. This gives you a better understanding of where to support your child at home. If you have questions, your child's teacher is always available to help clarify and provide quidance.

As we celebrate the holidays, let's also celebrate the acts of kindness and community spirit that make our school so special. I want to highlight the incredible response to our Thanksgiving food drive. Seeing students, families, and staff come together to help others reminds me of how much we can accomplish as a school community when we work together.

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season filled with quality time together.

Sincerely, Laurie Flower, Principal

"Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day." - Jim Rohn (Author & Entrepreneur)



ALL SCHOOL WALK

Our second All-School Walk of the year was a great success, with students, teachers, and staff coming together to enjoy a fun and active walk. It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our school community, promote healthy habits, and appreciate the outdoors.











LAUNCHING THE ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

We are excited to introduce Accelerated Reader to our students at Farmington River! Students can read an AR book, take the online quiz at school, and earn points!! Students will earn certificates when they reach certain point milestones:

> 5: DRAGON AWARD 15: SPIRIT AWARD

> > 30: HYDRA

75 : FIRE

150 : DRACO

225 : BEAST

300: Monster

375 : SERPENT

450: DRAGONET 525: MYTHICAL "NAME"

600: WYVERN

675: FIREDRAKE



Students can also earn a reward by participating in this program. The first reward will be time in the library to build with legos and play board games for students who earn enough points by January 17th! We want to kick off this program and get students excited about reading! To begin, students in K need to earn 1 point; 1st graders earn 2 points; 2nd graders earn 3 points; 3rd graders earn 4 points; and 4th-6th graders earn 5 points.

GRADE 3 IS ALL SHAKEN UP!





In third grade we shared a modest Thanksgiving snack of bread and butter to show thanks for our classroom and our friendships that have been created in our warm and cozy school. We learned all the steps to make butter from scratch and created this delicious treat together. This was a wonderful hands on science and social studies lesson that left us with thankful hearts and full tummies.

LEARNING ABOUT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY & COPPER!



In third grade we have been reading and learning about the Statue of Liberty in our new HMH reading curriculum. After learning all about the statue, we did a science experiment with

copper pennies in order to mimic the process of how Lady Liberty turned green over time. The 3rd graders learned that the green hue that is on copper that has been weathered is called patina. This was an engaging and meaningful activity that incorporated both our reading and science curriculum.

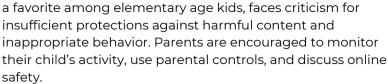






PROTECTING KIDS ONLINE: ROBLOX & TIKTOK SAFETY

Recent reports highlight online risks in popular apps like Roblox and TikTok. Roblox,



Similarly, TikTok's engaging content may expose kids to inappropriate material or privacy concerns. Utilize its Family Pairing feature and regularly review privacy settings. Open dialogue with your child about digital boundaries ensures safer and more positive online experiences.

Schools and families play a large role in fostering digital literacy. Encourage children to recognize and report suspicious activity, avoid sharing personal information, and develop a healthy balance between screen time and offline activities. Building these habits early helps children navigate the digital world responsibly and securely.

The full articles provide more detail and offer suggestions of things you can implement to help keep your kids safe.

https://kotaku.com/roblox-hindenburg-report-pedophile-hellscapefor-kids-1851668649

https://www.parents.com/kids/safety/internet/is-tiktok-safe-for-kids

GIRLS ON THE RUN 5KI









KINDERGARTEN READING & WRITING CENTERS!



pencil correctly, and develop listening and attention skills that help them follow instructions and engage with stories. Social skills, such as taking turns and







AT'S HAPPENING IN ART CLASS?



Before Thanksigivng, PreK, EK, and K students practiced sculpture skills by creating turkeys with modeling clay!

All students in all grades were invited to paint ornaments for Otis Town Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 7th. Their ornaments will be on display on the Town Hall's Tree though the holidays. Everyone is invited to attend the tree lighting ceremony on Saturday at 4 pm.







In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, students in grades 4 and 5 created a giant Talevera Tile using puzzle pieces and papel picados (hanging paper banners). 3rd Grade celebrated by making alebrejas (spirit animal guides).





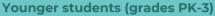
REMINDER: APPROPRIATE RECESS ATTIRE



feel like 15 degrees or above.







and pants.



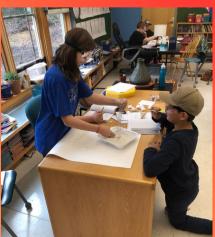
recommended for students in grades 4-6; however, we trust our older ensuring they stay warm and dry



GRADE 6: THANSGIVING BASKETS & WIND EROSION!



Sixth graders are pictured here sorting food for our school's food basket drive. It is a long standing tradition that sixth graders collect all of the donations from classrooms, and sort the foods in the cafeteria. With the help of Mrs. Bush, the students were able to organize foods for twenty different FRRSD families.



Sixth graders are pictured here conducting an experiment demonstrating wind erosion using our KnowAtom science their data to determine if sand dunes with plants erode faster with wind. compared to regular sand dunes. Student partnerships designed will present their data in a



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 19, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

PK/EK/K IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE @ 9:00 AM

PK/EK/K IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE:

PreK, EarlyK, and Kindergarten will also have an in-school morning performance at 9:00 AM that day if you would like to attend. This should take no longer than 15 minutes. from beginning to end. PK/EK and Kindergarten will also be on the program to perform at the 6:00 PM program. We encourage you to return for the all-school evening concert with your little ones but understand if their bedtimes keep you at home.

PARKING: We want to ensure safe parking so we have made the following arrangements:

- We will have a parking attendant who will direct families to available spaces.
- Families may park on the left-hand side of the circular driveway, but the right-hand side must be left open for emergency vehicles per the order of the police department.
- The Otis DPW has kindly offered their parking lot for overflow and we will be running shuttle vans back and forth from the school to the Otis DPW located at 1 N Main Rd, Otis, MA 01253.
- There is no parking on Route 8 near the school.
- Staff parking will be on the back playground so it will be closed for the evening.

PTA BAKED POTATO DINNER:



Join the PTA for a Baked Potato Dinner before the Winter Concert! From 5:00 - 6:00 PM, families and community members will enjoy loaded baked potatoes, drinks, and dessert in the FRES Cafeteria.

Dinners are \$5 each, or 3 for \$10 (with additional dinners priced at \$3 each) and are first, come first served.

Joining us? Click here to reserve your potato!

PTA UPDATE



Otis Ridge Ski Program Update - Registration for the Otis Ridge SKi and Snowboard program is still open with 15 spots left! Less than a dozen ski lesson spots are still open, so click here to register your student today to secure their spot! Email PTA@frrsd.org with questions.

Holiday Shop is Next Week! - Next Thursday and Friday, students will have the opportunity to purchase gifts for family & friends in the PTA Holiday Shop. Watch for more information and a helpful shopping form in backpacks. Interested in volunteering to help? SIGN UP LINK: https://signup.com/go/khgtAbE



LOCAL EVENTS



of participants by December 1,

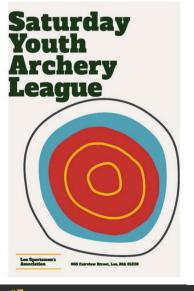
2nd Annual Community Tree Lighting Event

SAT., DECEMBER 7th 4:00 PM Otis Town Hall

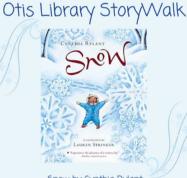
Bring the entire family!

Hot Chocolate Station. Holiday Caroling, and a visit from Santa!





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



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 enjou a snowu dau with loved ones.

WHEN: Throughout the month of December

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

