



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

02/27/2025

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we move into March, we have several exciting events and important reminders to share. Next week, we will be celebrating Read Across America in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd. Reading is a wonderful way to inspire curiosity and imagination, and we encourage families to set aside time to read together at home. Whether it's a favorite bedtime story or a new book, fostering a love of reading helps build strong lifelong learners.

We are also thrilled to announce that the PTA is sponsoring a Skydome Planetarium Assembly on Friday, March 7th! This interactive, immersive experience will take students on a journey through space, sparking their curiosity about the universe. We are incredibly grateful to the PTA for making this possible, and we know it will be a memorable experience for our students.

As a reminder, Wellness Night is coming up on April 3rd at 4:30 PM. This annual event is a great opportunity for families to engage in fun activities focused on health, mindfulness, and overall well-being. We hope to see you there!

With Daylight Saving Time beginning on Sunday, March 10th, don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour. The time change can be an adjustment for children, so gradually shifting bedtimes in the days leading up to it can help ease the transition.

Finally, as the days get longer and (hopefully) warmer, we encourage students to spend more time outdoors. Outdoor play is essential for physical and mental well-being, helping kids stay active, build social skills, and enjoy fresh air. Whether it's playing outside, riding a bike, or exploring nature, unstructured outdoor time is a valuable part of childhood.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a great month ahead!

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**"The important thing is not to stop questioning.
Curiosity has its own reason for existing."**

— Albert Einstein

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG.

MON., MARCH 3 @ 5:00 PM

RDA MEETING @ 6:00 PM

TRIMESTER 2 GRADES CLOSE

FRI., MARCH 7

**PTA SKYDOME
PLANETARIUM ASSEMBLY**

FRI., MARCH 7



GRADES GO HOME

THURS., MARCH 13



1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL

**Professional Development for
Staff - FRI., MARCH 14**

MARIONETTES ASSEMBLY

"The Dragon King"

TUES., MARCH 18

MAHAWE FIELD TRIP

GRADES 1 AND 2

WEDS., MARCH 19





FRRSD CELEBRATES GLOBAL PLAY DAY

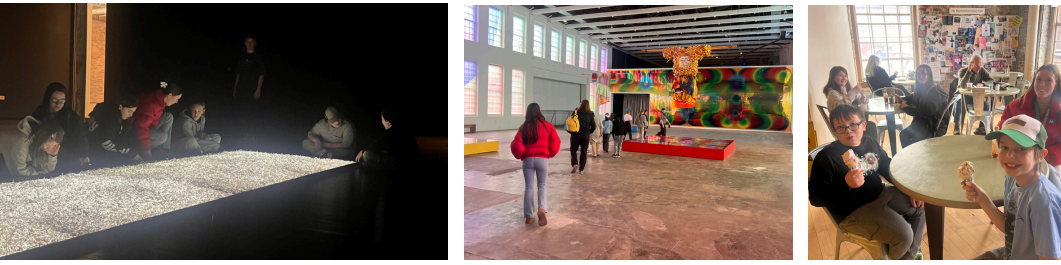


Farmington River participated in Global Play Day this year! The initiative provided a break from traditional lessons, promoting creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through various games and activities like building with blocks, playing board games, and imaginative role-playing. Students across many grade levels came together to explore new ways of interacting, and it was a day full of laughter, collaboration, and discovery, highlighting the importance of play in child development and fostering a sense of community within the school.



VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT WITH SPIRIT SQUAD

On Global Play Day, Wednesday, February 5th, FRRSD Student Council Sponsored an after school Volleyball Tournament complete with cheering from the newly formed Student Council Spirit Squad. Two teams, the Jaguars and Panthers, were randomly selected from students in grades 4 through 6, who played for the championship title in a best of 3 game match. Spectators, parents and the spirit squad cheered on both teams as they played two very close games, with the Jaguars coming out on top to win the title!



6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO MASS MOCA:

The 6th grade class had an amazing field trip to MASS MoCA, where they explored installation art and the fascinating ways technology is integrated into modern art! Highlights included: Osman Khan's "The Oasis," which featured a large cow made out of butter, James Turrell's mesmerizing optical illusions created with light, and Laurie Anderson's exhibit on storytelling. It was a day full of inspiration, blending art, technology, and creativity in unforgettable ways and even concluded with ice cream!

A huge thank you to the Taconic Fire Fund for sponsoring the 6th grade's visit to MASS MoCA!



KINDERGARTEN READ ALOUD DAY



Kindergarten students enthusiastically participated in Read Aloud Day, listening to author Pete Oswald read aloud his book "The Big Cheese". They were engaged and excited as they enjoyed the story and its lively illustrations learning about humility and that some things are better than being the best!



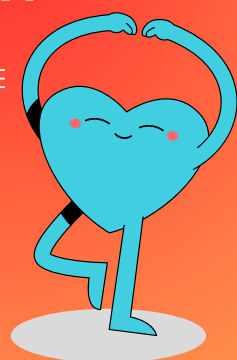
SAVE THE DATE!

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

WELLNESS NIGHT

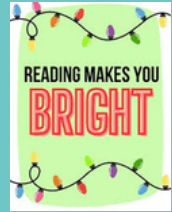
APRIL 3RD, 2025
4:30 - 6:30 PM

DROP IN FOR SOME HEALTHY SNACKS AND TO LEARN ABOUT HEALTH, WELLNESS, YOGA, LOCAL HIKES AND MORE!



2025 READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK!

MARCH 3RD – 7TH, 2025



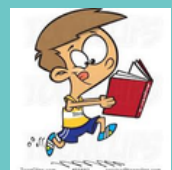
MONDAY 3/3:
READING MAKES YOU BRIGHT!
Wear bright colors!



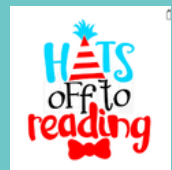
TUESDAY 3/4:
WE ARE WILD ABOUT READING!
Wear your Wild Animal Print!



WEDNESDAY 3/5:
READING IS RELAXING!
Dress in your favorite comfy, relaxing clothes!



THURSDAY 3/6:
READING IS ACTIVE!
Dress in your workout or sports gear!



FRIDAY 3/7:
HATS OFF TO READING!
Wear your favorite or funky hat



ACCELERATED READER AWARD WINNERS!

as of noon on 2/26/25

DRAGON (5 PTS):

- Lotus S. (1st)
- Clementine G. (1st)
- Ryan R. (1st)
- Isla M. (1st)
- Mila A. (2nd)
- Hazel G. (2nd)
- Mackenzie (2nd)
- Ryan B. (2nd)
- Charlie C. (3rd)
- Declan (3rd)
- Thaila F. (3rd)
- Indica S. (3rd)
- Mason T. (3rd)
- Caden D. (3rd)
- Leah F. (3rd)
- Sparrow K. (3rd)
- Ronan S. (3rd)
- Madison T. (3rd)
- Maewen W. (3rd)
- Lucas W. (3rd)
- Alyssa C. (3rd)
- Saul W. (4th)
- Griffin S. (4th)
- Jackson (5th)
- John B. (5th)
- Thalia C. (5th)
- Lilianna N. (5th)
- Ava S. (5th)
- Pip C. (6th)
- Alex G. (6th)
- Satpal G. (6th)
- Olivia L. (6th)
- Tori R.
- Ryder S. (6th)

SPIRIT (15 PTS):

- Logan W. (1st)
- Travis R. (4th)
- John B. (5th)
- Shawn C. (5th)
- Alex G. (6th)
- Ryder (6th)

HYDRA (30 PTS):

- Beatrice (3rd)

FIRE (75 PTS):

- Harlan (5th)

DRACO (150 PTS):

- Tori R. (6th)

HAPPY READING!

SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT

The School Committee of the Farmington River Regional School District invites families and community members to a public information session about proposed revisions to the Regional District Agreement (RDA)

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2025 @ 6:00 PM FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

ZOOM LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.FRRSD.ORG



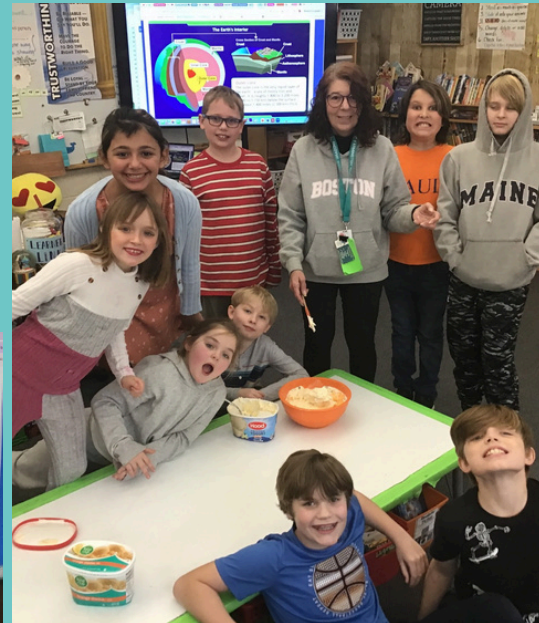
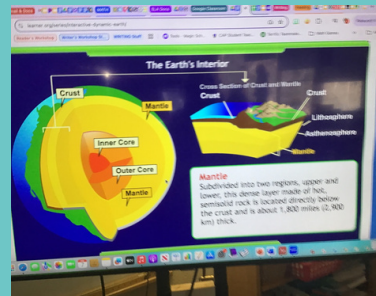
Come and learn about why changes to the RDA are being considered, what the changes include and what the changes mean in terms of costs to towns and the future of the school district.

This session will dive into applying new RDA assessment methods to the projected 2025-2026 budget.

**CHILDCARE
WILL BE
PROVIDED!**

4TH GRADERS CREATE THE LAYERS OF EARTH WITH MRS. C!

Using sherbert, ice cream, m&ms, and creativity the fourth graders applied their knowledge about the layers of the earth to create a yummy replica! Mrs. C brought along her expertise in both teaching and science by leading this fun lesson to bring our learning to life. With each layer they discussed the facts they knew and then got to enjoy their tasty creations in the afternoon. Thank you Mrs. C for doing this great lesson with us!



SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR'S CORNER

February is a time for Kindness and Connection! We are diving into ways to express our feelings in a positive way. As well as understanding others social cues (body language, tone of voice, and facial expressions). I am continuing to connect with children and help them learn to manage their big feelings in the classroom, small groups and 1:1 sessions, and help them make stronger connections by making positive choices.



LET'S MAKE FEBRUARY A MONTH OF KINDNESS:

- Model Kindness:** Praise and use kind words at school and home.
- Talk About Feelings:** Name the Feeling – Help your child name their emotions ("I see you're feeling frustrated.")
- Practice Calm Downs:** Try using a breathing strategy your child has learned, a quiet moment, or counting to 10 when having big feelings.
- Talk About Friendships:** Encourage problem-solving and discuss strategies and use empathy when challenges arise with friends.



One way to show kindness is to read to others, below is our 4th grade friend, Cora reading the book: *A Spot Of Love* to the kindergarten class.

MCAS PARENT TIPS: HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH TEST ANXIETY

With MCAS fast approaching, students often have test anxiety. Listed below are some tips for parents to help their child with test anxiety.

- 1 Find out what makes your child nervous about test taking and find strategies to help.
- 2 Talk to your child about using positive self-talk, some examples include, "I can do this", "I am calm and focused", "I will take my time and do my best".
- 3 Talk to your child about using calming strategies including taking deep breaths or visualizing a calming place when feeling anxious during the test.
- 4 Talk to your child's teacher about your child's test anxiety and brainstorm strategies together to find ways to deal with test anxiety and determine if the child qualifies for accommodations.
- 5 Build strong study habits by working with your child to set up a "study mindset".
- 6 Prepare your child for a test by having them get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on the day of the test.
- 7 Boost your child's confidence by praising efforts for homework completion, daily reading and praise past efforts.
- 8 Talk to your child about accepting and learning from mistakes, be proud of their efforts without putting an emphasis on getting a perfect score.
- 9 Talk to your child about test taking strategies including taking their time, flagging questions that they are struggling with and returning to those questions when needed.
- 10 Talk to your child about using strategies for multiple choice questions including crossing off wrong answers and then choosing between two. If unsure of the answer, select the one that makes more sense.
- 11 Talk to your child about strategies for short answer and essay questions including creating a graphic organizer or using the state approved graphic organizer (if that is an accommodation that your child receives). Using a graphic organizer will help your child organize their ideas.
- 12 **ON TEST DAY, REMIND YOUR CHILD TO DO THEIR BEST!**

MORNING BUS REMINDER FOR FAMILIES

To ensure a smooth and timely pickup for all students, we kindly ask families to have their children waiting outside and ready when the bus arrives in the morning.

- ✓ Be outside 10 minutes before the scheduled pickup time.
- ✓ Have all belongings packed and ready to go.
- ✓ Help keep our bus routes on schedule for all students.

Thank you for your cooperation in making morning pickups safe and efficient!

If you have any questions about bus schedules, please contact the school office.

AR REWARD PARTY



Before the break, students who earned enough AR points for reading were able to participate in an AR Reward Party! Students in 1st - 6th had a fun time playing

various board and card games, and building legos together! Congratulations to the winners & keep reading!



REMINDER: APPROPRIATE RECESS ATTIRE



Students will have outdoor recess if temperatures **feel like 20 degrees** or above.

Please ensure they arrive at school dressed appropriately with coats, hats, and gloves.



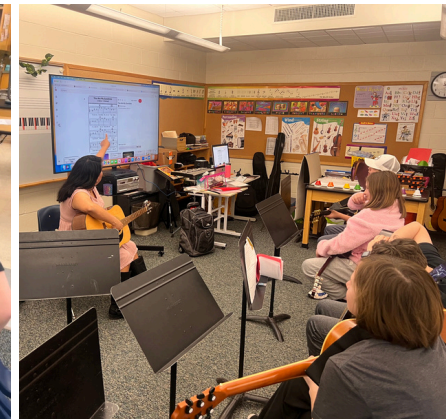
Younger students (grades PK-3) eager to explore the snow beyond the cleared blacktop will need snow boots and pants.

Boots and snow pants are recommended for students in **grades 4-6**; however, we trust our older students to make responsible choices, ensuring they stay warm and dry while enjoying their time outside.



GUITAR & KEYBOARD LESSONS WITH MS. ISABEL

Ms. Isabel's guitar and keyboard lessons have been a great success so far this year, with students in grades 4-6 participating in small group sessions during the school day. The students have shown impressive progress, learning new techniques and building their musical skills. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for music grow as they explore both instruments, and the small group setting has allowed for personalized attention and a collaborative learning environment.



JOIN OUR TEAM AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!

Are you looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a difference in our school community? Farmington River Elementary is seeking enthusiastic and dedicated substitute teachers to support our students and staff. Whether you're a retired teacher, a recent graduate, or someone who loves working with children, we'd love to hear from you!

Substitute teaching offers flexibility and the chance to be part of our vibrant school community. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact us at frontoffice@frrsd.org for more details.

LOCAL EVENTS

KNOX MOVIE NIGHT! MONDAY, MARCH 10TH



**SNACKS, FOOD, DRINKS 4:30-6PM
SHOWTIME 6-8PM
\$5 FOR KIDS | ADULTS FREE**

**Come comfy in your pajamas...
pillows & blankets are suggested!**

1898 east otis rd. east otis, ma 413-269-4400

SWE@SMITH PRESENTS

**INTRODUCE A GIRL TO
ENGINEERING DAY 2025**

**SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

March 8, 2025

Curious about Engineering?
Come join an engineering workshop
facilitated by Smith College
engineering students and learn
how you can make a sustainable
future!
(Grades 6 - 8)

For more information,
email swe@smith.edu

Register Here!

South Berkshire Kids
CFCE Grant
February 2025
Program Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
*Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee, Mondays 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. *No program 2/27	*Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:00am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Lenox Play @ Lenox Community Center, 10am-11am. Drop in. *No program 2/25	*Brain Builders @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Registration required.	*Lee Girls Crossways Gym , 10am-11am. Drop in. *No program 2/21
Preschool Yoga @ Yoga Lee, 10:45-11:15. Registration required.	*Sing & Dance @ Bushnell-Sage Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*New Marlborough Storytime @ New Marlborough Library, 10:00am-11:00am. Drop in. *No program 2/19	*Richmond Reads @ Richmond Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. *No program 2/6 & 2/20	

***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.
- Preschool Yoga** @ Yoga Lee, Main Street/Lee. Mondays 10:45-11:15am. This program includes a wonderful combination of yoga, meditation and literacy. For children ages 3-5. Registration is required by emailing Jess at southberkshirkids@gmail.com.
- Otis Explore & Play** with Aniro @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly playgroup will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in.
- 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 10:30am-11:30am. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing Jess at southberkshirkids@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.
- Lee Gym** @ Crossways Gym, 21 Crossways Street/Lee. Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this gym time playgroup with balls, blocks, books and more! Drop in.
- Parent Workshop** with Scott Noyes. Zoom, Wednesday, February 19th 7pm-8:30pm. Topic: Toddler Themes: Tantrums to toilet training. Email Jess at southberkshirkids@gmail.com to sign up and we will send you the zoom link and workshop materials.

Like us on Facebook: [SouthBerkshireKids.org](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBerkshireKids.org)
Visit us online for additional resources & information: www.SouthBerkshireKids.org www.Mass211.org
Follow us on Twitter: [SouthBerkshireKids](https://twitter.com/SouthBerkshireKids)