



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

02/06/2025

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As we step into February, we find ourselves at a pivotal point in the school year: a time for reflection, growth, and new opportunities for learning. With winter in full swing, we continue to emphasize the importance of daily reading, positive school behaviors, and staying engaged in both academics and social development. One exciting event this month is Global School Play Day, a day dedicated to the importance of unstructured play in child development. In a world where technology and adult-structured activities dominate much of our children's time, unstructured play allows students to build essential life skills that go beyond the classroom.

On Global School Play Day, students will have the opportunity to engage in play without screens, organized lessons, or adult intervention. Research continues to show that unstructured play fosters creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and resilience. When children play freely, they learn to negotiate, resolve conflicts, take risks, and develop deeper relationships with their peers. These are critical skills that prepare them not only for academic success but also for life beyond school. At a time when social interactions are often guided by structured activities or digital devices, providing space for genuine, imaginative play is more important than ever.

As a reminder, please ensure students come prepared with warm clothing for outdoor recess, as we believe fresh air and movement are essential even in the winter months. We also encourage families to support students in developing independence and responsibility at home, whether through daily reading, helping with small chores, or making choices about their own playtime.

Looking ahead, Wellness Night is scheduled for April 3rd at 4:30 PM, offering families an opportunity to gather information from local resources about health, safety, nutrition, and more. As always, we appreciate your partnership in supporting our students' academic, social, and emotional growth. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about upcoming activities, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

“PLAY IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF RESEARCH.”
– Albert Einstein

UPCOMING EVENTS:

100TH DAY OF SCHOOL
FRI., FEBRUARY 7

SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THE RDA
MON., FEB 10 @ 6:00 PM

GR. 6 FIELD TRIP: MASS MOCA
WED., FEBRUARY 12

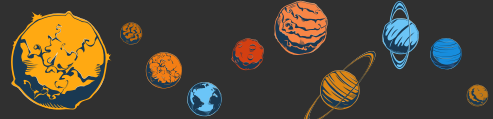


WINTER BREAK
MON., FEB 17 - FRI., FEB 21

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG.
MON., MARCH 3 @ 7:00 PM

TRIMESTER 2 GRADES CLOSE
FRI., MARCH 7

PTA SKYDOME PLANETARIUM ASSEMBLY
FRI., MARCH 7



GRADES GO HOME
THURS., MARCH 13



THE NED SHOW INSPIRES OUR STUDENTS!

Last week, our students had an unforgettable experience at the NED Show Assembly, where they learned about never giving up, encouraging others, doing their best the power of “yet” through an engaging and dynamic performance by our presenter, Noah. His energy and storytelling captivated students as he combined important life lessons with humor, audience participation, and impressive yo-yo tricks. The assembly was not only entertaining but also a powerful reminder of the importance of perseverance and kindness. A huge thank you to our PTA for generously purchasing yo-yos for our students, allowing them to continue practicing the skills and messages they learned. It was an inspiring event that left a lasting impact on our school community!



**THANKS TO THE FRES PTA, ALL STUDENTS
WERE ABLE TO TAKE HOME A NED SHOW YO-YO**

**ASK YOUR STUDENT IF THEY'VE
LEARNED ANY COOL NEW TRICKS YET!**



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER:

FRES AND GATEWAY RSD AWARDED A COMPETITIVE STATE GRANT FOCUSED ON EARLY LITERACY

I am pleased to announce that Farmington River Regional Elementary School is the recipient of a multi-year state grant to support early literacy instruction in grades PK through 3. The Partnership for Reading Success - Massachusetts (PRISM) funds will be awarded to FRES through a collaboration with the Gateway Regional School District.

During the first year of the funding, (2025) schools and districts will use funds for used for planning, data collection, and to identify members of a PRISM Leadership Team. Pending appropriation and the meeting of grant requirements of year one, awarded grantees may be eligible for continuation grant(s) in Fiscal Year(s) 2026-2029 (5 years total).

In years 2-5 of the grant program, PRISM schools will receive significant funding to implement customized early literacy plans that can include professional development, additional staffing to support students in their reading growth, literacy coaches or consultants to support teachers in their work, and instructional materials including model reading programs and early assessments.

As a small rural school, FRES was only eligible for PRISM funds when we applied collaboratively with another rural district. We are grateful to our Gateway for partnering with us in this effort and we are proud to be one of only 15 school districts/partnerships in the state (and the only district partnership west of Holyoke) to receive the support of this grant.

To learn more about PRISM, please visit this [website](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

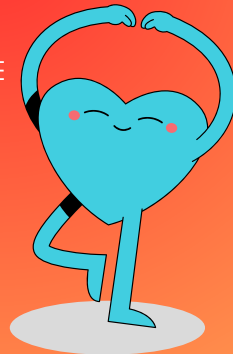
FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

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!

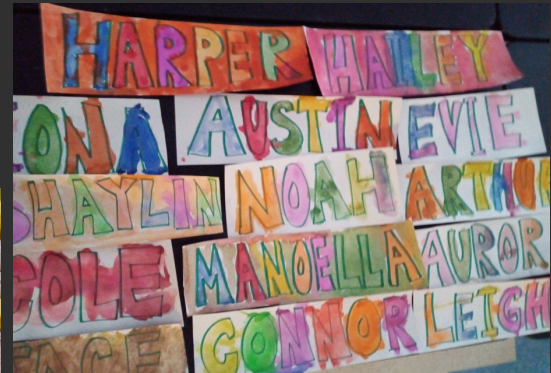
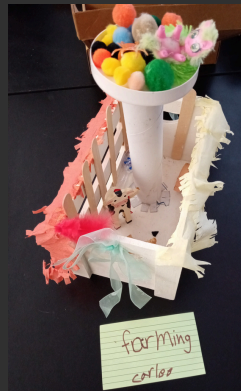


ART CLASSROOM UPDATES:

It's been a busy month in the Art room! 6th graders have been learning about creating art using technology with guest artist, Michael O'Rourke. They are preparing for a field trip to MassMOCA to view large installation pieces and see applications of technology among contemporary artists' work on exhibit there.



5th grade artists explored the works of assemblage artists, such as Louise Nevelsson, and created their own assemblage works using found objects. They are currently working on designs for futuristic vehicles and homes and helping to paint flats for the Spring musical.



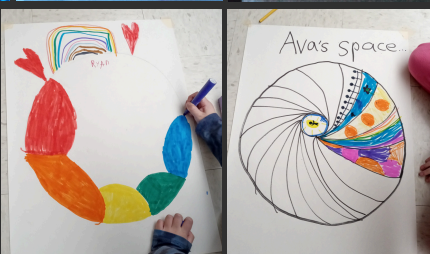
PreK, Ek, and Kindergarten artists practiced skills of painting while creating watercolor name paintings for their bedroom doors. Earlier in the month, they created works of collage and painted colorful winter hats.



3rd and 4th grade artists learned about the process of creating stained glass designs and created "faux" stained glass designs on acetate using tissue paper and black tape.



1st and 2nd grade artists explored creating textures using texture plates and then created their own texture collage. They also created illustrations of their own "personal bubbles" showing the importance of all the people and things in their lives.





ACCELERATED READER AWARD WINNERS!

as of noon on 2/4/25

DRAGON (5 PTS):

- Logan W. (1st)
- Lotus S. (1st)
- Clementine G. (1st)
- Ryan R. (1st)
- Isla M. (1st)
- Mila A. (2nd)
- Hazel G. (2nd)
- Mackenzie (2nd)
- Ryan B. (2nd)
- Beatrice B. (3rd)
- 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)
- Travis R. (4th)
- Saul W. (4th)
- Griffin S. (4th)
- Harlan K. (5th)
- 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)
- Beatrice (3rd)
- Travis R. (4th)
- Harlan (5th)
- Alex G. (6th)
- Ryder (6th)

HYDRA (30 PTS):

- Beatrice (3rd)
- Harlan (5th)

FIRE (75 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, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
(ZOOM LINK TO JOIN - CLICK HERE)



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.

CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED!
If you need childcare, please email the Front Office to let us know at frontoffice@frrsd.org

VOLUNTEER BEGINNING SPANISH TEACHER NEEDED!

Are you passionate about the Spanish language and culture? Do you enjoy working with young learners? We're looking for a volunteer Spanish teacher to teach beginning Spanish to elementary students for 1 hour, one day a week, in an after-school program from 3:00-4:00 PM!



If you're excited to make a difference and help spark an interest in Spanish, we'd love to have you on board!



Interested? Please contact Laurie Flower lflower@frrsd.org



SECOND GRADE'S PUMPKIN ADVENTURES CONTINUE!

The second graders have an exciting announcement! The pumpkin that we carved back in October has started to sprout! We named our pumpkin Michael and watched the decomposition process for the first two months in a terrarium. After he completely turned to mush we decided to add some soil and within five days we had a sprout! Mrs. Tracy had the stinky job of adding the soil which had to be done outside due to the smell! He is now replanted in our classroom and the students are excited to continue to watch the plant lifecycle!



6TH GRADE POETRY:

The sixth grade class worked on poems for a school project. We read a book called Poetry of the Sea, with many poems about the sea. Sixth grade students took a sentence from the book as the first sentence of the poem. Below are some of the student's poems:

The water comes ashore,
Then goes back in once more,
The sand squishes under my feet,
As soft as a sheet,
I see a fish swim by,
And hear a seagull cry,
I see someone laying languid on the sand,
The sand under their hand,
I hear a splash when one jumps into the sea,
The water covers me,
I hop in the water too,
Now I'm soaked from hat to shoe!

- Tori R.

They look at the sea all day
And then there was a RING
I was thinking, what would they say?
But then, they started to sing!

As soon as I tried to ask why,
Why they were singing,
I saw a boat pass by.
And that was the ringing!

They were still singing,
And I was weireded out,
But then there were people swimming,
Then they started to shout.

I joined in,
And they actually heard it!
Then I saw a fin
But they went up into the boat and sit

They made it out!
Everyone made a note,
And then a shout!
And then they got thrown out the boat.

- Alex G.

How still the cool sparkle of the water today.
All the wind was coming languid

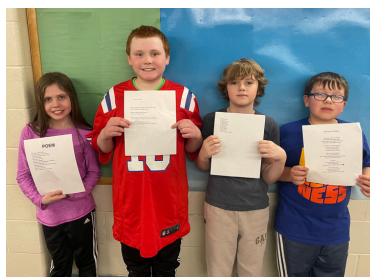
All the children wanted to play
in the cool relaxed water.

The blue water was like the sky on a clear day.
You could hear the plane going over the beach.

How still the bright Sun is today.
I need to get my sunglasses for the bright sky.

- Thomas M.

We used many elements of poetry to make these poems, such as a similes, rhyming, imagery, alliteration, and repetition. Similies are comparing two things using "like" or "as." Rhyming is when the last word of a sentence rhymes with the last word of another sentence. Imagery is when you write something that helps people picture things in your mind. Alliteration is when the same letter is used at the beginning of two words that are connected. Repetition is when you repeat something that has already been said or written - such as when we took a line from the book Poetry of the Sea. We thought writing these poems was fun!



How strangely still
The water sits
Still water is that way
The swaying trees
The pleasant breeze
The shining ocean bay
The giant waves
That swept me up
On that average day
As blue as the sky
As blue as the sea
The ocean is where I want to be.

- Pip C.



INTRAMURALS

Students in Monday's 2nd/3rd intramural group began class with a flag tag warm-up. They were then introduced to flag football! Ask you student if they played receiver or running back



Students in Wednesday's K/1st intramurals group worked on different cooperative games and were introduced to flag tag!



STRONGER WITH SCHOOL BREAKFAST



School breakfast is shown to provide about...

48%
OF THE FRUIT



40%
OF THE DAIRY FOODS



30%
OF THE WHOLE GRAINS

students need for the entire day.
Based on the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study, 2019



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.





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

WWW.BROOKMANCANDLECO.COM

KIDS CANDLE WORKSHOP

NON TOXIC AROMAS
ECO-FRIENDLY
COCONUT SOY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

CREATIVE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FEB. 18TH 1-3PM
OTIS TOWN HALL
1 NORTH MAIN RD. OTIS, MA

To register:
send email to tounofotisrec@gmail.com
by Thursday 2/13/25

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!

FLYING CLOUD
WHERE SCIENCE MEETS ART

Greenagers
youth environment community

February Break 2025

Calling all young scientists, artists, and engineers!

April Hill Education & Conservation Center
62 North Undermountain Rd
South Egremont, MA

February 17 - 20
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Cost: \$250*
Ages 7-13

- Science investigations
- Art projects
- Engineering challenges
- Outdoor explorations

Register at
flyingcloudinstitute.org
Financial aid and early drop off available

*This program is not endorsed or sponsored by any school district.

KNOX MOVIE NIGHT!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

SNACKS, FOOD, DRINKS 4:30-6:00PM
SHOWTIME 6-8:00PM
\$5 FOR KIDS
ADULTS FREE

come comfy
IN YOUR PAJAMAS...
PILLOWS & BLANKETS ARE SUGGESTED!

1898 EAST OTIS RD. EAST OTIS, MA 413-269-4400

Pot Painting Time at the Sandisfield Library!

We are turning this into this .

Monday, February 17th
1-3pm

Arts and Crafts for kids (of all ages 1-99)
Cookies and juice provided as well.

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS
CFCE Grant
February 2025
Program Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 100 Main St. 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. *No program 2/17	Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:00am-11:30am. Drop in. *No program 2/17	Lenox Play @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street. 10am-11am. Drop in. *No program 2/19	Brain Builders @ Lee Library, 100 Main St. 11:30am. Registration required.	See Smiles @ 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, 48 Main Street/Sheffield. 10:30am-11:00am. Drop in.	New Marlborough Storytime @ New Marlborough Library, 10:30am-11:00am. Drop in. *No program 2/19	Richmond Reads @ Richmond Library, 1751 State Rd/Richmond. 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. *No program 2/6 & 2/20	
		Parent Workshop with Scott Noyes, Zoom, Wednesday, February 19 th 7pm-8:30pm. Topic: Toddler Themes: Trainers to toilet training. Email less@southberkshirkids@gmail.com to sign up and we will send you the zoom link and workshop materials.		

***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 less@southberkshirkids@gmail.com
- Otis Explore & Play with Anino** @ 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 Rd. 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 less@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: Trainers to toilet training. Email less@southberkshirkids@gmail.com to sign up and we will send you the zoom link and workshop materials.

Visit us online for additional resources & information:
www.SouthBerkshireKids.org www.Mass211.org

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