

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MCAS ELA GRADES 3-6 Mon. April 7-Thurs. April 10

NATURE'S CLASSROOM GRADES 5 & 6 WED., APRIL 16- FRI, APRIL 18

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL FRI., APRIL 18

APRIL BREAK - NO SCHOOL **APRIL 21-25**

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK - PTA SPONSORED EVENT APRIL 22- MAY 2

HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE FIELD TRIP GRADES 1 & 2 THURS., MAY 1

SCHOOL COMM. MEETING MON., MAY 5 - 7:00 PM

SCREEN FREE WEEK PTA SPONSORED EVENT MAY 5 - MAY 9

MCAS MATH GRADES 3-6 Mon. May 12-Thurs. May 15

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

04/10/2025

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

Happy April! It's hard to believe we're entering the final stretch of the school year. As the days grow longer and spring begins to bloom, between snowflakes and sunshine, there's a renewed energy throughout the building! We are still glowing from the success of our Amazing Wellness Night, which was truly a community celebration! With over 170 attendees, including families, staff, and local partners, the night was filled with activities that supported healthy minds and bodies. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it such a vibrant and joyful experience.

We are excited to share that our school has been working closely with Gateway Regional School District through our PRISM grant, with the goal of strengthening literacy instruction for our youngest learners. Last week, representatives from TNTP, assigned to us by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, visited our school to review our current PreK-3 literacy program. They will be providing valuable guidance and support as we work to enhance our systems of support and ensure we are using highquality instructional materials to improve student learning. We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to the benefits this collaboration will bring to our school community.

Currently, our students are in the midst of MCAS testing, and we are incredibly proud of their focus and determination. They are working hard to show what they know, and we're cheering them on every step of the way. Please help support them with a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and words of encouragement, it truly makes a difference.

MCAS Dates:	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6
Mathematics	May 14-15	May 14-15	May 12-13	May 12-13
Science	-	-	May 19-20	-

As spring weather continues to keep us guessing, we ask for your help in guiding your child's outerwear decisions. One day might feel like summer, the next like winter! Please communicate with your student about your expectations, whether you'd like them to wear a coat regardless of the temperature or if you're comfortable with them choosing when to take it off. We'll do our best to remind and support them at school as well. We look forward to all that April has in store, from continued learning to upcoming spring activities.

Sincerely, Laurie Flower, Principal

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

-Henry Ford

A NIGHT OF WELLNESS, WONDER, AND WELCOME











Our first-ever Wellness Night,

























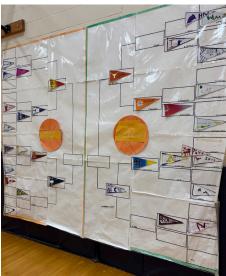
MARCH MADNESS READING FINALE SCORES BIG WITH **CELEBRATION AND SCHOOL SPIRIT**













Our March Madness Reading Initiative concluded with a spirited final assembly filled with music, celebration, and school pride!

Ms. Jeri and Ms. Cat energized the crowd with performances of the Star-Spangled Banner, the School Song, and "We Will Rock You," followed by a warm welcome from Ms. Daley. Mr. Roberts built excitement as he announced the Final Four reading teams: UCLA, South Carolina, UCONN, and Texas.

Every class was honored with participation awards, and top readers from each grade were recognized with medals for their outstanding efforts. The crowd cheered on the fifth grade as they were crowned winners of the Knockout Reading Competition with an impressive 142.8 AR points! Art competition and Free Throw Challenge winners also received medals, and the top free throw shooters in grades 3-6 competed in a highenergy Hot Shot Contest, introduced with custom cheers and music by the school band.

The celebration ended with the presentation of basketball prizes to the shooting competition winners and a joyful send-off to the tune of "Happy" as students exited the gym.



As a school we had a 71% participation rate! 86 of our 121 students challenged themselves to READ! Our preschool, EK, and kindergarten classes read a total of 339 books. Our 1st-6th graders combined to earn 373.6 Accelerated Reader points! 2nd grade had a 100% participation rate!!

> 5th grade did the most reading earned a combined 142.8 AR Points!

TOP READERS:

6th = Tori R. & Ryder S. 5th = Harlan K. & John B. 4th = Colin R. & Liam F. 3rd = Beatrice B. & Jadah M. 2nd = Mila A. & Ryan B. 1st = Levi A. & Lotus S. K = Owen P. & Eevee F. EK = 7 Students Tied!

TOP FOUL SHOOTERS:

6th = Tori R. & Ryder S. 5th = Harlan K. & John B. 4th = Colin R. & Jordan P. 3rd = Beatrice B. & Jadah M. 2nd = Mila A. & Ryan B. 1st = Levi A. & Logan W. K = Owen P. & Cayden W. EK = Jace B. & Austin D. PK = Connor P., Fiona S. & Shaylin M. PK = Connor P. & Shaylin M.

> Final Four Teams: UConn (Satpal); South Carolina (Annabelle); UCLA (Pip); and Texas (Isla C.)

> > **National Champion: UConn Huskies!**



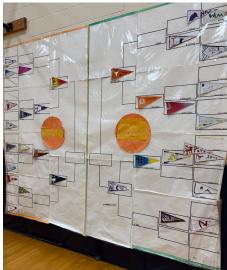
Winners of our Hot Shot Competitions earned a Teal Basketball to take home!











ACCELERATED READER AWARD **WINNERS!**

DRAGON (5 PTS):

Clementine G. (1st) Amos B. (2nd) Charlie C. (3rd) Indica S. (3rd) Mason T. (3rd) Caden D. (3rd) Sparrow K. (3rd) Madison T. (3rd) Maewen W. (3rd) Lucas W. (3rd) Jadah M. (3rd) Griffin S. (4th) Saul W. (4th) Hadley S. (4th) Michael B. (4th) Lilianna N. (5th) Ava S. (5th) Shea K. (5th) Owen S. (5th) Pip C. (6th) Satpal G. (6th)

SPIRIT (15 PTS):

Logan W. (1st) Ryan B. (2nd)

<u> HYDRA (30 PTS):</u>

<u> FIRE (75 PTS):</u>

DRACO (150 PTS):

<u>BEAST (225 PTS):</u>

HAPPY **READING!**

SNEAKERS, AND UNIFORMS, AND PENNANTS, OH MY! MARCH MADNESS TAKES OVER IN THE ART ROOM



The art room was bursting with creativity this March as students across all grades got in the game for our school-wide, cross-curricular March Madness celebration! This exciting program was hosted by our specialist teachers in PE/Health, Computers, Music, and Art, and combined reading, sportsmanship, and artistic expression in a fun and meaningful way.



Students in Grades 3-6 brought the college spirit to life by designing vibrant pennants for universities in the March Madness bracket. From bold colors to clever mascots. their designs showcased school pride and artistic flair. The "Elite 8" pennant designs (featured to the left) were selected as the most creative of the bunch—go team!



Meanwhile, our younger artists in PK-2nd grade joined the fun by designing their own basketball uniforms and sneakers. The top 8 uniforms, our "Elite 8", are also featured below for their uniqueness and creativity. 1st and 2nd graders took their learning a step further by exploring complementary colors, using their new knowledge to craft eyecatching sneaker designs (featured below and on our cafeteria windows)!

This colorful celebration of learning, teamwork, and creativity made this March one to







FILLING THE DRAGON TUBE WITH KINDNESS & RESPECT

Over the past month, our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports - Dragon Eggs program has been focused on reinforcing lives. We have been highlighting positive behaviors such as Dragon Card or Unicorn Card, which are placed in our Dragon Tube. We're thrilled to share that we are almost ready to fill the tube with eggs, a symbol of the progress we've made in fostering these positive behaviors. By acknowledging these small yet meaningful



REMINDER: SAFE AND RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR ON THE BUS

to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining safe and respectful behavior during these trips. The bus is an extension of our school, and it's essential that students follow the rules by staying seated and refraining from yelling, as loud noises can be distracting and unsafe. Treating each other, as well as the bus driver, with kindness and respect ensures a safe

GRADE 6: OUR ROAD TO MCAS SUCCESS!

In preparation for the upcoming MCAS, our class has been diving into small group station activities that make up reviewing key ELA skills both fun and effective. Each station is designed to target specific areas students will encounter on the test, while keeping them engaged through hands-on leanning. Students played a figurative language matching game to review similes, metaphors, and idioms in a creative way. They also worked on



categorizing genres by sorting different texts and summaries into the correct literary category, helping them sharpen their understanding of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more. At another station, students played a vocabulary guessing game using context clues to determine word meanings, and one fast-paced favorite was a grammar challenge where students competed to fix as many grammatical errors as possible on a jam-packed editing page! in addition to station work, we've been doing lots of multiple-choice practice, learning how to break down tricky questions and eliminate incorrect answers. We've also continued to strengthen our writing skills with essay practice - our most recent piece focused on the amazing features that help elephants survive in the wild. Students did a great job using evidence and clear explanations to









SCHOOL-SPONSORED: REMINDER: DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH PULSE GRADES 1-6

Workshop that the workshops will resume again on TUESDAYS from 3:00 - 4:15 beginning this Tuesday, April 29th, the scheduled dates.

JOIN OUR TEA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Otis & Sandisfield, MA

Farmington River Elementary School is a rural public school serving about 120 students in grades PK - 6th. Seeking applicants for the 2025 - 2026 School Year.



UPPER ELEMENTARY TEACHER:

The successful candidate will create a vibrant, engaging and safe classroom environment. Strong candidates will be able to successfully deliver standards-based instruction while differentiating to meet the needs of diverse learners. The ability to develop and maintain cooperative relationships with students and colleagues is essential.

Minimum qualifications:

- · BA or graduate degree in elementary education or similar field.
- MA DESE (Elementary 1-6) educator license

<u>SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST</u>

CONTRACTED, PART-TIME

Farmington River seeks a fully-licensed SLP/SLC to conduct and oversee communication assessments and re-evaluations of students receiving speech services. Strong knowledge of assessment strategies for early childhood and elementary grades is essential. Minimum qualifications:

MA DESE educator licensure as a Speech/Language Pathologist

VAN DRIVER

PART-TIME

FRRSD seeks a conscientious individual with a clean driving record to serve in the role of regular or back-up van driver. Hours could include AM and/or PM shifts. Holding the MA RMV 7D Pupil Transport or school bus endorsement is preferred, but the district may assist in obtaining the 7D endorsement.

TO APPLY:

Please email completed district application form, a letter of interest, a current resume, three letters of recommendation, and evidence of licensure, (Van Driver applications: completed district application form, copy of driver's license only) to: Timothy Lee, Superintendent, tleeafrrsd.org

DEADLINE:

Candidates for teacher position should provide application materials by 4/25/25. Other positions shall remain open until filled

CORI background checks and fingerprinting are required for all applicants prior to hire.

FRRSD is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, visibility, or any other status protected by law in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

FIND MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.FRRSD.ORG

JOIN OUR TEAM AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!

difference in our school community? Farmington River Elementary is seeking enthusiastic and dedicated substitute retired teacher, a recent graduate, or someone who loves



working with children, we'd love to hear from you!

Substitute teaching offers community. If you or interested, please contact

Cultural

LOCAL EVENTS



Park Serve Day Bluebird House Building



- . Build One for the Park Build One for You!!
- For Ages 10 and Above · Spaces Limited - Register Online by QR Code
- DCR Staff Led All Materials & Tools Provided
- services & good company.

Coffee and Donuts at

the Fire House

April 26th 8am-10am

LEE YOUTH ASSOCIATION T-ball and Rookie League BASEBALL REGISTRATION



T-Ball (4 and 5 year olds) - must be 4 by the start of the season)

> Rookie League Baseball (coaches pitch) (6 and 7 year olds)

Please sign up online Bring your registration in person to the LYA

Registration fee - \$55

you may sign up online at www.leeyouthsports.co

Any questions please contact:

IF YOU HAVE AN OUTSTANDING BALANCE WITH THE LYA YOU MUST PAY YOUR BALANCE IN FULL BEFORE REGISTERING – NO EXCEPTIONS!

OTIS BOOK SALE & MORE! MAY 3RD, 2025

The Friends of the Otis Library will be hosting our BOOK SALE and MORE! event at the Otis Ridge Ski Lodge on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9am - 3pm. All donations of gently used books, adult or children's games and puzzles, CDs and DVDs can be dropped off at the Otis Library during regular hours through the month of April (Wed & Fri 11-5, Thurs 12-6, Sat 9-1).

Please no moldy or musty books, no textbooks or encyclopedia sets, or games and puzzles with missing parts!

For questions please call the library 413-269-0109 or email FriendsOtisLibrary@gmail.com

GREAT BARRINGTON SOFTBALL SPRING 2025

Juniors: Grades 2/3/4/5

vill play games against teams from Great Barrington, Lee, Sheffield and Canaai 1 – 2 practices a week, 1 – 2 games a week, starting ~ April 28h No Games Saturday or Sunday

Please register your softball player(s) using this online jotform link



https://form.jotform.com /250645994674169

Please complete and submit the JotForm for each player separately.

Registration Deadline: April 5TH Single Player: \$65.00 Family Max: \$100.00

CHECKS PAYABLE/MAIL TO: Great Barrington Girls Softbal c/o Ellyn Dupont 355 North Plain Rd

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS: Ellyn Dupont 413-446-8567

Coaches, Assistants and Volunteers always needed.



FOR AGES 5-12

Weekly sessions from June 23 to Aug. 15 Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

INCLUDED!

BCCYMCA.ORG 413-623-8991



JOIN US FOR.



A Berkshire Waldorf Summer

Seven Weeks of Waldorf Fun!

June 23 - August 8, 2025

Early Childhood (Ages 4-6) Grades (Ages 7-11)

\$500 per week | Financial aid available

For more information, email us at summer@berkshirewaldorfschool.org.







OTIS CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Otisfiber subscribers! You may qualify for reduced internet costs through the Otis Connectivity Program, powered by Whip City Fiber (Westfield's locally-owned utility). For information, please email mlpmanager@townofotisma.com or call Larry Gould at 413-207-4027.



If you have further questions, please contact Jess at 413-464-5095 South Berkshire Kids Southberkshirekids@gmail.com

MASSACNESTITS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Existsy April 2025

*Sing & Dance @

*Parent Workshop, with

*Richmond Reads @

- a parent, Drop in.

 Tunes for Tots with Dan from Berkshire Music School @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walke
 Street/Lenox, Mondays 9:10am-10:15am. This program includes music, movement & instruments
 Registration is required by emailing southberkshirekids@gmail.com
 Otis Explore & Play with Anine @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am
 This weekly playgroup will include play, songs, storles, and crafts. Drop in.
 Sing & Dance with Michelle @ Bushnell-Sage Ubarry, 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. Joi
 us for this center-based playgroup with tabletop activities, free play, crafts & more. Great for toddlers &
 preschoolers. Topo jin.
- preschoolers. Drop in.

 New Mariborough Storytime with Jess @ New Mariborough Library, 1 Mill River GB Road. Wednesdays
 10am-11am. This program includes a circle time with stories and songs, followed by a craft. Orop in.

 Brain Builders with Michelle @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/lee. Thursdays 10:30. This program is for ages
 3-8. Registration required by emailing southberfshireklids@mail.com
 Richmond Reads with Jess @ Richmond Library (Located in the new town building), 1751 State
 RR/Richmond. Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am. Join us for a storytime and craft. Drop in.
 Family Hilkes @ Pleasant Valley, 472 W Mountain Road/Lenox. April 3rd & 17th, 10am-11am. Registration
 required by emailing southberkshir ekids@gmail.com.

 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 Karyn Mancard 12om. Thursday, April 10th 7pm-8pm. Topic: Children's Nutrition.

 Email southberkshireklids@gmail.com to sign up and we will send you the zoom link





2025 Summer Basketball Camp Information

Boys & Girls entering grades K - 2 One Week: June 23 - June 27 Boys & Girls: 9:00 - 11:30 (Drop-off: 8:30 - 9:00)

Boys and Girls entering grades 3 - 9

Camp Philosophy
The philosophy of the LYA basketball camp is to provide boys and girts the opportunity to learn about the game of basketball and the skills required to play it in an environment where they feel safe and have lots of fun. We stress to our campers the Importance of Individual growth as a basketball player. Consequently, a primary goel is to teach campers how to become better players. We will show them skills and drills that they can use to continue their improvement when they leave camp, and we will incorporate team building activities and games to help them learn how to work with others. We believe and emphasize that leplaying the game of basketball is a great way to learn important life skills, applicable both on and off the court, and build positive character.

Facilities The LYA Basketball Camp is held at the Lee Middle and High School Gymnasium

What to Bring

eakers, appropriate clothing (Shorts, t-shirt), a water bottle (labeled with name)

Camp Director

- P Director
 Dan Korte is directing the LYA basketball camp for the 17th year. He was the Varsity boys basketball coach at Lee Middle and High School for nine years (2005-2014), and is currently the coordinator of the LYA youth basketball leagues. Assisting at the camp will be local high school student-athletes.

 Contact Information

 Coach Korte (413)329-1168 hythoop@gmall.com

 KYA (413)243-5335

egister online at www.leeyouthsports.com. Enrollment in the camp may be limited, so please register eas**Register by June 1st to receive a LYA Hoop Camp t-shirt. T-shirts may not be available for late registrants***

Pricing:
Week #1 = \$90, Week #2 = \$75, Week #3 = \$90, Week #2 & #3 = \$150
***Families with 3 or more children attending camp get \$10 off the price of each child's regist

LEE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

2025 Preseason Baseball Clinics

Boys and girls ages 8-12 who are interested in getting prepared for the upcoming baseball season. New and veteran players are welcome!

Sundays, March 23rd, 30th, and April 6th from 5-7pm

Where? Lee Middle and High School Gymnasium

Cost: \$25 per participant



Activities will include drills and skill work to improve player performance combined with fun games to foster engagement and a love for the game!

Players will need to have their own glove and are welcome to bring their own bats, helmets, etc. Some helmets and bats will be provided.

Register: Online at www.leeyouthsports.com

Questions? Contact Dan Korte at lyahoop@gmail.com