

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**GRADES 1 & 2 FIELD TRIP** HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE 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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL Sponsored by the PTA Fri., MAY 15



**MCAS SCIENCE GRADE5** Mon., May 19 - Tues., May 20

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL Flying Cloud Program Fri., MAY 23



**MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL** Mon., MAY 26

**GRADE 6 FIELD TRIP - BOSTON** Tues., MAY 27

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

05/01/2025

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As April comes to a close and the signs of spring are finally settling in, we are looking forward to the exciting learning opportunities and community events that await us in May. One initiative we are especially proud to participate in, alongside our amazing PTA, is Screen-Free Week, a nationwide movement that encourages families to pause from recreational screen use and rediscover the joy of offline activities, creativity, and connection. To support this effort, the PTA has planned a whole week of fun and engaging events designed to promote student participation and encourage time away from screens through physical movement, play, creativity, and meaningful interaction with family and the world around them. Keep an eye out for the schedule of events coming home soon!

During Screen-Free Week, our computer classes will shift their focus to the timely topic of internet safety and responsible technology use, with lessons aligned to the Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) standards. Across all grade levels, students will learn how to stay safe online, protect their personal information, and use technology responsibly. K-2 students will explore asking for help from trusted adults, keeping personal information private, and finding balance with screen time. Grades 3-5 will focus on safe browsing, evaluating websites for credibility, and digital citizenship. Grade 6 students will take a deeper dive into understanding digital footprints, online ethics, and responsible use in academic and social spaces.

We encourage families to take part in these conversations at home as well. Knowing what your child is accessing online is more important than ever. Setting parental controls and having open, ongoing discussions about online behavior can go a long way in ensuring safe and healthy digital habits. A helpful resource for setting up controls on various devices and platforms is:

Common Sense Media's Parental Controls Guide

Just before spring break, many of our upper-grade students had the opportunity to attend Nature's Classroom, where they spent three days fully unplugged, with no phones or screens, just the outdoors and each other. It was remarkable to witness the shift in how they interacted, shared stories, built friendships, and engaged deeply with the natural world. The experience reminded us all of the value of slowing down and being present. It's something we hope they'll carry with them into Screen-Free Week and beyond.

Sincerely, Laurie Flower, Principal

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	-

"The question is not whether we should use technology, but how we use it wisely and responsibly."

— Howard Rheingold









## **NATURE GUIDES LEARNING AND BUILDS CONNECTIONS**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Terry Ferrara, Corey Roberts, and Paige Jelliffe for generously giving their time and energy to chaperone the Nature's Classroom trip. Their commitment to our students' wellbeing, learning, and overall experience was evident every step of the way. We are also incredibly grateful to Superintendent Tim Lee for joining the group for dinner and spending Wednesday night on-site to support our students as they settled in. Having a strong team of caring adults made a huge difference in creating a positive and memorable trip for everyone involved.

The Nature's Classroom trip gave our students the opportunity to explore learning in a hands-on environment surrounded by nature. They took part in activities that encouraged problem-solving and teamwork while enjoying the fresh air and change of scenery. Without the use of devices, students were more engaged in the moment and connected more genuinely with each other. The experience offered a meaningful break from routine and helped many of them return with a renewed sense of confidence and curiosity.















### SCHOOL LUNCH

for Families



### PRESCHOOL'S HANDS-ON SCIENCE

In preschool, we've been exploring different ways people travel! This week, our focus is on traveling by water. To help students understand how movement through water is possible, we conducted a fun science experiment called a "liquid race." We tested three different liquids —glue, water, and lotion — by adding droplets of water to each and tilting the plates to see which liquid moved the fastest. Through this hands-on activity, students were introduced to the concept of viscosity and explored how some liquids allow for easier movement than others





# Screen Free Week 2025 GET OUT \* GET CREATIVE \* GET MOVING



BINGO 6-7:30

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA

SPONSORED IN PART BY THE OTIS RECREATION COMMITTEE



PLANTING VEGGIES & FRUITS 3-4pm

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



CRAFTERNOON

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY LIBRARY



HIKE FOR 3RD-6TH STUDENTS STORYWALK. FOR PK-2<sup>ND</sup> STUDENTS DIRECTLY AFTERSCHOOL - SEE SIGNUP FOR DETAILS

Sign up today at <u>https://forms.gle/V4njKYdTpMDTCeF46</u> Parent or responsible adult required for BINGO & hike/storywalk activities

### ACCELERATED READER AWARD WINNERS!



SPIRIT (15 PTS):

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

DRACO (150 PTS):



### HYDRA (30 PTS):



BEAST (225 PTS):



Friday, May 30th:

### STUDENT TEACHERS SHINE IN KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE!



Over the past school year, kindergarten and first grade have had the pleasure of working with two student teachers from Westfield State University, Abigail Keenan and Samantha Brody. Both student teachers are completing their degree in Early Childhood Education.

We want to extend our sincere thanks for their dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work that they have brought to our classroom during their student teaching experience. It has been a pleasure watching you grow as educators and seeing the positive impact vou've had on our students.



Your thoughtful lesson planning, patience, and ability to connect with the students have not gone unnoticed. You've shown a strong commitment to learning and improving, and it's clear that you care deeply about helping students succeed. The creativity and energy you brought to each day helped create a supportive and engaging learning environment.

Thank you for all the time and effort you invested. You've made a meaningful difference, and I'm confident that you have a bright future ahead in teaching. We wish both of you the best of luck as you continue on to graduate school. Abigail will be majoring in speech pathology, while Samantha will be majoring in special education.

It has been a pleasure working with you both and we wish you all the best as you take the next steps in your career.



MS. MAXTON & THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS MRS. MARTIN & THE FIRST GRADE CLASS







# BEST WISHES TO MS. MADDIE FROM THE 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE!

Our 4th grade class will truly miss Miss Maddie, our amazing student teacher from Westfield State University. She has been a fantastic team teacher, always jumping in with enthusiasm, kindness, and creative ideas that made learning fun and engaging. Not only was she a wonderful teammate to the whole staff, but she also made a lasting impact on each of us with her patience, positivity, and dedication. We hope she has learned as much from us as we have learned from her! Miss Maddie, thank you for



### **EARLY K SAYS GOODBYE** TO MS. HALEY

We are so grateful for the time Ms. Haley spent with our Early K class! Ms. Haley joined us from Westfield State where she was working on a degree in Early Childhood Education. While we're sad to see her go, we're excited for all the wonderful things ahead in her teaching journey!

### SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

the **Peace Path.** This gentle process helps













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.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Minimum qualifications:

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

#### SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

#### 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, tleeefrrsd.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!

Are you looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a 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!





### MEANWHILE IN

classes are learning about striking with implements. 3rdlearning about the rules of pickleball while successfully playing mini games during class! Ask your student about Pickleball 4-square.



Students in K-2nd grade are learning about striking with a long handled implement. They've mostly used tennis rackets to practice volleying using bean bags and puff balls. They've also used lollipop paddles and practiced hand eye coordination through volleying a balloon. 2nd grade played a fun game called Angels in the Outfield where they started learning about the boundary lines on a tennis court.





EK got into volleying as well through the use of a net and balloon.



### LOCAL EVENTS



Vhat to Bring

➤ Basketball s

Pricing: Week #1 = \$90, Week #2 = \$75, Week #3 = \$90, Week #2 & #3 = \$150

## **GREAT BARRINGTON**

mindfully strive to be our best selves.

Juniors: Grades 2/3/4/5

1 – 2 practices a week, 1 – 2 games a week, starting ~ April 28<sup>th</sup>
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

CHECKS PAYARI F/MAIL TO: c/o Ellyn Dupont 355 North Plain Rd

Ellyn Dupont 413-446-8567





- 10AM Parade begins at Old Town Hall
- 10:15AM Honor Guard & Service at New Boston Cemetery
- Parade will make a stop at Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Cente Parade ends at the American Legion with the wreath ceremony

Sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation & **Memorial Day Committees** 

For information on how to participate or volunteer please email

ndisfieldevents@recreationco

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
OR
Bring your registration in person to the LYA

Registration fee - \$55

Any questions please contact:

The Lee Youth Association: SharonTerry -243-5535 x 1

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

### **SOFTBALL SPRING 2025**

WHEN: April 15th-Mau

Seniors: Grades 6/7/8

will play games against teams from Great Barrington, Lee, Sheffield and Canaan

Otis Library StoryWalk

TAM HUMAN

I Am Human By Susan Verde

Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

I Am Human affirms that we can make good choices bu

acting with compassion and having empathy for others and ourselves. When we find common ground, we can

feel connected to the great world around us and

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

Family Max: \$100.00

Coaches, Assistants and Volunteers always needed.

REGISTRATION OF JESTIONS











### 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.





"Sing & Dance @

#### 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 tdigrigoli@frrsd.org or call Terri DiGrigoli at 413-269-4466



#### South Berkshire Kids April 2025

\* If you have further questions, please contact Jess at 413-464-5095 NASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

\*Richmond Reads © 1:30am. Drop rogram 4/24

#### \*All programs are free & open to the community

\*Parent Workshop, with Known Mancari on Zoom

- **Bables & Books** with Jess @ Lee Library, 100 Main St/Lee. Mondays 10:30am-11:30am. This proof infants, ages birth to 12 months. Join us as we sing, play and chat about the joys & challenge.

- a parent. Drop in.

  Tunes for Tots with Dan from Berkshire Music School @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walks
  Street/Lenox. Mondays 9:30am-10:15am. This program includes music, movement & instrument
  Registration is required by emailing southberkshirekids@gmail.com
  Otis Explore & Play with Anina @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30ar
  This weekly playgroup will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in.
  Sing & Dance with Michelle@ Be Boshnell-Sage Library, 48 Main Street/Sheffield. Tuesdays 10:30ar
  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. Jo
  us for this center-based playgroup with tabletop activities, free play, crafts & more. Great for toddlers
  preschoolers. Drop in.
- 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. 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 <u>outlothershirehids@mail.com</u>
  Rodmond Reads with Jess ⊕ Richmond Library (Located in the new now building), 1751 State
  RA/Richmond. Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am. Join us for a storytime and craft. Drop in.

  Family Hilbes ⊕ Pleasant Valley, 472 W Mountain Road/Lenox. April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am-11am. Registration required by emailing soutlothershirekids@mail.com.

  Lee Gym ⊕ Crossways Gym, 21 Crossways Street/Lee, Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this gym time playgroup with bails, blocks, books and more! Drop in.

  Parent Workshop with Karyn Manacari Zoom, Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm-8pm. Topic: Children's Nutrition. Email <u>southberkshirekids@mail.com</u> to sign up and we will send you the zoom link







#### **Boston Symphony Orchestra** Days in the Arts Summer Program 2025

The Days in the Arts (DARTS) free summer arts immersion program has been sponsored by the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1969 and has grown into a vibrant collaboration with Berkshire County public schools. Middle school students (grades 6 - 8) experience a weeklong immersion in musical, dance, visual, and theater arts (with additional opportunities in versioning immensioni in musualu, annot, visualu, and unitate in atsi, word adulation opportunimentative writing), learning from local artist-educators at the renowned Tanglewood Musici enter. In addition, students take special trips to arts and cultural institutions in Berkshire ountly, Bus transportation is available daily between the Tanglewood campus and multip rop-off/pick-up locations in southern Berkshire County and Pittsfield.

- HEN

  Susents May Register for one week.)

  Denote: Listly 144- July 16, 9000 AM-430 PM

  onort: Listly 144- July 16, 9000 AM-430 PM

  Finday, My 18- Student Aris Expo and Program with Closing Reception from 130-330 PM

  Finday, My 18- Suskent Aris Expo and Program with Closing Reception from 130-330 PM

  Includes a Field Trip to Berkshire County Arts Institution, 900 AM-400 PM

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#### WHO MAY APPLY?

- REGISTER TODAY!









#### PROGRAM DETAILS: Daily Schedule Overview

9:00-9:30AM

necting with Our Community of Artists

12:00-12:30PM

12:30-1:30PM

