

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

05/30/2024

**Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,**

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your understanding and cooperation during the recent reunification drill at the Otis Town Hall. The safety and security of our students are of utmost importance, and your support during this drill ensured its smooth execution. These drills are essential in preparing us for any potential emergencies, and we appreciate your role in making them successful.

With the school year drawing to a close, we have a plethora of upcoming events that we are excited to share with you. We understand that it can be challenging to keep track of all the end-of-year activities, so we have made it easy for you to stay informed. You can find information about events on the school sign, our school website, in your student's backpack, and in this newsletter. We hope this helps you and your family stay organized and enjoy all the wonderful events we have planned.

I am also thrilled to announce Mr. Keller's Colonial Day Event on Friday, May 31. We will be welcoming a small number of members from the reenactment group, Rodger's Rangers, to Farmington River Elementary. Rodger's Rangers were a renowned group of American colonial soldiers during the French and Indian War, known for their unconventional tactics and courageous missions. They will be demonstrating cooking, candlemaking, and colonial games for our students, providing an immersive and educational experience that brings history to life. We are extremely grateful to the FIRE Fund and the Otis Cultural Council for supporting this amazing learning opportunity.

We look forward to seeing you at the various events and celebrations as we wrap up another successful school year.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”**

**- Eleanor Roosevelt**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### SPRING DRAMA MUSICAL

“Whatever Happened to Harry”

**THURS., MAY 30 @ 6:30 PM**

**FRI., MAY 31 @ 1:30 PM**

### SPRING CONCERT

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4 @ 6:00 PM**

### DENTAL CLINIC

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

### FIELD DAY

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6**

### K-1 FAMILY EVENT

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7 @ 2:00 PM**

### EK BRIDGING CEREMONY

**MONDAY, JUNE 10**

### GRADE 6 MOVING UP

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11 @ 1:00 PM**

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

**WED., JUNE 12 - HALF DAY**

# ALL SCHOOL WALK

The Wellness Committee is thrilled to share the success of our final all-school walk of the year. We were fortunate to complete the walk just before the rain fell. Most students walked about a mile and a half, while even our youngest participants managed to walk almost a mile. It was a fantastic event that underscored our commitment to health and wellness, with enthusiastic participation from all grade levels. This event also highlighted our dedication to promoting healthy alternatives to screen time, encouraging students to engage in physical activity and enjoy the outdoors.



## Wellness Committee News

### Wellness highlights

There are many changes in our updated wellness policy and we will all do our best as we begin policy implementation.

You can help by going to the school website and familiarizing yourself with our [newly adopted wellness policy](#).

The Wellness Committee is always looking for new members, you can join at any time. Please see our [website](#) for details.

### New Policy Adopted

These changes and updates help us meet state requirements; to learn more visit [Wellness resources](#) and [USDA](#).

### Snapshot of some changes

- Talk to your student about the importance of not sharing snacks and lunches with other students. See section F. *Sharing foods and beverages*.
- Schools will limit celebrations that involve food during the school day, all food and beverages brought from home for parties **MUST** be in sealed, store packaging with a clear list of ingredients and allergens. Homemade and unlabeled food is **NOT** allowed for classroom distribution. See section O. *Celebrations*



DON'T FORGET

\*\*DENTAL EXAMS\*CLEANINGS\*  
\*SEALANTS\*FLORIDE VARNISH\*

\*\* OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH & WITHOUT DENTAL/HEALTH INSURANCE\*\* IF YOUR CHILD HAS NOT HAD A ROUTINE DENTAL EXAM IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS AND DOES NOT HAVE AN UPCOMING APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY. PERMISSION SLIPS TO FOLLOW. PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS GRACE TERRY, RN

DENTAL CLINIC:  
JUNE 5TH

REMINDER:  
PLEASE TURN IN  
YOUR  
SIGN-UP  
SHEETS

## ARCHERY IN INTRAMURALS

Students in grades 4-6 enjoyed more opportunities to work on their aim during Archery the last several weeks. I'm impressed by their concentration and attention to detail! Way to go!





## GR. 3 WAX MUSEUM

On Wednesday last week, the 3rd Graders hosted their Wax Museum presentations, showcasing influential people in Massachusetts' history!



**What Ever Happened To Harry?**

ORIGINAL MUSICAL PREMIER

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024  
FRRSD 6:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

# Spring Concert

Tuesday, June 4th, 2024  
6:00 PM

PreK - Grade 1: 9:00 - 9:30 AM

## 4TH GRADERS ADOPT BABY SPIDER...PLANTS!

This spring, Miss Paige challenged the 4th graders with an investigation about plants! They were to research, hypothesize, experiment with, and demonstrate their understanding of plant structures, adaptations, as well as their impacts on our environment. They considered variables such as the type of soil to use, whether they wanted to include a rock layer or mixture within the soil, where to place their plant in the classroom, as well as a watering schedule. Once having demonstrated their understanding of how to maximize a plant's growth they were able to adopt a baby spider plant of their own to take care of and watch thrive!

**Choose your Experiment!**

<b>Location</b> (Where will you leave your plant to grow?)	By a window
<b>Soil Type</b> (Type 1, 2, or 3?)	2
<b>Rocks</b> (Layered, mixed, or none?)	None
<b>Watering Schedule</b> (Daily? Weekly? How many times?)	weekly
<b>Optional Extra Notes?</b> (Notice any other variables?)	Make how much water to give the spider plant.



Save the Date!

class of

# 2024

**GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Tuesday, June 11th, 2024  
1:00 PM

Farmington River Elementary School  
555 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01255

We hope to see you there to celebrate with us!

# FIELD TRIP-PALOOZA!

## GR. 6: BOSTON

This week, the 6th Grade went on their annual end of year field trip. We were able to spend a beautiful day in Boston, where we visited the Boston Aquarium as well as Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market. The weather was perfect and students were able to spend some quality time not only exploring the Aquarium, but also walking around outside at Quincy Market. As an added bonus, Mr. Lee joined us for this trip!! What a great way to wrap up their time at Farmington River.



## PK/EK: AMELIA PARK CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Pre-K and EK enjoyed a day at Amelia Park Children's Museum. This was such a wonderful learning experience filled with lots of new interactive activities. Hands on activities are always more fun when share with friends.



## GR. 3: BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

The 3rd graders had a wonderful time at the Berkshire Museum learning about the Mohicans, which was part of our social studies curriculum this year! They also were able to learn more about physics from our science unit through hands-on activities with the museum staff!

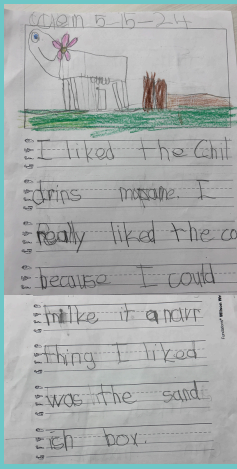
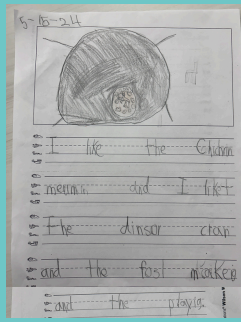
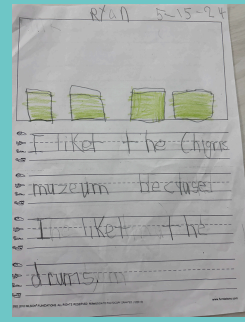


# KINDERGARTEN: THE LUPA ZOO

What a blast kindergarten students had this month visiting the Children's Museum in Westfield on the 14th and ending the month off on the 28th at Lupa Zoo! The students learned about dinosaurs and dug for fossils before playing in the many centers at the Children's Museum. After visiting the museum, the students were inspired to write about their experiences.



The kindergarten class loved their visit to Lupa Zoo. They saw many interesting animals and a private meeting with one of the newest members of the zoo, Mary, a 5 1/2 month old camel. Special thanks to the Sandisfield and Otis Cultural Councils for making these field trips possible.



# GR. 1 & 2: CT SCIENCE MUSEUM

The 1st and 2nd grade had a fun-filled day at the Connecticut Science Center! The Museum has over 165 hands-on exhibits that explore various aspects of science - from physics to forensics, to geology, and astronomy, and more!



# LOCAL EVENTS



## SANDISFIELD Arts Center

**Sat., April 27, 10 am**  
**THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SANDISFIELD AND THE LIVES OF ITS PASTORS**  
 Book talk and slide show by Sandisfield historian Ron Bernard covering 250 years of Sandisfield's history through its churches and people. \$10

**May 4 – June 2**  
**AFTER THE THAW**  
 Guild of Berkshire Artists Group Show  
 Opening reception 4-6 pm

**Sun., May 5, 2-4 pm**  
**MEMORIAL GARDEN OPENING AND RECEPTION IN HONOR OF VAL COLEMAN**  
 Poetry and Remembrances. Light refreshments. Free

**Sat., May 25, 7:30 pm**  
**ANDRÉ LAMBERTSON, AWARD-WINNING PHOTOJOURNALIST AND FILMMAKER**  
 Screening of the music-filled "The Whole Gritty City," a unique window into the world of New Orleans school marching bands and discussion with the filmmaker. \$20 / 12 & Under: Free

**June 8 – July 7**  
**NOTES FROM THE INTERIOR**  
 Group Show featuring works on paper  
 Opening reception 4-6 pm

**July 13 – August 11**  
**UNEARTHED**  
 Group show featuring three-dimensional work. Opening reception 4-6 pm

**Sat., June 15, 7:30 pm**  
**TOMÁŠ KUBÍNEK: CERTIFIED LUNATIC AND MASTER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**  
 Meet a comic genius, virtuoso, and all-around charmer who gives audiences an utterly joyous experience to remember for a lifetime. He has won the hearts of thousands in theaters, opera houses, tv specials and on Broadway.  
 \$20 / 12 & Under: \$10

**Sat., June 22, 7:30 pm**  
**TRIPLE PLAY**  
 Back for an evening of world-class jazz and rollicking fun led by Chris Brubeck and featuring Joel Brown and Peter "Madcap" Ruth. \$25

**Sun., June 30, 2 pm**  
**PICK UP THE PEN: START YOUR WRITING PROJECT**  
 The Arts Center hosts Lara Tupper's community writing workshop. See website for registration.

**Sun., July 7, 4 pm**  
**LUNCHTIME AT THE ORMOND, AN EXCERPT FROM JAMES JOYCE'S ULYSSES**  
 Narrated by Ben Luxon. Irish songs by Tenor, Dan Luxon. Piano, Josh Luxon-Robinson, cello, Lucy Bardo. \$20

**Fri., July 12, 7 pm**  
**OPEN MIC VARIETY SHOW**  
 Bring your jokes, poems, songs and other talents to share with your neighbors. Free

**Sun., July 28, 4 pm**  
**ROMANCE IN THE AFTERNOON**  
 Josh Luxon-Robinson returns to our stage with a selection of romantic piano music. \$20

**Saturday, August 10, 10 am**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND THE ROLE OF THE SUPREME COURT**  
 Talk by Ken Cohen, retired attorney, who taught both Constitutional Law and the course on the federal courts at Boston College Law School. \$10

**August 17 – September 8**  
**SMALL WORKS**  
 Group show featuring small works.  
 Opening reception 4-6 pm

**September 15 – October 6**  
**3RD ANNUAL DANIEL MANACHER PRIZE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS**  
 Opening reception 4-6 pm.

**Sat., Sept. 21, 6 pm**  
**GALA ANNUAL DINNER**  
 Delicious dinner prepared by chef Adam Manacher followed by a star-studded salute to and clips of Sandisfield Players performances. \$75

**Sat., Sept. 28, 7 pm**  
**DICK AND JIM**  
 Original play by poet/playwright Neil Silberblatt traces the friendship between photographer Richard Avedon and essayist/activist James Baldwin and their artistic collaboration on the 1964 book *Nothing Personal*. \$20 / 12 & Under: \$10

**Sat., Oct. 5, 10 am**  
**BERKSHIRE LANDSCAPE GEOLOGY: ART MEETS SCIENCE**  
 Over a billion years of earth's history are visible in the iconic Berkshire landscape, a rocky terrain that is captured in classic paintings. Talk by Professor Paul Karabinis, Williams College. \$10

**Sun., Oct. 6, 4 pm**  
**BILL TAYLOR AND FRIENDS**  
 Creative ensemble playing original and classical contemporary music with Bill on piano accompanied by woodwinds and voice. \$20

**October 13 – November 10**  
**WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
 Opening reception 4-5:30  
 5:30 Slideshow and talk by Amy Arbus, world renowned award-winning photographer

**Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am**  
**TRANSFORMING CARE DURING SERIOUS ILLNESS**  
 Talk by Diane Meier, MD, Director Emerita & Strategic Advisor of the Center to Advance Palliative Care. \$10

**Sat., Oct. 19, 7 pm**  
**BOBBY SWEET IN THE CABARET**  
 Singer/songwriter Bobby Sweet returns with his unique mixture of folk and jazz. \$20

**November 16 – December 15**  
**ART ON POSTCARDS**  
 Postcard-size works, all \$300 or less. Proceeds to be split 50-50 as a benefit for the Arts Center  
 Opening reception 4-6 pm

All events in the gallery are free.

Please check our website for schedule changes and November events.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Donate at [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org/donate](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org/donate) or scan the QR CODE or text SARC to 44-3221.



## BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DAYS IN THE ARTS SUMMER PROGRAM 2024

The Days in the Arts (DARTS) free summer day camp has been sponsored by the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1969, and has grown into a vibrant collaboration with Berkshire public schools. Middle school students (grades 6-8) experience a weeklong immersion in musical, dance, and theater arts (with additional opportunities in visual arts and creative writing), learning from local artist-educators at the renowned Tanglewood Music Center. In addition, students take special trips to arts and cultural institutions in surrounding communities. Bus transportation is available daily between the Tanglewood campus and multiple drop-off/pick-up locations in southern Berkshire County and Pittsfield.

**WHEN**  
 (Students May Register for one week.)

- Cohort 1: June 24-28, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM**  
 Wednesday, June 26: Field Trip to Local Cultural Institution, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
 Friday, June 28: Student Arts Expo and Program with Closing Reception from 1:30-3:30 PM
- Cohort 2: July 8-12, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM**  
 Wednesday, July 10: Field Trip to Local Cultural Institution, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
 Friday, July 26: Student Arts Expo and Program with Closing Reception from 1:30-3:30 PM

**WHERE**

- Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, MA
- Area Arts and Cultural Institutions (TBD)

**WHO MAY APPLY?**  
 Middle school students entering grades 6-8 attending school in any of the following districts:

- Berkshire Hills Regional School District
- Farmington River Regional School District
- Lee Public Schools
- Lenox Public Schools
- Pittsfield Public Schools
- Richmond Consolidated School
- Southern Berkshire Regional School District

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
 (Please fill out one form per child.)

<https://forms.gle/dxhqqzP4Ykepl5ND>

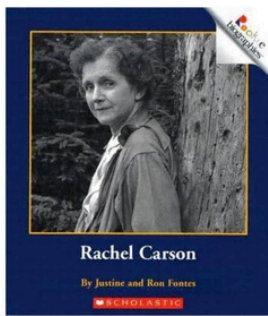


Please check our website [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org) for details and to make reservations. While several events are free, we gratefully accept donations.

**2023-2024 FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES**



## Otis Library StoryWalk



Rachel Carson by Justine and Ron Fontes

Come and read the story of Rachel Carson, an American marine biologist, writer, and conservationist credited with advancing marine conservation and the global environmental movement.

**WHEN:** Throughout the month of June.

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

- Otis Library Story Hour is every Wednesday, 9:00 - 10:00 am, birth through age four, older siblings are welcome.

**Kiwanis CLUB OF LEE presents:**  
**Family Fun Day**  
 June 22, 10am - 1pm  
 Lee Bank, 75 Park Street, Lee, MA

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR A FREE DAY OF ACTIVITIES**

- ✓ Bike raffle and helmet giveaways
- ✓ Bike tune-ups (bring your bike!)
- ✓ Emergency vehicles & personnel
- ✓ Lee Lion's Club and eye pre-screens
- ✓ Copsicle
- ✓ Child ID Project
- ✓ Hands-on activities and much more!
- ✓ Child safety seat checks-sign-ups preferred

use QR code or visit: [tinyurl.com/kiwaniskidseat](http://tinyurl.com/kiwaniskidseat)

**Rain date-June 29**