

# FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

06/13/2024

**Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,**

As we wrap up this school year, I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the beginning of summer. Reflecting on the past months, I am filled with gratitude for our school community's resilience, dedication, and support. As we look forward to the upcoming school year, I would like to remind you about some important staffing updates for the 2024-2025 school year and give a big shout-out to our 6th graders.

At the end of this school year, we will say goodbye to Ms. Silk, Mr. Flower, and Miss Pegi. Additionally, Ms. Hoctor will be retiring after 14 years of dedicated service. We deeply appreciate their hard work and commitment, which have left a lasting impact on our students and school community. They will be deeply missed. As we bid farewell to these wonderful educators, we are also thrilled to highlight some changes in teaching positions for the next school year. Ms. Bush will be teaching 3rd grade, Mr. Foster will be moving to the 5th grade, and Mr. Keller will be our new 6th-grade teacher. We are confident that they will bring fresh perspectives, energy, and a wealth of knowledge to our classrooms, greatly benefiting our students' learning experiences.

We are so incredibly proud of our 6th-grade students. They have shown remarkable growth and achievement during their time with us, both academically and personally. As they move on to new schools, we wish them continued success and happiness. Their hard work and dedication have set a strong foundation for their future endeavors, and we are confident they will excel in their new environments.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout this year. We remain committed to providing your children with the best possible education and are looking forward to the beginning of a wonderful new school year in the fall. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,  
Laurie Flower, *Principal*

**“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end..”**

- **SENECA** (*Roman Philosopher*)



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### SUMMER BREAK

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 -  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

### TEACHER & STAFF PD

MONDAY, AUGUST 26 -  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

#### GRADES 1-6

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28  
HALF-DAY OF SCHOOL  
DISMISSAL @ 11:45

### TEACHER MEET & GREET

#### OPEN HOUSE GRADES PREK-K

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28  
9:30-10:30

### HOLIDAY - LABOR DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2  
NO SCHOOL

### BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

THURS., SEPT. 19 - 6:00 PM

# FRES FIELD DAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2024





# SPRING CONCERT:

The Spring Concert was a delightful showcase of young talent and musical enthusiasm. Students performed a variety of songs, including selections by the Select Chorus and Band students. It was a heartwarming celebration of the students' hard work and creativity throughout the year, making the evening a memorable celebration of music and community.



## 6TH GR. VS TEACHER VOLLEYBALL GAME!

On the last day of school, the 6th graders faced off against their teachers in an exciting volleyball match. The game was filled with laughter, friendly competition, and cheers from classmates, marking a memorable and fun conclusion to the school year!

## LEMONADE DAY IN 3RD GRADE!



Third graders spent the end of the school year celebrating with a lemonade day! We did a lemonade read aloud, learned about the history of lemonade, did a lemonade tasting and ended the day by making our own lemonade in a bag!



## HEALTH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

- Free Covid Tests will be available in the front office throughout the summer! Stop by if you need any.
- I will be working summer school and will check e-mail weekly, if any concerns come up over the summer don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope you have a fun, safe and healthy summer!

- Nurse Grace

## PEACE OUT, EARLY K!



# SPRING MUSICAL: *Whatever Happened to Harry?*

The spring musical, titled "Whatever Happened to Harry," was an imaginative production written by the 4th to 6th graders.

Loosely based on the adventures of Harry Potter, the story follows Harry Topper and his four children, their quest to learn magic and save the planet from industrial pollution threats while battling the villainous Onyx, leaving the audience with the heartfelt message of environmentalism and friendship. This memorable event showcased the young writers' and actors' impressive talents, teamwork, and imaginative spirit!



## THE 4TH GRADE TEAM CELEBRATION AT FRENCH PARK

What better way to celebrate such incredible GROWTH this year than by getting the whole team together? Students, family members, Miss Paige, and Mrs. Mielke all gathered at French Park in North Egremont, Massachusetts and enjoyed lots of great opportunities to read a map to navigate the hiking trails, locate a hidden fireplace where we were to enjoy a picnic lunch, play games, have popsicles, and laugh! I have to say, volleyball and Kickball (kids versus adults) was EPIC! It's been a big year full of challenges, perseverance, and building our learning muscles together. Thank you families and students for being such great teammates this year!





# COLONIAL DAY

## HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

On Friday, May 31st, students were taken back in time to the year 1759! Along with members of the French and Indian War reenactment group, Roger's Rangers, and the 5th Grade Class, students were able to experience daily life in the 1700's by walking through camp, learning about candle making and butter churning, and even taking a whirl playing colonial games.

Students also watched and asked questions as the Rangers prepared their dinner meal in camp using cast iron cookware over an open fire, and tried on what clothes and other articles the Rangers would've had with them at camp.

*Sponsored by the Berkshire Taconic FIRE Fund*



# FAREWELL TO OUR 6TH GRADERS!



We bid a fond farewell to our graduating 6th grade students, congratulating them on their remarkable achievements. As you transition to middle school next year, we wish you continued success and growth. Your hard work and dedication have made us all incredibly proud, and we know you'll continue to shine in your future endeavors!



## LOCAL EVENTS

### SANDISFIELD Arts Center

- Sat., April 27, 10 am**  
**THE LITTLE THING 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 TRAW**  
Golf of Berkshire Arts 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**  
**ANDRE LAMBERTSON, AWARD-WINNING PHOTOJOURNALIST AND FILMMAKER**  
Screening of the music-film "The Whole City City," a unique window into the world of New Orleans school marching bands and discographies 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**  
**TOMÁS RUBENK, 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 infusing faculty by Chris Brubaker and featuring Joel Brown and Peter "Molok" Roth. \$25
- Sun., June 30, 2 pm**  
**PICK UP THE PENS. START YOUR WRITING PROJECT**  
The Arts Center hosts Lisa Tappert's community writing workshop. See website for registration.
- Sun., July 7, 4 pm**  
**LUNCHEON AT THE ORCHARD, AN EXCERPT FROM JAMES JOYCE'S DUBLINNESSES**  
Narrated by Ben Loxton. Irish songs by Lenox, Dan Loxton, Phineas, Josh Loxton-Robertson, cello, Lucy Berke. \$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 Loxton-Robertson 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. \$10
- August 17 - September 8**  
**SMALL WORKS**  
Group show featuring small works. Opening reception 4-6 pm
- September 15 - October 6**  
**3RD ANNUAL DANIEL MANALACHER PRIZE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS**  
Opening reception 4-6 pm
- Sat., Sept. 21, 6 pm**  
**GALA ANNUAL DINNER**  
Delicious dinner prepared by chef Adam Manscher followed by a star-studded salute to and clips of Sandisfield Players performances. \$75
- Sat., Sept. 28, 7 pm**  
**AND JIM**  
Original play by poet/playwright Neil Silberman traces the friendship between photographer Richard Avedon and essayist/activist James Baldwin and their artistic collaboration on the 1964 book *Meeting*. 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 Slide show and talk by Amy Arbus, world renowned award-winning photographer
- Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am**  
**TRANSFORMING CARE: BURNING 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 mix 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.

THE SANDISFIELD RECREATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

# ... Family... Fun Day

06 | 29 | 2024  
10am - 1pm

Looking Glass Gardens  
19 Dodd Rd.  
Sandisfield, MA

FREE Event  
All Ages Welcome

\$2 Pony Rides by Sunny Rose Farm  
Performance by Henry the Juggler @ 11am\*  
Bubs Beans & The Dogs (for purchase)  
Bounce House | Popcorn

\*Juggler Henry Lappen sponsored by: Mass Cultural Council

RSVP by 6.21.24 | sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

## 2023-2024 FRES NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

Now Open May - September 2024

# tiny TITANS

dinosaur eggs and babies

SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS  
ART • HISTORY • SCIENCE  
EDUC IN SPRINGFIELD

FREE admission first  
Wednesday of every month.  
6/5, 7/3, 8/7, and 9/4  
Preregister for tickets at  
[springfieldmuseums.org](http://springfieldmuseums.org)

Exhibition produced by Otis residents  
Charlie and Florence Magovern  
Managed by Nicholas and Alanna Register

## FREE SCIENCE & ART WORKSHOP

### AT FLYING CLOUD FARM

Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math  
for children in grades 1-6

**SAT. JUNE 15 @ 9:30 - 12:30**  
at the Flying Cloud Farm in New Marlborough

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.  
Contact Jane at [janeburke@gmail.com](mailto:janeburke@gmail.com)  
or text 413-429-6103

Ceramicist and Science educator Jane Burke & Artist Scotty Salame

FREE thanks to the Cultural Councils of  
Monterey, New Marlborough,  
Sandisfield, and Sheffield.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra** | **Tanglewood Days in the Arts**

## 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/dehkpzxFYkepJsN9>

## 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