



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY FAMILY NEWS

06/20/2025

Dear Farmington River Elementary Families,

As the school year officially wraps up, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for our vibrant community. These past two weeks have been a joyous celebration of our students' achievements, marked by several cherished traditions, including the PreK Bridging Ceremony, Last Day of School Activities, and the Grade 6 Moving Up Ceremony. I had the privilege of sharing these thoughts with them:

"Good afternoon, outstanding 6th graders, families, and guests! Today, we gather to celebrate a truly special milestone: your moving up to middle school! As I look out at all of your bright faces, I'm reminded of a fantastic book we all know and love: Roald Dahl's *The Twits*. Many of you might remember when we read it together back in 5th grade! Now, you might be wondering why I'm talking about Mr. and Mrs. Twit at such a joyous occasion. Well, those two characters are perfect examples of what happens when ugly thoughts fill your mind and a mean spirit takes root. Remember how Mrs. Twit tried to feed Mr. Twit spaghetti with worms in it? As Dahl wrote, 'It's a new kind of spaghetti, she said.' Thankfully, unlike Mr. Twit, you've all shown excellent taste and a much better understanding of what makes a good meal and a good education! Their constant tricks and horrid dispositions weren't just funny to read about; they showed us how being unkind and nasty can actually make you look and feel quite ugly inside and out. But here's the wonderful thing: you, our incredible 6th graders, are the complete opposite of the Twits! Instead of filling your minds with ugly thoughts, you've spent your elementary years filling them with knowledge and creativity. I've watched you grow from curious little learners into thoughtful, resilient young people. The Twits were constantly trying to trick the birds, especially with their dreadful sticky glue on the 'Great Big Sticky Old Twit Tree.' They thought they were so clever, but the Roly-Poly bird and the Muggle-Wumps always outsmarted them! And speaking of sticky situations, let's just say my office currently has a rather impressive collection of Elmer's glue bottles. You, on the other hand, have used your immense intelligence and creative problem-solving to tackle challenges, not trap innocent creatures. You've climbed educational 'trees' with genuine skill, helping each other along the way, always aiming high, and always with kindness, proving that true cleverness is about lifting others up, not sticking them down! As you embark on your middle school adventure, I urge you to remember the lessons of Muggle-Wump the Monkey and the Roly-Poly Bird: wisdom and cleverness can overcome any nastiness. Continue to be the amazing, intelligent individuals you are. Keep growing, keep learning, and keep spreading your good spirits. Your journey ahead will be filled with new challenges and exciting opportunities, and I have no doubt that you will face them with the same grace and determination you've shown here. Congratulations, 6th graders! We are so incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Go forth and be magnificent! And as Roald Dahl wisely reminds us from *Matilda*: 'Somewhere inside of all of us is the power to change the world.'"

I wish you a wonderful and well-deserved summer break! We can't wait to welcome you back, refreshed and ready for another fantastic school year in the fall!

Sincerely,
Laurie Flower, Principal



HELLO SUMMER



PLANNING AHEAD:

**FIRST DAY SCHOOL '25-'26:
HALF DAY**

**WED, AUGUST 27
DISMISSAL @ 11:45 AM**

**LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL
MON, SEPTEMBER 1**

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
THURS, SEPT. 18 @ 6:00 PM**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 6TH GRADERS!

Our 6th Grade Graduation was a beautiful celebration of achievement, growth, and bright futures ahead. The afternoon was filled with heartfelt moments as we honored our graduating students. Families and famii gathered to cheer on these wonderful scholars, and the rest of the student body watched from the back of the gym, eager to share in the celebration and show their support. Together, we recognized the many accomplishments of the 6th grade class—from academic excellence to citizenship and leadership awards. It was a joyful send-off for a truly special group of students as they get ready to shine in their next chapter.



6th Graders Shared a Poem that they collectively wrote as a class!



Victoria Radwilowicz
President's Award for Excellence



Olivia Lemon
President's Award for Achievement: Math



Alexander Gale
President's Award for Achievement: Math



Thomas Magovern
President's Award for Achievement: Reading



Emmalyn Pachuski
President's Award for Achievement: Reading



Isla Collins
President's Award for Achievement: Writing



Ryder Simonelli
President's Award for Achievement: Science



Satpal Chada
President's Award for Achievement: Social Studies



Emmalyn Pachuski presented the Class of 2025 Gift: Accessible Playground Equipment!



Victoria Radwilowicz
LaGrant Sportsmanship Award



Isla Collins
Laurie Nikituk Award



Thomas Magovern
FRREA Award



Thomas Magovern
Smile Like Jack Memorial Foundation Award



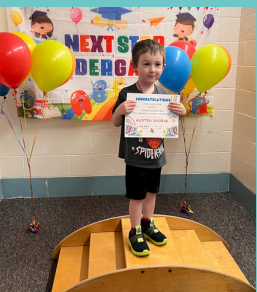
Emmalyn Pachuski
Cornelia Prindle Erbe Award



Victoria Radwilowicz
PTA Citizenship Award

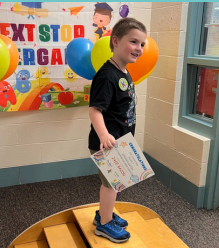
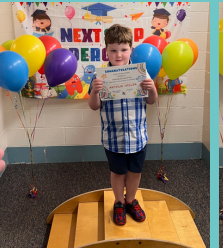
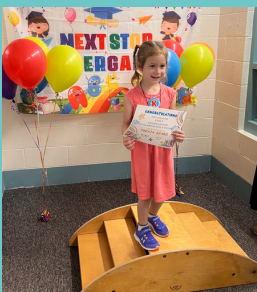


Aimee & Phil Magovern
PTA Volunteer of the Year Award



EARLY KINDERGARTEN BRIDGES TO KINDERGARTEN!

The Early Kindergarten Bridging Ceremony was a heartwarming celebration of growth and new beginnings. Ms. Hamill proudly shared the many accomplishments of the EK class, highlighting how much the students have learned and grown. The class then delighted the audience with a special song they prepared with the help of Mr. Roberts. To conclude the ceremony, each student received a certificate and a special necklace from Ms. Hamill before crossing the symbolic bridge to Kindergarten, where they were warmly welcomed by Ms. Maxton. It was a joyful and memorable moment for students and families alike!



YEARLY TEACHERS VS. STUDENTS VOLLEYBALL GAME!



The last day of school assembly kicked off with Principal Flower wishing all students a creative and adventurous summer. During the assembly, two students were recognized for their outstanding dedication with perfect attendance awards: Shea Kennedy in 5th grade and Ryder Simonelli in 6th grade! Following the celebration, the whole school gathered in the gym for one of our favorite last day of school traditions: the annual Teachers vs. 6th Graders Volleyball Game! This fun-filled event brings everyone together as our graduating students challenge their teachers in a friendly, spirited match. With the bleachers packed and cheers echoing through the gym, it's a joyful celebration of teamwork, laughter, and school spirit.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER & WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

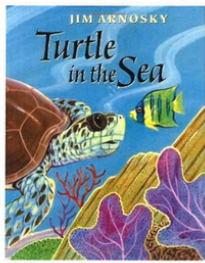


As another fantastic school year comes to a close, we want to wish all our students a joyful, safe, and adventure-filled summer! Watching you grow and learn this year has been a true pleasure. Keeping with tradition, staff lined up at the front doors, waving our students off with big smiles and warm wishes as they boarded the bus one last time this school year. Enjoy your break; we can't wait to welcome you back in the fall!



LOCAL EVENTS

Otis Library StoryWalk



Turtle in the Sea by Jim Arnosky

A poignant story of a sea turtle mother who lays her eggs late one night, this is also a subtle story about how important it is for mothers to take care of themselves for their children's sake.

WHEN: The month of June

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

LYA HOOP CAMP

Skill Development - Teamwork - Coachability - Communication - Confidence
Hard Work - Discipline - Leadership - Responsibility - Sportsmanship

2025 Summer Basketball Camp Information

Boys & Girls entering grades K - 2	Boys & Girls entering grades 3 - 9
One Week: June 23 - June 27	Week #1: June 30 - July 7 (No Camp on 7/4)
Boys & Girls: 9:00 - 11:30 (Drop-off: 8:30 - 9:00)	Boys: 8:30am - 11:30am, Girls: 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Camp Philosophy
The philosophy of the LYA basketball camp is to provide boys and girls the opportunity to learn about the game of basketball and the skills required to play 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 goal 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 playing 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
Basketball sneakers, appropriate clothing (Shorts, t-shirt), a water bottle (labeled with name)

Camp 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) 229-1168 - lyahoop@gmail.com
LYA (413) 243-5535

Registration
Register online at www.lee-youthsports.com. Enrollment in the camp may be limited, so please register early.
Register by June 2nd 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 registration fee
Documentation of a physical exam completed within the past 12 months is required by the first day of camp.

LYA Summer Baseball Camp

for ages 8-12!!!

Summer Baseball Camp

Who?
Boys and girls ages 8-12. New and veteran players welcome!

When?
Monday, July 28th through Thursday, July 31st (Rain Date: August 1st)
4 days - 8:30-11:30am

Where?
Lee Middle and High School Baseball Field (Maple Street)

Cost: \$80 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.lee-youthsports.com

Questions? Contact Dan Korte at lyahoop@gmail.com

Otis Library Craft & Country Fair

Sat., July 5
10am-3pm

The annual Otis Library and Country Fair will take place this year on Saturday, July 5, 2025 from 10am - 3pm on the Town Hall Green in the center of Otis, Mass (Rtes 8/23).

Featured are multiple craft booths, Tony's Italian food, a bake sale, raffles, children's activities, Copsicle truck, book and puzzle sale, jewelry and more! This event raises money for library programs and needs.

For information on booth space or other questions, or to sign up to volunteer, please call the library at 413-269-0109 or stop by during regular hours! We look forward to seeing you there!

2025 FAMILY SAFETY & FUN DAY

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

JUNE 21, 11AM-1 PM

LEE BANK PARKING LOT
75 PARK ST., LEE, MA

LEE FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE EXHIBITS, BIKE TUNE UPS, LEE LIBRARY, HANDS ON ACTIVITIES, SMOKEY THE BEAR, RED CROSS, LIONS CLUB PRE SCREENING, YOGA LEE, SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS INFORMATION, AND MORE

BIKE RAFFLE & HELMET GIVEAWAY

LYA Summer Day Camp

Place: Lee Elementary School (617-731)
St. Mary's School (84-819)
Dates: June 17 - August 19, 2025
Time: 8:00 - 5:00

Enrolling children entering grades 1 - 8
Counselors in training going into 9th grade

LYA
"Where all youth are valued for their individuality."

Lee Youth Association summer day camp will focus on friendship and adventure this 2025 season. Our mission is to create a safe environment where children can play, grow, and learn. We will be exploring nature and building confidence along the way, while enjoying games, encouraging teamwork and forming friendships!

PLEASE NOTE:
The number of campers per day will be limited so please get your registrations in ASAP - once we have reached that limit, we will not be able to take any more registrations

Daily Schedule

6:30 - 8:00 - Early drop off
8:00 - 9:00 - Open gym & game area
9:00 - 12:00 - Scheduled activities
12:00 - 12:45 - Lunch in the cafeteria
12:45 - 4:15 - Scheduled activities
4:15 - 5:00 - Open gym & game area
5:00 - Program ends - parent pickup

Items to Bring

Bathing Suit & Towel
Water Shoes
Water Bottle
Hat
Change of Clothing
Sunscreen & Bug Spray
Lunch & Snacks

Activities will include: Capture the flag, nature walks, arts, crafts, painting lessons, kickball, volleyball, 4-square, basketball, baseball, cards, puzzles, karate, board games, contests, ice cream truck visits, specialists, and much more!!!

Program Staff

All of our staff have experience working with children, some up to 25 years! Some of our staff have returned from last year and some are new. They are eager to get out and do new things with the campers! We bring in interests and energies from all corners of life. All staff are at a minimum First Aid and CPR certified. We have one certified EMT on site. We cannot wait to make new life long memories this summer season!

We are looking forward to a great summer!!!
LYA 480 Pleasant St. PO Box 115 Lee MA 01238
413.243.5535

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.

BERKSHIRE WALDORF SCHOOL

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

Family Fun Day!

Saturday, June 21st
10AM-1PM

Looking Glass Gardens
19 Dodd Rd.
Sandisfield, MA

Co-Sponsored by: **Mass Cultural Council**

RSVP By 6/14/25 to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

Terry A La Berry & Friends

- 10AM Interactive performance with Laurel Lenski from Intrinsic Movement
- \$5 Pony Rides at Sunny Rose Farm
- Light lunch available
- Face Painting
- Craft Activity
- 12PM Terry A La Berry & Friends perform live!

South Berkshire Kids

CFCE Grant
May 2025 Program Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
*Babies & Books @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. No program 5/26	*Otis Explore & Play @ Otis Town Hall, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*Lenox Play @ Lenox Community Center, 10am-11am. Drop in.	*Brain Builders @ Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Registration required.	*Tyringham Play @ Tyringham Playground, 10am-11am. Drop in.
*Tunes for Tots @ Lenox Community Center, 9:30am-10:15am. Registration required. No program 5/26	*Sing & Dance @ Bushnell-Sage Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in.	*New Marlborough Storytime @ New Marlborough Library, 10:00am-11:00am. Drop in.	*Richmond Reads @ Richmond Library, 10:30am-11:30am. Drop in. No program 5/1 & 5/15	

***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.
- Tunes for Tots, with Dan @ Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St/Lenox. Mondays 9:30am-10:15am. This program will include music, movement & instruments. Registration required by emailing southberkshirkids@gmail.com
- Otis Explore & Play with Anika @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road/Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly program 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 program with tabletop activities, free play, crafts and more. Great for toddlers & preschoolers. Drop in.
- New Marlborough Storytime with Jess @ New Marlborough Library, 1 Mill River Rd 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 10:30am-11:30am. This program is for ages 3-5. Registration required by emailing 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.
- Family Hikes @ Pleasant Valley, 472 W Mountain Road/Lenox. May 8th & 22nd, 10am-11am. Registration required by emailing southberkshirkids@gmail.com
- Tyringham Stay & Play @ Tyringham Playground, Fridays 10am-11am. Join us for this outdoor program with balls, bubbles, crafts and more! Weather permitting. Drop in.

Visit us online for additional resources & info:
www.southberkshirkids.org www.mass111.org

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 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 Berkshire County. 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: July 14 - July 18, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM
• Includes a Field Trip to Berkshire County Arts Institution, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
• Friday, July 18: Student Arts Expo and Program with Closing Reception from 130-330 PM
Cohort 2: July 21 - July 25, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM
• Includes a Field Trip to Berkshire County Arts Institution, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
• Friday, July 25: Student Arts Expo and Program with Closing Reception from 130-330 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 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.)