

PTA News

October 2014 Spotlight

We welcome Thomas Nadolny, our new Principal and first Spotlight at Farmington River this 2014-15 year!

Can you give me a bit of background about you:

Where do you live, do

you have children/pets or live with someone you'd like to share with us?

I have been married for 25 years and have two boys: Matt, 25 years old and Eric, 22 years old, who both live at home.

We have two dogs and one cat.

I am a lifelong resident of Pittsfield and attended all of the public schools there. I attended Berkshire Community College and hold an A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice; a B.A. degree from MA College of Liberal Arts in Sociology; and a M.Ed. in School Administration from Cambridge College.

What was your job before coming to Farmington River? What brought you to the school?

Prior to FRRSD, I was the Assistant Principal for Southern Berkshire Regional School District. I was Principal there years ago, but left to work within the Gateway Regional School District. For Gateway, I was Principal of both Chester Elementary School and the R.H. Conwell School in Worthington. I have always loved working in small rural schools—the smaller, the better. I like the sense of community smaller schools have.

What are your hobbies, or what do you enjoy doing on your time off?

I like to travel during my time off. I enjoy Myrtle Beach and Cape Cod the most. I'm looking forward to hunting season this year, as I have gotten away from it for a few years. I'm also a Certified Firearms Instructor and teach safety classes.

As Principal of Farmington River, what does your job entail?

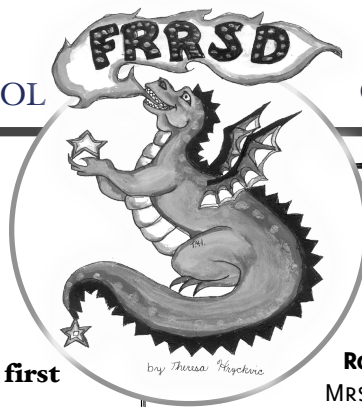
My job entails a lot. First is student and staff safety. I am also responsible for the supervision and evaluation of staff. My job is to work with teachers to deliver the most effective instruction for ALL students. My job is also to be the ambassador for the district.

I hold four core beliefs about education:

- *Student Development and Achievement* is our primary purpose, and we must be accountable for all students' learning and growth at high levels.
- *Parental Engagement* supports and maintains the educational process, while setting a personal and character-development standard for students.
- *The Teaching and Learning Environment* is the pathway to establish positive school experiences and to motivate students to dream big and work hard.
- Finally, we must aim to *Make Learning Relevant* to the student's life or interest.

Can you tell us how you feel about working at Farmington River, and what your goals are in your position?

Every day I am still amazed at what happens in this school. The staff are dedicated and hard working. The level of community support coupled with a great PTA make FRRSD just a great place to work and learn. I think the best part is having that private-school feel in a public school. You don't get this feeling in larger schools. As for goals, I would like to see each student receive an education that meets their specific need—no matter where they are. I feel education needs to meet the student where they are; not the reverse. In an



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(Spotlight, continued)

ideal scenario, each student would have an individual learning plan (ILP) that would outline what steps need to be taken to ensure academic success. I also want the parents and community members to feel more comfortable about coming into the school; they need to feel welcome. After all, we are partners in educating children.

What's your favorite part of the day?

I don't really have a favorite part, I like all of it. From standing outside in the morning to welcome kids and parents, to visiting classrooms throughout the day,

to dismissal when I'm outside saying goodbye—it's all great.

What sort of message do you want to give to the children and parents at Farmington River?

Please know that I care deeply about each child's academic success. I want to partner with all parents to ensure their child's needs are being met. I also want for parents to become more involved in the school by joining the PTA, or by just visiting. As educators, we cannot do it alone—we need to partner with parents to ensure a student's success.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, October 9
3:15 in the Library

Flower Power Order Forms Due

No later than October 10

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, November 5

Scholastic Book Fair Week

Wednesday, Nov 5 through Friday, Nov 7

✿ FLOWER POWER IN FULL SWING ✿

Order Forms are due back **no later than October 10th**. A full **50%** of sales will be returned to classrooms, and *the winning classroom earns a Pizza Party with Mr. Nadolny!* The student with top sales will earn a **\$50 Amazon Gift Card**; 2nd highest earns a **\$25 Amazon Gift Card!**

SAVE THE DATES!

The Annual Scholastic Book Fair will be open for sales on November 5th, 6th and 7th! Stay tuned for a ***Family Fun Night*** announcement for Friday November 7th. Parents, students, staff and the community are welcome to attend!

SUMMER SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER—A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Jon Berman Benefit Concert + Auction for Farmington River Elementary School was a well-orchestrated success, thanks to the organizational efforts and steering committee of Wendy Berman, Kenly Brozman and Ilona Packie. We give tremendous thanks for the continued generosity of John & Anastasia Stanmeyer in lending their terrific barn gallery space and to a multitude of generous donors, too numerous to list here, including the *Furnace Brook Winery of Hilltop Orchards* and *Wandering Star Brewing Company*; and to the many committed volunteers. Most especially, we thank the talented Jon Berman for his original idea and gracious generosity of time, deft musicianship, and compelling performance that lent the stellar evening a graceful, magical air and helped to raise **\$5,726** for playground improvements!
An exceptional idea behind an exceptional evening.

KAREN YVON TO ONCE AGAIN COORDINATE THE COLLECTION OF BOX TOPS

Over the last three years, through the committed organizational efforts of Karen Yvon, we have raised an amazing **\$2,231** simply by cutting, collecting and submitting **Box Tops!** Saving **Box Tops** is an easy way for everyone to help raise a lot of money! Ask your friends, neighbors and relatives to please collect **Box Tops** for your child—they *really* add up, big!