



Happy February!

We have exciting things to look forward to in the next few months. Here's what we're cooking up:

As you are already aware, our **Cash Calendar** sales are underway. This year, participants have 32 chances to win cash back (ranging from \$50-\$300)! This is—by far—our largest fundraising effort, helping to support most of our activities and programs: **Field Day**, the **Annual Ski Program**, **Screen Free Week**, **Teacher Appreciation Week**, technology purchases, field trips and more. Last year we raised over \$12,000! Thank you to everyone who helps to make this effort a success, especially to Sherry DeCelle, Dawn Lemon and Jessica Havens.

Next up for us is the annual **Scholastic Book Fair**! We will be hosting the Book Fair in the library during the week of **February 29–March 4**. Also, we're excited to announce that we will host **Bryson Lang**, a fun Comedian-Juggler whose show has been called "The Cure For the Common Show". He will be performing on **Friday, March 4 at 6:30pm**, immediately following our **Family Fun Night Pizza Dinner at 5:30pm**. More details will be coming home regarding the Book Fair very soon. We will be seeking dessert donations; please visit <http://www.frrsd.org/pta/> and click on the **SignupGenius** link if you'd like to volunteer to bring a dessert item to **Family Fun Night**!

Looking back at January, we hosted a **Chili Cook-Off** at the Knox which consisted of 16 entries ranging from vegetarian to Thai chicken to venison and beef combos. For the first time, we had multiple tie winners!

Our winners were:

1st place: TIE – Stephanie Meyers (Steph & Brodie's Wild Chili) with **Craig Drenga** (Sweet 'n Spicy 3-Bean Chili)

2nd place: TIE – Tom Soules (his "Veef" Chili) with **Ian Smith** (Beef & Pepper Bean-Free Chili)

3rd place: Kathy Adams (Thai Fusion Chili with Coconut, Lemongrass & Peanut).



David Reed & Trio Traumatica, performing at the Knox Trail Inn for our annual Chili Cook Off; Bradley Pustinger dances stage front. Photo, courtesy Claudia d'Alessandro

David Reed & Trio Traumatica performed their swamped-up, Caribe-steeped, cigar box jump & jazzy blues to an enthusiastic crowd as they mingled and sampled chili. Thank you to **Chris Keller** for organizing this fun community event, as well as to all of our contest entrants and chili tasters!

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"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

W.B. Yeats

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela



SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Feb 11 • Mar 10 • Apr 14 • May 12

Held Thursdays at 3:15pm, School Library

We Have Child Care During PTA Meetings!

We hope you'll join us! If you plan to attend, please send your child with a note stating they will be staying after school. Students are to meet Karen Yvon at the benches outside the gym.

Annual Winter Ski Program At Otis Ridge

Wednesdays, Jan 13 – Feb 24 2016

We finally have ***SNOW*** and the skiing is great! Last night of lessons is **Weds 2/17**, with participants enjoying our grand finale **Pizza Party** that very same night!

Program officially ends **Weds 2/24**, with free open skiing for all participants.

Annual Cash Calendar Fundraiser

Drawings held throughout March

Ticket sales are underway for our primary fundraiser! Deadline for ticket sales is **February 29**. Not only is it Leap Year, but we added an extra day for drawings, with an extra chance to win on April 1st!

Read Across America

Weds March 2

Celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday!

Scholastic Book Fair Week

Week of 2/29 – 3/4

SAVE THE DATE!

**FREE Family Fun Night,
Friday, March 4**

Pizza Dinner: 5:30 pm

Bryson Lang, Comedian-Juggler: 6:30 pm

Book Fair Shopping: 5–8 pm



**REWARD PROGRAMS: FOR A FULL LIST, GO TO
FRRSD.ORG/PTA/REWARD-PROGRAMS**



BOX TOPS: WE'VE RECEIVED OVER \$400 SO FAR THIS YEAR!

- Don't forget to go to boxtops4education.com for coupons!
- NEW to Box Tops: Annie's Organics! Be sure to check your Annie's products and clip those Box Tops!
 - Always include your child's name and grade.



**LABELS FOR EDUCATION: A FEW MORE MONTHS
TO CLIP ALL YOU CAN!**

- After many years, Campbell's has announced it will be ending its "Labels for Education" program in June 2016 due to decline in participation. It is a long tradition that is coming to an end. Check those cupboards, drawers and your pantry, because Campbell's Labels for Education have no expiration!
 - Please keep on clipping those Labels until June! For more info, go to labelsforeducation.com
 - Always include your child's name and grade.



MIGHTY NEST: 15% COMES BACK TO US!

- Lots of great natural, organic and non-toxic products—mightynest.com



**Read Across America
Weds March 2**

"Read Across America" is part of an annual tradition to celebrate **Dr. Seuss's** birthday and provides an opportunity for our children to come together as a community and read. It is celebrated nationwide. Sometimes teachers have readers come in and read to their classroom. We encourage your children to wear red, white and black that day, just like the Cat in the Hat does! The PTA will again be providing each child with a Dr. Seuss hat plus goody bag to commemorate the day!



**SAVE THE DATE!
Free Family Fun Night,
Fri March 4**

We're looking for dessert donations and volunteers to help with dinner and staffing the Scholastic Book Fair. You may register to help for this event via the SignUp Genius link on the PTA page of the school website.

Please go to:

<http://www.frrsd.org/pta/>

PLEASE EMAIL pta@frrsd.org if you have any questions.

CASH CALENDAR UPDATE

Farmington River PTA'S annual **Cash Calendar** is on sale during January and February; drawings will be held each day of March, plus one extra day on April 1. The support of our donors is essential to the success of our annual Fundraiser!

Thank you to all of the businesses and friends of FR for their generosity; **\$3,650** was donated this year!

Anonymous Donors • In Memory of BRP • Jody's Floor Sanding • Otis Poultry Farm • Farmington River Diner • Buck River Farm John Field Tree Services • Tolland Mountain Builders • A & M Auto • Hair in Otis • Harvest Moon Realty • Lakeside Estates iron blender studios • The Guidette Family • Wood Sculpture by KF Packie • Mark Couch Trucking • KRM Office Equipment Ameriprise Financial • Robert McMahan/Jeanne Randorf • SS Home Improvements • RJ Beham Forest Products Dr. Lin • Tonlino & Sons • Meow & Growl Pet Supplies • Riiska Brook Orchard • Villa Mia Restaurant • Pittsfield Communications Berkshire Bank • Vanessa Tarasuk Home Caretaking • GJ Pease Logging/Land Clearing • Meyer Well Drilling