



River Valley Current

October 27, 2015 No. 422

"A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad."
-Theodore Roosevelt

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, October 29

Community Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, October 30

Fall Festival & Open House at Morning Glory
7th & 8th Grade Halloween Dance at
Ottsville Traditional Arts 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Nov. 5th & Friday, Nov. 6th

3rd grade pumpkin pie bake sale. 1pm and 3 pm

Saturday, November 7

Workday – 6th/7th grade

Monday, November 9

Tea & Play at Morning Glory 10-11:30 am

Wednesday, November 11

Lantern Walk – EC, 1st & 2nd grades 4:45 pm
(Afterschool Programs will end at 4:30)

Saturday, November 14

Holiday Bazaar 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Monday, November 16

Tea & Play at RVWS 12:00-1:00 pm

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org
lc@rivervalleyschool.org
bot@rivervalleyschool.org
pc@rivervalleyschool.org

Community Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 29th at 6:30pm

RVWS Parents, this is a meeting not to miss! The Leadership Council, together with the faculty have been looking at some of RVWS' programs and policies as part of the pedagogical portion of our Strategic Plan. They would like to share with you their intentions for the near future, which will include follow-up from the conversation begun at a community meeting last year regarding options for the journey of the grade school teacher at RVWS. They look forward to sharing these ideas and intentions as well as hearing your responses.

....Plus, there will be CAKE!

Martinmas Coat Drive

Yea! River Valley community! Thank you so much for the incredible outpouring of coats for our coat drive. Please keep them coming!!

Please consider donating your gently used coats and jackets to our First Annual Martinmas Coat Drive. Our music teacher Carol Diven is organizing the drive through the not-for-profit organization, One Warm Coat, as part of River Valley's celebration of the legend of Saint Martin. The coats received will benefit
A Woman's Place of Doylestown, PA.

New or gently used women's, men's and children's coats are all welcome and needed!

The drop box in the school lobby will be there until November 20th to receive your generous donations!

Thank you Carol for organizing this wonderful way for RVWS to support to our greater community!

Reminders:

November Lunch Orders Due Today, October 27th

Wreath Orders Due Friday

Pickup Orders must be received by OCTOBER 31. Direct Ship Orders are due NOV 12.

Due to the Lantern Walk on Wednesday, November 11th, After-school programs will end at 4:30 pm.

November Family Pierogi Order

Family order forms may be placed in the folder labeled "Pierogies" on the office door. Please return them by Thursday, October 29th along with payment for checks made payable to RVWS, marked "8th grade pierogis."
Delivery Date: Wednesday, November 4th, 3:00 PM. Order forms attached to this week's Current

Parent Council Corner

Next PC meeting will be the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 18th at 6:30, location TBA.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parents will be providing nourishment for our busy and beloved teachers on Nov. 24th & Nov. 25th. Each class will take care of their own teacher. PC would love some volunteers to provide food for the specialty teachers as well.

From Administration

Directory Corrections

Please correct Kristyn Lederer's address and email address in your directory: 2230 Weiss Road, Quakertown, PA 18951, 1134zar@gmail.com.

Phone numbers for Jane and Tony Stuart are incorrect. The home number is now a fax machine to reach them by phone, call Jane's cell: 562-208-5048 and Tony's cell: 562-810-4614.

Plants?

Do you have any plants that need a new home? We are looking for a few plants to brighten up the offices and freshen the air. Hanging or tall standing varieties would be most appreciated.

Condolences

We send our condolences to the Miles family (Jonny, Catherine, McCaslin (G6), Callie (G4) and Sloan (G2) on the loss of Jonny's mother, Barbara Miles. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

A Call for Housing

River Valley has been chosen to host the next session of "Teaching Sensible Science," a training for Waldorf Science teachers from all over the country. There will be approximately 25-30 teachers attending the course and they will all need a place to stay.

Below are the dates that we would like to find housing for them. The guests will pay \$30 for a shared room and \$40 for a private room per night to the host. Attendees should have their own transportation so the host would just be responsible for providing a room. Faculty or families of River Valley that are interested can contact Hilary at hmurphy@rivervalley.school.org

The course will be divided into three week-long sessions:

SESSION 1: Friday evening February 12 – Thursday noon February 18, 2016

SESSION 2: Monday evening June 20 – Sunday noon June 26, 2016

SESSION 3: Wednesday evening October 5 – Monday noon October 10, 2016 (Columbus Day weekend in the U.S. and Thanksgiving in Canada)

Administration Work Schedule

Cindy Schretlen – every day

Renee Goodyear – Monday all day, Tuesday and Wednesday until 1:30

Robbie Miller – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Hilary Murphy – Wednesday and Thursday until 1:00

Pamela Hobson – every morning until 10:00

Charlene Chapman – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday until 12:00

James Hagan – Tuesday, Thursday

TreeAnne McEnery – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday until 1:00

THANK YOU

A TREMENDOUS thank you to all those who helped make the 8th grade yard sale fundraiser such a huge success! In total, \$3400 was raised! It was a great day due in large part to the outstanding efforts of the 8th grade parents and students who all worked so hard! Thank you to everyone who donated their treasures to help make our yard sale so successful and thank you to everyone who came shopping on a glorious autumn Saturday!

A huge thank you to the Willards for opening up their pasture for our epic 8th grade yard sale fundraiser.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Form Drawing

Third Grade – Arithmetic

Fourth Grade – Math/Norse Mythology

Fifth Grade – Botany

Sixth Grade – Physics

Seventh Grade – Algebra

Eighth Grade – Physiology

A Request from the Garden

Dear Friends, If anyone is cleaning out their garage, or visiting a garage sale and would like to donate to the garden...We could use hand pruners and rakes! Thank You So much!

After-School German & Schuhplattler

A new round of German will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 4, and the next round of German Tutoring will start on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Both classes will now include Schuhplattler lessons, as well as songs, conversation, games, and a German-style snack.

A new round of our regular Monday Schuhplattler class will start on Nov. 16. As always, these classes will run for 6-7 weeks, with breaks for school vacations. Contact Peter Ray at peter.ray@comcast.net or info@schuhplattlerkids.org.

Looking for a sitter!!!

The MacDonald children (Oliver and Edierose) need a friend to pick them up on Thursdays at 3:20 and either bring them home or keep them until around 6:30 when Molly gets out of her faculty meeting. Please call Molly at 610-349-3536

From the Leadership Council

What we are working on?

Preparing with the faculty for the Community Meeting on October 29th.

Working with EC to start a new mixed age kindergarten class after January.

Working with TDC on teacher mentoring and evaluation.

The LC has open hours every Tuesday from 3:30-4 for anyone who would like to meet with us. If you have a question or a concern, please stop by. All are welcome.

From Parent Council

Parent Discussion Group

A few parents met in the garden with TreeAnne McEnery, our wonderful Pedagogical Chair, and discussed the article 'Confessions of a Waldorf Parent'. I found this meeting to be warm and thoughtful. Sharing my thoughts with others was energizing and fun....sometimes I forget to take time out to enjoy others. So if you are like me and would like to learn more about Waldorf Education and have meaningful adult conversation then please join us for monthly Parent Discussions (3rd Wednesday of each month). Keep a look out in the Current for subjects and times.

Building & Grounds

School Work Days

Below is the calendar of the upcoming workdays. Please note that some changes have been made from the school calendar. Please RSVP to Mary K. Till (mtill@rivalvalleyschool.org), to let us know if you will attend. This way we can plan what projects can be undertaken. Mary K. Till and Lynne Allbaugh - Building and Grounds

2015-2016 Work Days

December 13 - 5th grade

January 23 - 4th grade

February 27 - 3rd grade

March 12 - 2nd grade

April 23 - 1st grade

May 14 - Early Childhood

Class Fundraisers

"Savoring the Seasons" Cookbook / Local Directory

Sneak Peek! Yummy, homemade baked pumpkin treats by the 3rd grade class from their own pumpkin harvest will be sold at both the 1pm and 3pm pick-up times on Thursday, November 5th and Friday, November 6th. (There will be a special diet or gluten free/vegan option as well.) It is now time to get excited for the G3 Seasonal Cookbook & Area Resource Guide while trying some of our Autumn baked goods. It is true! 150+ DELECTABLE RECIPES fill this community cookbook and the AMAZINGLY HANDY AREA RESOURCE GUIDE will bring ease and joy into your life as it contains all of our latest community recommendations for children's theater, hiking, biking, dining, local health care providers, coffee shops, pumpkin patches, trades people, children's clothes & toys and Much, MUCH more (80+ categories)! Coming soonso we will keep you posted on when they will be available for purchase! Thank you for supporting the Third Grade Class AND your Community!

Handmade, Sustainable, Balsam Fir Wreaths to Support the Eighth Grade!

Order your Holiday Wreaths early & Support the Eighth Grade Class Trip Fundraiser! We are taking orders for fresh & fragrant, handmade Balsam Fir Wreaths sourced for us from Minnesota by Evergreen Industries.

Generous 25" decorated Wreaths are offered for \$25 & can be picked up at RVWS mid November. They will be individually bagged for easy transport and to retain freshness. 22" Wreaths are available for \$35 & Will Ship Anywhere in the U.S.! They arrive in a beautiful Gift Box & you may include a Gift Card message! Evergreen Industries is committed to sustainability. Their bough harvesting takes place after successive hard frosts in late September each fall. The raw materials used in the wreaths are cut from federal and state lands, privately owned properties, and land ceded to Native Americans. Generations of families work for Evergreen Industries picking thousands of tons of boughs. The Evergreens are all hand-cut, bundled and delivered.

We are thrilled to partner with Evergreen Industries for our 8th Grade Trip fundraiser! There are order forms conveniently attached to the Current or you may visit our online store at <https://store7524428.ecwid.com>. All Pickup Orders must be received by OCTOBER 31. Direct Ship Orders must be received by NOV 12. Check & Credit Cards accepted and hard copy order forms should be placed in the Folder on the Office Door.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Love, the Eighth Grade

Planning your child's birthday party?

Let the energetic, fun-loving eighth graders help — and help them raise the funds they need for their class trip! We'll make your child's party one they won't soon forget! Now booking dates for October, November, and December— Limited dates available so email Renell Carpenter (renell@rcn.com) or Kira Willey (kira@kira.net) to reserve your party now!

From the Community

Lost

Zohra Mekki (Grade 7) is looking for a purple Gap hoodie and a green lunch bag with a "Whole Foods" logo. If you find either item, please let Zohra know or return them to the 7th grade classroom.

Lenape Chamber Ensemble – Concert in the Round

Saturday, Nov. 7th, 10-11 am, for children 4 – 12 yrs.
Featuring music by Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi, Biber & Cellos for Violins, Viola, Cellos, Bass & Harpsichord
Refreshments and Instrument Demonstrations
At Delaware Valley University Life Sciences Auditorium
700 E. Butler Ave. Doylestown, PA 18901
Children \$2.00 – Adults FREE
For more info please call: (610)294-9361

Roxey Ballet Presents Dracula and The Nutcracker

Roxey Ballet is presenting Bram Stoker's Dracula October 23-November 1 at the Canal Studio Theater, 243 North Union Street, Lambertville, NJ and The Nutcracker, November 28-December 7 at The College of NJ Kendall Theater, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ.
Roxey Ballet will donate 20% of every ticket purchased by River Valley families to our school. Go to www.roxeballet.org and used the fundraising code: RVWSCHOOL when buying your tickets.

New Children's Store in Easton

Polliwogs & Petunias has opened in Easton with many beautiful wooden toys and other items of interest to children. Some of them are:
Elves and Angels kitchen (which retails for about \$180) for \$75 including some wooden food and two pans, a wooden toaster with two slices of toast and butter for \$15, a wooden rocking horse for \$37, a sweet little wooden chair for \$27, and a wooden school bus for \$12.

If anyone is interested they can reach the owner, Michelle Maher, at Polliwogs & Petunias 917 355-4953. They are open Th & Fri from 12 to 6, Sat 10 to 6 and Sun 12 to 5.

Free Rototiller

Troy build horse tiller...from the 80's...won't start, low compression...repair project or for parts. Call Lolo at 215-297-0203.

House for Rent in Ottsville on Geigel Hill Rd.

3 Bedroom, Large Kitchen, Large Dining, 2 baths, Great room, Living room, Full basement, 2 car garage, Oil heat, Yard care included, Large deck, 6 acres.
Available for 6-7 months. Asking \$1750 (but willing to negotiate because of shorter lease)

Please contact David Ledger, (671) 688-3352
davidledgerguam@gmail.com

FALL FESTIVAL @ OTAC

Fun Fall Events at the Ottsville Traditional Arts Center. Concerts, dances, lessons and jams Oh My! All family friendly. Stay tuned for special student jam and pot luck evenings as well as some off campus RVWS school community events. Check us out!

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center Events

OCTOBER

Sat. Oct. 24 Scandinavian Workshops with Lydia & Andrea

3-4:40 pm Melody instruments workshop • \$15 4:30-6 pm Slängpolska dance workshop • \$15
\$25 for both workshops!

Please join us for a special day of Swedish music and dance! Lydia & Andrea perform an energetic and engaging program of traditional waltzes, schottises, polskas, and more on fiddle, 5-string fiddle, nyckelharpa, and voice.
lydia-andrea.com

NOVEMBER

Sun. Nov. 22 Family Contradance with Coracree

3:30 pm beginners' workshop & caller **Melissa Taggart**
4:00-7:00 pm dance • \$10 adults \$8 kids free under 6yrs.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Jam Workshop with Daniel Hawkins 6 - 8 pm - \$10 suggested donation

Friday, Dec. 18

The Elftones in Concert – Timing and pricing TBA!

Every Wednesday

Open Jam with Richard Finch

6:00-8:00 pm • \$5 suggested donation

More at ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com • 250 Durham Rd. Ottsville Pa.

Art in the Library

Drawing the Still Life and Figure in Charcoal with George Thompson

November 9 & 16 6:00pm – 9:00pm This is a two-part workshop - Open to ages 16 – adult

This two-part workshop will explore the challenges of drawing a still life and working from a live model using only charcoal. All levels are welcome.

ADVENTURES in COLLAGE with Emily Thompson Saturday, November 14 10am – 12 noon, for ages six and over.

In this workshop we will discover the beauty of collage using a variety of materials to create a beautiful composition. We will experiment with paper, fabric, plastic, wood, found objects and more, using textures and layering techniques working with torn paper and everyday objects to create colorful, dynamic collages. Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring any paper scraps or other materials you may want to incorporate into your artwork. Please bring a smock to class. Parents are welcome to stay and participate!

The workshops are held in the Community Room at Riegelsville Borough Hall, 615 Easton Road.

To sign up for workshops and our mailing list, please contact the Riegelsville Library, 610-749-2357 or Riegelsville.Library@gmail.com

Moving Through Childhood

A workshop with Jaimen McMillan, Director, Spacial Dynamics Institute

November 13-14, 2015 at Kimberton Waldorf School

Friday, November 13, 7:30-9:00 pm, Saturday, November 14, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Workshop Fee: \$125 (early bird \$100 before November 1st), Friday lecture only, \$20

Learn how parents and teachers can best support healthy development through movement. "Play rises above other activities. It is the creation of space in which new activities can take place...a world of untold possibilities."

For more information: info@spacialdynamics.com, 518-695-6377, www.spacialdynamics.com

From the New York Times parenting blog:

Give Late Blooming Children the Time They Need

By Jessica Lahey October 14, 2015

I'm not a nostalgic parent when it comes to stuff. I ruthlessly recycle my children's artwork, early drafts of epic zombie novels and abandoned toys. Once read, most books are destined for donation to our local library. That said, three of my own childhood books have survived four decades and nine moves. "Leo the Late Bloomer," written by Robert Kraus, and illustrated by Jose Aruego, might be my favorite.

Leo the tiger cub is in despair. His friends can read, but not Leo. His friends can write their names, but all Leo can scratch out with his claw is an illegible squiggle. His friends draw lifelike portraits, but Leo's attempts are little more than formless lumps and bumps. Worst of all, Leo can't even communicate his frustration, because he can't speak, either.

No one has to tell Leo he lags behind his friends; his differences and delays are apparent, and while his friends are loving, kind and inclusive, Leo feels less than.

Most children can identify with Leo's feelings, even children whose delays are nowhere near as evident as Leo's. I know I did. There is always someone better — more musical, more athletic, more literate — and it is human nature to make comparisons as we grow and change.

Where I used to feel for Leo, I now empathize with his parents. Leo's father is consumed with worry over Leo's delays. He tries to hide his concern as he keeps his vigil, watching for signs of Leo's blooming.

We all watch our children as they grow, for signs that all is well. We crave evidence, both of their healthy development and of our own competence as parents, and lacking any other source of information, we scan the playground for comparisons. That boy can count to 100 in Spanish while my son can barely speak his native tongue. That child can traverse the play structure with the athleticism of a spider monkey, while mine needs help climbing up the slide. That girl can eat her healthful snack with chopsticks, while my child eats his boogers.

"Relax," the psychologist and former teacher Michele Borba reminds me when I email to fret about the swim coach's observation that Finn's "a sinker," or Ben's inability to ride a bike well into his tweens. "Einstein didn't say his first word until he was 4. Stop rubbernecking on the playground, Jess; childhood is not a race. Stay calm and support your child. If you are really worried, talk to his teacher or pediatrician, but kids bloom at their own rate, in their own sweet time."

She is right, of course. A big part of my job as a middle-school teacher was to prepare my students for the complex demands of high school. Every year, there were a few students who caused me to fret, students I was positive would never be ready in time. They lost their plan books 10 times a day and left lunches in lockers until swarms of fruit flies betrayed the neglected hoard. And yet, somehow, some way, and just in time for ninth grade, they bloomed.

"Patience," Leo's mother instructs Leo's anxious father, "A watched bloomer doesn't bloom."

Furthermore, while we watch them for signs of blooming, they watch us. They know we worry, and our worry feeds their anxiety that they don't measure up.

Children don't have to be told that they lag behind their peers, as the evidence is all around them: on the playground, in the classroom and at home, in the eyes of their siblings and parents.

In the end — spoiler alert — Leo blooms. He does not bloom when his father wants him to or on anyone else's schedule. Leo blooms when it's time, and once he does: "He could read, he could write, he could draw, and he ate neatly."

Like Leo, my sons bloomed according to their own secret schedules. Finn grew a swim bladder and learned how to float just in time to graduate from the "Guppy" class. When Ben determined the time and place were right, and he was ready, he climbed on the lonely bicycle I had kept waiting for him in the garage.

As I watched Ben pedal away to meet his friends at our local swimming hole, legs too long for the bicycle we had optimistically purchased for a much younger version of Ben, I could hardly remember why I'd worried.

Jessica Lahey is an educator, writer and speaker and the author of "The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed." Find her at JessicaLahey.com.