



River Valley Current

April 4, 2017 No. 475

Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar. --Bradley Miller

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, April 5

School Tour 9:00 am
3rd grade play 9:00 am

Thursday, April 6

3rd grade play 9:00 am
2nd grade Parent Evening 6:30 pm

Friday, April 7

3rd grade play 6:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Monday-Friday, April 10-14

No School – Spring Break

Monday, April 17

Make up day for snow cancellation

Wednesday, April 19

Parent Council Meeting 2:00 pm
Geoff Kaufman Concert 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 20

Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 22

Parent Stage

How to Contact Us

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

There will be school on Monday, April 17th after Spring Break to make-up for a snow day.

2017-18 CONTRACTS ARE OUT

You should have received an email on Friday, 3/31 regarding 2017-18 re-enrollment with contracts attached. Hard copies are available in the PARENT FORMS bin next to the front office door.

April 17th is the final date for a \$250 deposit and an 'on-time' discount on tuition (\$100 for grade school and \$50 for 3, 4 or 5-day early childhood). Materials, trip and TAP fees will be invoiced and are due May 15, 2017. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cindy Schretlen in the office or: cschretlen@rivervalleyschool.org.

River Valley Waldorf School Presents Geoff Kaufman, Acoustic Music with a Pinch of Salt Wednesday, April 19th @ 7pm. Tickets \$10 per person/ \$25 per family

River Valley Waldorf School is proud to welcome Geoff Kaufman for an evening performance of new and old songs in the folk tradition, presented a cappella or accompanied with guitar, anglo concertina, tin whistle, or percussion.

Geoff Kaufman leads audiences to find truth, humor, and beauty in folk music. Whether singing sailor songs with his quartet, Forebitter; environmental songs on board the Sloop Clearwater in the Hudson River; or performing at venues throughout the Northeastern United States or festivals in Europe, Geoff entertains and touches each audience he encounters. Songs of the sea, songs of the earth, songs of the heart and the spirit—all of these are in Geoff Kaufman's ditty bag. Ancient ballads, work songs, songs of love; poignant songs of people in struggle, humorous glimpses of human foibles, and insights into history—all are likely to be woven into one of Geoff's concerts. Join us for a very special evening!

Mayfaire is just around the corner!

Saturday May 6th from 11 am – 3 pm



Your classroom coordinators will be contacting you this week with details of class responsibilities for this event.

Parents in all classes are asked to make Pocket Fairy items (20 items per family) and donate any extra synthetic yarn that you may have so that the children can make jump ropes. The Yarn Box and Pocket Fairy Box are located in the lobby. We will also be collecting bouquets of flowers 2 days before the festival. If each family donates a bouquet we will have plenty for the children to make flower garland headbands the day of festival.

Please contact your classroom coordinators with any questions.
The Mayfaire Committee

A Message from Building and Grounds

Parents who are at school on weekends for any reason are respectfully asked to please keep their children with them at all times. Once the building is cleaned on Friday, the cleaners do not return before Monday morning to mop up mud that has been tracked in over the weekend.

Parent Stage – Saturday, April 22nd

"Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song. And I'll try not to sing out of key."

Fortunately, our friends are always supportive!

Join us for Parent Stage on Saturday, April 22, at school, doors open 6:30. Get your babysitter now!

Performances for parents, by parents. Free, pot-luck. Come. You'll be glad you did.

If you'd like to perform (music, dance, comedy, poetry, juggling ...)

Please contact Chellie Bader michelle@smorgasb.org /617-501-7517, or Kira Willey kirawilley@rcn.com.

Do you have a Short Throw Projector?

We are looking for a remote control Short Throw Projector to borrow for one of the acts. If you have one to lend, please contact Kymm Phibbs at 267-337-0636.

From Administration

Condolences

Our condolences to the Ritchie family; Paul, Jillian and Evie (Grade 6) on the loss of Evie's grandmother, Paul's mother.

And condolences to the Ferguson family, Sharon, Ron, Hazel and Olive (Grade 4) on the passing of Sharon's sister, Julie Suplee, last Wednesday, 29 March. The family will convene this Sunday at Assateague State Park in Maryland for a quiet memorial service.

We send warm thoughts of comfort and healing to you all.

RVWS SIGNS

Thank you so much to everyone who displayed one (or more) of our yard signs! Please return them to school as we will be able to update them to use again next year.

Thank you

Thank you to all of the parents and teachers who supported the middle school dance with food and chaperoning. We couldn't have done it without you.

Ron and Sharon Ferguson wish to thank everyone in the community for the many months of support during Sharon's sister's battle with cancer. The Ferguson family is grateful.

Dear RVWS Community,

Thank you all so very much for the tremendous show of support at this year's Auction Gala. The event was a great success due to the fantastic attendance and generous giving of our people, but would not have been possible without some key individuals. Deep gratitude goes to Clare Brunell and Kristyn Lederer for many months of intricate planning and tireless work in the final two weeks before the event. Your leadership, ingenuity and generosity are unparalleled; to Erica Nichols, who created another magical experience with her design work on everything from item displays to table arrangements; to Hilary Murphy for creating a heartwarming video presentation that exceeded anyone's wildest expectations; to Lisa George, Ivy Giacchino-Berrocal, Melissa Goldstein and Tim Hyland for some inspired donation procurement; to Stephanie Spencer for a multitude of efforts, especially catalog design; to Amelia Kroth for your beautiful catalog cover art; to Cat Miles for the delicious wine donation; to JR Nichols, Carl Brunell and John Wesp for your willingness to help in every way; to Rich Kroth and Andy Wander for event production; to our Administration for many weeks of support; to Robbie Miller and Cindy Schretlen for live auction recording; to the Brunell, Kroth, George, Wesp families for clean up; to our sponsors for your support and donors of items; to our entertainers Moonshine and Millet, you were amazing; Jef and Kathy Betz, Tiffany Robinson and Barry Brown, your song was worth more than we paid to hear it; Ron Ferguson and Josh Holtz, your stand-up was hilarious and Parent Choir, you rocked the house; to everyone who donated, bought tickets, bid on items, danced, laughed and enjoyed the festivities, we thank you; to our beloved faculty and of course, our parent body for believing in this mission and helping to sustain it with your financial support and the kind of celebration that was on display on Saturday. This is what makes us strong.

With gratitude, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Auction Committee,
Ron Ferguson

...and to you, Ron, for your contributions too numerous to mention.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Drama

Fourth Grade – Norse Myths

Fifth Grade – Ancient Greece

Sixth Grade – Physics

Seventh Grade – Renaissance History

Eighth Grade – US History

Class Fundraiser

Save The Date Saturday May 13th

For a Family, Friends and Alumni Dance with DJ Andrew Macintosh

At the Ottsville Traditional Arts Center - A 7th and 8th Grade Fundraiser! Details to Follow!

From the Community

Earth Day Open Art Studio Event

Saturday, April 22nd 4-8 pm

An open studio of elementary to high school artists and musicians with a few grown-ups. Ringing school bell hourly in celebration!

A Schoolhouse Space Center production, 500 Stouts Valley Road, Easton, PA 18042.

info@welveinouterspace.com. 212-675-2008

Childcare Help Needed

We are looking for extra hands to help with our littles (ages 1.5 & 3.5). Our home is located in Perkasio (about 20 minutes from RVWS). We are hoping to find someone who can help us as our schedule transitions and mom is out of the house 2 days a week starting in the Fall. Hours would be 15 - 20 hours per week, 2 days per week. Monday: 5:30A - 1:30P; Friday 7A- 4P.

Support would include: preparing meals and snacks, helping with diapering and toilet-ing, assisting with dressing, overseeing safety during play (preferably outdoors) and transitioning to naps. *This person DOES NOT have to drive our children - we have plenty within walking distance*

If possible, this person could also assist with on call hours (mom is a birth doula), able to assist with potentially little notice. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping, please have them email me at: bkvolpe@hotmail.com.

Happenings at Yoga Loka

www.Yoga-Loka.com

Yoga Immersion and Teacher Training Informational Meeting - Saturday April 2nd at 11:45 am

If you have ever considered diving deeply into a yoga practice, your chance is coming up. Program starts in September. It is designed to change your life (in a positive way!!).

Yoga for Back Care

Yoga practice has been shown to help alleviate back pain. However not all poses work for all back pain. Bonnie is a Yoga Therapist who specializes in back pain. Working with her you will find the right exercises for your body. The Structural Yoga Therapy techniques you will learn will help to heal your body. You will be able to continue the practices at home and adapt other yoga poses and exercises in order to continue to address your needs.

Previous yoga experience is not necessary! This workshop will benefit anyone who suffers from back pain.

Begins Sunday April 9th 11:45-12:45 pm, \$45 until 3/31, \$55 after

Frenchtown Borough Park Community Clean Up Day **Saturday, April 8, 2017: 9 am - 1 pm**

Borough Park is slated to be rehabilitated in the fall. Join the annual clean up so we can have a great summer with our beloved park! We'll be spreading mulch, refilling the sandbox, picking up debris from the creek bank and nature trail, cleaning the wooden play structure, and tidying up flower beds. Come ready to get dirty! Bring your gardening and yard tools such as loppers, pruners, rakes, pitch forks, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Lunch and light refreshments will be available for all volunteers. Kids are welcome with an adult.

Questions? Contact Holly Low, Parks Commissioner: hollylow@frenchtownboro.com

Upcoming Events at Rieglesville Public Library

Barnes and Noble Bookfair to Benefit the Rieglesville Public Library

ALL-DAY and ALL-NIGHT a percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases benefit the Rieglesville Public Library
Fri. April 7th & Sat. April 8th - Barnes & Noble, 4445 Southmount Way, Easton, PA

Events:

Friday – Meet the Author, Kate Brandes – She will read from and discuss her novel, *The Promise of Pierson Orchard*, about a family threatened by betrayal, financial desperation and fracking, ultimately finding forgiveness.

Saturday – Himalyan Singing Bowls with Ann Anderson – Ann is back to soothe and introduce us to the use of Himalayan singing bowls for meditation, music, relaxation and personal well-being.

If you can't attend the bookfair visit bn.com/bookfairs to support the library online from 4.7.17 – 4.13.17. Enter code 12099065 at checkout.

GSK Science in the Summer – Free Summer Program for Kids

June 26 & 27 – Level 1 (Grades 2 & 3) 10:00 – 12:15, Level 2 (Grades 4-6) 1:00 – 3:15

Science of Sports – Students explore the science behind their favorite sports through fun, hands-on activities. They'll discover why athletes need to stay physically fit, mentally fit and properly equipped. Students will also learn about the teams of professionals who use science to help athletes improve their performance. They'll experiment with sports equipment materials and health drink recipes just like real engineers.

Visit www.scienceinthesummer.com for details and registration

**** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ****

Volunteers must meet the following criteria: Be a student entering grades 8-12, be less than 18 years old, complete a GSK Science in the Summer volunteer form signed by a legal guardian, wear close-toed shoes for the duration of volunteer hours. Anyone interested in volunteering should speak to a librarian to obtain a copy of the volunteer form. Forms must be returned to the Library by Thursday, June 8th.

Need Help in the Garden?

Interested in the help of a Garden Fairy? Offering many aspects of gardening services: spring clean-up, mulching, planting, bed preparation and design, composting, pruning, etc. Especially excited to offer biointensive/biodynamic vegetable garden planning and maintenance. Contact Sara Fishkin for more details. 908-323-9691 sarajoyfishkin@gmail.com

Rummage and Bake Sale

Thursday and Friday, May 4 & 5 9 am–8 pm and
Saturday, May 6 Bag Sale All Day – 9 am-4pm
Sponsored by St Luke's U.C.C. in Ottsville, located at building at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611.

Donations are welcome. Drop items off at the building at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 from April 4-30. Any other days, drop off items on the porch at the schoolhouse of St. Luke's U.C.C. Church on Durham Road in Ottsville. Clothing, jewelry, books, housewares, plants, toys, and small furniture. No computers, TV's Cribs or Car Seats accepted. For more information call: 484-357-5274 or 215-479-2724.

BYRON KATIE WORKSHOP APRIL 7, 8, & 9th

There will be an introductory retreat in the work of Byron Katie, presented by Tania Tierro. The retreat will take place at the James-Lorah House in Doylestown, PA. The work is a way to question the beliefs that underpin our stress. It's a simple, profound process of self-liberation and, consequently, self-realization. For the 2nd year, Lisa Naples, a local resident, is organizing this event. She can be reached for questions at 215-340-0964 or at lisanaplescerceramics@gmail.com.

Cost for the workshop is as follows: Friday night only option: \$60, Full weekend retreat: \$275. Scholarships are available for those who otherwise cannot come.

Physical Books are What Kids Need and Prefer

The research between real paper physical books and e-readers for kids reveals a clear winner.
By Screen-Free Mom

A recent wildly successful Kickstarter campaign proposed an application on your phone that provided children's books complete with picture projections and sound effects (basically an old school television program). It raised nearly twenty times its initial goal of twenty-thousand dollars. This is a perfect demonstration of how desperate parents are to interest their children in reading.

Parents will do anything to make reading more appealing to their young children. Often forgetting to be patient and allow their children to discover their love of reading as their budding attentional abilities permit them. Research demonstrates that parents efforts to make reading more appealing usually backfire. When we try to jazz something up or offer rewards for it, it diminishes that activity's intrinsic value.

Children are smart and they end up looking at you thinking, "If reading were so great on its own, why are doing this whole song and dance and offering me a new toy if I do it? Reading must not be that great. I'm only going to do it if you keep giving me stuff." If a book comes with fancy projections and sound effects, it is distracting, discourages the use of individual creativity and imagination, and decreases the likelihood children will want to do the (initially challenging) work of listening to stories.

The Children Agree

Recent research demonstrated that children typically do not use e-readers to read. Even when the children owned e-readers and were classified as "daily readers" by the researchers, they did not choose to do their reading on the device. They chose physical books. The research assessed ownership of devices with e-reading capabilities and reading habits in children aged 4-6 years. It was a correlational study conducted in Australia and involved slightly less than one thousand kids.

The Most Interesting Kid in the World

A secondary conclusion from the research, that is perhaps even more striking, is that presence of e-reading devices can inhibit regular reading. The more devices a child had access to, the less likely they were to read. So, if a parent is purchasing an e-reader for a child in hopes of spurring more reading, they are just as likely to get the opposite effect. They are better to spend their money on physical books or save it altogether and simply visit the library regularly.

A study on e-textbooks in 2013 at the University of Washington revealed 25% of students preferred printed textbooks even if the e-book was free.

This research is not necessarily brand new information. Studies show college students prefer physical books over electronic versions if the cost is the same. Even when electronic textbooks are available for free, twenty-five percent of college students still chose to purchase a physical version. A survey of over 1,500 U. K. parents of children aged 0-8 found that 76% of the children prefer physical books to electronic versions. In a study from the Joan Ganz Cooney Center, researchers found that only 15% of parents and children preferred reading e-books to traditional books.

Why Might Children Prefer Physical Books?

Children seem to know what is good for them and what they need. E-books often have too many bells and whistles that are distracting. Additionally, many of the studies above involved young children (under eight-years-old). These children are not only working on early literacy skills when they read, but also on fine motor skills like turning the pages and placing the books back on the shelf. They receive sensory input from the heft of the book in their hand and appreciate having a physical object which opens up their imagination. For young kids, a book can become part of an elaborate game of school (one for each stuffed animal) or an object for purchase in a pretend store or check-out in a pretend library. A physical book allows the child to utilize their imagination and not just during reading.

(Continued on next page.)

So, How Do We Get Kids Read?

1. Read

If reading is such a valuable thing to do, why don't they see you doing it? Spend your leisure time reading. Read physical books because children don't know what you are doing on a tablet or e-reader (and you are more likely to get distracted into non-reading activities, not to mention strain your eyes, remember less of what you read and potentially inhibit melatonin production).

2. Read to Them

Read to your children regularly. I aim to read to both of my kids for at least thirty minutes per day. We often go over. It doesn't need to be thirty minutes constant, but can be broken into chunks based on your child's age.

3. Display Books and Make Enticing Reading Areas

Make reading easy and interesting. Choose low shelving or open-face shelving that young children can access. Make little nooks that children will enjoy hanging out in. We have previously highlighted making a child's closet into a nook and all the other simple reading nooks we have throughout our house.

4. Regularly Invest in Books

Most libraries will let you take a ton of books out each week.

Don't buy a fancy tablet for your child. Buy some simple books. Or, better yet, plan to visit the library on a weekly basis and bring home a haul of books. Regularly spend time perusing books and curating a nice collection for your young reader.

5. Allow Downtime

Reading is an obvious choice when there is a bit of downtime. I remember in elementary school that when I finished my seatwork, I was permitted to read. I regularly finished early in part because I had no attention to detail (still don't), and in part because I was dying to read. Recently, a second-grade teacher informed me that now when children finish their seat work, they are permitted to play "educational" games on their tablets. If you allow downtime in the car, at home, while waiting places, a book because an obvious choice to pass the time.

6. Turn off the Screens

As the research shows, the accessibility to screens decreased the likelihood of regular reading in young children. One of the big problems with screens is that they displace other activities (reading, being outdoors) that are far superior in their contributions to positive child development.

The Final Word

So, don't overcomplicate a simple thing. If you want your kids to develop a love for reading, stick with the books.