



River Valley Current

May 19, 2015 No. 413

*"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."
— Henri Matisse*

School Calendar

This Week

Tues., May 19-Wed., May 27

8th grade trip to Costa Rica!

Wednesday, May 20

2nd grade play – "The Good Bishop" 9:00 am & 6 pm

Thursday, May 21

4th grade to Pennsbury Manor
Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, May 22

1st grade Parent Evening

Looking Ahead

Monday, May 25

No School – Memorial Day

Thursday, May 28

1st grade play 5:30 pm

Saturday, May 30

RVWS Auction! 6:00-11:30 pm

Monday, June 1

4th grade to Canal Museum

Mon., June 1-Wed., June 3

6th grade class trip

Thursday, June 4

2nd grade planting trip

Mon., June 8-Wed., June 10

4th grade class trip

Wednesday, June 10

Last Day of Early Childhood

Friday, June 12

Last Day of Grade School
Rose Ceremony - Field Day

Saturday, June 13

Graduation 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

How to Contact Us

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

The Auction Gala is Just One Week Away! Saturday May 30

Dear Friends-

With the Auction Gala just one week away, we ask you to take a few minutes to RSVP to Tracy Fly (tlkf@me.com).

We have lots of great items to auction off on the 30th, great food from Nellie Rae's and great music by Kira Willey, Amanda Kelly, Kevin O'Hara and Noah Jarrett; **all we need is YOU!**

Please continue to bring your auction item donations to the lobby - every item helps our event and our school. Are you able to volunteer some time on the 30th to help set up, clean up, check in or check out? Email us with your desires and we will gratefully avail ourselves of your volunteerism. Again, we appreciate everyone's support and we thank you!

Guess What? Our Auction is already underway with this **amazing one-item online auction:**

Private Luncheon for Two at Lovin' Oven with Elizabeth Gilbert including a piece of original henna body art by Catherine Lent!

Go to:

<https://m.biddingforgood.com/auctions/229592262/items/241793755> for full details and to bid.

Please share this link with everyone in your circle... the Auction Committee Thanks You!

Board Elections Deadline this Friday, May 22nd

Voting is simple; just email us at info@rivervalleyschool.org or fill out a ballot and put it in the Ballot Box on the front desk.

A ballot is attached to this week's Current. Thank you in advance for participating in the election process.

Please join us for the Next Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday May 20th at 2:00 pm at Homestead General Store. Lots of auction info to go over.

Beware of Ticks

It's that time of year – ticks are everywhere. When you come in from outside at school or at home, check yourself and your children carefully. There seems to be a bumper crop this year so please, take precautions.

From Administration

Yearbooks

It's not too late to order a yearbook if you haven't already. The price will be over \$30 and will be determined based on the number of orders we have. Please fill out an order form and put it in the folder on the office door if you would like to order.

Lost at Mayfaire

A red, white, and blue jump rope was lost at Mayfaire. If you find it, please bring it to the office.

Missing Ice Packs

If any of our school ice packs made it home inadvertently, please make sure they get returned. Our ice packs are disappearing at an alarming rate.

COMMUNITY TREEHOUSE

The Community Treehouse is a new online space linking up the Steiner Waldorf community worldwide. Use the chat forums to share information and discuss issues, read the latest Waldorf news streamed from Waldorf organizations across the world, arrange house exchanges, couch surfing trips, working holidays and youth exchanges within the worldwide Waldorf community using our travel service.

You are already part of a huge community, with nearly 4,000 Steiner Waldorf initiatives spread over 61 countries, now join us online to form global connections and embrace the wider Waldorf world! We can learn so much from each other and help each other with so many things, as well as visiting each other's homes and supporting our young people to explore this wide world safely. Simply go to www.communitytreehouse.com to explore.

Job Postings

We are looking for two part-time teachers for next year. If you or anyone you know is interested, please let Robbie or Brian know.

Seeking Part-Time Movement Teacher

River Valley Waldorf School is seeking a part-time Movement/ Games Teacher for the 2015-16 school year. The position begins in September, 2015 and teaches games and developmental movement specific to the Waldorf curriculum. The position is for teaching ten periods per week and is flexible as to lower or upper grade school classes. The ideal candidate will have enthusiasm for the importance of movement in education, have teaching experience in the field, and have begun or completed a training program in Spatial Dynamics and/or Waldorf Education.

Part-time Gardener, Starting August 2015

Duties include, but are not limited to, maintenance and upkeep of garden, annual vegetable growing, caring for perennial edibles, and managing the gardening program with River Valley Waldorf School faculty.

An understanding of Waldorf Education and curriculum required, teaching experience needed, knowledge of Biodynamic gardening and permaculture a plus.

Interested applicants should submit resume and references by email: info@rivervalleyschool.org

Thank you

Special thanks to Carol and Michael Diven for creating the new crown for our maypole and for raising the pole. Thank you, Carol, for beginning a new tradition at River Valley of having the 8th graders play music for the dances. We are grateful for the time and effort you both devote to our school.

Thank you, Beverly Sessegolo, for faithfully collecting our lost and found leftovers and finding them a good home.

From the Faculty

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Math

Second Grade: Drama

Third Grade: Shelters & Building

Fourth Grade: Language Arts /State History/Geography

Fifth Grade: Botany

Sixth Grade: Geometry

Seventh Grade: Wish, Wonder, and Surprise

Eighth Grade: Class Trip

Moving Help Needed

We are looking for several people to help us move furniture on Saturday, May 23rd, 10 am – 6 pm. We are happy to pay \$10/hour for your help. We will need at least 4 hours of your time and up to 8 hours maximum. Please call if you are interested, Mary K Till 215-536-2141. Thank you.

Donations requested for EC Woodworking Corner

The Star Room Kindergarten is joyfully anticipating the completion of a woodworking corner for their classroom home! Miss Rebecca and her students are currently searching for the following items:

- Raspers (metal wood files)
- Small hammers
- Sandpaper
- Blocks
- Hand saws

And most specifically, we are hoping to have child sized saw horses built. If you or someone you know is able and willing to help in any capacity, please contact Rebecca West (bendingbirch@gmail.com) for specific dimensions. All woodworking donations can be dropped off in the Star Room! Thank so very much in advance!

From the Leadership Council

What we are working on:

Faculty Hiring for next year along with the Hiring Committee, TDC, and Faculty.
EC programs for next year with TDC and EC faculty.
Planning and review of the Community Board meeting with the BOT.
LC Self-evaluation.

From the Board

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2015

Pre Meeting Room Set Up at 6PM Meeting Starts Promptly at 6:30

6:30 – Opening: Verse and Candle lighting – Will (5 minutes)

6:35 – Capital Campaign Update – Louanne (10 minutes)

6:45 – LC Report – (15 minutes)

Proposals, Decisions and Discussions

7:00 – Nominating Committee Mandate – Andy (10 minutes)

- Andy will work on Nominating Committee Mandate

7:10 – Updated Strategic Plan Draft – Pete (10 minutes)

7:20 – 2015-2016 Budget – Nick (10 minutes)

7:30 – TD Bank LOC Increase – Nick (10 minutes)

Break

Standing Committee Reports

7:50 – Administrative – Brian (10 minutes)

8:00 – Finance Report – Nick (10 minutes)

8:10 – Faculty – Ken/Christina (10 minutes)

Committee Reports

8:20 – Auction Committee – Ron (10 minutes)

8:30 – Development Committee – Kristyn (5 minutes)

8:35 – Items from the Board President – Will (10 minutes)

8:45 – Closed Session for Administrator Review

Closing and Meeting Feedback

From the Development Coordinator

Annual Appeal Update

We are so pleased to announce that the community has shown generous support for the Annual Appeal. In the past two weeks, pledges have been received in the amount of \$7,000. Although this is an impressive number, it still leaves us short of our goal. Please join our success and make your contribution today. Donations may be dropped off in the office or mailed to the attention of the Development Committee. Please indicate that the gift is for the Annual Appeal. Thank you again for your generous support!

Stephanie Spencer,
Development Coordinator

Class Fundraisers

Sound of Music DVDs

DVD orders for the Thursday Evening and Saturday Evening performances of "The Sound of Music" are being taken now through May 29th. DVDs are \$15 each, with \$7 of each sale being donated back to the school. Please use the attached order form and return the bottom portion with your payment to the DVD Orders folder on the Office door. Please contact Pat Warner-Proctor if you have any questions.

Sound of Music Souvenirs

There are still mugs, caps and key chains available from the Sound of Music and we would love to sell them all! Keychains \$5, mugs \$15, and baseball caps \$20! Please email louannewillard@gmail.com if you want me to pull some aside for you!!

Auction Babysitting

The 7th Grade auction babysitting fundraiser that was previously announced has been tabled for this year. Please let the auction committee know if this is something you would be interested in supporting next year (auction@rivervalley.school.org). Our apologies for any inconvenience this year — but feel free to email Renell (renell@rcn.com) if you need help identifying a 7th or 8th grader to make your own babysitting arrangements.

From the Community

Look what's happening in Frenchtown this week!

7th grade parent, Catherine Lent, teams up with Stephanie Smith and Pulp Vegetarian Cafe and Juice Bar for a Moroccan Henna Party!! Thursday May 21st, from 4 to 8, food, henna, fun!!! See the attached flier for details....

Free cat to a good home:

We recently moved into a space that is too small for our outdoor loving cat. She is only 2 years old and is up to date on all shots and is spayed. She would make an excellent cat for a barn as she loves to hunt! If interested please call Chris at 215-859-0610.

At Yoga Loka

TRE group session, Monday, May 31st

One Bite at a Time - A Journey into Mindful Eating

with Gail Seckrettar and Melissa Pickell
Sunday May 31st, 2-6 pm

Informational meeting for Yoga Immersion and Trainings

June 6th, 10:30-11:30 am

Singing Bowls with Peter Olsen

June 6th, 6-7:00 pm

For more information see the website at www.Yoga-Loka.com

Free Kittens

Four kittens are coming to the Moon Room on Friday for "show and tell" and they are looking for a good home. They have been raised since birth by MaryKate Sandt, a friend of Sam Rhine. If you are interested, call or email MaryKate at: 908-423-9058, msandt5287@gmail.com.

Housesitter Needed

The Carpenters are looking for someone to barter house/pet sitting for a rent-free place to live in Bethlehem for part of the summer. Please let us know if you can recommend someone — renell@rcn.com / 610-997-0650.

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center

Concert & Workshop with Cardinal Direction

Friday, May 29th, 5pm jam workshop (\$10), 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm concert (\$10, \$5 kids under 12), \$15 combined ticket!

Massachusetts-based band Cardinal Direction (formerly Firefly) brings beautiful melodies and relentless energy to dance floors and listening audiences across the Northeast. Their repertoire is drawn from the Irish, New England, and Quebecois traditions, and seamlessly mixes oldies-but-goodies with modern compositions. They take particular pleasure in playing for contra dances, where their love of the drive and flow of the dance comes across clearly in their music.

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center, 250 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942

WHENNA?

All-natural mehndi by Catherine Lent Design

May-July 2015 Schedule 908-996-7325

Check Facebook or Instagram for updates/additions/cancellations

MAY:

wed. 20th	pulp: 11:15-4 by appointment**
thurs. 21st	moroccan henna party!! at PULP 4-8 p.m.
sunday 24th	MAPLEWOOD, NJ street fair 11 to 5*
friday. 29th	river gypsy 11-6*
saturday 30th	heart strings CLINTON, NJ: 11 to at least 6*

JUNE:

wed. 3rd	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
fri. 5th	lovin' oven 11:30 - 6ish*
thurs. 11th	river gypsy 10 - 6ish*
wed. 17th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
thurs. 25th	river gypsy 10 - 6ish*
fri. 26th	lovin' oven 11:30 - 6ish*
sat. 27th	WRIGHTSTOWN, PA farm market 9-1*

JULY:

wed. 1st	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
fri. 3th	lovin' oven 11:30 - 6ish*
fri. 10th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
sat. 11th	BASTILLE DAY river gypsy 10 to 6ish*
wed. 15th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
sat. 18th	lovin' oven 10:30 - 6ish*
thurs. 23th	river gypsy 10 - 6ish*
fri. 24th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
thurs. 30th	pulp 10-4 by appointment **
fri. 31st	river gypsy 11:30 to 6ish*

Volunteers for Peace

Working with individuals, groups and families to plan volunteer experiences in Haiti this summer, Volunteers for Peace is a non-profit organization based in Vermont that organizes service projects all over the world. Go to their website: www.vfp.org for a full listing of projects or call 802-540-3060 for more information about the work they are doing in Haiti.

A Family in Need

Bucks County Community College is collecting clothing for a single mom with health problems who is unable to drive and therefore providing for her two daughters has become difficult. They are collecting donations for girls size 24 months and up and girls size 8-10. If anyone has things that they would like to donate please email Mandy Reilly at reillym@bucks.edu or text or call 908-892-0921 and she will come pick up or make other convenient arrangements.

Looking for a Room to Rent

I am a former Waldorf teacher from Canada. My son and I would like to travel to Doylestown for two months of summer. We are looking for a place to rent for months of July and August.

My son is taking a shoe making course in Doylestown and we would appreciate anyone who could provide accommodation. My phone number is: 1-250-764-9095.

Core Principles of Waldorf Education Summer Adult Course Offering - Waldorf School of Princeton Foundation Studies Program

July 15 & 17 and July 20 & 22 - 8:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. (2nd camp session, same hours. Cost \$450)

What are intrinsic qualities and methods of Waldorf Education?

The course will focus on the seven Core Principles of Waldorf Education., developed by The Pedagogical Section Council of North America. As Waldorf education moves around the world, it becomes imperative that schools and individual teachers develop their curriculum out of these principles rather than seeing the curriculum as a recipe for imitation. The artistic work in this course will give participants a view into how these experiences speak to children in their phases of child development.

Created as:

- A continuing education for Waldorf teachers of all disciplines.
- An opportunity for teachers in other schools to incorporate Waldorf methodology.
- An opportunity for parents to gain a greater understanding of Waldorf education
- Personal development for adults in relationship with children

Elan Leibner will lecture on the Core Principles. Mr. Leibner was a teacher at the Waldorf School of Princeton for 18 years. He is presently the chair of the Pedagogical Section of North America and travels nationally as a mentor and evaluator of Waldorf teachers and faculties. He has been the Pedagogical Director the Foundation Studies Program in Princeton for 13 years.

Tertia Gale will offer Eurythmy. Ms Gale taught Eurythmy at the Waldorf School of Princeton for 20 years and was one of the founding teachers of the school. She has continued to teach in the Foundation Studies Program for the past 13 years.

Pamela Shafer will offer artistic work in painting, drawing, and sculpture. Ms. Shafer is the Sculpture and Fine Arts teacher at the Waldorf School of Princeton and facilitates the Foundation Studies Program.

The Art of Equitation

Jen Diedrich (mom of Addison, 3rd grade) is offering a riding lesson program individually designed for each rider's expectations, goals & dreams with the attention needed to be safe and have fun. Safety is always the first priority. Jen is a lifelong equestrian with a passion for teaching that brings out the best in beginning and developing young riders. Students focused on the show arena as well as those who simply love riding and understanding horses are very welcome. Lessons both in and out of the arena, horse shows and camp offered. Reach Jen anytime (215) 603-9999 or catch her at pickup.

Art in the Library

Oil Painting – with a Palette Knife with Yelena Piatigorsky

Tuesday, May 26 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. All levels welcome Open to ages 15 – adult

Enjoy learning new methods and effects you can achieve when painting with a palette knife. Students will learn color combinations, mixing techniques and application of oil paint on canvas in a variety of ways. Palette knife texturing will be demonstrated as well. Bring your inspirational images or objects to the class to paint.

Yelena Piatigorsky BA, Moscow University; MFA, Mason Gross School of Art, Rutgers has had her pieces in over 20 exhibits in the tri-state area, including shows at the Trenton City Museum, Audubon Artists, and the Nabisco Gallery. She is an award-winning artist in oil and ceramics and her works are in many private collections.

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 or 610-749-2158. Bring a bagged lunch or snack. Materials can be supplied if students are not able to bring their own. For a list of supplies, contact the library for assistance.

Editor's Note:

Since the end of the year is fast approaching you will find two articles in this week's Current. So much information so little time.....

From the New York Times

Let the Kids Learn Through Play

By DAVID KOHN. May 16, 2015

TWENTY years ago, kids in preschool, kindergarten and even first and second grade spent much of their time playing: building with blocks, drawing or creating imaginary worlds, in their own heads or with classmates. But increasingly, these activities are being abandoned for the teacher-led, didactic instruction typically used in higher grades. In many schools, formal education now starts at age 4 or 5. Without this early start, the thinking goes, kids risk falling behind in crucial subjects such as reading and math, and may never catch up.

The idea seems obvious: Starting sooner means learning more; the early bird catches the worm.

But a growing group of scientists, education researchers and educators say there is little evidence that this approach improves long-term achievement; in fact, it may have the opposite effect, potentially slowing emotional and cognitive development, causing unnecessary stress and perhaps even souring kids' desire to learn.

One expert I talked to recently, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, a professor emerita of education at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., describes this trend as a "profound misunderstanding of how children learn." She regularly tours schools, and sees younger students floundering to comprehend instruction: "I've seen it many, many times in many, many classrooms — kids being told to sit at a table and just copy letters. They don't know what they're doing. It's heartbreaking."

The stakes in this debate are considerable. As the skeptics of teacher-led early learning see it, that kind of education will fail to produce people who can discover and innovate, and will merely produce people who are likely to be passive consumers of information, followers rather than inventors. Which kind of citizen do we want for the 21st century?

In the United States, more academic early education has spread rapidly in the past decade. Programs like No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top have contributed to more testing and more teacher-directed instruction.

Another reason: the Common Core State Standards, a detailed set of educational guidelines meant to ensure that students reach certain benchmarks between kindergarten and 12th grade. Currently, 43 states and the District of Columbia have adopted both the math and language standards.

The shift toward didactic approaches is an attempt to solve two pressing problems.

By many measures, American educational achievement lags behind that of other countries; at the same time, millions of American students, many of them poor and from minority backgrounds, remain far below national norms. Advocates say that starting formal education earlier will help close these dual gaps.

But these moves, while well intentioned, are misguided. Several countries, including Finland and Estonia, don't start compulsory education until the age of 7. In the most recent comparison of national educational levels, the Program for International Student Assessment, both countries ranked significantly higher than the United States on math, science and reading.

Of course, these countries are smaller, less unequal and less diverse than the United States. In such circumstances, education poses fewer challenges. It's unlikely that starting school at 7 would work here: too many young kids, disadvantaged or otherwise, would probably end up watching hours of TV a day, not an activity that promotes future educational achievement. But the complexities of the task in this country don't erase a fundamental fact that overly structured classrooms do not benefit many young children.

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Some research indicates that early instruction in reading and other areas may help some students, but these boosts appear to be temporary. A 2009 study by Sebastian P. Suggate, an education researcher at Alanus University in Germany, looked at about 400,000 15-year-olds in more than 50 countries and found that early school entry provided no advantage. Another study by Dr. Suggate, published in 2012, looked at a group of 83 students over several years and found that those who started at age 5 had lower reading comprehension than those who began learning later.

Other research has found that early didactic instruction might actually worsen academic performance. Rebecca A. Marcon, a psychology professor at the University of North Florida, studied 343 children who had attended a preschool class that was “academically oriented,” one that encouraged “child initiated” learning, or one in between. She looked at the students’ performance several years later, in third and fourth grade, and found that by the end of the fourth grade those who had received more didactic instruction earned significantly lower grades than those who had been allowed more opportunities to learn through play. Children’s progress “may have been slowed by overly academic preschool experiences that introduced formalized learning experiences too early for most children’s developmental status,” Dr. Marcon wrote.

Nevertheless, many educators want to curtail play during school. “Play is often perceived as immature behavior that doesn’t achieve anything,” says David Whitebread, a psychologist at Cambridge University who has studied the topic for decades. “But it’s essential to their development. They need to learn to persevere, to control attention, to control emotions. Kids learn these things through playing.”

Over the past 20 years, scientists have come to understand much more about how children learn. Jay Giedd, a neuroscientist at the University of California, San Diego, has spent his career studying how the human brain develops from birth through adolescence; he says most kids younger than 7 or 8 are better suited for active exploration than didactic explanation. “The trouble with over-structuring is that it discourages exploration,” he says.

Reading, in particular, can’t be rushed. It has been around for only about 6,000 years, so the ability to transform marks on paper into complex meaning is not pre-wired into the brain. It doesn’t develop “naturally,” as do other complex skills such as walking; it can be fostered, but not forced. Too often that’s what schools are trying to do now. This is not to suggest that we shouldn’t increase access to preschool, and improve early education for disadvantaged children. But the early education that kids get — whatever their socioeconomic background — should truly help their development. We must hope that those who make education policy will start paying attention to this science.

David Kohn is a freelance science writer based in Baltimore.

Anti Screen? No...Pro Human Relationship? Yes

By Kim John Payne

This article is an extract from *The Soul of Discipline: The Simplicity Parenting Approach to Warm, Firm and Calm Guidance. From Toddlers to Teens* (Ballantine Books/Penguin Random House. 2015.)

How a parent handles the influence of screens (television, computers, phones and other devices) used to be a part of a general discussion about filtering the adult world from our kids’ lives. In recent years, however, it has become a major stand-alone concern, as alarm has spiked among parents and educators about how children of all ages cope with the tsunami of information and distraction digital devices offer. It’s a sensitive issue for some, who feel that technology has significantly improved education and entertainment, as well as for those who believe screen exposure is the new normal and do not want to question the status quo.

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It is clear to me, as a parenting adviser, that we have to approach this issue with consciousness and courage, and accept the fact that—as in many other areas of our kids' lives (like when they are fighting or arguing over a favorite toy)—there will be times when we have to step in firmly and take careful control of our children's screen consumption.

Deep Family Connection.

To be clear, I am not anti-screen, but I am passionately pro human relationships and family connections. I am just as committed to the reality that childhood develops in phases and each stage needs the right environment in order to flourish. Frankly, I would be relieved if the evidence supported screen use for kids as being okay.

It would make Katharine's and my life as parents a whole lot easier to just go with the popular tide and get our kids smart phones and tablets and open the door to social networking. However, both the balance of research and my plain old gut instinct tells me that something is seriously wrong with the way in which perhaps the most powerful tool humankind has ever known is being placed literally in the hands of children. The evidence is mounting that this twenty year unregulated mass social experiment is not going so well, especially for kids and families. Strong family bonds take time to build and nurture. The increasing demands of work life, with its invisible digital arm reaching right into our home life, means our time with our kids has become more precious and limited than ever before. Therefore, it makes sense that we live every moment with our kids to it's fullest and not allow ourselves to be displaced by the allure of digital distractions.

A Story From the Heart.

During a morning break in a workshop in British Columbia, a couple with three children, ages four to fifteen, spoke about their experiences with screen media. But it was their bold decision to dial back their kids' screen use dramatically that caught my attention. The mother was nuanced and insightful about the positive changes cutting back had brought about in their family life. But the dad put it bluntly: "The screens used to be in charge. Now Barbara and I are. It's that simple." They'd noticed that their kids got along better now. But the biggest change involved discipline. "To be honest I only went along with this because Barbara was so determined that we try to limit computer, phone and TV use, and I was so tired of everything becoming a fight with my kids," the dad continued. "They talked to me like characters from movies in which kids took control. When we cut down on screens they stopped challenging us at every turn. It's weird that we've all bought into the media so much, when it makes it so much harder to be a good parent."

When the Screen is Supreme.

The family medium needs to be more important than the social media in a child's life. Otherwise the danger is that it is the children who are bringing up children and the teaching of family values is displaced by the passing fads of what is cool on social media. Every parent wants to inculcate in his or her child good moral values: we want our children to be strong, kind, and considerate of others. These fundamental values are strengthened whenever we affirm the little kindnesses our children show, and every time we correct their disrespectful behavior. These values need careful parental nurturing because they develop slowly and cannot compete with the fast paced, relentless, manipulative marketing forces unleashed through screens. It is important that we parents understand that kids who are bombarded with screen values don't reject a parent's discipline and guidance but rather, simply deem it boring and irrelevant to their situation. How bitterly ironic that, in this brave new world in which the screen is supreme, the very digital devices that we gift to our children, serve to bankrupt our parental authority.

Learn more about Kim John Payne's work at simplicityparenting.com

*Kim John Payne, M.ED, is the author of the #1 Best Selling book, *Simplicity Parenting*. A consultant and trainer to over 200 North American independent and public schools Kim has been a school counselor, adult educator, consultant, researcher, educator and a private family counselor for twenty seven years. He regularly gives key note addresses at international conferences for educators, parents, and therapists and runs workshops and trainings around the world.*

Kim strives to deepen understanding and give practical tools for life questions that arise out of the burning social issues of our time. He is based in Northampton, Massachusetts with his wife and two children.