

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, January 18	
Board Meeting	6:30 pm
Friday, January 19	
Ski Club	4:00–10:00 pm

Looking Ahead

Monday, January 29	
The Four Temperaments Discussion	6:30-7:15 pm
4th and 5th grade Class Meetings	7:15-8:00 pm
Thursday, February 1	
Middle School Reading Group	7:00 am-8:00 pm
Friday, February 2	
Ski Club	4:00–10:00pm
Wednesday, February 7	
1st grade Parent Evening	6:30–8:00 pm
Friday, February 9	
Ski Club	4:00–10:00pm
Peter Pan	7:00 pm
Saturday, February 10	
Peter Pan	2:00 pm
Tuesday, February 13	
Parent Council Meeting- Homestead	2:00 pm

How to Contact Us

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

Pizza Day

The new session of Pizza Day begins on Friday, February 2nd

The deadline for ordering is Monday, January 22nd.

Order forms can be found at the end of this week's Current.

Parent Council Corner

Minutes from the last Parent Council meeting are attached to this week's Current.



Peter Pan, Jr. – the Middle School Musical HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL February 9th & 10th

Due to a combination of student illness and snow day cancellations, the performances of Peter Pan, Jr. will be postponed for two weeks.

Our middle school students and teachers are working hard during school, after school and on weekends to prepare a magical performance of Peter Pan. Pack your bags and bring your family on a journey to Never-never Land.

Performances will be on **Friday, February 9th at 7 pm and Saturday, February 10th at 2 pm**. In the event of inclement weather, a performance will be added on Sunday, February 11th at 2pm.

Parent Enrichment Evening

Rachel Howard and Melanie Niemczura will present a Parent Enrichment Evening on January 29th from 6:30-7:15 pm, entitled **The Four Temperaments**. This is part of the faculty's series of discussions that will be held throughout the year and are open to the entire school.

Fourth and Fifth grades will hold individual class meetings immediately following, from 7:15-8 pm.

CLASS EMAIL LIST PROTOCOL

Please remember that class email lists, (ie: AcornRoom@rivervalleyschool, Class of 2020@rivervalleyschool.org) are for class business, or for making class-wide social arrangements/meet-ups/referrals (does anyone know of a great babysitter/orthodontist/source for rain pants, in the Easton area?).

Please do not use these lists as part of an email list for your personal business or service. You are welcome to contact RVWS families to inform them of your business or service individually, so that they may opt out as individuals. While the school appreciates, and when appropriate supports our parent-entrepreneurs, our in-house mailing lists may not be used for your marketing.

From Administration

AFTERNOON GARDEN UPDATE!

A third Afternoon Garden section is being added on Monday and Tuesday beginning February 5, 2018. That means that there will be space available in Afternoon Garden (1:00 – 3:15pm) Monday through Friday.

Registration for Afternoon Garden is monthly. Drop-in use is acceptable, but space is not guaranteed without prior registration. Please see Robbie, Tiffany or Cindy with any questions or to register your child (over 3 years only). Afternoon Garden registration sheets are also attached to the Current. The cost of Afternoon Garden varies with the number of days your child is registered to attend. Please use the registration sheets for reference.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found basket hasn't been emptied since before the break so please look for items that belong to you on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday you may take anything your family can use.

Auction News

The Auction Committee is looking for some assistance. Our annual Auction provides valuable funding for our scholarship fund and for special curriculum programs. The Auction committee needs help soliciting donations from online sources. This is something that can be done via email from home or remotely from now until mid February. If you can help, please contact us at Auction@rivalvalleyschool.org

Writing Opportunity from Renewal Magazine

Renewal, A Journal for Waldorf Education is interested in receiving article submissions for upcoming issues. If you have written something related to Waldorf Education, parenting, etc. for a school newsletter, blog, or other venue, please send it to us. If you have an idea for a relevant article, but haven't written it up, send us an outline summary. In both cases, your submission will receive careful consideration by our editorial review board. Articles should be between 1200 and 2000 words in length and sent as Word docs, attached to an email. Writers are paid between \$100.00 and \$250.00 for a published article, depending on length.

Please feel free to call if you have a question. Thank you very much, Ronald E. Koetzsch, PhD, Editor, 3911 Bannister Road, Fair Oaks, CA 95628, 916-965-1341, rkoetzsch@awsna.org

Box Tops for Education

We just received a check for \$271.90 for our latest submission of Box Tops. Thank you to everyone who brought them in and thank you to Karen Jacobs for being our Box Tops organizer.

Thank you

A special thank you to Emily Chang for the beautiful hats you created for the Shepherds Play. We are grateful to you for your artistry and for coming up with the idea.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Math

Fourth Grade – Language Arts-Norse Myths

Fifth Grade –Ancient Persia and Mesopotamia

Sixth Grade – Middle Ages

Seventh Grade – Drama-Middle School Play

Eighth Grade – Drama-Middle School Play

EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Monday, January 22-Friday, January 26, 8:30 am-9 am. RVWS Lobby

Melody Birdsong-Shubert, Kindergarten Support Teacher, invites you to join her and Rebekah

Barnes along with Parent Council, to describe your view of RVWS as an organization. As part of Melody's Early Childhood teacher training at Sunbridge Institute she has been tasked with a super sleuth mission. She must discover the biographical imprint that creates a picture of the community's health and provide a possible solution to at least one area that would benefit from a boost. What better way than to come to you! How would you or can you describe social organisms as they live in our school - economic, cultural and rights? Please stop by on your way out to see how you can learn more about your school community and play a role in improvements and keep the goodness going!

Looking for a fun evening out, with
great people, while supporting a
worthwhile cause?

POP-UP CHOIR

Friday, January 19th, 6pm-9pm
Early Bird Espresso & Mercantile
Frenchtown, NJ

Enjoy the groovy sounds of DJ ARM 18!
Participate (or not) in a Kira Willey-led song!

Suggested donations benefit
Frenchtown Boro Park

www.pop-upchoir.com



From the Board

Easton Fighting Shad Claim 2017 Fantasy Football Championship

Congratulations to Patrick Janssen's Easton Fighting Shad, defeating David Willey's Blast Furnace Boyz (with a Z) to claim River Valley Fantasy Football League's 2017 Super Bowl IV Championship. It's been a long road for the Shad, who finished as the worst team in 2014 among the original ten founding owners of the League. An annual auction item since 2014, the RVFL has raised nearly \$5000 for RVWS and hopes to keep going until Assistant to the Commissioner Josh Holtz wins a championship of his own... which may take a while...

Many thanks to our team owners who have made this item so fun and in doing so, help support our school.
Ron Ferguson- The Commish

RVFL CHAMPIONS

2014 David Lovely- The Angry Love

2015 David Goodyear- Le Peloton

2016 Ron Ferguson- Killer Unicorns

2017 Patrick Janssen- Easton Fighting Shad

From the Community

In Search of Apartment

Laura Esposito (Moon Room Assistant) is looking for a room for rent or apartment to share. Ideally in the \$400-700 range. Move in date is flexible, but March/April would be best. I'm quiet, respectful, and would be happy to care for animals or a garden!

Thank you!

Laura.espo3@gmail.com 267.978.1808

Solebury School Presents: The Mystery of Edwin Drood

This year's Solebury School musical has many former RVWS students in its cast including: Safwa Ozair, Teva Rose Skovronek, Ava Smith, Dominique Wander and Katherine Warner. Performances will be on Thursday, February 22 and Friday, February 23 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 24 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm and Sunday, February 25 at 3 pm. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Solebury's Barn Theatre is located at 6832 Phillip's Mill Road, New Hope, PA. To purchase tickets use this link: <https://solebury-school.ticketleap.com/the-mystery-of-edwin-drood/>

The Lotus School of Liberal Arts Presents

Waking up to the Crisis of Teen Sleep Deprivation: An evening with Dr. Gail Karafin

Wednesday, Jan 17th 5:30-7:30 pm

Join Dr. Gail Karafin and The Lotus School of Liberal Arts for a light meal and a presentation on the current research on adolescent sleep deprivation. This is a significant problem that has long term health and safety implications. Dinner will be at 5:30, the presentation and discussion from 6 to 7:30. This event is free.

Car accidents, chronic absence, poor judgment, and academic underperformance all can be linked to too little sleep in teens. We will explore the developmental and neurological impacts of healthy sleep and discuss ways to improve sleep patterns. After the presentation we will discuss how to advocate for House Bill 1912, which seeks to study how later start times in high school can help our students flourish.

Dr. Karafin is a certified school psychologist in with an independent practice in Doylestown and who consults for the Bensalem School District. She is president of the Philadelphia Society of Clinical Psychologists and a former executive committee member of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association.

Lotus School for Liberal Arts – Grades 9-12 – 85 Sherman Way, Ottsville, PA 18942.

January Films at Artyard in Frenchtown

Saturday, January 27th, **3 pm – The Red Balloon**, 1956

Saturday, January 27th, **7:30 – Loving Vincent**, 2017, rated PG-13

Artyard is excited to present our next exhibition, Truppe Fledermaus & the Carnival at the End of the World, with works by the collaborative artist duo Kahn & Selesnick.

Please join us on Saturday, January 20, 6:00 – 8:00 PM to celebrate the opening of this monumental exhibition! We will have Tarot Card Reader Laetitia Barbier on site to provide live readings throughout the duration of the opening. Laetitia is the former programming director and head librarian of the recently expired Morbid Anatomy Museum in Brooklyn, and a believer in the power of Tarot to bring clarity to the complexities of life.

This exhibition will feature the recreation of the famous Truppe Fledermaus's Memory Theatre of 1932 with its full complement of Batfolk, Greenmen, Rope-Slingers, and Death-Dancers in all their carnivalesque glory. An immersive, intricate and rich world made from photographs, painting, sculpture, costumes, props, decks of cards, augury, ceremony and general madness, the exhibition includes works from three series that are chapters from Kahn & Selesnick's current story: Eisbergfreistadt, 100 Views of the Drowning World, and Madame Lulu's Book of Fate.

The exhibition will continue through April 8th. For more information about our upcoming events, film screenings, and performances, please visit our website at www.artyard.org

Artyard, 62A Trenton Avenue, Frenchtown, NJ, 908-996-5018, www.Artyard.org

Code Blue Shelter

If you're lacking inside shelter in Upper Bucks County during periods of extreme, life-threatening weather (temperature or wind chill of 26°F or below) between November 15 and April 15, your neighbors and friends are ready with an Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter at the Quakertown Masonic Lodge (501 W Broad St, Quakertown, PA 18951) from 8:15 PM to 7:00 AM the following morning. We'll have a hot meal and breakfast for you as well as shelter.

Car rides will be provided from the following stops—call 267.450.5191 to request a ride:

- Turkey Hill @ Ottsville/Harrow 7:45 PM
- Perkasie Square Shopping Center 7:45 PM

To find out if the shelter is open, contact the Code Blue Status Line: 267.450.5191 after 1:00 PM

The Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter is a ministry of Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB)

From the Washington Post

Why Adults Have to Stop Trying so Darn Hard to Control How Children Play

By Angela Hanscom

"Cut it out!" a little girl screams at the top of her lungs.

"Yeah!" Another girl yells. "Back away!"

I look over in the far corner of the woods to see a small group of girls holding hands and forming what looks to be a wall in front of a teepee they just created. A little boy stands in front of them with a face that is beet red. He is shaking from head to toe.

"I will NOT!" he yells back. "You have to let me play! That is the rules!" He gets dangerously close to them.

The adults observing the children look over at me with worried looks. I instruct them to observe but stay close and hidden among the trees. Secretly, I'm wondering if we should intervene now, but something tells me to wait. The little boy reaches up and tears down a piece of their tepee. "Stop it!" one of the girls yells. They don't back down. A few more girls come and form a wall with them. The little boy suddenly reaches into their tepee and grabs the "jewels" they have hidden in there and takes off running.

The girls let go of each other's hands and start chasing after him. They run around and around the trees in hot pursuit of the little boy. He finally comes to a stop and turns to face them. He holds out his hand and says, "FINE! Have them!" He returns the stolen jewels, stomps off, and finally sits down in front of an old oak tree – sulking. The girls resume playing "house" in their tepee.

Not even two minutes pass before one of the girls from the tepee group walks over to where the boy is sitting. She does something that surprises every adult watching. She sits down beside him. She looks him in the eye and starts talking in a quiet voice. He begins to raise his voice again. She patiently puts her hand up and waits for him to stop shouting. He becomes silent. A few minutes later, they get up. She reaches for his hand and leads him over to the group of girls at the tepee. He says something to them and they invite him to play.

What if the adults watching had intervened right away? What if we had jumped in as soon as there was a sign of conflict? We could have said, "Be nice girls. Let him play." Or told the boy to stop yelling, explaining to him that this isn't the best way to be included. But what would that have accomplished?

In minutes these children learned important life lessons – social emotional skills that are excruciatingly hard to try and teach children. Through this real life experience, they learned how to stand up for themselves, how to work through anger and frustration, and most importantly – they learned empathy.

You can't role-play empathy! Or lecture children to death on how important it is to include other children. Children need to learn these things through practice. LOTS of it! This is best done through daily play experiences with other children – especially outdoors, where children can roam, explore, and play away from the adult world.

(Continued on the next page.)

Most children today are spending a majority of their time indoors and under the direct supervision of adults. We are dictating how children spend every waking hour both in school and outside of school. Even their play opportunities are often regulated and controlled by well-meaning adults. Hour-long recess sessions have been reduced to 20-minute rule-infested movement opportunities.

Children are told what they can and can't play, with many of the traditional games like tag and kickball becoming something of the past. Play dates are organized by adults to keep children entertained, safe, and happy. And what was once a tradition for the kids in the neighborhood to independently walk down to the local water source to play a game of pond hockey, has become an all-consuming hockey travel team where children are ranked and judged based on skill.

In the meantime, teachers are reporting that more and more children are having trouble regulating their emotions in school, struggling with a sense of entitlement, and constantly seeking out adult reassurance with just about any difficulty they encounter. "They constantly tattle on each other," a teacher reports. Another states, "It is a rare child that does not seek constant guidance from an adult these days."

Yet, ironically, we continue to seek out information and sign our children up for organized programs that claim to make our children smarter, nicer, more confident, and more socially adept.

The truth is that no adult-led program is perfect and most will not give children these skills. Children need to experience and learn firsthand how to socially interact with others; how to become confident and capable when encountering new situations; and how to develop strong character traits such as generosity and kindness. Similar to learning new motor skills, the more practice children have in child-led play experiences, the more comfortable they will be in varying social situations.

If children truly got hours of free play with friends every day both during school and outside of school, they would learn the essential skills of negotiation, trading, conflict-resolution, empathy, kindness, sharing, compassion, and so much more. All we need to do is stop trying so darn hard to control every outcome of every interaction between children. It is time we step back and let the children play – for this is how they'll learn to cope in the real world.

This post is the latest in Angela Hanscom's exploration of the effects on young children of limited movement. Her book, "Balanced and Barefoot: How Unrestricted Outdoor Play Makes for Strong, Confident, and Capable Children," will be published in April 2016.

14 more weeks of PIZZA FRIDAYS!

Miss Hummel's 3rd graders are offering a second classroom delivery session of organic lemonade and Galasso's Frenchtown, NJ pizza for lunch on Fridays beginning February 2, 2018.

This fundraiser will continue to support the 3rd grade week-long Hawthorne Valley Farm trip.

Please return this form and payment (made out to RVWS)

by Monday, January 22, 2018

to the folder on the office door labeled "Pizza". Blank forms will be placed in your classroom mailbox and may also be found on the wall slots outside of the office to the left of the door.

This payment is for pizza and lemonade options listed below and will be delivered by third grade students on the following 14 Fridays through June 2018

(2/2, 2/9, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 4/6, 4/13, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 6/1 and 6/8)

Child's Name: _____

Grade and Teachers name: _____

_____	1 slice & lemonade:	\$52.50
_____	2 slices & lemonade:	\$87.50
_____	1 slice/no lemonade:	\$35.00
_____	2 slices/no lemonade:	\$70.00
_____	Lemonade Only:	\$17.50

Pizza is \$2.50 per slice and lemonade is \$1.25 per cup

Gluten-free pizza may be available upon request.

Please contact Melody Birdsong-Shubert at mbirdsong1975@yahoo.com with any questions you may have regarding Pizza Fridays.

Thank you so very much for your support of the 2023 third grade class!

**2017-18 After-school Program
Winter-Spring Registration Form**

Our 2017-18 Winter-Spring After-school Program will begin on January 3rd. Josh Laker will be back to challenge and entertain RVWS grade school children. Below is a description of activities that will be held on each day.

PLEASE NOTE: The Tuesday and Wednesday activities have been switched.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from January 3rd through April 26th. Dates are listed next to each class because the program will not be held during vacations, assembly days and early dismissals. **Please note that there will not be afterschool program for the week of March 20-22.** The cost is \$20 per class with a \$10 materials fee for the session.

Tuesday – Sports and Running Games (recommended 5th grade and up)

January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27, March 6, 13, 27, April 3, 10, 24 – NO CLASS 3/20

Total – 13 classes = \$270

Any and all sports, indoor and out, four square, battleship, shark attack, capture the flag, flag tag, handball, wall ball (big and small), indoor Olympics, obstacle courses, etc.

Wednesday – Games, Drama, Challenges and Puzzles, Outdoors

January 3, 10, 17, 31, February 7, 14, 28, March 7, 14, 28, April 4, 11, 25 – NO CLASS 1/24 OR 3/21

Total – 13 classes = \$270

Park bench, improv, Dinner party, dramatic reading, hunter, skits, storytelling, treasure and scavenger hunts, simple ball games, group challenges, nature art, cooperation puzzles, hand and nature crafts if desired, etc.

Thursday – Cooking

January 4, 11, 18, February 1, 8, 15, March 1, 8, 15, April 5, 12, 26 – NO CLASS 3/22

Total - 12 = \$250

Baking bread (especially in the outdoor wood burning oven) pasta, tomato sauce, pickling, desserts, bagels, pizza, sushi, etc. These are just some of the things that were and could be done again, it will be tailored to students' desires.

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Child's Name _____ Child's Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

I would like to register my child for the following After School Program(s):

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tues. | 3:30-5:30 | Sports and Running Games (G5 & up) | <u>\$270.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wed. | 3:30-5:30 | Games, Drama, Challenges | <u>\$270.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thurs. | 3:30-5:30 | Cooking and Crafts | <u>\$250.00</u> |

NOTE: Materials fees are included in the prices.

TOTAL: _____

Payment in full must be attached to the registration form. Payment is non-refundable and is set regardless of the number of classes actually attended by your child. Classes will be filled on a first come first served basis.