



# River Valley Current

January 20, 2015 No. 400

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.*

*Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## School Calendar

### This Week

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**

4<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Evening

### Looking Ahead

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

EC Parent Evening 7:00-8:30 pm

**Friday, Jan. 30**

4<sup>th</sup> grade Play

**Saturday, Jan. 31**

EC Open House 10:00-11:30 am

**Thursday, Feb. 5**

School Tour 9:00 am

8<sup>th</sup> grade project presentations 6:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Evenings 7:00 pm

**Friday, Feb. 6**

EC In-service – No School for Early Childhood

**Wednesday, Feb. 11**

Winter Assembly 6:30 pm

**Thursday, Feb. 12**

Grades – Ice Skating

EC – in-school Valentine's celebration

Board Meeting 6:30 pm

**Friday, Feb. 13**

No School – Faculty In-Service

**Monday, Feb. 16- Friday, Feb. 20**

No School – Winter Break

### How to Contact Us

info@rivervalley.school.org

lc@rivervalley.school.org

bot@rivervalley.school.org

pc@rivervalley.school.org

## Next Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 1/21 at 2:00 pm at  
Homestead General Store.

## February Lunch Menu

The lunch menu for February is attached to this week's Current. **Deadline is Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## SIMPLIFYING LIFE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

### A Talk by Louise deForest

Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

At River Valley's Morning Glory Preschool, 320 Edison-Furlong Road, Doylestown, PA 18972. The talk will be held in the main, Pebble Hill Church building, not the 'yellow barn' which houses the Morning Glory classroom.

Children need time to grow into the world. In this age of never having enough time, how can we slow down enough to give children the time they need to find their way in the very confusing and busy world they live in? And how can we adults find the time to be present for our children when there are so many demands on our time? This evening, Louise will speak about the importance of allowing our children to move and grow at their own pace and how we adults can adapt ourselves to living a simpler life for the relatively short time our children are so young.

Whether you want to reinforce parenting choices you've already made, want support and suggestions for beginning to simplify your family life or just want to see what the buzz is all about – we hope you'll join us for an engaging evening. Louise brings such wisdom, and her great love and respect for parents and children alike is a true gift.

Louise deForest co-founded a Waldorf School in Vermont, and spent many years as a kindergarten teacher. She also started the Farm Kindergarten at the Fellowship Community in Spring Valley, NY. After leaving full-time teaching, Louise served as the Early Childhood Pedagogical Director for the Rudolf Steiner School, in Manhattan. Louise is presently a freelance educational consultant, mentoring teachers and speaking to groups.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Project Presentations

On Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be presenting their 8<sup>th</sup> grade projects to the community.

Every 8<sup>th</sup> grader has chosen a subject of interest to explore along with the biography of someone related to the subject. They will describe what they have learned as well as present the artistic component of their project.

Projects will be on display in the lobby for a few weeks. The presentations are always a joy to watch, so come if you can. And be sure to keep your eye out in the lobby for the display boards, they will be hard to miss!

## ATTENTION SKI CLUB FAMILIES

Please notify the office and your child's teacher of their transportation plans each Friday of Ski Club, if it is not you who will be picking them up at the end of the school day. If your child typically rides the bus or van, please notify your child's teacher and the office that they will not be riding – and who will be picking them up each Friday.

ADDITIONALLY: Kindly help our oversaturated memories and let your child's teachers as well as the folks in the office know when the time comes to put your child back on the bus/van schedule at the conclusion of the ski season. Thanks!

## From Administration

### New!

#### **3-day Early Childhood Class begins April 15, 2015**

This 8-week program is designed especially for children 2 years, 9 months to 4 years who are ready to come to school independently.

8-10 children will enjoy a morning of interactive play, both indoors and out, as well as special activities such as simple crafts, painting, circle activities, singing and story time in the thoughtfully simple classroom environment.

Large and small motor skills, oral and receptive language skills, social awareness, love for the natural world and the beginnings of self-care abilities are some of what is developed as the children play and work with one another under the respectful guidance of their teacher. Children are expected to be reliably toilet trained.

Class hours are from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm; children 3 and older can opt for a 3:15 pm dismissal time. This class is the perfect way to transition easily into a full school year program in September of 2015!

Please contact Cindy Schretlen with any questions, or to receive an application. Time is of the essence if you or someone you know would like to reserve a place in this terrific little class.

### **SEPTEMBER 2015 ENROLLMENT**

Everyone should have received an email last week, outlining the important dates for enrolling your children for the next school year, as well as information about applying for tuition assistance for the upcoming year. Paper intention forms went into pockets today.

Here are the dates, in a nutshell:

- Intention forms are due 1/23/2015
- Tuition figures and contracts will be out mid-late February
- Tuition assistance paperwork (including 2013 and 2014 tax returns) is due 2/27/2015
- Contracts are due 3/30/2015

If you did not receive the email or have any questions or concerns, please see Cindy Schretlen or Brian Wolff – we're happy to help!

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE**

#### **Saturday, January 31 from 10:00 - 11:30am**

Please help to spread the word about River Valley's amazing early childhood programs!

From the gentle, nurturing Garden Gate classes, the soon-to-launch nursery (April 15, 2015), the sweet Morning Glory class located in Doylestown, to our engaging mixed-age kindergarten classrooms. The Waldorf early childhood experience brooks no comparison!

This Open House is the perfect way to introduce parent and child alike to our school – or deepen the connection for someone who may be already considering RVWS. Participants will be able to meet our teachers and learn about our programs while enjoying quintessential Waldorf EC experiences with their children: free play, bread baking and a puppet story. Suitable for prospective parents, together with their children 6 and under. Current RVWS folks are welcome when they bring a friend who is considering RVWS! Registration is required

### **Spring Garden Gate begins February 2, 2015**

For those of you who may not be familiar with River Valley's programs for very young children, Garden Gate is a lovely class for a parent, grandparent or caregiver to attend with their little one from birth to 3 years of age. It meets one morning per week, from 9:00 am until 11:30 am.

A good portion of the morning is devoted to Watch, Wait, Wonder. Watch - observe what your child is doing with openness. Wait - give your child (whenever it is safe) time and space to work through the situation on his or her own. Wonder – at the experience of your child interacting in the world - without feeling you need to have the answers. During class, we will consciously observe and discuss the children, sharing the joys and challenges of caring for young children. We will also engage in crafts, or other purposeful activities while the children play and learn to be together as a group. We may share an article or chapter from a book about a relevant aspect of child development. There will also be time for songs and verses with gestures, snack, as well as story time and outside play. It is a rich, full morning well spent by adult and child alike! Each class is limited to 6 participants. There is currently space available in the Wednesday and Thursday classes. Please see Cindy Schretlen for more information or to register.

### **Thank you**

A huge thank you to all the parents and friends who last Saturday helped the sixth grade students with their class project. We are building a small sail boat for our class to use in the next few years. It is going to be a lot of work, but soooooo worth it!

## Immediate Opening for Development Coordinator (Part-time)

River Valley Waldorf School is accepting applications to fill a part-time Development Coordinator position. Responsibilities include leading and managing all fundraising activities, including the annual appeal and the yearly auction event. This person will work closely with the Board and Administrator to develop both short and long term organizational fundraising strategies for the school. This person will coordinate all efforts of the Development Committee and report to the Board on a monthly basis. The Development Coordinator manages the tracking of all contributions, sending of thank you letters and creating a simple annual report. This position will be approximately 10 hours per week.

### Qualifications:

- A good understanding of the benefits of Waldorf education
- Bachelor's degree and three years' experience in annual fundraising and some experience in raising major gifts or high-end annual appeal gifts
- Solid communication skills, including writing, editing and proofreading
- Ability to manage multiple projects, priorities and deadlines
- Ability to work collaboratively and creatively with parent volunteers
- Proficiency with eTapestry or other fundraising software is desirable

Interested applicants should submit cover letter, resume and three references to: [bwolff@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:bwolff@rivervalleyschool.org)

## From the Faculty

### WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Language Arts

Second Grade: Language Arts

Third Grade: Math/Hebrew Stories

Fourth Grade: Language Arts/Kalevala

Fifth Grade: Geometry

Sixth Grade: Business Math

Seventh Grade: Wish, Wonder & Surprise

Eighth Grade: Physics

### After-School German and Schuhplattler

A new 6-week round of after-school German activities will begin next week and will consist of just two classes: Schuhplattler on Mondays (3:15-4:15) and German Club on Wednesdays (3:15-4:15). Since the Thursday class will not be available, 2nd graders and up may now join the Monday and/or Wednesday classes. German Club will continue to offer songs, conversation, games and a German-style snack, while the Schuhplattler class will be focusing on two new dances especially created for River Valley for possible performance in the spring or summer. Contact Peter Ray at [peter.ray@comcast.net](mailto:peter.ray@comcast.net), or 215-794-5816.

### Circus Club is Back

The RVWS Circus Club is meeting again every Saturday, 10:30-12. All skill levels are welcome. Fee: by donation. Call Mr. Friedman (610-847-8749) with questions or to let him know you will be there.

## From the Leadership Council

### What LC is Working On

Teacher evaluations with TDC

Faculty hiring for next year with the faculty

Site Planning with the Board

Program development with EC

Remember, we have open hours every Friday from 3:30-4. Please stop by if you have any questions or concerns.

## Class Fundraisers

### There is still time to get your RVWS sweatshirt!

The 8th grade is continuing their sweatshirt sales in the lobby on Wednesday afternoons, and they have many children's sizes available for immediate purchase. Orders for zipper sweatshirts or pullover adult sizes will be collected through January 21st for delivery by January 30th. This will be the last and final due date for all orders, so get them in now while you can! Please contact Pat Warner-Proctor with any questions. Thank you for supporting the 8th grade class trip fundraiser!

## From the Community

### Wanted: Stokke Tripp Trapp Chair

The Low Family is looking to purchase a used Stokke Tripp Trapp chair, preferably with seat straps. Little Dennis has outgrown his high chair and would love to have a Tripp Trapp like his big brother Carter. Please contact Holly at [holly.k.low@gmail.com](mailto:holly.k.low@gmail.com) if you have one you'd like to sell.

### Yoga Loka

#### Introduction to Yoga with Deb Kline

Saturdays January 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am-11:45 am for 8 weeks

#### Back Care Class with Amarjyothi

Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30-9:45 am

#### Introduction to Yoga with Deb

Monday evenings beginning January 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm for 5 weeks

Register on line at [www.Yoga-Loka.com](http://www.Yoga-Loka.com)  
or call 908-268-7430

### An invitation from Heidi Breier

Please join us for an evening of new and wonderful original instrumental music!!! My new album Letters From Far Away will be released, celebrated and performed by me and fellow musicians, Eugene Friesen and Premik Russell Tubbs!!

We'll also venture into the realm of the unknown...(the seas of uncharted music)...namely, improvisation!! It will be an amazing evening!! So set aside February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at South Ridge Community Church in Clinton, NJ. Tickets will be on sale through my website: [www.heidibreyer.com](http://www.heidibreyer.com).

### Ottsville Traditional Arts

Swing into 2015 with music and dance by CORACREE!

#### Fri the 23rd: Coracree in Concert!

7:00m: \$12, \$10 5-18, free under 5

Coracree is a contemporary contradance band that melds traditional Celtic, oldtime, European and original music with an improvisational twist! Featuring the lively, playful fiddling of Jane Rothfield, the driving swing of Bill Quern on tenor banjo, mandolin & moldeon, Sarah Gowan's inventive guitar stylings and the melodic and rhythmic stand-up bass of Allan Carr. Featuring an opening set by Shona Carr and dancing to close!

#### Wed the 28th: Workshop, Potluck & Jam with Sarah Gowan & Bill Quern, 6pm: \$10 suggested

For more information go to: [Ottvilletrarts.weebly.com](http://Ottvilletrarts.weebly.com)

### Parzival Academy Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

(including Auction /Raffle)

Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 9:00 pm, \$75/ person  
Champagne w/ Hors 'd'oeuvres from 5:00 – 5:45, Soup Course – seated (6pm), Meats and Seafood Buffet (Salmon, Filet and Lamb Chops) (Vegetarian Meals can be Arranged), Desserts – Seated (Flourless Chocolate Torte & Raspberry Sorbet) – GMO-free & Organic!  
Meal provided by the Station Bistro, [www.stationbistro.com](http://www.stationbistro.com)  
Wine Tasting provided by J. Maki Winer, <https://www.jmakiwinery.com/>

Location: The Station Bistro (1300 Hares Hill Rd., Kimberton PA 19442) Reservations Required. Payment by check to the Parzival Academy (or cash), a CC can be used to hold a ticket. 610-933-1147 RSVP: [nancy@ParzivalAcademy.org](mailto:nancy@ParzivalAcademy.org)

### LifeWays Training Starting in Kimberton, PA

LifeWays North America is bringing its year-long training course for parents and early childhood professionals to the Mid-Atlantic states in 2015. LifeWays Early Childhood Training and Certification is based on the work of Rudolf Steiner. With its emphasis on "The Living Arts" the training is ideal for parents, childcare providers, and early childhood teachers and their assistants.

The training will be held at Kimberton Waldorf School in Pennsylvania starting March 28-April 3, 2015. The three other sessions will take place over the course of a year, supplemented by guided study with a mentor in between the sessions. There is a discount for early registration by January 31.

To learn more, visit [www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org](http://www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org) and click on the Pennsylvania listing or request an information packet from Chinyelu Kunz at 610-933-3635 X109 or [ChinyeluK@LifeWaysNorthAmerica.org](mailto:ChinyeluK@LifeWaysNorthAmerica.org).

## Sunbridge Institute Waldorf Weekend

Friday, February 13 - Saturday, February 14

This Valentine's Day, take your date to a lively, experiential workshop exploring the basis and the basics of Waldorf Education! Open to all, but especially relevant for current, new, and prospective members of Waldorf communities, including parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, and board members, our Waldorf Weekends are designed to provide an in-depth and experiential survey of the foundations and fundamentals of Waldorf Education.

In addition to exploring the Waldorf curriculum from early childhood through high school, you'll learn about the anthroposophical underpinnings of the Waldorf impulse, discover Rudolf Steiner's insights in human development, try your hand at artistic activities such as music, movement, and drawing, and have plenty of time for questions and discussion. Come discover why Waldorf Weekend participants have described this workshop experience as "life-changing."

Schedule:

7 pm-9 pm, Friday, February 13

9 am-6 pm, Saturday, February 14

Fee: \$175 with online registration (includes \$25 non-refundable registration fee)

Online registration closes 7pm, Thursday, February 12. Walk-ins are welcome; walk-in fee is \$190, payable at the door via cash, credit card, or check

Questions? Contact Ayla Dunn, Admissions & Summer Series Coordinator:

info@sunbridge.edu / 845-425-0055 x20

## Get a HANDLE® on Learning Disabilities: Root Causes and Effective Treatment

HANDLE Introductory Course Levels I&II

March 6 6-9:30 pm & March 7-8, 9-5, 2015

A 12-hour workshop for Parents and Professionals

- Understand what behaviors can reveal about neurological irregularities using the HANDLE paradigm
- Recognize subtle signs of stress and learn how to use Gentle Enhancement® to prevent crises and foster resilience
- Learn activities that enhance focus, reduce stress, and support learning

For more information: [www.handlebythebay.com](http://www.handlebythebay.com)

To Register: <http://tinyurl.com/HANDLE-workshop>

Contact: Nancy Dill Miller,

[nancy@parzivalacademy.org](mailto:nancy@parzivalacademy.org) 610-574-7626

Location: Kimberton Waldorf School, 410 W Seven Stars Rd, Kimberton

About the Instructors:

*Nancy Dill Miller is a HANDLE Screener and founder of Parzival Academy.*

*Dror Schneider is a HANDLE Practitioner and Instructor and mother of a young man with ASD.*

## Help us support the youth of our community!

Bridgeton Athletic Association's Beef & Beer Benefit DJ, Dancing, Raffles, Silent Auctions, Fun & Fellowship for a great cause!

Saturday March 28th from 7-12pm, Bridgeton AA Banquet Hall, 1340 Bridgeton Hill Rd Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972

Adults 21 or older Only! Tickets: \$25 each/Door or \$40 couple. Call Ahead to Reserve Tickets & Tables.

Please Contact: Kerri Scheetz @

[bridgetonaa@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonaa@gmail.com) or 484.325.1816

## REVERE (Nockamixon Township) Baseball/Softball/T-Ball Sign-ups

Palisades High School Main Entrance - Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. All sign-ups are 6:00 to 8:00 PM Please bring a copy of birth certificate for all first time Revere baseball and softball players (not for T-Ball).

1st player-\$50, 2nd player-\$30, T-Ball-\$40

T-Ball (Boys and Girls), Boys Baseball, Girls Softball

All players will be REQUIRED to participate in a raffle fundraiser. The money for raffle tickets is due at sign ups: 1st player-\$25, \$50 family cap. Raffle drawing will be held in May during the annual "Revere Home-Run Derby".

All players must complete the Revere Baseball/Softball Registration Form. Softball players must also complete the UBSL registration form

For questions contact- Tom/Kathy Keebler @ 610-847-5177 or e-mail: [kathyakeebler@gmail.com](mailto:kathyakeebler@gmail.com)

## 2015 Bridgeton Athletic Association's Baseball, Softball, & T-ball Sign-ups

Boys' & Girls' T-Ball for ages 4-6, Boys' Baseball for Ages 7-12, Girls' Softball for Ages 7-14

Contact: Kerri L. Scheetz @ 484.325.1816

Mailing Address: 1577 Chestnut Ridge Rd Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972. Street Address: 1340 Bridgeton Hill Road Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972  
[bridgetonaa@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonaa@gmail.com)

Register Online:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e45a9ab2aabfd0-bridgeton/22925807>. Registration forms can also be emailed to: [bridgetonaa@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonaa@gmail.com)

T-Ball (Ages 4-6)\$50 pp, Softball & Baseball \$65 pp, Sibling Discount \$50 ps. Work Bond Check \$50 (non-deposited) per family. Mandatory Raffle Ticket Participation \$50pp

All players must live in Bridgeton Township.

\*A copy of player birth certificate is required for new players\*

You can also sign-up at Bridgeton AA Hall Jan. 26 & 29, 6-8.

## Martin Luther King Day Service Projects

This year, our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade cared for our school building, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade brought a craft project to the kindergarten. And 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders went to the Easton Area Community Center bringing a craft project for the children there. Here you see samples of the children at work.



## The Infinite Classroom

Teaching to Multiple Intelligences

by Anne Pyburn Craig

Thirty years ago, developmental psychologist and Harvard education professor Howard Gardner published *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*. The book set off a depth charge underneath the comfortable Stanford-Binet IQ test-based academic world in which learning ability was widely regarded as binary—verbal and mathematical. Drawing on his research with both brain-damaged adults and "normal" child development, Gardner proposed that rather than two main areas of intelligence, there are eight: linguistic, logic-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic.

Gardner was careful to make the distinction that what he had developed was a theory of developmental psychology and not a theory of education per se. Nevertheless, his thinking offered a breath of fresh air to a great many educators, validating and organizing as it did something many of them had long intuited about the failures of cookie-cutter instruction.

**Steiner Got There First** "In the Waldorf movement, the reaction was a big 'Yay! Wonderful,'" says John Greene, head of faculty at Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. "It was a sense of recognition that what Rudolf Steiner [founder of Waldorf education] was trying to articulate has merit and was being more widely recognized. Any teacher worth their salt recognized learning differences and their importance, but what he did was break it down—very impressive."

Though she's also quick to point out that Waldorf educators have been working from a multiple intelligence point of view for almost a century now, veteran GBRSS teacher Nancy Franco can reel off multiple examples that dovetail nicely with Gardner's work. "We work with all of these aspects every day, both individually and en masse—you could say that the Waldorf understanding of these concepts is very honed," she says. "They're important aspects of the human being that deserve to be experienced by all students. And since the Waldorf way involves working with the same group of students for eight or 12 years [students advance through the grades with the same teacher], we become very aware of how the individual modalities operate within the individual kids. We seek to utilize the strengths as learning tools, and to develop the areas that might need work."

For example, Franco says, a Waldorf school day begins with a musical interlude. "We sing, play instruments, recite rhythmic verse, do clapping games. Those activities touch on and elicit linguistic, spatial, musical, kinesthetic and interpersonal intelligence—so in that 15 minute opener, you're looking at four or five of the intelligences right there."

**Beyond Paper** Gardner's work also finds a natural home at the Birch School in Rock Tavern, an innovative program of the Watershed Learning Center that has evolved from its founder's work with children in settings such as summer camp and homeschooler support. "Birch teachers and mentors create learning experiences that are engaging for different kinds of intelligences," says co-director Kate Fox. "Students try out their skills and discover which learning experiences work best for them. Students choose modalities that they have an affinity for. Information can be gathered for authentic assessment and used to inform further learning processes as the student progresses. They encourage students to reflect on their learning process and help students learn to identify what they are good at."

What that looks like on the ground at Birch is, among other things, "a 'Quarterly Student Showcase.'" "This provides an opportunity for students to display their learning in a variety of ways beyond paper," says Fox. "Student projects, videos, computer programs, sewing projects, posters, experiments, art projects, poetry, music, speeches, PowerPoint presentations, and more are all displayed for the school community to see. Showcase submissions in many modalities allow students to display their skills in the ways they are best at. At any given hour in a school day, some students are working in workbooks and journals, others are using online computer simulations. A group of students does multiplication practice and receives direct instruction in the lab. Some students use the listening center to hear lessons. Others are watching online video lessons. Small groups are playing math games. A student is playing an online drill program in the form of a video game. All Birch School students get plenty of outdoor time, and some students spend even more time outdoors, exploring science through nature study and exploration. Building, programming, robots, creating things, experimental archeology, and inventions are encouraged."

*(Continued on the next page.)*

**Providing Diverse Options for Learning** Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie is another place where Gardner's understanding is put to considerable use. "We teach to multiple intelligences in grades 6 through 12 all the time," says Anna Bertucci, Oakwood's upper school head and assistant head for academics and student life. "First of all, our emphasis on meaningful teacher-student interactions makes it possible to employ multiple strategies in the classroom. We know our students well and can give individual attention in our small classes. This means we know we have to create different educational experiences for different learners. We also help students to get to know themselves as learners. Creating opportunities for learning through experience and helping individuals create their own meaning is at the heart of Friends education.

"Also, as an independent school we have the freedom to design dynamic classes and curriculum. We not only present material through different modalities, we also assess students through a variety of means. For example, a student who is a kinesthetic learner might act out an important scene from history rather than demonstrate her knowledge in a multiple-choice test format. And with a 66-acre campus, we are able to get out of the classroom often. Students also can choose independent study options that really speak to their areas of strength."

Bertucci makes an important point about the freedom experienced by independent schools—not least, freedom from standardized assessments and imposed curricula. But many public educators are also cognizant of Gardner's work and strive to implement it. New Paltz School District Superintendent Maria Rice is a strong Gardner fan, referencing his *Five Minds for the Future* extensively in a recent communiqué to district stakeholders. "Success will not derive from the archaic demands of federal and state mandates which still require us to teach and test for the past, for the Industrial Age," she says. "Schools have been forced into being tethered to a skills-based, test-driven educational process that extols the mastery of facts and formula rather than encouraging thinking and creativity." In New Paltz, she states firmly, the goal is to facilitate students in becoming world citizens by whatever means necessary.

So if educators universally comprehend this, why the disconnect between common wisdom and what many see as onerous top-down assessment-driven climate? Indeed, search "multiple intelligence" on the New York State Education website and you'll find absolutely nothing. GBRSS's Greene has an inkling: "I believe that public educators are approaching the same values with a different toolbox," he says. "And at the moment there is a disconnect between capitalism and democracy that's impairing that."

**Design Your Own Education** At the other end of the spectrum, one might say, lies the Hudson Valley Sudbury School, where students aren't just offered individualized learning—they design their own, and do nothing they do not want to do. "Gardner's work is interesting in the abstract sense, but it doesn't so much affect what we do," says co-founder Jeff Collins. "The kids are part of all decision-making and judicial processes, they're respected and given choices in what to learn and how. We reject the dichotomy that there are two types of activities: beneficial and not. We value every activity—every activity has aspects of learning and aspects of not learning to it. We don't say, 'Okay, here's recess, that's fun, now it's time to sit down and learn, which is not fun.' We want them to enjoy themselves and flourish, not segment time into 'valuable' and 'unvaluable'—it's a whole other paradigm that's scary in some ways." Sudbury outcomes, he says, look much like any other school's, with the exception that Sudbury students tend to lean toward entrepreneurial pursuits "and they tend to only go to college if it's what they really want, not because they're 'supposed to.'"

### **Application Nation**

Gardner has always been careful to describe himself as a psychologist first and foremost, and largely left to others the question of how best to apply his discoveries in the classroom—although he does caution against confusing multiple intelligences with "learning styles," saying that the MI theory is more a delineation of basic equipment, and styles are more a matter of how it's put to use. Since publication of *Frames of Mind*, he's gone on to identify the possibility of another innate intelligence—existentialist—and publish further works, the most recent one being *The App Generation: How Today's Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, and Imagination in a Digital World*, an exploration of the difference between being "app-dependent" and "app-enabled."

But while the questions of pedagogical method he refuses to weigh in on are more numerous than those he'll answer, he makes one thing perfectly clear: "I personally prefer a school in which a range of discipline and skill areas are a regular part of the curriculum, and I dislike a school with a narrow focus on any intelligence, be it a traditional academic school or an arts-centered school," he said in an online chat at Thirteen.org. Which would seem to be a message that Hudson Valley educators are hearing loud and clear.