

## School Calendar

### 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

#### 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

#### Friday, February 16

No School - Faculty In-Service  
Ski Club 4:00-10:00pm

#### Monday-Friday, February 19-23

No School - Winter Break

#### How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleysschool.org  
lc@rivervalleysschool.org  
bot@rivervalleysschool.org  
pc@rivervalleysschool.org

### February Lunch Menu

The lunch menu for February is attached to this week's Current. Deadline for ordering is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Pizza and Hoagie Update

This is the last week for the first session of pizza. If you would like to continue with pizza for your child on Fridays, please use the form at the end of the Current to sign up for the second session.

Hoagies can also still be ordered.

Forms can be found next to the office.

### Diversity Committee

In honor of Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month next month, the Diversity Committee has provided this week's article at the end of the Current.



Our middle school students and teachers are working hard to prepare a magical performance of Peter Pan, so 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 2 pm.)

Order your tickets today with the form found in the back of this week's Current.

### 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.

### INTENTION FORMS

Last week you all should have received an email with information about enrolling for September, 2018. That process begins now. RVWS asks that you share what your plans are for next year at this time by returning intention forms (attached to the Current and available in the PARENT FORMS bin outside the office door). They are due by 1/31/2018. No deposit is due at this time. The data we gather is extremely helpful as school leadership plans for the upcoming school year.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE

If you intend to request tuition assistance for the 2018-19 school year, you can begin your Parent Financial Statement online now. You will need to submit a copy of your 2017 income tax returns (and 2016 if you did not previously) as well as have your PFS complete by 2/28/2018. Please plan accordingly! Late submissions will not be considered until after the first cohort of requests is processed. If you have questions or concerns about Tuition Assistance or the due date, please speak with Cindy Schretlen.

## 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.

### 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@rivervalleysschool.org](mailto:Auction@rivervalleysschool.org)

### Parent Stage 2017 DVDs Now Available

Did you miss Parent Stage last year? Were you in Parent Stage last year? Did you enjoy Parent Stage last year? If your answer to one of these questions is yes, then you may want to buy a DVD of the show. The cost is \$20 for a DVD or \$25 for a Bluray. If you would like to purchase one, please let Robbie or Tiffany know.

### 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](mailto:rkoetzsch@awsna.org)

### Summer Programs Fair at Solebury School

Spend an afternoon and plan your teen's summer!

Sunday, January 28, 2018 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. Meet with representatives from over 20 local, national and international summer programs for students in grades 7 to 12.

**Free Workshop at 12 p.m: Screen Time & Your Kid: The Benefits & Challenges.** Can kids really get addicted to the screen? How do kids use technology at school? How much screen time is too much? Join us as a panel of three experts discuss these questions and more.

Open House

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017

1:00PM-4:00PM

6832 Phillips Mill Road, New Hope, PA 18938 • 215.862.5261 • [Solebury.org](http://Solebury.org)

## 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 –Geometry

Sixth Grade – Middle Ages

Seventh Grade – Physics/Play

Eighth Grade – Physics/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!

## 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](mailto: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/>

### January Films at Artyard in Frenchown

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm – **The Red Balloon**, 1956

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 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**.

This exhibition features 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](http://www.artyard.org)

Artyard, 62A Trenton Avenue, Frenchtown, NJ, 908-996-5018, [www.Artyard.org](http://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: [www.raceconscious.org](http://www.raceconscious.org)

## **It's Time to Make Race Talk More Common and Less Awkward**

By Brigitte Vittrup, Ph.D.

Back in October I participated in one of the Raising Race Conscious Children webinars, and it was great to see the interest and willingness of parents (and a few teachers) to explore the issue of talking to children about race.

What I did notice was a general discomfort and awkwardness around the actual discussions of race. When asked to state feelings and concerns, the comments were not unlike the comments I have seen in my research on racial socialization within White families.

For many parents—and for White parents especially—talking about race is not common and therefore feels unnatural. Some are afraid they will say the wrong thing and possibly offend others. Some are worried that talking about race will make their children notice something they haven't noticed before and possibly creating or perpetuating stereotypes and bias. Some wonder if children can even understand the concept of race and prefer to wait until their child asks questions about it. And many intentionally avoid the topic because they want their children to grow up and be “colorblind,” and therefore they choose to be “color-mute.”

All of these are valid concerns. However, they should be balanced with the concern that silence about race can actually be a breeding ground for prejudice.

Children are surrounded by a society that is anything but colorblind. Racial minority groups are often portrayed in stereotyped manners and take on less important roles on TV and in video games, our neighborhoods and schools are often segregated by race, and poverty, wealth, and job disparities are often visibly categorized by race as well.

So as much as we might want our children—and our entire society—to be colorblind, the reality is that they are not. Children notice differences in skin color from a very young age, and as their thinking skills develop, they begin to notice how our society is organized based on race.

Last year when my son was in first grade I accompanied his class on a field trip. At one point one of his classmates asked me,

“But if you're white and Alonzo is brown, how can you be his mom?”

Another child standing nearby had a puzzled look and exclaimed, “Wait... You're Alonzo's mom?”

They clearly had a perception that families tend to be the same skin color, and they had noticed our color differences. I simply told them:

“My husband is Black and I'm White, so our son is a color in between.”

One of the kids looked like she had a light bulb moment and said “Ohhhh... That totally makes sense!” It was such a simple explanation, yet something many children are unaware of because of the general silence around the topic of race and the invisibility of interracial families in the media.

When we are silent about race, we put the burden on our children to figure out what it all means, and we relinquish the educational responsibility to the media or their friends, both of which often omit or distort information. This in turn allows for biases to grow.

In October's webinar one of the activities involved speaking to an infant about race. I sensed an awkwardness among some of the participants who wondered about speaking to a baby in these explicit terms. Why speak about this to someone who can't understand you? The reason why starting this young can be beneficial is that parents get the practice and over time become more comfortable with the topic. Then when children reach an age where their language skills are more developed, the conversations become more impactful, and meaningful dialogue can start to occur.

*(Continued on the next page.)*

The easiest way to initiate these discussions is to use books. My favorites are "Shades of People" by Shelley Rotner and Sheila Kelly and "All the colors we are: The story of how we get our skin color" by Katie Kissinger. Both of my children—ages 3 and 7—love these books and often use the pictures to compare skin colors, point out which kids in the books look like their friends, and who see. The latter talks about pigment and skin color, and it mentions that some people's skin is very "busy" producing melanin, whereas other people's skin is less busy. My son always loved talking about his dad's skin was very busy, his own was a little busy, and mine was lazy.

My 3-year-old also has Kaplan's Basket of Babies, which is a great toy to use when talking to younger kids about race. The basket contains six plush babies with different skin colors, and my daughter likes to pick them out and identify which ones are the same color as her friends, herself, and the people in our family.

Waiting until children ask questions about race on their own means missing out on important opportunities to teach children about fairness and equality and promoting tolerance. Some children may never ask—not because they aren't noticing or thinking about it, but because it's not a topic that's commonly discussed. Or perhaps they don't ask because they think that the stereotypes are true, and that the way society is organized and people are treated is just the way it is supposed to be.

When it comes to race, silence is not golden. We owe it to our children to end this silence.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously stated, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Dr. Brigitte Vittrup is an Associate Professor of Child Development at Texas Woman's University where she teaches classes in child development, research methods, and statistics. She holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin, and her research focuses on parent socialization practices and media influences on children.



Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm # adults \_\_\_\_\_ # kids \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm # adults \_\_\_\_\_ # kids \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket prices \$6 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per immediate family.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**We can only take prepaid reservations.**

Make check payable to River Valley Waldorf School. Put "Peter Pan" in the memo.

Bring form & check to the office.

## 14 more weeks of

# PIZZA FRIDAYS!

Miss Hummel's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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!**