

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, February 1	
<i>Middle School Reading Group</i>	7:00 am-8:00 pm
Friday, February 2	
<i>Ski Club</i>	4:00-10:00pm

Looking Ahead

Friday, February 9	
<i>Ski Club</i>	4:00-10:00pm
<i>Peter Pan</i>	7:00 pm
Saturday, February 10	
<i>Peter Pan</i>	2:00 pm
Tuesday, February 13	
<i>Parent Council Meeting - Homestead</i>	2:00 pm
Thursday, February 15	
<i>Grade School Ice Skating Party</i>	
Friday, February 16	
<i>No School - Faculty In-Service</i>	
<i>Ski Club</i>	4:00-10:00pm
Monday-Friday, February 19-23	
<i>No School - Winter Break</i>	

How to Contact Us

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

February Lunch Menu

The lunch menu for February is attached to this week's Current. **Deadline for ordering is TOMORROW, January 31st.**



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.

Grade School Ice Skating Trip

On Thursday, February 15th, the grade school will have their annual Ice Skating Party. This is a field trip for grade school students only. We ask families who have early childhood children to please send them to school as usual and not bring them on the ice skating trip.

There are many reasons for this. Most importantly, it is not safe for little children to be skating in between older, faster, more experienced skaters. Also, it is not fair to early childhood children who don't get to go, while some of their friends are off skating and they are not invited.

In an effort to avoid hurt feelings and hurt bodies and to give the younger ones something to look forward to when they are in the grade school, we ask that only grade school children come to the skating rink on the 15th.

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

RVWS IS HIRING: PART TIME POSITIONS

Early Childhood

RVWS is looking for a part-time care-giver for **Afternoon Garden**, our extended day program for young children. Hours are from 12:45pm until 3:45pm. Monday through Friday is desired. Can be shared 2-days & 3-days if necessary. Waldorf training and/or experience preferred.

We also would like to add an additional day or two to the **Garden Gate** program and need someone to lead them. Garden Gate is River Valley's parent-child class for children under 3 years old. Lifeways or Waldorf Early Childhood training is preferred. Tuesday and/or Friday 8:30am until 12:30pm are available. Interest in exploring a Saturday class is a plus!

For either position, please email a letter of interest, a short bio and resume to info@rivervalley.school.org. Clearances are required for all employees.

Grade School

We are also looking for an enthusiastic, **Gardening teacher** to work with our first through fifth grades beginning in July, 2018. Between now and the end of this school year there is opportunity to observe and/or assist our current teacher which would provide a new hire an invaluable opportunity to prepare for the following school year.

This position requires knowledge of child development, Waldorf curriculum, as well as biodynamic and organic gardening. This is a part time teaching position of eight classroom hours per week, as well as additional weekly gardening hours for maintenance, planning, planting and harvesting crops. Interested parties are encouraged to send in a letter of introduction, a resumes, and references to Robbie Miller info@rivervalleywaldorfschool.org.

Peter Pan Souvenirs

We are very excited about the upcoming performance of Peter Pan at RVWS! Below are links to order Peter Pan t-shirts & hoodies. Please share with friends and family — **but do not put on social media!** We also have fun totes on sale for \$15. They will be available from now through the last performance.

The links will actually expire on Feb 11 (the day after the last performance of the play) and the goods will arrive around Feb 26.

SHIRT: Anything ordered in the links below will be available around Feb 26.

<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/rvws-peter-pan-musical-never-grow-up-shirt>

HOODIE: Anything ordered in the links below will be available around Feb 26.

<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/never-grow-up-hoodie>

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

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.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic
Second Grade – Math
Third Grade – Math
Fourth Grade – Math

Fifth Grade – Geometry
Sixth Grade – Business Math
Seventh Grade – Physics/Play
Eighth Grade – Physics/Play



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 will feature RVWS alumni: Safwa Ozair, Teva Rose Skovronek, Ava Smith, Dominique Wander and Katherine Warner. Performances will be on Thur 2/22, and Fri, 2/23 at 7:30 pm, Sat, 2/24 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm and Sun, Feb 2/25 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/>

Upcoming Films at Artyard in Frenchtown

Friday, 2/2 and Saturday, 2/3, 7:30 pm – **The Square**

Wednesday, 2/7, 7:30 pm – **Before Sunrise**

Saturday, 2/10, 7:30 pm – **Sunrise** (B&W silent film directed by F. W. Murnau)

Wednesday, 2/14, 7:30 pm – **The Umbrellas of Cherbourg** (starring Catherine Deneuve)

Saturday, 2/17, 7:30 pm – **Ball of Fire** (directed by Howard Hawks)

Wednesday, 2/21, 7:30 pm – **Chico and Rita**

Saturday, 2/24, 4 & 8 pm – **2018 Oscar nominated short films**

Wednesday, 2/28, 7:30 pm – **The Seduction of Mimi**

For more information about these films, look on the school bulletin board or go to Artyard.org

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

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

Camp Glen Brook

Do you know a 3rd – 10th grader looking for a Waldorf-inspired summer camp? At Camp Glen Brook we offer special sessions for first time campers in grades 3 & 4. What set's us apart? We are a small camp with a family feel and wholesome farm-to-table food. Outdoor Leadership Program for 9th & 10th graders. Camp Glen Brook is owned and operated by the Waldorf School of Garden City, NY. www.glenbrook.org

From: Today'smama.com

Raising Overcomers: How To Teach Your Kids To Do Hard Things

By Katie Westenberg

I haven't taught any of my children to ride a bike. Not one of the four.

I've helped, for sure. I've held on to the seat and steadied them while they will their bodies to balance and their feet to push the pedals, but my husband has always been the one to let go of the seat and enable their independence. This never even occurred to me until I was working with my youngest on riding sans training wheels last month. My husband had been gone for the weekend and sensing my little guy was ready, I took the training wheels off and started coaching him along. When my husband arrived home he put one steady hand on the back of my son's bicycle seat, lingered for a mere second and sent him on his way. Just like that, he was riding a bike. And I realized, it was the letting go that was hard for me. If my husband hadn't come home, I might still be scampering along behind that little boy's bike—holding him back, rather than watching him soar.

Ever wonder how to teach your kids to do hard things? How to fight fear, to live brave and overcome hard things? Here are some great ideas to get you started. Life is full of hard things. Full of them. Learning to walk is tough. Growing up is challenging. Learning to become a good spouse is no easy feat, settling into the role of mother is hard. Hard. Hard. Hard. So why wouldn't we want to prepare our kids to handle hard things well—to not balk at the pressure? Why shouldn't we seek to give them eyes that see beyond what's right in front of them, intentionally training them and equipping them with the tools to handle hard things? Here are 5 things I want to be intentional about in raising kids who can do hard things, kids who are overcomers.

1. Let them fail

Really. Our home is a training ground for life. And so is yours. It's a place where our children are loved no matter what, a place where their worth is not based on performance, and the safest place for them trip and fall and learn about what it takes to get back up again. As the supplier of band-aids and ice packs this can be hard for a mama to do. My natural tendency is to smooth out all the rough spots, champion my children to success and just continue holding on to their bicycle seats for a good long while. But this does not help them in the long run.

A cut-throat workplace or college class are not the best place for our kids to be learning these lessons for the first time. Be intentional about giving your children a safe place to mess it all up, to crash and burn, to learn consequences and forgiveness and exactly what it takes to get back up and try again.

2. Equip them

Watching our children deal with hard things give us the opportunity to teach them how to respond well. Recently my daughter took two weeks of group swimming lessons—something that was new to her. Although she was scared, she made it through the first week quite well. She conquered some fears and by the end of the week she was having all kinds of fun. However, after a long weekend she began to fear swimming lessons again and didn't want to return for the second week. Through tears she told me how much she hated swimming. And I quickly understood this wasn't really about swimming anymore. She was being seized by fear. She loved swimming just a few days earlier and now she was believing a lie, believing her fears.

(Continued on the next page.)

One thing I'm learning is that no matter how irrational, improbable, or ridiculous it may seem to someone else, fear is real. We all fear different things, but when you are in the midst of it, it becomes your reality. Minimizing someone else's fear is not helpful. I remember having a math teacher once who seemed to think all of math was easy. Which was great for him, but it did not change the fact that it was NOT easy for me. Ever. I fought for every good math grade I got. It never got easy, but I was able to learn the principals well enough to get through it and avoid it for the rest of my adult life. (I'm kidding...partly.) The same strategy applied to my scared swimmer. Telling her swimming is fun and not scary would not be helpful, but teaching her how we handle fear, how we fight lies that can eat away at our hearts, is quite useful.

3. Talk truth

While we try to re-shape hearts and complaining attitudes around here we don't shy away from calling things hard. Learning to swim is hard. Pulling weeds is hard. Keeping a tidy home is hard. Sure it is, but that doesn't mean we don't do it. As my kids get older we talk more and more about the hard things of life, because they don't ever magically go away. We talk about their dad's job and the hard things he does there. We talk about paying bills and taxes, we talk about being treated unfairly or unkindly. Opportunities abound—that grumpy grocery store clerk who seems to be having a hard day, discuss it with your kids. That construction worker who is sweating up a storm in his hard hat, talk about it with your kids. Talking truth with your children, rather than sugar-coating life lessons, conditions them to understanding that hard work is a part of life and not something we shy away from.

4. Start training them

Have you ever considered intentionally training your children to do hard things, to push past their will and what they see right in front of them in order to learn the value of perseverance? You can be intentional about helping your children develop faithfulness and tenacity.

Try taking on a big challenge as a family. Help your kids engage in conversations outside of their comfort zone or offer an apology even when it feels awkward. Show them how to serve others or what it might look like to give sacrificially. These things don't come naturally for most children, or adults for that matter. Walk them through it intentionally and give them opportunities and new environments in which to practice it. Make sure they see you doing the same. You can practice hard things at home as well. If your home is like ours there are plenty of jobs and chores my husband and I do out of habit or because it's quicker and cleaner if we do them ourselves, but allowing our children to do the work grows and shapes them.

Let them fold their clothes, let them weed the flower beds, teach them to clean up the kitchen, to sweep the steps and wash the windows. The tasks will grow with age, of course, and you can even make some of the bigger and more challenging chores paid jobs, but only pay for a job well done. It all takes effort and oversight on your part, but slowly they will begin to learn the value of hard work and doing hard things. And, hopefully, your house will be getting cleaner in the process!

5. Follow through

Similar to discipline, follow through is key and is often the hardest part as a parent. Recently, my husband was working on training my son in the area of responsibility and before leaving for work one morning he said to me, "We had a talk last night about responsibility and I told Tyler that I expect his chores to be completed by the time I get home from work. Please don't give him any reminders today." No reminders. Can I tell you how that about killed me as mama?

9:00: Chores weren't done.

11:00: Chores weren't done. And I may have developed a nervous tick trying to keep my mouth shut. Thankfully, by the time my husband got home the chores were finally done and I can honestly say I did not give any reminders. But it doesn't always work out that way. This parenting gig, this training kids thing, is hard. It's work.

You love those kids like crazy and if you're anything like me, you tend to let them off the hook too easy at times. But that is not parenting brave. Parenting brave requires the very same thing of us that we are trying to train in our kids, making decisions not based solely on what is right in front of us, but with the end result in mind. In this case that would be responsible and capable adults.



Friday, February 9th, 7 pm # adults _____ # kids _____

Saturday, February 10th, 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.