

"I would rather be the man who bought the Brooklyn Bridge than the one who sold it."
-Will Rogers

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, Nov 6

3rd grade Parent Evening 7:00-8:00 pm
Middle School Study Group 7:00-8:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Monday, Nov 10

Martinmas Lantern Walk – Grades 1 & 2 5:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov 11

Martinmas Lantern Walk – Kindergarten 4:45 pm

Saturday, Nov 15

6th grade Workday

Friday, Nov 21

Fall Assembly 6:30 pm

Saturday, Nov 22

Bridgeton Hill Holiday Bazaar 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Monday & Tuesday, Nov 24 & 25

No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 26, 27, 28

No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

How to Contact Us

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



This altar was created to commemorate "Dia de Los Muertos" (Day of the Dead) by the Spanish students led by Senora LaBorde.

Martinmas Lantern Walk

On Monday, November 10th, at 5:30 pm Grades 1 and 2 will celebrate the Lantern Walk Festival.

The Early Childhood Lantern Walk will take place on Tuesday, November 11th at 4:45 pm.

Teachers will provide class parents with details about the events.

Here you will find a description of the festival and why it is celebrated by Waldorf Schools around the world.

Martinmas, is the Festival of St. Martin, which falls each year on November 11th. St. Martin was known for his great kindness to the sick and the poor. As a young Roman officer, he cut his own cloak in two and offered half to a freezing beggar. He put down his arms and, though ridiculed and berated by his former Roman comrades, walked ahead of the Roman army holding only a wooden cross for his defense - the army of the Gauls retreated. He faced off against an emperor in defense of his Home for the Poor and angels brought a pillar of fire to declare his rightness. He was so humble that when a delegation came to declare him Bishop, he hid in a goose house to avoid them. A goose ran honking from the house giving up his hiding place and, as a result, he became a bishop. (For this reason goose is eaten in some countries on Martinmas!)

The Lantern Walk reminds us of the great goodness of St. Martin. It illuminates for us that we must strive for empathy and kindness toward others; that our hearts must glow brightly even as the days grow darker and that each of us has a divine spark that we must ferry out into the world and share with others. As such it is a reverent, peaceful and beautiful festival traditionally celebrated with a bonfire, Martinmas songs, and a walk with colorful lanterns that the children have created with their own hands. A mood of quiet reverence is essential to bringing the true meaning of the festival home to the children. It is particularly relevant to 1st and 2nd grade children who live so strongly in the feeling realm and strive so mightily with social relationships as they move slowly toward true empathy for others.

Parent Council Update

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on November 19th at 6:30 at the Ship Inn in Milford, NJ

From Administration

Welcome Back Grandy!

We imagine there are many children (and parents!) excited that Grandy is starting back this week! Her absence made it even more clear to many of us how much we rely on her home-cooked meals that our children love. She is still injured but with Joanna's help she is looking forward to providing lunches Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The need for financial and physical support is now greater than ever so please consider "opting in" if you can to help pay more of the true cost of these heart-warming lunches and pick a day or 2 when you can roll up your sleeves and help wash dishes for an hour or 2 before pickup. Please go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040E4AA5AC3-dish to quickly and easily sign up for a shift or 2. If you enter your email address it will even send you a reminder 2 days before your shift!

Thank you!
The Lunch Bunch

God and Other Men

One of our past teachers and Stephanie Smith's mother, Myrna Smith, has written a book!!! *God and Other Men: Religion, Romance, and the Search for Self-Love* has just been published and is available on Amazon.

Elizabeth Gilbert writes, "Myrna J Smith writes with lucidity and intelligence about a subject which — all too often — can be marked by blurriness and vacuousness: the search for God in a human life. Her lifetime of seeking is as impressive as is thorough. Tirelessly, honestly, and with clear eyes, Smith has spent decades exploring Christianity, Yoga, the Guru system, Buddhism, mind-body healing, and the modern American self-empowerment movement."

Myrna began writing her memoir when she was teaching language arts to our middle schoolers. Maybe they provided the inspiration for the book!

Thank You

Thank you to our dedicated IT Committee for coming to school on Sunday to replace all of the office computers. Alex DiCandia, Andy Wander, Zachary Wander (RVWS class of '14!), Kristyn Lederer and Kurt Gerrish (a colleague of Kristyn's), we are grateful for your hard work. Thank you also for your continuing tech support and improvements to our network.

Thank you Kymm Phibbs and Eastern Oak Tree Service for the woodchips you delivered to Morning Glory in time for our Pumpkin Festival.

Thank you to everyone who came to Guus Antonie's workshops. It is not easy to find time in our busy schedules for extra events and we appreciate your making the effort. As everyone who was there knows, it was time well spent.

From the Leadership Council

What are we working on?

- Transition and support in 7th grade with TDC and Board
- Strategic Planning and Site Planning with Board and Faculty
- Early Childhood programs with EC faculty

Please note: There will be no LC open hours this Friday, November 7th. Open hours will resume next week on Friday, November 14th.

From the Faculty

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Language Arts
Second Grade: Language Arts
Third Grade: Math/Shelters/Hebrew Stories
Fourth Grade: Language Arts/Norse Mythology

Fifth Grade: North American History and Geography
Sixth Grade: History
Seventh Grade: Algebra
Eighth Grade: Chemistry

Circus Camp

This Saturday, November 2nd, will be the last gathering of the RVWS Circus Club for this year. Come join the fun at 10:30 am and then we will take a break until after January 1st. Fee: by donation. Call Mr. Friedman (610-847-8749) with questions or to let him know you will be there.

Get Ready for Winter Fair Secret Garden and Learn New Crafts!

Get your Secret Garden treasures finished early. Join Miss Till in the Handwork room Friday mornings after drop off, 9 am-10:15 am on October 24 and November 7th, then again on Saturday, November 22nd, 9:30-11 before the Holiday Bazaar. Cost is \$10 for materials. Please RSVP to Miss Till (MKT4160@yahoo.com) or leave her a note at the Handwork Room.

8G Trip Fundraiser: Snack Mondays & Wednesdays starts TOMORROW Nov 5th!

Problem: You are a Super Parent. But lack of sleep and too much work mean that you are flat out on healthy snack ideas. *Solution:* Send kids to school with a couple bucks for 8G Snack Mondays & Wednesdays!

Problem: You deliver your jewels to school before class begins but your caffeine buzz, alarmingly, is wearing off. *Solution:* Get a cup of high-octane joe and a slice of pumpkin bread to go thanks to 8G Snack Mondays & Wednesdays!

Problem: Your darlings are exhausted and their blood sugar levels are precipitously dropping at pick up. *Solution:* Don't call Dr. Jo. Grab a warm baby burrito for the ride home at 8G Snack Mondays & Wednesdays!

8G snack offerings EVERY Monday and Wednesday morning and afternoon in the lobby at drop-off and pick-up:

Hummus w/Carrot & Celery sticks \$2.75

Organic Corn Chips \$1

Organic Chips & Salsa \$1.75

Cheese Cubes \$1.50

Slice of homemade sweet bread (pumpkin, banana,...) \$2

Bulk Orders of Samosa –Deadline tomorrow, Wednesday, November 5th!

The grade school Samosa Fridays have been such a hit with the kids that parents have requested we offer bulk orders for families to take home and serve or freeze....so we are offering: Bulk Samosa Orders the 1st Monday of every month for 7 months (Nov-May). The first day will be Monday, November 10 (because we have no school on Mon, Nov 3). Sign up for 7 Mondays through the rest of the year (Nov 10, Dec 1, Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 13, May 4). We can either send them home with a designated student or you can pick them up in the morning or afternoon. These are vegetarian. A PCF committee prepared from scratch by "Army of India" of Eastern PA. fried in a nut-

Parent Council

PC Festival Table Drive

Have you ever found yourself carrying a 20 pound table up the stairs to the Upper Black Eddy Firehouse cursing the fact that we have to lug tables around each time we have a festival? Well, we may have a solution for you. Parent Council is sponsoring a Festival Table Drive asking parents to donate tables to store at the school eliminating the need to rent them and transport them.....a dream come true! We need about 25 lightweight tables that could be either 8' or 6' in size (preferably 8'). Please contact Clare Brunell if you would like to donate a table or a few. clare28@live.com or (908) 713-1030.

From the Community

Yoga Loka

Restore and Renew

November 9th, Sunday, 4:30-6:00 with Carole

A very gentle yoga class with props and TLC.

Happy Hip Openers!

November 14th, Friday, 6:30-8:30 pm

A class devoted to increasing your mobility. Change the way you sit, walk, stand, dance and more!

The Transformative Power of Fire

November 15th, Saturday, 11:30-5:30

A full day retreat exploring how to use fire to transform our lives. We will learn a healing fire ceremony you can do on your own, cooking, and breathing practices to increase your digestive fire.

See www.Yoga-Loka.com for more details and to register

MUSIC TEACHER AVAILABLE FOR HOUSE CALLS!

Paul Kendall is a Jazz musician and teacher available for private instruction in your home. Expertise includes Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello & Piano. Recommended by Louanne Willard & Stephanie Smith, Mr. Kendall has been teaching the Willard & Smith children individually for over a year in the disciplines of Flute, Violin, Piano & Cello. Please feel free to contact Mr. Kendall directly & mention that you are a RVWS student referred by Louanne and/or Stephanie.

Paul Kendall phone: 570-839-8975

kendalljazz@yahoo.com kendalljazz.com

Calligraphy Classes

Beginner Calligraphy courses, both in broad-pen Italic (three Tuesdays, Nov. 4, 11, and 18 from 6:15 to 9 p.m.) and pointed-pen Copperplate (two Thursdays, Nov. 6 and 13, same time) right in Frenchtown. She is also teaching a workshop weekend November 14-15-16, full of second-level calligraphy classes like Layout & Design and Swash Flourishing as well as family-friendly general courses that require NO calligraphy experience like Module Origami and Illuminated Monograms. For more information or to register, contact Catherine Lent ASAP at either 908-328-4460 or catherine@calligraphybycatherine.com

Kissimmee River Pottery Fall Student Sale

Nov. 7, 8, 9 - Reception Friday, November 7, 6-9

Open Sat, Nov. 8, 10-6, Sun. Nov. 9, 10-5

Great Gifts for the Holidays

50 Mine Street, Flemington, NJ, 908-237-0671

For more information: www.riverpots.com

Purely Farm is back again this Friday, November 7th offering pork, turkey and eggs!

Joanna and Marc Michini of Purely Farm, parents of Clover in the Star Room, have a long history of providing the best meats in the area. Their farm critters thrive on life out on pasture and a diet supplemented by mineral rich, organic grains that are locally grown and GMO free.

What is your Thanksgiving turkey doing right now? Here, at Purely Farm, our curious flock of turkeys are busying themselves with a buffet of grass, insects, wheat and grit. All birds are raised out on pasture and processed on the farm ensuring the highest quality your family deserves for the upcoming holiday feast. Take time to review our attached order form and then stop by Friday morning to reserve your turkey! You may also refer to the attached pork and turkey price list for this week's availability. Contact them with any questions at purelyfarm@gmail.com or 215-317-0889.

Roxey Ballet Nutcracker Production

Gunna Christensen (7th grade) and Sven Christensen (3rd grade) are very excited to be in this year's performance of The Nutcracker by the Roxey Ballet. Gunna and Sven will be in the 1st act party scene and Gunna will be a Chinese dancer and Sven a Russian paige in the 2nd act in Saturday performances. Ainsley Mulligan will be in the party scene on Saturdays and a Sugar Plum paige on Sundays. Former student Gabe Blaikie will be Fritz and Gabe's dad Tim will be Drosselmeyer (not sure which performance). Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased on www.roxeyballet.org or discount tickets at: www.spinsaver.com. Hope to see some of our RV friends, Leah Christensen

Used Book Sale

November 7th, 10 am - 8pm, November 8th, 9 am - 3 pm
Christ Lutheran Church, 353 East Dark Hollow Road,
Pipersville, PA 18947 Sponsored by the Pipersville Free
Library (proceeds support the library). For more
information call 215-766-7880

Childcare Sought

RVWS family is looking for creative soul to watch our 2 1/2 year old son, Cedar (in GG) on Saturday OR Sunday, possibly both if you are interested, from 9:15 - 2:30, while we work. Love of play and the outdoors needed, sense of humor required, juggling ability optional. We need someone that can drive. If you need to bring a child of your own, that may work out fine. We live in Kintnersville by Rick's Egg Farm/ O Wow Cow. Contact Brooke if you are interested: 215-500-5769, or flypeterfly@hotmail.com.

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center Events

Friday December 19

House Concert with Lissa, Glen and Bethany

Saturday December 20th

Workshop/Concert with Daniel Hawkins

Wednesdays

Mirjam Ingolfsson...Cello lessons in collaboration with Daniel Hawkins

For lesson information contact mirjam.ingolfsson@gmail.com

Mondays

Afternoon Lessons with Jane Rothfield - Fiddle, Guitar, Banjo beginners and advanced students welcome. For lesson information contact janerothfield@gmail.com

Wednesday Jams / Song swaps 6:00-8:00

Please join the Jam! All levels welcome. Bring strings, pipes, squeezebox whatever you got! Tunes and songs, \$5 suggested donation. ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com for song and tunes selections.

Check out our Ottsville Tradarts Calendar of events for more Information. ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com
danielhhawkins.com

OTAC 250 Durham Road Ottsville across from Kimberton Whole Foods

"You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees or the stars...."

Is there anything more lovely than time-honored words of wisdom lettered beautifully by hand? Catherine Lent is delighted to offer a new limited-edition calligraphic print of Max Ehrmann's "Desiderata," or desired things. Chock full of good advice ("Be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others..." as well as "Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself."), this poem has been cherished and shared by many for generations, and is now rendered in full-color calligraphy in a palette of watercolor blue, green, purple, and burgundy hues. Each print is embellished by hand with gold accents, signed and numbered by the artist, and accompanied with a certificate of authenticity. Available alone, matted, or framed, the artwork is 13 by 15 inches, 16 by 20 matted or framed. The regular prices are \$60, matted \$78, and framed \$165. Order by November 1st for the introductory offer of 20% off: print \$48, matted \$62, fully framed \$132. Contact Catherine at 908-328-4460 or catherine@calligraphybycatherine.com for images of the artwork, mat and frame options, and any other information you might need.

Introducing a Naturopath/Homeopath in our Community

Julie Lachman, ND is a Naturopath and homeopath in Doylestown, PA. Homeopathy and Naturopathy have both shown to resolve symptoms ranging from ADHD and Autism to constipation and headaches, without the side effects of drugs. Individualized care is best. 267-895-1733. www.drlachman.com 196 W. Ashland St. Ste. 301, Doylestown, PA 18901.

For Rent

3 story townhouse with 3 bedrooms and 4 baths. Finished walk-out basement with brick flooring. Large backyard with wooden deck and patio. Spectacular views of the Lehigh River and 4th of July fireworks. 5 minutes from downtown Bethlehem and 25 minutes from River Valley.

For more information, please contact Katherine Schilling at 347-724-8724 or katubela211@yahoo.com

Heal yourself, heal the world!

Take some time to nourish yourself. You will learn simple techniques to decrease stress and increase well-being. I will be offering classes in Gendai Reiki Ho, Japanese reiki direct from Japan. Classes will be held in Emmaus. Everyone has the innate ability to share reiki- join us and open or deepen your connection! Call or email Molly Watson for prerequisites and pricing. 484-241-5343 or mwatson416@gmail.com.

Reiki 1 Thursday Nov 13, 6:30-8 pm, Friday Nov. 13, 9 am-12 pm

Reiki 2 Friday Nov. 14 1-7 pm

Reiki 3 Saturday Nov. 15, 9 am- 4 pm

Reiki 4 Sunday, Nov. 16, 9 am- 4 pm

Summer and Smoke at Solebury School

The Solebury School Theater department is pleased to present this fall's dramatic production of Tennessee Williams' Summer and Smoke. The show will run from Thursday, November 6 Through Saturday, November 8 with a 7:30 p.m. curtain. On Sunday, November 9, curtain is at 3 p.m. Cost is \$5 for students, \$10 for adults. Call 215-862-5261 for reservations. Our very own Teva Rose Skovronek (RVWS class of 2013) is in the cast!

Art in the Library

Expression through Printmaking

with Ponder Goemmel

Saturday, November 15 10am – noon

Open to ages 12 to 18

This workshop focuses on expressing yourself by printing on textiles and paper using handmade stamps and found objects. You will learn how to print on clothing and paper in an expressive way using color, shape and design. Please bring objects found in your home, garden, or woods with interesting shapes and textures that could translate into interesting. Please also bring a pre-washed cotton t-shirt or other cotton garment to adorn with your print art. We will supply additional printing materials and paint. (Don't forget your smock and a snack!)

Making the Most of Color - Inspired by the Masters

with Ponder Goemmel

Monday, December 1 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Open to Older Teens and Adults

This workshop is designed to help students draw with oil pastels in a rich and vibrant manner inspired by the work of Van Gogh, Monet, and other famous painters. We will discuss the use of color in flower paintings by the masters and continue with a demonstration of mixing colors and how to juxtapose them to produce rich and vibrant art. You will choose one primary form of contrast to create a rich and vibrant piece inspired by your choice of a master's flower painting. It will be stressed that this class is to be inspired, not to copy the master's art, and to use imagination to create a piece of art from gained knowledge.

Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring a smock to class!

Ponder Goemmel is a classically trained, sought after illustrator whose work has been featured in dozens of books. Her wonderful illustrations have earned her notable reviews and honors in the publishing world. She resides in Bucks County, PA.

Drawing the Portrait in Charcoal

with George Thompson

November 17 6:00pm – 9:00pm

All levels welcome Open to ages 16 - adult

This three-hour workshop is an introduction to one of most challenging and exciting subjects in art--the human head. We will break down the fundamentals and simplify the anatomy. Step-by-step, we will draw the eye, nose, ears, and mouth and discover the proportions of the face and how to get a likeness from a live model. (Please bring your own supplies. Let us know if you don't have your own so that supplies and materials can be provided.)

Drawing the Portrait in Charcoal

with George Thompson

Tuesday, December 16 6:00pm – 9:00pm

All levels welcome Open to ages 16 - adult

This three-hour workshop is an introduction to one of most challenging and exciting subjects in art--the human head. We will break down the fundamentals and simplify the anatomy. Step-by-step, we will draw the eye, nose, ears, and mouth and discover the proportions of the face and how to get a likeness from a live model.

(Please bring your own supplies. Let us know if you don't have your own so that supplies and materials can be provided.)

George Thompson is a nationally recognized, award-winning artist specializing in figure/portrait, landscape, and still life. He has been teaching workshops and conducting life-drawing and painting sessions for the last 25 years. He has written articles on drawing and painting for The Artist's Magazine and his paintings have twice appeared on the cover. Thompson has a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Pratt Institute, and has studied figure drawing and painting at The Art Students League, and The Brooklyn Museum. www.georgethompsongallery.com

Introduction to Monoprinting

with Tracy Cianciola

Wednesday, December 3 11:00am – 2:00pm

Open to Older Teens and Adults

This workshop will begin with an interactive demonstration to show the steps taken to produce a monoprint; then everyone will create their own monoprints under the guidance of the artist/instructor. Please bring a smock to class.

We will take a lunch break—please bring bagged lunch

Tracy Cianciola received her bachelor's degree from The School of Visual Arts in New York and later earned her master's degree from Lehman College. Her work has been seen in many art shows throughout the country, including the prestigious Portfolio 10/Society of Illustrators.

The Grade School Celebrates
Ancestor's Day



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



6th Grade



7th Grade

Protect Your Child's Mental Health with WONDER

by Marcy Axness

August 11 was a day of two unrelated yet poignantly simultaneous events: the passing of Robin Williams, whose white-hot brilliance has often been characterized as other-worldly; and the celestial light-show of the Perseids meteor shower. As if heaven was welcoming its newest arrival with a fireworks display of thrilling extravagance befitting Robin's unfathomable talent and heart.

That he was suffering so deeply came as a shock to even those who thought they knew him well. Insights into his psycho-history began emerging with revelations about his depression--possibly bipolar disorder; reports of his solitary childhood in an affluent family, being raised primarily by hired help; and Robin's own recorded descriptions of using his comic gifts to make his mother laugh.

As people who were touched by Robin's gifts, we feel sad. As parents who are raising children in this complicated world, we feel concern. Will *our* child grow up to wrestle with such demons? It is such a complicated question, and the tapestry of a person's mental illness is multi-faceted with many contributing factors. But there *are* things we can do, throughout their childhood and into their teens, that will serve as protective factors against mental and emotional struggles and addiction. Most of these are related to the health of the child's central relationships and the security and wellbeing they foster, which in turn get hardwired in the child's brain to lay the neural scaffolding for lifelong psychosocial health. Our shorthand term for this process is "attachment".

While looking up at the Perseids, I was vividly reminded of one of the seemingly smallest yet incalculably important protective factors that parents can provide for their child: *wonder*. A fundamental need of the young child until around seven is an atmosphere in harmony with his natural impulse to celebrate beauty and feel reverence and awe about almost everything. But what does our culture do in this techno-materialist age? We foist upon even the youngest child a flat world of facts and commentary. At a time when the child most needs wonder and reverence, we explain away all sense of the miraculous with our cool adult intellect, with the good intention of helping prepare them for the real world. ("Daddy, look at that bright star!" "Oh yes, Esmerelda -- do you know that a star is just a very dense concentration of gases -- just air! -- that burns very, very hot...thousands of light-years away... Mystery eradicated, *poof!*")

Sheltering your child's natural sense of wonder -- and indeed, cultivating your own if it has atrophied over the years -- is a gift of lasting wellbeing for you both. An inoculation against ennui. A potent protective factor. That sense of "Wow, water out of the tap! or "Wow, text sent over phone lines through squeaky little noises!" is a route to vast inner horizons. When we lose that, we need ever more stimulation -- more shopping, more drama, more drugs and alcohol, more thrillers (which feeds the collective propensity toward societal violence), more sexual excess, and so on -- to fill the void of disenchantment.

One helpful way to cultivate wonder is to imagine looking out at the world through your child's eyes, which brings the uplifting quality of his or her natural enchantment to the fore. The more we can live, as Joseph Chilton Pearce puts it, "in constant astonishment," the more we can attune to the aspect of our children that seeks reverence, awe and beauty. Having a child by your side -- looking out through her eyes of wonder -- gives you permission to be especially exuberant in expressing delight in a world in which everything can be magically alive. "Hello, leaves...hello, pebbles...hello, wind!" A central tenet of esoteric psychology is that once you acknowledge the life in everything, it awakens life energies in you. Perhaps this is one reason behind the success of mindfulness for treating depression.

Avoiding TITD (Talk It To Death) Syndrome

One of the simplest ways to increase a sense of reverence and awe is to put yourself on a zip-the-lip regime. Say less, let it mean more. There is an epidemic raging, which I call TITD (Talk It To Death) syndrome. One only has to spend a little time with any American family to see TITD in action: "Why is there a rainbow on the wall?" "Well, Samantha, the sunlight is being split into seven different wavelengths by the refractive index of the crystal on my watch sitting there on the counter." Wonder and awe quotient abysmally low, protective factors missing.

(continued next page)

The Hurried Child author David Elkind offers an illustration of how young children's questions are usually focused on the *purpose* (why) of things rather than an explanation (how): His preschool aged son asked him, "Daddy, why does the sun shine?" At first tempted to give him a scientific answer about the relationship of heat and light, he remembered this principle behind the young child's questions. He simply answered, "To keep us warm, and to make the grass and the flowers grow."

In this spirit, a more nurturing response to Samantha's question about the rainbow might have been, "To make our morning more beautiful with the special qualities that sunlight can have." Your young child (especially at four and five) will generate a seemingly unending stream of questions -- one of the ways she is working on developing intellectual and social initiative. There is a delicate balance for the attuned parent to strike -- between falling into the TITD trap on the one hand, or being dismissive or unresponsive to the child's earnest inquiries on the other. If we brush off, demean or ignore a child's questions he may associate curiosity with a feeling of guilt or shame, which is a catastrophe for the future peacemaker, in whom curiosity must remain a crackling blaze.

To support and foster his robust sense of initiative and curiosity, strive to feel your way into the lifeworld of the young child, which wants to know in a way that preserves wonder and reverence for a still-magical world. There is time aplenty for the bottom-line, scientific knowledge of "reality."

Two Wonder-Full Responses to a Child's Endless Stream of Questions

Here are two handy answers to have at the ready, which work in virtually any situation in which you're caught off-guard by your child's question (like when our son asked, "Do people grow down before they die?")

The first is, "I wonder..." This leaves the child's own imagination open to all the possibilities that will come her way, and allows her to remain in the dream-space that is a child's right. I fear, however, that in our hyperintellectual culture many parents would feel remiss in giving a response like this, afraid of failing the child by not providing an "answer." Yes, "I wonder" can be considered an advanced maneuver that you can work toward saying with confidence and tranquility.

The second handy response is Elkind's suggestion to ask the question back to the child. "Well, why do you think a rainbow has appeared in our kitchen?" This will often elicit a stream of enchanting insights into your child's imaginative capacities -- all of which should be met with the utmost interest and respect for her opinions on the matter, never "corrected." Remember, there will be time enough for "reality" -- the rest of her life!

Wonder Alone is Not Enough

If there is a quality that Robin Williams seemed to possess in spades, it was a puckish sense of wonder. A lot of his high-octane comedy riffs bubbled out of that well of wonder. It seems, though, that he was quite alone in his wonderment as a child -- that it may have emerged in his loneliness as a means of emotional survival. A consolation prize that ultimately did not console.

The wonder I'm prescribing as a protective factor flourishes within the loving, responsive parent-child connection that is the hallmark of healthy attachment. That is an untoppable combination for raising an innovative peacemaker poised for success in a changing world -- curiosity, playfulness, willingness to experiment, flexibility, humor, receptiveness to new ideas, eagerness to learn. These lifelong qualities are nurtured by wonder now.

About the Author

I raised two humans, got a PhD, and lived to report back! I'm the author of *Parenting for Peace: Raising the Next Generation of Peacemakers*, and I write and speak worldwide on prenatal, child and parent development. I also have a private practice coaching parents-in-progress. But my most important (and joyful!) credential is being mother to Ian and Eve, both flourishing in their twenties.