

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, Nov 15

Parent Council Meeting-Homestead 2:00 pm

Thursday, Nov 16

EC Parent Enrichment Evening 6:30-8:00 pm

Looking Ahead

Monday-Tuesday, Nov 20-21

Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School

Wednesday-Thursday, Nov 22-24

Thanksgiving Break – No School

Friday, Dec 1

Spiral of Light – in-school celebration

Friday, Dec 8

Early Dismissal – Winter Fair Set-up 1:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 9

Winter Fair 11:00 am-4:00 pm

How to Contact Us

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

Winter Fair

Secret Garden Items

We are expecting 20 Secret Garden items from each family. There is a green box in the lobby to collect your items. There will also be a binder in the front office with suggestions, photos and supply lists & directions for those who are looking for ideas.

River Valley's Parent Artisan Market

At this year's Winter Fair we will host an artisan market featuring the parents and families of River Valley. If you are a crafter/artist with inventory or believe you would like to participate with 10+ items, please contact ivy Berrocal at: 201-694-5166 Karunagoddess@gmail.com

Coat Drive Extended to Next Week

Please consider donating your gently used coats and jackets. Our art teacher Sharon Ferguson is organizing the drive through the not-for-profit organization, One Warm Coat.

The coats received will benefit

Community Services for Children in Allentown.

New or gently used women's, men's and children's coats are all welcome. **Children's sizes 0-5 especially needed.**

A drop box is located in the school lobby to receive your donations **until November 21st at the end of**

Parent-Teacher Conferences!

There is also a box for monetary contributions.

Spiral of Light

With quiet anticipation we mark the longest nights of the year and the approaching holiday season with a candle-lit journey inward at the Spiral of Light.

The Spiral is a peaceful, meditative experience for children (and adults). The elements of this festival and the theme of light growing and expanding within darkness speaks to us on many levels and is found in most cultures around the world.

The Spiral of Light is a simple, yet reverent tradition at River Valley Waldorf School.

We will be celebrating it this year as an in-school festival on Friday, December 1st with time for the kindergartens and all eight grades to participate.

Families are welcome to attend their child's session.

Check here next time for the schedule of each class' session.

Crystals Needed

If you have any crystals or beautiful stones that you would be willing to lend us for the spiral, please put your name on them and leave them in the faculty room. They will be returned to you after the festival. Thank you.

Greens Needed

We are in need of greens for Winter Fair and the Spiral of Light. Anyone who can possibly cut some before Dec 1st or knows someone with access to greens, please contact Liz Davachi 908-397-2737. Thank you

Parent Council Meeting

Tomorrow, Nov. 15th at 2 pm at the Homestead

**Thank you to everyone who took lawn signs.
Please bring them back to school so we can re-use them next year.**

From Administration

Parent Handbook

If you would like a printed copy of the 2017-18 Parent Handbook, in addition to being able to refer to the digital copy that is posted on River Valley's website, please let Robbie or Tiffany know, or add your name to the clipboard at the front desk by 11/21/2017. We will make a limited print run. On the website, the most up-to-date version of the directory and the parent handbook are located in the Parent Resources section.

Support River Valley by Shopping with Amazon

The holiday shopping season is here! If you make an Amazon purchase, follow the steps below to earn .5% of your purchase total for a donation to the school. There is no charge to you, Amazon pays the school!

Go to Amazon Smile by visiting <http://smile.amazon.com/> and login with your existing credentials. After you are logged in, look for the box called "select your own charity." Type "River Valley Waldorf School" into the box. After the search is complete, click "select." A line will appear at the top of the Amazon page that says you are supporting River Valley Waldorf School. Shop as you normally would and RVWS will benefit each time you shop by earning .5% of your purchase total. You have to login using the smile address each time.

Please use this link <http://www.rivervalleyschool.org/amazon> to visit the school website for complete information and additional links. Thank you for your support. Happy Thanksgiving!

Lost and Found

It's time to empty our lost and found basket once again. Please check the school lobby for items that belong to your family. We will leave the items on display during Parent-Teacher Conferences for those of you who do not come to school often. After that, coats will go to our coat drive and everything else will be donated.

AFTERNOON GARDEN NEWS

Afternoon Garden is the program at RVWS that allows nursery and kindergarten students (3-6 years old) to stay for the full school day, until 3:15pm. We are very pleased that we are adding a third AG section right after Thanksgiving. If you have been wishing for a spot, there will be space open each day Monday through Friday. Please use the registration forms attached to this week's Current or email miller@rivervalleyschool.org, trobinson@rivervalleyschool.org or cschretlen@rivervalleyschool.org to get started!

Back to the Future: Waldorf Education, Now More than Ever An Evening with Jack Petrash

Waldorf School of Princeton, 1062 Cherry Hill Road, Princeton, Thursday., Nov. 16, 7 p.m.. Hagens Hall. Tickets: \$10 Online /\$15 at the Door

Waldorf Education has been around for nearly 100 years, which begs the question: "Do these educational principles still work?" Compared with mainstream classrooms' smart boards and laptops, beeswax, knitting, and handmade books may evoke another era; however, it is precisely because of our time-tested approach that Waldorf Education prepares students to be divergent thinkers who see more than one answer to a problem, and are capable of seeing the questions no one else is asking. And contemporary educators, neuroscientists, and economists are backing this perspective.

Jack Petrash has been a class teacher at the Washington Waldorf School for over thirty years. He has taken four classes on the extended journey from grade one to grade eight. Jack is also the founder and director of the Nova Institute, an organization that works to build a bridge between mainstream education and Waldorf Education. He is the author of *Understanding Waldorf Education: Teaching from the Inside Out* and his TEDx talk, "Preparing Children for the Journey," has been seen by many parents and teachers in Waldorf communities in North America. He is the author of *Covering Home: Lessons on Fathering from the Game of Baseball* and *Navigating the Terrain of Childhood: A Guide to Meaningful Parenting and Heartfelt Discipline*

Thank you

Thank you Erica Nichols (mother of Alexa in 4th grade) for the many hours you spent placing orders for our school from the State of PA through Act 195. We received over \$13,000 worth of books and materials at no cost to us because of your hard work and dedication. The teachers and students of River Valley are very grateful.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – House Building

Fourth Grade – Local Geography

Fifth Grade – Geometry

Sixth Grade – Roman History

Seventh Grade – Chemistry

Eighth Grade – History

From the Community

House for Rent in Kintnersville

For Rent, Beautiful log cabin home in Kintnersville, PA. 2/3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, nestled on a farm in the woods. Very private. \$1500.00 per month. Inquiries call Gosia at 646-431-8281. Available February 1, 2018.

Looking for an Apartment in UBE?

A 1.5 bedroom apartment is available on River Road in Upper Black Eddy, PA, with access to tow path and hard wood floors. No dogs. \$1050 month includes heat. For more information call Clover Michini's (Grade 2) Aunt Kelly at 908-392-5653.

Unwanted Pumpkins Wanted

The Murphy Farm will take any unwanted pumpkins or jack-o-lanterns off your hands. Their pigs and goats love them! Find Hilary at pick up or drop off or contact her at 908-674-0455 or hilarymuprhyphotography@gmail.com to arrange pick up at the school.

Benefit Variety Concert for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief and Our Local Food Pantry

Saturday December 2nd, 3:00 - 6:00 at the Ottsville Traditional Arts Center, 250 Durham Road Ottsville Pa.

Ottsville Community Sponsors: Kimberton Whole Foods, Ottsville Inn, Sweet Creek Studio, Dark Hollow Dulcimers, "Boxes of Love - Cajitas De Amor" Facebook boxesoflovecares@gmail.com

Music and performances generously provided by: Blue Wave Ramblers, Timothy Juvenal Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance, Oak, Ash and Thorn, Bronwyn Bird and Justin Nawn, Grace Morgan and Mick Choder, Coracree

* * * Please join us for hearty appetizers and beverages. Suggested Donations Adults \$10 Children \$5 . Plus a Food Pantry item accepted at the door

For more info go to: ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com

Spiritual Science and Technology Retreat

December 1-3, 2017, Threefold Educational Center, Chestnut Ridge, NY

This event is for anyone with a strong connection to anthroposophy who is actively engaged inwardly or outwardly with the issue of technology. The retreat's objectives are:

- Deepening our understanding of Rudolf Steiner's spiritual scientific ideas about technology and human and earthly evolution.
- Sharing perspectives, experiences, and research questions concerning technology with each other.
- Considering how individuals in the various practical fields of anthroposophy can collaborate together, and with other like-minded people from various backgrounds to contribute to the ethical use and development of technology for the betterment of humanity.
- Sharing ideas and plans for future technology related activities and events.

Schedule: The retreat begins with registration at 4:00pm on Friday, December 1, and ends at 12:30pm on Sunday, December 3. A pre-retreat meeting for First Class members of the School of Spiritual Science on the topic of technology will take place at 2:00pm on Friday, December 1.

Fee: Sliding scale, \$75 to \$125 (includes dinner on Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and snacks).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15. For a full description of the retreat, and to register, please go to:

<http://www.threefold.org/events/tickets.aspx>

Thanksgiving Turkey Orders

Our very own Joanna and Marc Michini (parents of Clover in 2nd grade), owners of Purely Farm are taking orders for natural, pasture-raised turkeys for Thanksgiving. To place your order, go to: <http://mailchi.mp/8d88a948c13a/order-your-thanksgiving-turkey-today?e=fd4c11af3d>.

A Celebration of Cantastoria and Cranky by Artists and Musicians from all over the USA

Friday, Nov 17th - 7:30 PM – An Entertaining Illustrated History of Cantastoria (Lecture)

Saturday, Nov 18th- 7:30 PM - A Raucous Evening of Banners and Cranks

Sunday, Nov 19th- 2:00 PM - Banners and Cranks for kids & their grown-ups.

For more information go to: artyard.org. Artyard, 62A Trenton Ave. Frenchtown, NJ 08825

From the Washington Post

Parents are Exhausting their Children. An eighth-grade boy explains how.

By Valerie Strauss

Rosalind Wiseman understands kids. She is a parenting educator and best-selling author of books including "Queen Bees and Wannabes," a look at high school social cliques that became the basis for the Tina Fey-written movie "Mean Girls."

She has written a number of other books, including "Queen Bee Moms and King Pin Dads," and a novel for young adults titled "Boys, Girls & Other Hazardous Materials." She created the Owning Up Curriculum, a program that teaches kids and adults to take responsibility for unethical behavior whether they are bystanders, perpetrators or victims, and runs an organization she founded called Cultures of Dignity, which works with communities to direct conversations about the physical and emotional well-being of young people.

Wiseman sent this post after being struck by something an eighth-grade boy sent to her expressing his exhaustion from the pressure he said he feels from his parents to succeed. While this scenario obviously doesn't apply to all kids, it does to plenty of them, and Wiseman wants parents who see themselves in this to take note. (The boy mentions the SSAT, which is the Secondary School Admissions Test, used by private schools for admissions.)

By Rosalind Wiseman

Adults often believe that kids have it relatively easy. No bills to pay. No job to go to. No horrible boss or complicated relationships to tolerate. All a child has to do is do well in school and not get into trouble. But things aren't that simple. They never have been and never will be.

A few days ago an eighth-grade boy wrote me the following:

I had my SSAT coming up, actually today, on the 14th, and [my parents] are constantly telling me what to do but they have no idea of what I'm actually doing. When you want to just relax for an hour after seven straight hours of strenuous cognitive exercises, and your parent tells you to get off your ass and start doing something productive, you want to throw something at them, to yell at them to simply leave you alone for one straight hour. But you can't, so you say: "Okay, sorry." Then walk past them in the most respectful way possible, to your room, and start homework, or studying. Waiting, just hoping to whoever can help and will listen that you will be able to leave this place as soon as possible. Finally, though, you finish. So you start to go and do whatever you want to do at the time.

When you walk past your parent, they say: "Where do you think you're going? You still have chores." Then they will hold up a long, long list of things that you have to do. You move toward cover, so your parents won't be able to see your hands curl into fists. But nothing is shown on your face, simply a benevolent smile that you hope seems genuine. After an hour, you finish everything, and again you walk past your parents. They greet you, and say: "You know what would be awesome? If you could do this, or that." You die. Point blank, your excitement to relax just withers, and gasps its final breath. Because at this point by the time you finish this, dinner will arrive, then bed, and you have now spent an entire day wound up like a taut string. The only thing to make you snap is a breath of air. You haven't even made it to dinner. Quietly, you think that all you have to do is get done with the next hour, and you are finished with this day. Dinner comes and goes, and the next morning the light greets you, telling you that you have to repeat the process five times a week. You then collapse onto your bed with happiness that manifests in a pitiful groan, served extra loud on Mondays. This is typically me at home.

Of course our kids need to do their chores and homework. But is it any wonder, when most of our interactions with our children are transactions, that some of our children don't feel comfortable telling us what they really feel? Or, that they sometimes explode about something seemingly small, and we dismiss their behavior as hormones, moodiness, and immaturity?

I'm just asking that we take a step back and ask ourselves:

- Do I ever take the time to just look at my child?
- When I begin conversations with my child are they usually about something they haven't done?
- Do I know what makes my child want to get up in the morning and start the day?
- Is there anything that I say that kills his/her spirit?
- What do I do to make my child feel seen and heard?

So take a pause. Take out a piece of paper and a pen. Take 10 minutes to answer the questions above. And then the next time you see your child, especially at the end of the day, don't greet them with a thousand even well-intentioned questions. Just say you love them, and you're grateful they're in your life.

The list of chores and things they haven't done can wait. Creating space for peace and warmth in our most important relationships can't.