



# River Valley Current

December 16, 2014 No. 397

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness." -- Helen Keller

## School Calendar

### This Week

#### Tuesday, Dec 16

Holiday Candlelight Concert 6:30 pm

#### Thursday, Dec 18

Shepherds Play 7:00 pm

#### Friday, Dec 19

Shepherds Play 1:30 pm

### Looking Ahead

#### Monday, Dec 22-Friday, Jan 2

School Closed – Holiday Break

#### Monday, Jan 5

School Resumes

### How to Contact Us

[info@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:info@rivervalleyschool.org)

[lc@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:lc@rivervalleyschool.org)

[bot@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:bot@rivervalleyschool.org)

[pc@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:pc@rivervalleyschool.org)

## Holiday Candlelight Concert

Tonight at 6:30 pm

Please join us for River Valley's first ever holiday concert. Children in grades 4 through 8 will perform as the audience is bathed in candlelight, songs and good cheer. Children who are performing need to be in their classrooms by 6 pm dressed in concert attire. If your child is not performing, please plan to come with your family for an inspirational holiday celebration.



## Need a present for that Tie-dye enthusiast?

The 3rd grade will be selling tie dye t-shirts, onesies, bags and sunhats in the lobby Tuesday 12/16 and Thursday 12/18 at pick up.

## January Lunch Menu

The January lunch menu is attached to this week's Current. The deadline for orders is Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Samosa forms are also attached. Their deadline is January 16<sup>th</sup>.



Happy  
Holidays  
to All



## Oberufer Shepherds Play

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
and

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

Just as a group of peasant farmers did in the 1600's RVWS teachers, staff and parents have been practicing the Shepherds Play. This year we will perform the play twice at RVWS – please bring your family and friends to one or both of our performances.

Grade School students will watch the play on Friday;  
Kindergarten families are welcome.

The play depicts the birth of Jesus, along with the humorous interactions of the humble shepherds. It is a wonderful way to set the mood for the holiday season.

## About the Shepherds Play

The Shepherds Play is one of the three Oberufer Christmas Plays whose origin can be traced back to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. On the little island of Oberufer nestled in the river Danube, near the city of Bratislava, not far from the Austro-Hungarian border, these plays were performed year after year by the local peasants of the village. Their partially Catholic and partially Protestant members united every year and, starting in the fall, commenced with rehearsals for the plays.

Karl Julius Schröer, a friend and teacher of Rudolf Steiner, collected these plays, and in 1910, under the direction of Steiner himself, the first performance of them took place in Germany. Since the early 1920s, the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart began to stage them regularly and they have since become a permanent fixture in most Waldorf Schools around the world, performed in December by the faculty as a present to the children of the school.

River Valley Waldorf School also has a long-standing tradition of performing this play. Every year we present the Shepherds Play to the students as well as to the parents and the wider community.

We hope you will join us.

## From Administration

### Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found before vacation. It is full of winter clothes. Take what belongs to you through Thursday. On Friday, take what you can use and the rest will be donated.

### Photo Orders

Attached to the Current you will find an order form for the school pictures taken by Mr. Santiago. The deadline for orders is January 16<sup>th</sup>. Please fill out the form and leave it in the folder on the office door with a check made out to Euclides Santiago.

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

Jill McMullen will be leaving her post as Development Coordinator as soon as the position is filled. If you are interested in applying, please speak to Brian Wolff.

River Valley Waldorf School is accepting applications to fill a part-time Development Coordinator position to start immediately. 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)

### Thank You

Thank you Eileen and Kevin Kelly for the beautiful greenery you hung around the stage in the All-Purpose Room. It will make all of our events this week more festive.

Thank you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for the wonderful Santa Lucia celebration you shared with us on Friday. The song was beautiful; the buns were delicious and your costumes were lovely. You made the day very special.

Thank you Louanne and Brian Willard for providing the hay bales we need for the Shepherds Play. We are grateful.

## Winter Fair Thank Yous

So, as we climbed in the car to come home Saturday after Winter Fair Lily said to me: "I think that was the best Winter Fair we have ever had!" Well, that's good enough for me to call it a success. We hope your children had just as much fun!

We on the Winter Fair Committee would like to thank everyone who made Winter Fair happen this year. This is such a challenging time of year to have such an event and all of you put in so much time and energy. Please reach out and thank your classroom coordinators for all of their work! Big Thank yous go to MaryBeth Healy, Laura Oliver, Dayana Henwood, Julia Thomas, Rebecca DiCandia, Tracy Fly, Lynn Freeman, Stephanie Smith, Linda Verhoest, Shekinah Rae, Laura Weis, and Pat Warner-Proctor. These are the folks who ran each individual activity. Thank you to all of the parents who worked shifts. We can't have Winter Fair without you!

Our Stage performances were wonderful as usual. We have some amazing talent here at RVWS. Kira Willey once again was the organizing force behind our Winter Fair Stage. And Rich Kroth and Andy Wander worked tirelessly on sound for the stage. All that equipment takes some time to set up and break down!

Thank you to the EC dept for their rendition and magical performance of 'The Shoemaker and the Elves'. It was a lovely addition to Winter Fair.

Thank you goes to Grandy for another wonderful menu....my slaw is all gone!

Thanks to the faculty support from Mary K Till who answered many questions for months and procured supplies. Not to mention hanging hundreds of snowflakes in the hall! We are grateful to Robbie Miller, Tiffany Robinson and Brian Wolff for their office support.

Thank you to Sharon Ferguson and Jean Tuma who created the beautiful King Winter for the raffle. And to everyone who supported the raffle by buying tickets!

Ed George and Lorraine Sharaf were very helpful past chairs who provided guidance.

I wish I could fit all of the other names of folks who delivered set up items, helped on clean up for hours and set up too. We are so grateful to you all for your warm and supportive help!

Please let us know if you have any feedback for us by emailing [pc@rivervalleysschool.org](mailto:pc@rivervalleysschool.org)

In gratitude,  
Clare Brunell, Kymm Phibbs and Rebecca Brown

Last, but hardly least, thank you to Clare, Kymm and Rebecca for making everything run so smoothly. Your grace under pressure is to be admired. Thank you for your leadership and hard work.

## From the Faculty

### WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Math

Second Grade: Math

Third Grade: Language Arts/Hebrew Stories

Fourth Grade: Math/Fractions/Norse Mythology

Fifth Grade: North American History and Geography

Sixth Grade: Geometry

Seventh Grade: World Geography/Africa

Eighth Grade: History

### Concert Attire

For both the Holiday Concert and the Grandparent's Assembly, in keeping with traditional concert attire, the dress is as follows:

Girls: White Blouse, black skirt no shorter than two inches above the knee, or black dress pants, black tights or socks, black dress shoes with maximum 1 inch heel.

Boys: White button down shirt tucked in to black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.

## From the Leadership Council

*The following policy has been endorsed by the Faculty and will appear in the next edition of the Parent Handbook.*

### **Electronic Device Policy**

The foundation of Waldorf Education relies on the richness of direct experience through the interactions with others and the natural environment. The use of electronic devices; including but not limited to cell phones, iPods, electronic gaming devices, tablets, etc., serves as a distraction from these direct and natural experiences and can isolate the user from his or her natural surroundings. River Valley Waldorf School does recognize the popularity of these devices and accepts that they are used off school grounds, especially cellular phones for communication purposes with parents. We believe they do not belong in the school environment.

While children are at school, parents/guardians may directly contact the school office in order to communicate with their children. Children will also be required to use the proper channels of communication through the office administration to contact parents/guardians.

From the time children arrive at school until they leave the campus, use of any electronic device is prohibited unless required for educational purposes and approved by the teacher. If a child uses a device at school, said device will be confiscated by his or her teacher and returned at the end of the day. In addition, this policy pertains to all school related activities, whether on or off school campus, including transportation to and from school on RVWS vans and on class trips. It is also our expectation that children riding the public school buses will refrain from using any electronic devices as they travel to and from school.

The only exception to this rule is in the case of a real health or safety emergency, such as a call to 911, when immediate communication is of paramount importance.

As always, we are the models for our children's behavior. We request that all adults be aware of personal cell phone use and minimize it in the hallways and on playgrounds, especially during pick-up and drop-off times.

Please note: At our Doylestown satellite location, the teacher will keep a cell phone with her at all times for safety and communication with parents. Parents/guardians may contact the teacher directly by phone.

### **What are we working on?**

- An assessment of our new Movement and Games Program
- Follow up to the community grade school looping conversation
- Working with TDC on re-examining our evaluation process

## Alumni News

### **Alumni Update**

As a follow up to last week's alumni news, all of the students who graduated last year and entered George School were on Honor Roll for this first semester. In addition to Julia Smith, congratulations Storey Deerhake and Zachary Wander on your smooth transition to high school.

## From Parent Council

### **Winter Fair Raffle**

And the winner is.....Nikki Thompson, cousin of Collin Schaufele in 5th grade, is the lucky winner of our hand-felted King Winter and Polar Bears sculpture! Congratulations Nikki. Thanks to everyone who supported the raffle!

## Class Fundraisers

### Samosa Orders for the Rest of the Year

Please use the form attached to the Current to sign-up for 13 Fridays in the 2nd semester (Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 27, Mar 6, 13, Apr 17, 24, May 1, 15, 22, 29, Jun 5). Orders are due by Friday Jan 16. 8th Grade thanks you for your support!!!

### 8th Grade Sweatshirt Sales Continue!

You can still get a RVWS Sweatshirt and support the 8th grade. We have many children's sizes still available in all three colors – Navy, Pink, or Gray. Adult sizes and zipper front sweatshirts are also available to order. Please complete the order form attached to the Current and leave it with your payment in the folder on the office door. All orders received by Monday, December 8th are guaranteed for delivery before the holiday break. Parents – if you want your sweatshirt for a Christmas surprise, please write a note on the order form and you will be contacted for pick up instead of it going home with your child. Questions? Email or Call Pat Warner-Proctor. Thank you from the 8th grade!

## From the Community

### Yoga Loka

Holiday cards available for sale at Yoga Loka. Support the Early Learners Development Program in Thane City, India. This program brings supplemental educational programs to rural villages that previously did not support education, particularly for girls. Each card is \$2 and was designed by an Indian artist for this benefit of the program. Support education while spreading holiday cheer!

Email me for a picture of the card at [Bonnie@yoga-loka.com](mailto:Bonnie@yoga-loka.com) or come to the studio and check them out in person. The boutique is stocked with imported items for India, statues, wall hangings and scarves. Gift certificates are for sale on line now for holiday giving.

Save the date: Open House, January 3rd, 2015 - Free classes and workshops all day.

[www.Yoga-Loka.com](http://www.Yoga-Loka.com)

### Last minute holiday shopping!

We offer wonderful natural Waldorf toys. You can find us at [etsy.com/shop/jouetsdelaterre](http://etsy.com/shop/jouetsdelaterre)  
If you need the toys this week, please find me at early childhood drop off/pick up, call me or e-mail me and I can bring the toys to the school.  
Katherine Schilling 347-724-8724  
[katubela211@yahoo.com](mailto:katubela211@yahoo.com)

### Grand Opening

Maria's Home Made Pierogies and Emporium  
17 Bridge Street Milford NJ 08848 (former home of Healthy Habit)

The emporium is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11:30 am to 8 pm. It is a co-op and new vendors of all kinds are welcome. Contact Daria Kolodij at:  
[onlyonegiftsource@yahoo.com](mailto:onlyonegiftsource@yahoo.com)

### Flowering Child Woolies

To celebrate the Holiday Season, FloweringChild.com is sponsoring our school. From December 1, 2014, through January 1, 2015, FloweringChild will donate 10% of all revenue generated by our community to the school.

FloweringChild.com is an online store for very soft wool and silk undergarments for children. The products assist with the maintenance of body temperature and minimization of skin irritation. This is especially useful in the winter months. The undergarments are organic, fair-trade produced, and machine washable.

The mission of FloweringChild.com is to help parents raise healthy children. At FloweringChild.com, Ester Delhoofen, a medical doctor licensed in the Netherlands with extensive complementary training in anthroposophical medicine, provides free advice on health-related parenting issues. She seeks to find and relate time-tested parenting strategies to help make parenting a joy.

### A DAY OF JOLLY HOLIDAY CHEER

To Benefit the Riegelsville Public Library  
Sunday, December 21 - from 9am to 3pm  
Riegelsville Public Library, 615 Easton Road, Riegelsville PA

A chic boutique of splendid gifts, just in the nick of time. Plus: Homemade Cookies, Chili & Breads to go, and Rudolph's Raffle! Come shop!

[RiegelsvilleLibrary.info](http://RiegelsvilleLibrary.info) 610-749-2357 or 610-749-2158 or Facebook

## **Hello and Happy Holidays from Ottsville Traditional Arts Center**

Please Join Us for this weeks' run down.....

**Wednesday, December 17th** 3:30-5:30 Group Cello with Mirjim Ingulfsson and Daniel Hawkins

Recital @ 6:00 for the students (all students are welcome to arrive at 3:30..light snacks and refreshments will be provided) Right after Recital, Pot luck and OTAC Jam Session with Daniel. Children are welcome to join the OTAC Jam. Please contact Daniel@danielhawkins@gmail.com for details.

**Friday, December 19th to Sunday, December 20th**

Ringin' Rocks Weekend! AT OTAC & THE BIRDHOUSE featuring Lissa Schneckenburger, Bethany Waickmen, Glen Loper, Bronwyn Bird, Daniel Hawkins and Bill Quern!

It's the middle of Hannukah, the weekend of the Winter Solstice, and the weekend before Christmas, but it's also a BIG week for OTAC and the Birdhouse Center for the Arts! Bring the whole family and join us for a full program of music, dance, and learning. A ticket to Saturday gets you invited to ALL the events, including Friday and Sunday! \$75 adults, \$60 kids (5-18)

**Friday, December 19th AT THE OTTSVILLE TRADITIONAL ARTS CENTER**

7:30pm: Waickman, Loper & Schneckenburger in Concert!

\$12 adults, \$10 kids (5-18), free under 5

Don't miss hearing this superb band of three top New England Musicians in an intimate setting!

**Saturday, December 20th**

9:30am - 5pm: Daylong workshop with Bronwyn Bird and Daniel Hawkins

Come learn tunes from Sweden and Newfoundland, enjoy lunch from the Blue Moose and then join us at 3pm for a FREE CONCERT by participants and instructors! Then at 8pm, go dance to Waickman, Loper & Schneckenburger with Donna Hunt at the Glenside Contra's Winter Cotillion! \$75 adults, \$60 kids (5-18)

**Sunday, December 21st**

At the BIRDHOUSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS in LAMBERTVILLE, NJ:

4 - 6pm: Free Morris Dance and Workshop with Bill Quern, Kingsessing Morris, and special guests!

7pm: Solstice Sing \$5.00

*For more information and to register online go to [Ottsvilletrarts.weebly.com](http://Ottsvilletrarts.weebly.com)*

## **Art in the Library**

### **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.*

*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](http://www.georgethompsongallery.com)*

*The workshops will be held in the Community Room at Riegelsville Borough Hall, 615 Easton Road. To sign up or for more information, please contact the Riegelsville Library 610-749-2357 or 610-749-2158. [RiegelsvilleLibrary.info](http://RiegelsvilleLibrary.info)*

## **Introducing A New Program To Get Young Bowlers Rolling!!**

WEST HUNTERDON LANES IS OFFERING A WEEKLY BOWLING PROGRAM FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS IN THE PALISADES SCHOOL DISTRICT BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIVE AND FOURTEEN. THIS ACTIVITY WILL BE HELD AT WEST HUNTERDON LANES WHICH IS LOCATED AT 1089 STATE ROUTE 12 IN FRENCHTOWN, NEW JERSEY. BUMPERS AVAILABLE FOR YOUNGER BOWLERS NO GUTTERBALLS!!

Register by Thursday, January 15th, 2015. If you have questions please call West Hunterdon Lanes at 908-996-2248. PARENT/ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED.

This 12 Week Program Will Begin Friday, January 16th, 2015, at 4:30 PM. The Weekly Cost Of \$7.00, Payable At The Bowling Center, Includes: Two Games Of Bowling Each Week, Use Of Rental Shoes & Lightweight Balls Each Week, 5 Free Game Passes at Season's End, A Trophy For Every Participant, A Back Pack For Everyone. (Trophy Award Requires Completion of 12 Week Season)

## Middle School Art Projects



These beautiful wooden spoons were made by the 6<sup>th</sup> graders during their woodworking class.



Soapstone sculptures are by 8<sup>th</sup> graders Julian Kendter (snake) and Lili Smith (owl). More soapstone photos will follow in future issues of the Current.

# A Magical Winter Faire!



From American Craft Magazine October/November 2014

## **Busy Hands, Busy Brains**

by Joyce Lovelace

Before his landmark scientific achievements, Louis Pasteur was considered one of the most promising young portrait painters in France. Frederick Banting, the co-discoverer of insulin, was one of Canada's foremost landscape painters. Charles Darwin was an inspired travel writer, and an early adopter of photography.

As a graduate student in the history of science at Princeton in the 1970s, Robert Root-Bernstein was struck by this common trait of great scientists: They all had many hobbies and interests, and practiced some form of art or craft. Later, as a post-doctoral fellow at the Salk Institute in the 1980s, he saw the same characteristic in a number of multitasking Nobel Laureates whom he got to know personally – people such as biochemist Robert W. Holley, who sculpted figures in bronze, and Roger Guillemin, a pioneer of electronic painting as well as brain hormone research.

Today Root-Bernstein is himself a distinguished scientist, renowned for his research in biochemistry and autoimmune diseases, and one of the first recipients of the MacArthur Fellowship, known as the "genius grant." He's also a visual artist who believes that art and science come from the same creative place.

Big ideas have always interested Root-Bernstein. One of them is creativity, a subject he's been exploring for decades. Now a professor of physiology at Michigan State University, he is the co-author, with his wife, Michele Root-Bernstein, of *Sparks of Genius: The Thirteen Thinking Tools of the World's Most Creative People*. He has done several research studies on scientists, seeking to determine what differentiates the great ones from the average. When subjects were asked about their hobbies, "huge correlations" emerged, he says. "The Nobel Prize winners were all artists and poets and musicians, and all very explicitly said there were direct connections between the processes they used as an artist or a musician or a poet and how they did their science." Craft skills, he notes, are particularly relevant to scientific practice – the fine motor control required to perform surgery or pull a DNA strand in the lab, the keen eye that observes minute differences, the imaginative thinking and problem-solving abilities that come from a deep understanding of material and knowing how to build something from scratch.

Rex LaMore, a colleague of Root-Bernstein at Michigan State, is also interested in the art-craft-science connection, from a different perspective. The head of the university's Center for Community Economic Development, LaMore was intrigued by research showing the potential economic benefits of a thriving arts sector. He joined with Root-Bernstein to explore another angle – as they put it, "whether arts exposure and arts practice play any role in nurturing the innovative thinking of science/technology entrepreneurs." This study looked at the art and craft participation of MSU Honors College graduates from 1990 to 1995 who had majored in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), in relation to the patents and businesses they went on to generate in their careers.

The results, published in 2013, revealed that these high-achieving individuals were far more likely to have extensive art and craft skills than the average American is. What's more, the subjects themselves saw the connection: Art and craft, they said, stimulated their ability to innovate. The most productive innovators, it appeared, were those who kept up art and craft activity from childhood on.

So what does all this empirical evidence mean for public policy, private enterprise, and our daily lives? By cutting arts and shop classes from schools, are we failing to inspire the next Steve Jobs? Are our hobbies more important to our productivity and well-being than we know?

We recently had the opportunity to talk with Root-Bernstein and LaMore about their findings. Here are some of their thoughts, excerpted from our conversations.

**ROBERT ROOT-BERNSTEIN**

It sounds as though the scientists you've studied really valued their art and craft pursuits.

They all had a very interesting time usage. The top people all described themselves, without exception, as lazy. Of course, they weren't. But what they meant was, they knew they had to take time off to recharge their

brains, and their avocations were part of that. Not only did they develop skills, but it also gave them time to get out of this rut of "I'll think about it, I'll think about it," and use other parts of the brain.

The other fun thing was, the people who were average all said exactly the opposite: "I know I'm not a good scientist, because I don't spend 14 hours a day in the lab, like the really good people." Well, the really good people don't do that. One said, "How do I tell my colleagues that I go home and play my piano for hours at night? They don't know that's what I do. They think I go home and work on my data or something."

So it wasn't just that the top people were much more active in art and craft. It was also that they linked it to everything they did, in ways that the average person didn't.

There's a myth in the creativity world that it takes about 15 years to master a subject well enough to become, say, a top musical performer or great ceramist – which means the chances you'll ever master more than one thing in your life are pretty small. And yet the people we're looking at tend to master five, six, 10 things. They can't possibly be going about these one at a time. There have to be connections between the skills.

To what extent is exposure to art and craft a result of growing up in an environment where, say, art and music lessons are part of being on a college track? What about kids who don't get that exposure?

There is always a bias toward very high education among the Nobel Prize winners. They always had good schooling – not necessarily at a better place, but it was very highly valued by the family. But they also all had extremely high rates of art and craft, and that was part of being literate. We also looked at socioeconomics. Nobel Prize winners in general actually are somewhat lower than average; many of them come from farms and working-family backgrounds.

In the later study [of STEM graduates], we actually looked at the amount of art and craft these kids get when they're young versus their socio-economic status. The kids who come from the richest families get lots of music and fine arts, not surprisingly. The kids who come from the lowest economic [level] get lots of crafts – they're the woodworkers, metalworkers, ceramists, knitters, and weavers.

And here's the really interesting thing. We started looking at not just did they succeed as a scientist – which you can do quite intellectually by being at a good university or something – but how many of them took out patents? How many inventions were they making? How many founded new companies? Those were the lower-economic kids, and crafts were the highest correlate. Not the fine arts. Not music. It was handwork that was the highest correlate with becoming an inventor or an entrepreneur, with your own business. If you're going to invent something, you're going to have to work with your hands to make a prototype.

On one level the craft-science connection is obvious. We can see the engineering and math involved in, say, woodworking. But you're looking at something deeper.

Yes, there is actually something that my wife and I talk about in our book *Sparks of Genius*. It comes down to "you feel what you know, and know what you feel." And when I say "feel," we don't just mean emotion. Craftsmanship is a set of knowledge about what you can do with materials and tools. But you may never be able to write it down explicitly, or turn it into an equation.

The best people we've met and talked to in every field always say you can learn everything from anything. It means to really master any craft, you have to learn the chemistry and the physics and the engineering and everything else that goes into that – the tools, the manufacture. A ceramist may not be a real chemist, but if they're glazing their surfaces, they sure as heck have a sense of chemistry that's just as developed as any experimental chemist. They may not be able to write all the equations for all the chemical reactions, but they know how things interact, what they do, and how to get effects that probably academic chemists have never even thought of. In some ways they're probably more creative chemists than the academic ones.

One thing that's been going on in the last decade is the maker movement.

Yeah, it's great. What's too bad is that it is "counter." Why in heaven's name have the schools not just jumped on this? The kids are excited, they're doing this because they want to, they're learning huge amounts of stuff. They're doing it the way we want them to do it, which is to explore, fail numerous times quickly, get the answer and then build on it. It's everything we want in a creative curriculum.

REX LAMORE

What jumped out from the survey of STEM graduates for you?

It was the prevalence of [art and craft participation] in those generating patents and starting businesses. So if your interest is creating businesses in your local community, gaining new products and services, then this relationship of science, arts, and crafts seems to be important. Now, the research didn't give us any new information about whether we should pursue a specific art or craft; we weren't able to get that kind of fine detail. But it did suggest that the combination of science and art and craft does lead to that more inventive and creative person, the kind that – from an economic development perspective – communities are seeking to attract or create.

That led us to a second set of research, where we came at it from a different direction. We took a set of highly innovative entrepreneurs, people who had received funding from the state of Michigan's 21st Century Fund to support their economic development idea. We interviewed them and asked, "Do you have an arts and cultural background, practice any crafts, play any instruments?" Again, we found that in fact, yes, in most cases they did.

Any message for our readers?

My wife is an artist. I know what motivates her, and I think it's true for the craft community as well. You're doing it because you love the craft and enjoy the work. Keep doing what you're doing. Try to share it with others, the next generation, because you might be bringing on that scientist who invents the next internet. Do it because it's what you value, but remember it may have value to others. That young person you teach your skill to is now able not only to practice that craft, but also to solve future problems. That's a great gift to offer.

Joyce Lovelace is American Craft's contributing editor.

- See more at: <http://craftcouncil.org/magazine/article/busy-hands-busy-brains#sthash.SDo4PGdf.dpuf>