



River Valley Current

December 2, 2014 No. 395

*To see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower.
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour. -William Blake*

School Calendar

This Week

Friday, Dec 5

Spiral of Light – in-school celebration

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Dec 11

School Tour 9:00 am

Friday, Dec 12

Early Dismissal-Winter Fair set-up 1:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 13

Winter Fair 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 14

5th grade Workday

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

How to Contact Us

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

Holiday Candlelight Concert – Tuesday, December 16th 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 should be in their classrooms by 6 pm. If your child is not performing, please plan to come with your family for an inspirational holiday celebration.

(See inside in From the Faculty for details about Concert Attire.)

Spiral of Light

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 5th with time for the kindergartens and all eight grades to participate. Families are welcome to attend their child's session.

The sessions of the classes are as follows:

9:00	Seventh/Eighth Grade	1:10	First Grade
9:40	Star Room	1:40	Third Grade
10:20	Moon Room	2:20	Fourth Grade
11:00	Second Grade		
11:40	Fifth/Sixth Grade		

At River Valley and many other Waldorf schools the Spiral of Light is a beautiful seasonal event celebrated in a quiet and meditative mood. A spiral of evergreen boughs adorned with sparkling crystals, shells and large pinecones is laid upon the floor of the All Purpose Room. At the center a single white candle burns as a symbol of life amidst the dead of winter. One by one, accompanied by the music of the harp the children slowly walk to the center of the spiral, light their candles and then place them along the path. The beautiful illumination reminds us all of our own internal flame constantly glowing.

For those who experience or watch this deeply meaningful journey from darkness to light hope glows brightly that soon the darkest night of the year will herald the joyful return of light.

Please help us to create a quiet mood beginning at drop off and throughout the day. Signage in the lobby area will serve as a reminder that silence must be observed throughout the day beginning at 8:30 a.m. when the grades students are participating in Advent Assembly. Quiet should continue at pick up and into after school hours. Hallway traffic will be re-routed away from the All Purpose Room all day.

No photography by any means or recording of any kind will be permitted during the Spiral of Light.

For safety near the candles children with long hair must wear their hair tied back while participating in the spiral.

Spiral of Light Crystals

If you have large beautiful crystals you would lend us to make the Spiral of Light sparkle, please label them and leave them in the faculty room by Thursday, December 4th. They will be there available for pick-up again on Monday, December 8th. Thank you!

Winter Fair Raffle

Have you seen the beautiful needle felted King Winter and polar bears on display atop the front desk? Lovingly created by hand with local wool fibers, it can go home with you if you have the winning raffle ticket! Check it out and purchase tickets (all proceeds go to the school)!

More details to follow!

Winter Fair is Saturday December 13th 11am – 4pm

Winter Fair is a beautiful festival celebrating the coming of King Winter. It is a time of magic and celebration. A time to get together with friends and loved ones before the deep freeze and great snows of King Winter set in and we turn towards the coziness and warmth of our hearth and homes.

The success of the festival depends on the creativity and cooperation of River Valley's parent body. Each class hosts an activity and works to make the magic of Winter Fair happen for our children.

Your classroom coordinator should know your activity by now so that you may begin preparations.

Secret Garden is one of the most magical places at the festival and one the children look forward to with anticipation. Please remember we need 20 Secret Garden items from each family to help further this feeling of awe and wonder. These items can be small and preferably homemade. A list of potential items can be found in the Parent Handbook. Also Mary K Till, our handwork teacher, is having craft workshops for parents to come and make some treasures for Secret Garden (dates and times can be found in the Current).

Please contact your classroom coordinator or the Winter Fair committee, Rebecca Brown, Clare Brunell, Kymm Phibbs or pc@rivervalley.school.org with any questions you may have.

From Administration

ENROLLMENT

There are two great opportunities to get to know RVWS next week! The first is our monthly School Tour Morning on Thursday, December 11th at 9 am. This event is for adults only and provides a fantastic overview of Waldorf education and a glimpse of our programs by visiting classrooms from the youngest to the oldest. Invite your friends and family – admissions season is in full swing!

The second is the ever wonder-full Winter Fair. What a showcase for so much of what makes RVWS an incredible school and such a great community in which to raise children! In addition to all the delicious food, engaging musical entertainment and delightful children's activities, there is a 'model grade-school classroom' continually staffed by teachers and admin staff, and a 'quiet room' set up in one of the early childhood classrooms for families with children who need a little break from the excitement.

All of our RVWS families are our very best recruiters! Invite your friends and family to see RVWS for themselves. If you have any questions, (or to register for the School Tour Morning) please speak to Cindy, Brian or Hilary. Thanks!

Purely Farm

Just before Thanksgiving the turkey flock of Joanna and Marc Michini, parents of Clover in the Moon Room and owners of Purely Farm was struck by misfortune. A nasty bacteria that hasn't been seen in our area in 20 years wreaked havoc on their pasture-raised turkeys. Needless to say, this had a devastating effect on their small, family business. They will be back at River Valley on Friday, December 5th selling their pork and other products in front of the school. Let's rally 'round them and buy even more than we usually do to help support these valued members of our community. Thank you to all of the RVWS families who contributed to their [gofundme](http://www.gofundme.com) site.

From Outreach

A huge thank you to Nerice Kendter and Busy Bee Toys in Doylestown for hosting our Craft Time Series in November! River Valley will be heading out on the road again for another Craft Time Series at The Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, NJ in December & January.

Do you have ideas of where you want to see River Valley in the community? Please feel free to contact Hilary at hmurphy@rivervalley.school.org to share your ideas and to get information regarding our outreach events. Thank you!

Samosa Schedule Change

Due to the Spiral of Light and Winter Fair prep, there will be **NO SAMOSAS THIS AND NEXT FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 & 12**. Please be sure to send in lunch for you child both Fridays. Samosas WILL be served Friday Dec 19 as scheduled and will be extended 2 weeks into January (Jan 9 & 16) to make up for the 2 missed December dates.

See "Class Fundraisers" on page 5 for information on how to order Samosas for the rest of the year.

Condolences

As many of you are aware, a fire last week took the life of Kevin Hemminger, son of Dave Hemminger, step-son of Cyndi Shain and brother of Jason Hemminger in 6th grade. The family has created a website for anyone who would like to contribute to a college fund for Kevin's 5 year-old son, Carter. If you would like to contribute, please click this link: <http://www.gofundme.com/hprbok>. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Graco Recall

The PA Department of Education sent us this announcement. Please be advised that Graco has recalled 11 models of strollers due to potential fingertip amputation hazards. The folding hinge of the sides of the stroller can pinch a child's finger, posing a laceration or amputation hazard.

This recall includes eleven Graco and Century-branded strollers with model names Aspen, Breeze, Capri, Cirrus, Glider, Kite, LiteRider, Sierra, Solara, Sterling and TravelMate. All models are a single-occupant stroller with an external sliding fold-lock hinge on each side and a one-hand fold release mechanism on the handle. Strollers with a manufacture date from August 1, 2000 to September 25, 2014 are included in the recall.

For more information and instructions on what to do if you possess one of these strollers, please visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/Graco-Recalls-11-Models-of-Strollers/>

Thank you

Thank you Moon Room children & teachers for sharing your delicious apple-cranberry sauce with the admin staff. And for your visit which we really enjoyed!

Thank you everyone who came to the Holiday Bazaar to shop! We hope you enjoyed the vendors and food!

We very much appreciate everyone who stayed after the assembly to help put away the stage, chairs and benches, move desks and set up the cafe. Thank you to Ms. Porter, Ms. Vazquez and Mrs. Diven for allowing us to use your rooms. Thank you to Carl & Clare Brunell, Sawyer Wesp, Ron Ferguson, Linda Thompson, Stephanie & Paul Smith, Ed George, Will Carpenter, Andy Wander, Melanie Niemczura, Christine Bodwitch and Scott Gallagher, Annie Porter and Sam Cousins, Molly & Matt Watson, PJ Murphy and to anyone else who helped that we may have missed! To Euclides Santiago and Brian Wolff thank you so much for staying late on Friday night to take down the back drop. To Mary Kay Till, thank you for letting us in on Saturday morning and for calling the alarm company to let them know we were there! To Sharon Ferguson for updating the Holiday Bazaar sign and for the use of her room. Thank you to Stephanie Smith for taking the time to help us map out the vendors, and to Josh Holtz for helping us get started. Thank you to Kris Fanelli for providing the bazaar with amazing food! Thank you to all of our amazing vendors! Until next year....Tiffany Robinson, Julia Thomas and Hilary Murphy

Thank you Tiffany, Julia and Hilary for making the Holiday Bazaar such a success. It was lots of fun. We know it took a lot of hard work on your part and we are grateful.

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@rivervalleysschool.org

From the Leadership Council

Report from our Community Meeting on Teachers Looping in the Grades

On Tuesday, November 18th a group of parents and teachers gathered in the All-Purpose Room for a meeting hosted by the Leadership Council and the Teacher Development Committee to discuss the subject of teachers "looping" through the grades.

Annie Porter opened the discussion by explaining that the faculty has been looking at this question for several years and at the recent AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) meeting held at River Valley, this was a topic of conversation among representatives of Waldorf Schools in our region. Traditionally in Waldorf schools, teachers in the grades have taken classes from first grade through to eighth grade. More and more it has become common for schools to find that some teachers have an affinity for teaching younger children or older children and they have been creating shorter loops to allow teachers to teach to their strengths.

We went around our circle of parents and teachers to get a feel for what lives in our community. Opinions ranged from some who like the idea of the 1-8 continuity to many who are open to other models. As it stands now, teachers are evaluated in 5th grade to determine whether they should continue with their class through 8th grade. Questions were raised about the 5th grade evaluation and how it is possible to predict a teacher's success not only academically, but also socially as children move into adolescence. However, many expressed support for the 1-5, 6-8 model that we currently have. Some raised questions about the transition, if teachers change, and when and how this is shared with the children and the parents. Some expressed support for teachers teaching to their strengths for the benefit of the children. Adherence to the Waldorf curriculum was felt by some to be more important than how long a teacher stays with a class. Overall, parents were grateful for the opportunity to participate in the discussion and appreciated the efforts made by the school to be inclusive.

At the end of the evening, Annie expressed thanks to all who attended and said that the purpose of the meeting was to gather information, not to make decisions. She said that the faculty and administration will be working on the issues addressed in the meeting and will share their ideas with the parent body as the discussion continues.

LC has received additional input by email from those who could not attend the meeting. We encourage others to send their thoughts to LC or attend one of our open meetings on Fridays from 3:30-4 pm.

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

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.

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 this Friday morning, December 5th while waiting for the Spiral of Light. Cost is \$10 for materials. Please RSVP to Miss Till (MKT4160@yahoo.com) or leave her a note at the Handwork Room.

Schuhplattler Performances

The River Valley Schuhplattler Troupe will finish out 2014 by performing and marching in Santa's parade at Peddler's Village next Saturday, December 6th, and again at RVWS's Winter Fair on December 13. Any 3rd, 4th and 5th graders who know the dance are welcome to join us for either or both performances, and if girls have dirndls, they may come and "twirl" onstage and/or in the parade while we dance. Participants on (Saturday) Dec. 6 must attend the rehearsal in Buckingham that morning, and participants on Dec. 13 are welcome at rehearsal on Dec. 8 and required to rehearse on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 11. Please contact Peter Ray (peter.ray@comcast.net, or 215-794-5816).

From the Board

Board Corner

Do you know someone who would make a great Board member? The Board of Trustees is beginning the search for new board members for next school year. Also, there will be one vacancy sometime in the new year, which, according to our by-laws, we will fill by appointment. Please contact Rich Kroth (rich@kroths.com) if you are interested or would like to talk more about the opportunity.

Strategic Planning Committee

Did you sign up to join the Strategic Planning Committee at Back to School Night? Please email Molly Watson (mwatson416@gmail.com) if you did- I want to make sure I didn't miss anyone! Thanks and looking forward to working with you!

From Parent Council

Secret Garden Items

There will be a basket in the lobby later this week to collect everyone's Secret Garden items.

Winter Fair Café Stage!

We're working on another wonderful lineup of musical entertainment for the Winter Fair Cafe Stage. If you're interested in performing, in joining the RVWS parent choir (no experience necessary), or if you know a musician in the community we should contact, please email Kira Willey (kirawilley@rcn.com). All students wishing to perform on their own, or in small groups, must see Mrs. Diven. Thanks!

Alumni News

Alumni News

Kris Ramakrishna (class of 2011) received a grant of \$13,000 from the Contemporary Flamenco Studio (Malaga, Spain) and the Spanish government for a 1948 Marcelo Barbero model Andalusian flamenco guitar. In October Kris was able to go to Malaga to receive this beautiful instrument. Congratulations, Kris!

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

Exciting News

The Watson family is excited to share some news with our school community. We are moving to New Zealand for a few years! Matt has been offered a position teaching chemical engineering at Canterbury University, located in Christchurch. This is also the town where much of his family lives, so it will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to spend time with them. We are looking forward to this adventure and feeling bittersweet too. We will miss all of our friends here! Please keep this in mind as we support the children through this transition. It will be most helpful for them to be mindful of our adult conversations and to share our excitement! We will stay in touch and look forward to visits from our River Valley friends!

Babysitter Needed

Former Waldorf family seeks a good old fashioned babysitter to watch our girls, ages 6 and 10, one weekend evening a month and one after school day a week. We live in Ottsville. Please give a call! (215) 768-4913.

The Bel Canto Children's Chorus Presents:

Jazz - A musical journey from classical to Jazz

December 6th at 4pm - St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 81 Main St. Pennsburg, PA

Join us for an exciting concert that highlights music from the classics to jazz and blues.

Selections include Bach "Domine Deus", David Conte's "Hope Carol", as well as some jazzy arrangements of classic holiday songs "Jingle Bells" and "White Christmas."

Tickets available at the door. Adults \$12, Student/Seniors \$10. For more information, please visit www.belcantochildren.com info@belcantochildren.com

Purely Farm is back again this Friday, December 5th offering pork, turkey and eggs!

Joanna and Marc Michini of Purely Farm, parents of Clover in the Sun 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.

With the holidays upon us nothing says "I love you" like gifting an artisanal sausage sampler...except perhaps a nitrate-free smoked ham roast...or even a turkey London broil. Take time to review our attached order form and then stop by Friday morning to pick up your sausage, pork chops and bacon or pre-order your Christmas ham!

Contact them with any questions at purelyfarm@gmail.com or 215-317-0889.

14" "Pure Fun" Trampoline for Sale

Like new! Vinyl; made with strong, rust-resistant, galvanized iron steel tubing using patented T-Section construction; snug, secure fit of T-Section assembly ensures extra stability and prevents shifting over time, W-shaped legs offer eight balanced contact points which add stability and prevent wobbling or tipping, 14-foot, 88-spring trampoline is easy to assemble and requires no tools or extra drilling, high-performance steel springs provide deeper, more exciting bounce, includes double-spring set and all-weather cover. Price - \$150. Call or text Mike at 609-672-3304 or Karen at 609-851-6539. To see a picture, look on our school bulletin board.

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.

New from Ottsville Traditional Arts

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

Sharifa Oppenheimer is coming to Waldorf School of Princeton

Seeking Simplicity: Parenting with Rhythm & Balance

An Evening with Sharifa Oppenheimer

Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.

Hagens Hall, Waldorf School of Princeton. Free and open to the public. RSVPs appreciated:

events@princetonwaldorf.org

The holiday season may bring joy and togetherness ... but also disruption and stress. Irregular schedules, extra events, and an abundance of treats and treasures introduce additional challenges into our parenting journey. Come learn how to navigate these rough waters with grace and ease, and craft a family culture that celebrates what this time of year has to offer, while preserving healthy childhoods and sane adulthood!

Sharifa Oppenheimer is the author of the best-selling book *Heaven on Earth: A Handbook for Parents of Young Children*. She also worked collaboratively to create *What Is a Waldorf Kindergarten*, and was the founding teacher of the Charlottesville Waldorf School in Virginia, where she taught kindergarten for twenty-one years and served as day care director of the early childhood program. She has helped develop new teachers through mentoring and offering practicum and internship opportunities to the teacher-training students at Sunbridge Institute, and offers lectures and workshops to school and parent groups, encouraging each one to discover their own healthy, heartfelt Family Culture. Sharifa is the mother of three grown sons, who were all educated in the Waldorf tradition.

SAVE THE DATE Thurs, Dec. 11th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

The Giving Bowl

Palisades High School Cafeteria

Enjoy a Bottomless Bowl of Soup & Endless Salad, Bread, and Beverage. PLUS As our gift to you, select a handmade ceramic bowl created by Palisades' students and community members.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

\$5 for children 10 years and younger – Meal Only
Limited Seating - Please help us put an end to hunger. Proceeds will benefit local food pantries and those in need who live within the Palisades School District.

Join us for this ART to HEART project!

Questions or need reservations for a particular time?
Please call (610) 847-5131, x2431 – Ms. Leslie Patience

In Search of A Large Dog Crate

Do you have an large dog crate hiding in your garage or basement that you no longer have use for? Would you be interested in selling it? We have two large puppies and only one crate! The Bell Family is looking for a crate that is approximately 42" long x 31 1/2" high x 28" deep. Contact Melanie Bell via phone or text at (215) 341-6214

"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. 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.

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

Art in the Library

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.

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

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

Fall Assembly



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



6th Grade



8th Grade



7th Grade

From huffingtonpost.com

The Holiday Season: Putting the Genie Back in the Bottle

By Kim John Payne

Here comes the Holiday Season. Something to look forward to and something that many parents also dread. "The whole thing is like being hit by a sensory tsunami," commented one mom who was wondering if there was another way to do it. While our kids are living life at such a fever pitch through the school year is it possible to downshift the pace as we move into the holidays?

Too Much, Too Fast, Too Soon

We are now living in a post-excess era. We have seen what excess has done to our economy and to our environment. And hardly a day goes by when we don't see another high profile article about the excess of screen time and digital overload our children are experiencing, most recently, the New York Times 'Growing Up Digital, Wired For Distraction'.

What about educational excess? With the national attention of the films *Waiting for "Superman"* and also *Race to Nowhere*, many are now questioning if education is also a part of the culture of excess.

It's around this time of the year that we are given a chance to make some choices about the pace of life, and it's not easy. Somewhere inside us we know this is a time of "peace on earth", of family connection (maybe those two images don't exactly line up) and yet the pressure to speed up, do more and brave the "sensory tsunami" of Holiday Season shopping and celebration is acute

The Simple Holiday Season

What about a "Simple Holiday Season"? It could be easy on the wallet and easy on the nerves. It's possible, it really is. Let's establish some ground rules. Four of them to be accurate... *(continued on next page)*

1. Clutter

Do we really want more of it in our homes? With the financial pressures most people are under nowadays, the deluge of gifts has not lessened just the amount they cost... "We are just buying more and more crap" says Heidi Stevens from the Chicago Tribune who is writing a piece on this theme for their Sunday Magazine. It's stuff we don't want, will likely break, is annoying and just plain junky.

Speak to our major bearers of clutter (I mean gifts), extended family and especially grandparents about your wish for simplicity. Thank them for raising you in such a way that led you to make conscious parenting choices, that they gave you the strength to not be manipulated by marketers and the morals to not confuse love and care with "stuff". Framing a conversation about your parenting values first takes the potential sting out of a request to keep the gifts simple.

2. Rhythm and Predictability

The holidays shake the normal rhythms of family life. The normal pillars of our days such as wake-up times, school or work, meal and bed times are the things that give our lives shape. This is especially true for children, as it provides a feeling of safety and security. The temptation during the holidays is to let all that go and to relax all those routines. However there is a great big danger here to achieving some semblance of family sanity and it is this... if we take away our well oiled rhythms we take away the structure that makes navigating family life possible. And the double whammy here is that during the holidays we have more time together and our family interactions are at their most intense.

So here is the tip. Maybe alter the times but not the rituals. The table still needs to be set, teeth brushed, room tidied and so on. If we hold onto these predictable moments in a child's life they will offer familiar points of decompression and provide safety release valves that are all the more important during the hubbub of holiday season. So, sit down each night, think about it and make some choices that are humble enough to be do-able about the structure of the following day and then, without becoming maniacal, stick to them.

3. Scheduling

Rather than adding fuel to the soul fever that many of our kids experience during the school year, let's try and cool it down. Do less. Consider staying at home rather than facing the frenzied airports or frantic highway scenes. Rediscover "the gift of boredom". If your kids say to you: "Dad there's nothing to do", your response can be "Mmm, that's a pity." If they return saying "But there's really nothing to do." Your response: "Oh, that's really a pity." LET THEM BE BORED. No TV, no unpaid parent event organizer. You must become more boring than the boredom. Boredom is simply the precursor to creativity. Soon projects, games, creative play breaks out, these activities can last for hours and the big pay off... you get to relax and read a magazine (or might I add, the Huffington Post).

4. Filter Out the Adult World

"Kids hear way too much adult conversation these days. It amazes me what adults say in front of children," commented a grandmother at a recent workshop I was facilitating. This becomes even more intense over the holidays as we spend so much time together in mixed age groups. Three simple questions to ask before you say anything in front of your child, "is it true, is it necessary, is it kind?" If the answer is "yes" to all three then you are on pretty good ground. If not, defer. Say it later when you can enjoy the conversation within adult company.

Excessive TV and computer time is a hot topic and certainly something to be conscious about especially in the holidays. Maybe I'll post some thought on this soon.

Lastly, we hear the word "authenticity" a lot these days, but it especially applies during the Holiday Season. If we are trying to give our kids a balanced life and we are trying to keep it simple, it does not look good to them when we cave in to Holiday Season pressure. Being true to yourself does not have a Holiday Season exclusion clause in the contract and we certainly don't want to model to our kids that values are optional. As touchy a subject as it is, our first loyalty is not to marketers.

In his renown enthusiasm Henry David Thoreau, once wrote to his teacher, Ralph Waldo Emerson.... "Yes! We must simplify, simplify, simplify." Emerson wrote back, "Don't you think one 'simplify' is enough?"

*Kim John Payne is the author of *Simplicity Parenting. Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier and more Secure Kids.* (Ballantine Books/Random House). You can see more at www.simplicityparenting.com*