

School Calendar

This Week

Friday, February 9

Ski Club 4:00–10:00 pm
Peter Pan 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 10

Peter Pan 2:00 pm

Looking Ahead

Monday, February 12

Social Inclusion Study Group 3:30-4:00 pm

Tuesday, February 13

Parent Council Meeting - Homestead 2:00 pm
Eyes on the Prize Screening 7:00-9:00 pm

Thursday, February 15

Grade School Ice Skating Party

Friday, February 16

No School – Faculty In-Service
Ski Club 4:00–10:00 pm

Monday-Friday, February 19-23

No School – Winter Break

How to Contact Us

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

Next Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 13th 2-3 at the Homestead

Social Inclusion Study Group

The second meeting of our Social Inclusion study group will take place next Monday, February 12th, 3:30-4:30 (or 5) pm in the 6th grade classroom. We are reading and discussing "The Soul of Discipline" by Kim John Payne. Staff, faculty, and parents are welcome. The purpose is to build toward a group that can help integrate this work into our school culture.

For Monday's meeting we will have read through page 81. Please feel free to come even if you have not read the book!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 5th and we will continue on the first Monday of every month.



Our middle school students and teachers are working hard to prepare a magical performance of Peter Pan, so pack your bags and bring your family on a journey to Never-never Land.

Performances will be on **Friday, February 9th at 7 pm** and **Saturday, February 10th at 2 pm.**

(In the event of inclement weather, a performance will be added on Sunday, February 11th at 2 pm.)

Order your tickets today with the form found in the back of this week's Current.

Grade School Ice Skating Trip

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

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

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Our 22nd Annual Auction Gala

on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at ArtYard in Frenchtown, NJ
with catering provided by The Lovin' Oven!

The Auction Committee is seeking donations for this critical fundraising event. Are you an artist? Are you a potter, wood, metal or stone crafts person? The auction committee is asking for donations of hand-crafted items from the community.

We are also looking for unique experiences. Examples of a unique experience to donate would be a themed dinner, cooking or canning lessons, an outdoor excursion or guided tour of your favorite museum. Do you provide personal services or do you know someone who does? We are seeking gift certificate donations of services such as massage, acupuncture or music lessons.

If you have an item or experience to donate please contact the Auction Committee at auction@rivervalleyschool.org. Deadline for accepting donations is 3/2/18 Many thanks!! Ron Ferguson, Trustee

Eyes on the Prize Screening - Tuesday, February 13th, 7 - 9 PM

Come see the first portion of the award-winning documentary, Eyes on the Prize, which "brilliantly illuminates the struggle for racial equality and social justice" in the United States between 1954 and 1965. All are welcome.

From Administration

RVWS IS HIRING: PART TIME POSITIONS

Early Childhood

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

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

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

Grade School

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

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

AFTERNOON GARDEN UPDATE

We are able to offer an additional section of Afternoon Garden on Tuesdays, beginning this week. We are unable to add a section on Mondays at this time. Afternoon Garden is the program for River Valley's EC classes that extends the day from 1 pm until 3:15 pm. If you would like to add Tuesday to your child's Afternoon Garden schedule, please see Cindy, Robbie or Tiffany.

Cindy Schretlen
Director of Admissions & School Life

Peter Pan Memorabilia - 8th Grade Fundraiser

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition, **Peter Pan's Acorn Necklaces** and **Tinkerbell's Fairy Dust Necklaces** will be available to purchase during the middle School play for five dollars each as a fundraiser for the 8th grade trip!

INTENTION FORMS

If you haven't returned an Intention Form yet, please do so now as the deadline has passed. The data we gather is extremely helpful as school leadership plans for the upcoming school year.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

If you intend to request tuition assistance for the 2018-19 school year, you can begin your Parent Financial Statement online now. You will need to submit a copy of your 2017 income tax returns (and 2016 if you did not previously) as well as have your PFS complete by 2/28/2018. Please plan accordingly! Late submissions will not be considered until after the first cohort of requests is processed. If you have questions or concerns about Tuition Assistance or the due date, please speak with Cindy Schretlen.

Parent Stage 2017 DVDs Now Available

Did you miss Parent Stage last year? Were you in Parent Stage last year? Did you enjoy Parent Stage last year? If your answer to one of these questions is yes, then you may want to buy a DVD of the show. The cost is \$20 for a DVD or \$25 for a Bluray. If you would like to purchase one, please let Robbie or Tiffany know.

VITA offers Free tax preparation help starting February 1

With the holidays just behind us, can tax season be far away? Thanks to the many dedicated volunteers in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), BCOC is once again offering free assistance to low-income families in need of help to prepare their tax forms. All volunteers have been trained and certified by the IRS.

For many low-income families, the cost of having their taxes prepared creates an additional financial burden; or, they try and do them on their own and miss deductions they are entitled to receive. In the over 10 years since this BCOC program began, we have prepared over 10,000 tax forms. Money saved through refunds, credits, and preparation-fee savings, totaling over \$20 million, stayed in Bucks County's economy as most clients spend returns on essentials such as food, school supplies, and other household bills.

If you or someone you know can be helped by this program, go to:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/c704303c601/53b2fbef-1637-491d-a2f0-158e0436d837.pdf> to be linked to a flyer with locations, hours of operation, and other details. We also ask you to please post this information around the community where those in need might see it. Thanks for your help in spreading the word about this free service.

A sincere thank-you to the Bucks County Foundation, KeyBank Foundation, and the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Newtown, for their generous support of VITA.

Thank You

Special thanks to Jill McMullen for dyeing four batches of eurythmy shoes for our Peter Pan actors. Their costumes will be so much more professional thanks to you.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic

Second Grade – Drama

Third Grade – Math/Measurement

Fourth Grade – Math

Fifth Grade – Class Play

Sixth Grade – Business Math

Seventh Grade – Physics/Play

Eighth Grade – Physics/Play

From Parent Council

Mayfaire Committee Needs Members

Parent Council is looking for committee members for our annual spring festival; Mayfaire. Experienced past chairs will mentor the group. Festival committees are a wonderful way to meet other parents and make festival fun happen for the children. Please email pc@rivervalleysschool.org if you think you may be interested.

From the Community

PROVENCE FRENCH SUMMERSCHOOL 2018

For young students from around the world who want to improve their French and spend a lovely holiday with us here in Provence, in the South of France.

Our program lasts two weeks and is designed for students aged 15 to 18.

Students stay with local French families, enjoy French lessons in our Steiner-Waldorf school every morning, and spend afternoons together in creative workshops and cultural outings.

More details (including a downloadable registration form) are to be found at:

<http://www.ecole-steiner-avignon.org/summerschool/lycee-dete/>



In Search of Apartment

Laura Esposito (Moon Room Assistant) is looking for a room for rent or apartment to share. Ideally in the \$400-700 range. Move in date is flexible, but March/April would be best. I'm quiet, respectful, and would be happy to care for animals or a garden!

Thank you!

Laura.espo3@gmail.com 267.978.1808

Solebury School Presents: The Mystery of Edwin Drood

This year's Solebury School musical will feature RVWS alumni: Safwa Ozair, Teva Rose Skovronek, Ava Smith, Dominique Wander and Katherine Warner. Performances will be on Thur 2/22, and Fri, 2/23 at 7:30 pm, Sat, 2/24 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm and Sun, Feb 2/25 at 3 pm. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Solebury's Barn Theatre is located at 6832 Phillip's Mill Road, New Hope, PA. To purchase tickets use this link: <https://solebury-school.ticketleap.com/the-mystery-of-edwin-drood/>

Upcoming Films at Artyard in Frenchtown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ArtYard is excited to present our next exhibition, Truppe Fledermaus & the Carnival at the End of the World, with works by the collaborative artist duo Kahn & Selesnick.

This exhibition features the recreation of the famous Truppe Fledermaus's Memory Theatre of 1932 with its full complement of Batfolk, Greenmen, Rope-Slingers, and Death-Dancers in all their carnivalesque glory. An immersive, intricate and rich world made from photographs, painting, sculpture, costumes, props, decks of cards, augury, ceremony and general madness, the exhibition includes works from three series that are chapters from Kahn & Selesnick's current story: Eisbergfreistadt, 100 Views of the Drowning World, and Madame Lulu's Book of Fate.

The exhibition will continue through April 8th. For more information about our upcoming events, film screenings, and performances, please visit our website at www.artyard.org

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

Camp Glen Brook

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

The Right Brain Develops First: Why Play is the Foundation for Academic Learning

By Vince Gowmon

Did you know that the right brain develops first? It does so by the time children are four years of age. The left brain, on the other hand, doesn't fully come online until children are approximately seven years old; hence the first seven years being recognized as such a critical period in child development.

"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." ~ Albert Einstein

The left brain's functionality is one of language, numeracy, literacy, analysis and time. It is the logical, calculating, planning, busy-bee part of us that keeps us anchored in the pragmatic world, and in past and future. The right brain, on the other hand, is responsible for empathy, intuition, imagination and creativity. It is where we wonder, dream, connect and come alive. Through the right brain we dwell in the space of no-time, in being absolutely present. While the left brain is more interested in outcomes or product, the right brain cares much more about process—the journey is what matters, not the destination.

But there is one more vital piece to understand: The right brain connects us to our boundless sense of being. Being is primary; hence the right brain developing first; hence, human being, not human doing. The left brain is far more interested in doing. Young right-brain dominant children, by contrast, are quite content being.

Understanding this we can better appreciate why play is so important in child learning and development, and why we need to be extra careful with the amount and timing of academic agendas created for children; with how much we emphasize product—what kids have accomplished at school—versus process—who they are becoming and what they feel in their explorations. That the right brain develops first is pertinent information for those in the field of education, as well as parents, regarding what is developmentally appropriate. Pushing literacy and numeracy on children before age seven may just be harmful to their little, developing brains. Without the capacity to use their academic minds in the ways that are being asked can cause children to gain what's called "learned stupidity." They believe themselves to be incapable and lose their natural desire to learn.

The push for academia on children is a symptom of a society that is left brain dominant, or forgetful of the wonderful playground that is the right brain. It's an indicator that we feel safer within the literalness, control and certainty of the left brain, far more than in the unquantifiable and mysterious nature the right brain connects us to.

You cannot measure the qualitative aspects of imagination, empathy and intuition; but, of course, you can measure the aforementioned practical detail-oriented functions associated with the left brain. Yet the more we push those things that can be measured onto children, the more they will grow up feeling like they don't measure up!

Let's remember that life is less about the tools the left brain excels in and what we accomplish in this world. Rather, life is about being present and connecting with those you love, or those you don't even know as children do so freely:

"Walking to the library this morning, I passed on the sidewalk a little child, maybe two years old and his mother", wrote a friend of mine. "As I neared, the child looked at me, his eyes so alive and present, and when I said 'Hi', he stooped and picked up a soggy leaf from the ground and handed it to me. Oh, the abundance and beauty of this world!"

(Continued on the next page.)

This is the gift of the right brain. While the left brain sunders life into pieces, the right brain unites. This is why babies sense no distinction between themselves and their environment. All is one!

These wise little teachers remind us, courtesy of their right brain, that life is about enjoying the little things, about enchantment and surprise; it's about being present with another, offering them your gentle ear, hearing between the lines, not just what is being said, which is what logic grasps. With the help of the right brain we touch the hidden places in our heart and in the hearts of others, those secret dimensions that give meaning to life.

The right brain is indeed the playground, or at least, it connects us to it. Let children dwell in this most natural state through their unstructured play, and all its derivatives such as doodling, curiosity, wonder and imagination. People who have a healthy right brain can better use their left brain tools in positive ways. That is the purpose of the left-logical brain: to serve the right brain—doing serves being. Being is the soil from which all our plans, details and actions must flower if we are to experience personal fulfillment and truly contribute to the world.

“The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.” ~ Albert Einstein



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

Saturday, February 10th, 2 pm # adults _____ # kids _____

Ticket prices \$6 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per immediate family.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

We can only take prepaid reservations.

Make check payable to River Valley Waldorf School. Put “Peter Pan” in the memo.

Bring form & check to the office.