

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, March 14

Food Drive Donations Due

Looking Ahead

Thursday, March 22

5th Grade Parent Evening

Saturday, March 24

RVWS Gala Auction

Wednesday, March 28

4th Grade to Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown

Thursday & Friday, March 29 & 30

No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences

Saturday, April 7

RVWS Open House

10:00 am

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org
lc@rivervalleyschool.org
bof@rivervalleyschool.org
pc@rivervalleyschool.org

Tomorrow's PC Meeting Cancelled

Due to auction overload tomorrow's Parent Council meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th, 2-3 at the Homestead.

Parent Stage Re-scheduled

Parent Stage, originally scheduled for April 28th, will now take place on Saturday, May 12th. Please save the date and book your babysitter.

Dances of Universal Peace Friday, March 16th 7:00-9:00 pm at River Valley Waldorf School

Simple, meditative and joyous the multi-cultural circle of Dances of Universal Peace uses sacred phrases, chants, music and movements from the many spiritual traditions of the earth to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and recognize it in others.

More info can be found at the end of this week's Current

22nd Annual Auction Gala Just One Week Away 5.30 pm Saturday, March 24 at ArtYard, Frenchtown, NJ

Gala Tickets

Have you reserved your tickets? \$70 per guest or \$210 for a party of four; Tickets will be \$90 on the night of the event, so please get your discounted tickets today at <https://rvws.ejoinme.org/auction>

Online and Mobile Bidding

Like last year, this year's event will use mobile bidding for Auction night giving.

Please see the attachment to this week's Current for easy to follow instructions on getting and using the Auction night app.

Our Gala Schedule

5:30-7:00 Silent Auction at ArtYard; cocktails and appetizers

7:00-8:15 Buffet dining and fun at Lovin' Oven and some Live Auction items

8:15-8:30 Return to ArtYard theater

8:30-9:30 Live Auction with dessert and coffee in ArtYard theater

9:30-10:00 Music and dancing with Moonshine and Millet!

Can't Wait to See You ALL!

Your Auction Committee



Operation Helping Hand Food Drive-Deadline Tomorrow

Once again this year, RVWS is joining United Way of Bucks County in collecting food for local food banks.

Please bring non-perishable donations to the school lobby by
Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

No time to shop? Financial contributions are welcome. Checks should be made payable to United Way of Bucks County – memo line Operations Helping Hand

From Administration

STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLIER THAN 8:20 AM

Before-school supervision is provided on the back playground from 8 until 8:20 am. Students who are left unsupervised inside the school building have been getting into mischief. This is against school policy and is not a good way for anyone to start their day – the children included!

The following is reprinted from the Parent Handbook:

Before School Policy

In the past, children walked to school and so arrived having exercised in the morning air. Since their bodies had been vigorously engaged, their minds were fresher and ready to work when the school day began. As this is not possible for our students, we offer all grade school students supervised before school care on the back playground at no additional charge.

Children may be dropped off at the cul-de-sac between 8:00-8:20 am. Cars may not park here for any length of time as the buses use this drop off area as well. Musical instruments will be placed inside the hallway by the teacher as protection against the weather. In case of extreme weather, the teacher will hold before school care in the All Purpose Room.

As teachers are occupied with preparing for classes, all children inside the school building before 8:20 must be accompanied by an adult. Please stay with your child at all times. We encourage you to see them to the back playground for a healthy dose of fresh air and exercise before their school day begins.

Animals at School

We are happy to have visits from friendly pets but there are a few guidelines we ask pet owners to follow:

Animals need to be on a leash or in a carrier at all times, and please keep an eye on them and remember to clean up after them.

Our New Doorbell

We have installed a doorbell to the right of the front door. If you arrive and the door is locked please ring the bell and someone from the office will let you in.

Thank you

Thank you Melody Birdsong-Shubert for the beautiful picnic tables which you made and donated to the EC fairy woods playground. No doubt many fairies and many children will enjoy them for years to come.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts
Second Grade – Drama
Third Grade – Old Testament
Fourth Grade – Drama

Fifth Grade – Ancient Egypt
Sixth Grade – European Geography
Seventh Grade – Geometry
Eighth Grade – Chemistry

From the Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee would like to share that the Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing will host a training on Saturday 3/24 from 9 am to 3:30 pm that may be of interest to our parent community.

It's called "**What White People Can Do About Racism: Raising Anti-Racist White Children**".

For more information please see the flier at: <http://www.euroamerican.org/Events/WWPCDAR%20-%202018-03-24%20-%2020215%20-%20Titusville,%20NJ.pdf>

From the Community

Looking for a gardener?

Garden Goddess organic gardening services offers cleanup, maintenance and design. Specializing in vegetable and medicinal herb gardens, compost consultations, and whole systems design. Contact Sara for more information: sarajoyfishkin@gmail.com 908.323.9691

Living Opportunity

Interested in living more communally and sustainably? Have land and want to see it used productively? Want another family on your property to share in community and in the creation of an earth-centered infrastructure? Contact Sara (mother of Isaiah in second grade and Levi and Eva in the Moon Room) to begin a conversation. sarajoyfishkin@gmail.com 908.323.9691

2018 Sustainable Living Expo

Friday, April 13th, 5-10 pm

Presentations, films, workshops, vendors, great food from the Taza Truck and more.

Hosted by the Key Club, Palisades High School, 35 Church Hill Road, Kintnersville, PA 18930

Find out more at peace-youth.org

If anyone has a sustainable business or educational topic they'd like to promote, or think of a business that might be interested, contact Tina Venini through the website: peace-youth.org. This event will reach thousands of families in Bucks/Northampton Counties and NJ.

TRE retreat with Bonnie Pariser

April 7-8 - Held at Highlight By The Lake Retreat Center
1586 Elephant Road, Perkasie PA

TRE is a self-regulation technique that helps the body to release stress, tension and trauma in a gentle way. Developed by Dr. David Berzeli, TRE is used around the world by all populations with great success. During this retreat you will learn how to practice TRE safely and effectively at home. We will have a lot of time to practice trembling as a group and with partners. Taking advantage of the quieting of the mind that TRE can bring about, we will also engage in meditation practices. Bonnie will demonstrate some benefits of interventions while trembling and show you some you can do for yourself at home. We will also learn some of the science behind the tremors and their benefits. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about TRE and how you can tailor the practice to meet your needs. It will be fun and chances are you will feel pretty great and quite inspired at the end of the weekend.

Commuter fee: \$275 if registered by 3/1 \$350 after Lunch is included for all participants. Scholarships are available to attend. Email Bonnie@yoga-loka.com or visit the website at www.Yoga-loka.com to register.

Organic and Natural Food Delivery in PA & NJ!

We are happy to announce the official opening of the new organic, natural and artisan online delivery service Bodhi Market!

Bodhi Market is 100% owned and operated locally in Bucks County. They offer many organic fruit and vegetable box types along with locally sourced groceries and ethically raised meat and dairy. Bodhi Market donates a portion of its revenue to supporting local families in need as well as environmental protection. Interested in checking it out? They are offering River Valley Waldorf families \$15 off their order. USE COUPON CODE: RIVERVALLEY when you sign up. Check them out at www.BodhiBoxMarket.com.

Many of Bodhi Market's farmers and vendors are friends of the River Valley community. The founder, Matthew, is also the uncle of Isaiah in 2nd grade and Eva and Levi in the Moon Room.

Threshold Equestrian

Jen Diedrich, mom of Addison (6th grade) and lifelong equestrian, has open sessions for private riding lessons. Ages 5+, beginner, intermediate and advanced. After school pick up and weekend times available.

Quiet and private facility with both indoor and outdoor arenas, three quarter mile track and groomed trails plus well schooled ponies and horses. Lessons, camps and local horse shows all with an emphasis on safety and fun. All aspects covered, horsemanship, grooming, tacking and everyday care. Call Jen anytime for more information. (215)603-9999

New Hope Family Looking for a Mother's Helper

Anne Stanmyer, a former Waldorf teacher, is looking for a mother's helper for her daughter's two (soon to be three) children who live in New Hope. If you or anyone you know is interested, please email Anne at: amstanmyer@gmail.com.

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

From the Artyard

We have an exciting line up of films for the month of March!

For tickets or for more information on our upcoming screenings, please visit our website, www.artyard.org .

Paterson, Saturday, March 17, 7:30 PM - A bus driver becomes an unlikely poet, translating his everyday experiences onto paper. Directed by Jim Jarmusch

Memories of Underdevelopment, Friday, March 23, 7:30 PM - A writer wanders the streets of Havana after the Invasion of Pigs Bay. Directed by Tomas Gutierrez Alea

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Latifa Jennifer Till will be leading the dances. She leads Dances of Universal Peace in Charlottesville. She is a trained and certified Dance Leader. The Dances can evoke feelings of love, joy, peace, compassion and ecstatic unity, in turn. There are no performers, no audience: new arrivals and old hands hold hands to form a circle as everyone sings and dances together. Simple instructions are given by Latifa before each dance.



From: The Guardian via waldorfeducation.org

Emotional Health in Childhood 'is the key to future happiness'

London School of Economics study says money, success and good grades are less important

By Jamie Doward

Mick Jagger famously couldn't get it, but now economists think they know what's required to get some satisfaction.

After investigating the factors in a person's life that can best predict whether they will lead satisfied lives, a team headed by one of the UK's foremost "happiness" experts, Professor Richard Layard, has come up with an answer that may prove controversial.

Layard and his colleagues at the Wellbeing research program at the London School of Economics' Centre for Economic Performance conclude that a child's emotional health is far more important to their satisfaction levels as an adult than other factors, such as if they achieve academic success when young, or wealth when older. The authors explain that evaluating the quality of a child's emotional health is based on analyzing a range of internal factors in a person's early life, including whether they endured unhappiness, sleeplessness, eating disorders, bedwetting, fearfulness or tiredness.

The academics claim that their study, *What Predicts a Successful Life? A Life-course Model of Well-being*, published in the latest edition of the *Economic Journal*, offers "a completely new perspective on which factors contribute most to a satisfying life". The study claims to challenge "the basic assumption of educational policy in recent years – that academic achievement matters more than anything else". This claim appears to be an implicit criticism of former education secretary Michael Gove, who instructed schools not to focus on "peripheral" issues such as children's moral, social and cultural development in favor of academic excellence. Gove's successor, Nicky Morgan, has pledged to reverse this approach.

Layard and his team analyzed data from about 9,000 people who were born over a three-week period in 1970 and then tracked by the British Cohort Survey, a study that asks them to complete an extensive questionnaire about their lives every five to seven years. They were also asked to rate their satisfaction at key periods through their lives. The team then examined factors including their income, educational achievement, employment, whether they had been in trouble with the law, whether they were single, as well as their physical and emotional health – to gauge how significant these were in determining satisfaction. In addition, a range of factors that affect a child's development – for example, intellectual performance, family socio-economic background and emotional health were also examined.

Many people have assumed income is the most important factor in an adult's life satisfaction. But the academics say their data makes clear this is far less important than emotional health – both in a child and in an adult. "Income only explains about 1% of the variation in life satisfaction among people in the UK – one sixth of the fraction explained by emotional health," they note. Or, to put it another way, money really cannot buy you happiness.

The findings are controversial. As one of Layard's colleagues, Andrew E Clark, notes in an accompanying paper, the suggestion that "education and income are among the least important determinants of adult success, as measured by life satisfaction ... risks provoking outrage among some."

But the economics of happiness or wellbeing is now a growing and respected discipline within economics that is starting to influence politicians.

David Cameron has stated: "It's time we admitted that there's more to life than money and it's time we focused not just on GDP but on GWB – general well-being."

The findings raise questions about the extent to which intervening in a child's life will pay dividends later on.

"Child interventions can produce massive savings to public finances but these are often at a much later date," the authors note. They conclude: "By far the most important predictor of adult life-satisfaction is emotional health, both in childhood and subsequently. We find that the intellectual performance of a child is the least important childhood predictor of life-satisfaction as an adult."