

School Calendar

This Week

Saturday, March 23

Auction Gala

5:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, March 27

Grade School Assembly

6:30 pm

Thursday-Friday, March 28-29

No-School – Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sunday, March 31

Committee for Social Justice Meeting

1:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, April 4

Middle School Musical – Oliver

6:30 pm

Friday, April 5

Middle School Musical – Oliver

6:30 pm

Saturday, April 6

Middle School Musical – Oliver

2:00 pm

Thursday, April 11

1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade Parent Evening

Monday-Friday, April 15-19

No School – Spring Break

How to Contact Us

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



Have you Heard the Buzz?

Our auction is this Saturday, March 23rd, 5:30 pm

Purchase your tickets today! Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased online <https://rvws.ejoinme.org/2019auction> or by check made out the RVWS by the end of the day on Friday, March 22nd. Tickets purchased at the event will be more expensive.

The Online Auction is Open

Go check out all of the wonderful items that are available at <https://rvws2019.ggo.bid>. You can register and start bidding immediately.

See the back page of the Current for bidding instructions.

If you are attending the event and haven't registered to bid, please be sure to do so before you arrive at the event. This will make your check-in go much more smoothly. To register, please visit the site above.

Grade School Assembly Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 pm

Our Grade School Assembly is coming up next Wednesday. Students from grades 2-8 will be performing. Parents and families from EC and 1st grade are welcome to attend to get a preview of what is in store for their children. Hope to see you there!

Students are asked to wear Festive Attire, as described in the Parent Handbook:

Festive Attire means neat, clean and special; "nicer than everyday school clothes" and reflective of the care and effort which has led up to the occasion. Preferred attire includes dress slacks, khakis, skirts or dresses (no more than 4" above the knee), dress shirts/blouses, button-down shirts. Specifically, no jeans or cargo pants, no torn clothing, no pictures on clothing, no text, no glitter, no sneakers, and please be mindful of high heels vis-à-vis performance requirements.

Students in grades 2-8 are expected in their classroom at 6 pm.

Please join the Committee for Social Justice on Sun., March 31

at 779 Cafferty Road in Upper Black Eddy from 1 to 4 for another book discussion! We will be talking about *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nahisi Coates.

The Committee for Social Justice meets every 3rd Monday from 3:30 to 4:30 in the second grade classroom.

New Music After School Program with Kris Ramakrishna Starts Next Monday

Kris Ramakrishna, a River Valley alum, is an international composer, performer and guitarist and soon to be Berklee College of Music graduate. Kris is ready to give back to River Valley by sharing and inspiring RVWS grade school children through music from around the world. Children are encouraged to bring their voices or instruments, and Kris will lead them in an ensemble setting while helping them enrich their musicality.

Recommended for 3rd grade and above.

It will run on Mondays starting March 25, 3:30-5 pm. The week of April 25 (after break) it will shift to Thursdays, same time, until May 30. A registration form is at the back of this week's Current.

From Administration

Enrollment News

NOW ACCEPTING NEW APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 – If you have friends or family who may be interested in RVWS for their children, there are several ways for them to learn more: Have them contact Cindy by telephone or email to schedule a private tour, encourage them to peruse www.rivervalleyschool.org, invite them to come for Mayfaire – we're holding an Open House in the morning before Mayfaire begins – so it's an ideal way to share both Waldorf education and River Valley's community with guests!

SAMPLE MORNINGS @ GARDEN GATE – Every Thursday from now through 4/11/2019, Garden Gate is open for visitors. Children under 3, together with their parent or caregiver can join for a day. Space is limited to 3 spots each class, so registration is required. Contact Cindy to reserve a spot. admissions@rivervalleyschool.org or 610-982-5606

Missing Kitchen Implement

Did you borrow the red immersion blender that belongs to Chef Reinier? If so, please bring it back or his popular lunchtime delicacies will suffer because he uses it almost every day. The cooking equipment in the kitchen belongs to Reinier, not the school, so please respect the space and don't borrow things without his permission. Thank you.

From The Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Drama/Language Arts

Fourth Grade – Local Geography

Fifth Grade – North American Geography

Sixth Grade – History

Seventh Grade – Drama/Middle School Play

Eighth Grade – Drama/Middle School Play

From Parent Council

Summer Camps

Parent Council has compiled a list of summer camps that children from River Valley have attended to serve as a resource for parents making summer plans. A copy of this list is also on our website in the Parent Resources section. (If you need the password, please contact the school.)

BUCKS COUNTY

Camp Onas - sleep away camp, Ottsville, PA

Ages 7-13

<http://camponas.org>

Bucks Audubon Nature Camp- New Hope, PA

Ages 4-10

<https://www.bcas.org/product/summer-camp-nature-camp/>

Painted Dreams Horse Farm- Newtown, PA

ages 6-14

http://www.painteddreamshorsefarm.com/summer_camps.html

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Rock Camp- Kintnersville, PA
http://jimmerostudio.com/School_of_Rock/index.html

Camp Curiosity
all ages
<https://www.campcuriosity.com>

Grounded Kids Yogic Arts, Games & Swim Camp
(A new offering from River Valley parent, Felicia Holtz)
Ms. Prem & friends, Point Pleasant, PA, Tuesday – Friday, July 30 – August 2, 11am – 4:30 pm, \$260. Ages 8 – 12

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Camp Muck & Gold- Stockton, NJ
ages 8-14
<https://www.muckandgold.com/summer-camp.html>

Mill Ballet School Summer Camp- Lambertville, NJ
ages 3-18
<https://www.millballetschool.com/summer-dance-programs>

Howell Living History Farm- Lambertville, NJ
<http://www.howellfarm.org/ShowPage.aspx?PageID=25>

Shields Gymnastics Camp- Flemington, NJ
ages 5+
<https://www.shieldsgymnastics.net/camps>

Gravity Vault Rock Climbing Camp- Flemington, NJ
<https://www.gravityvault.com/locations/flemington-nj/programs?>

Paint Party Farm- Sergeantsville, NJ
<https://paintpartyfarm.com/kids-day-camp/#camps>

Milford Summer Camp- Milford, NJ
<https://www.facebook.com/Milford-Summer-Camp-130212740399190/>

Riegel Ridge Summer Camp- Holland Twp, NJ
<http://www.riegelridgecc.org/summer-camp>

LEHIGH VALLEY

Banana Factory Art Camps
<https://www.bananafactory.org/classes/summer-camps/>

Baum School of Art
<https://www.baumschool.org>

Artisan Market at Mayfaire!

If any of the grades or students would like to participate in selling their handmade creations at the Mayfaire this year, please email Ivy at karunagoddess@gmail.com

Tissue Paper Recycling Opportunity

Please save the tissue paper from your auction bag and bring it to school to be used for one of the activities at Mayfaire.

From the Community

Camp Muck and Gold

(6th grader Loie Gallagher's mom and dad's creation) for ages 8-14

July 15-19, July 22-26, July 29-Aug. 2

A home camp run by experienced artist/educators who continue to be curious about the world, find wisdom in imperfection and embrace the unknown. Our program is multidisciplinary - art, music, dance, science, nature, emotions, food, writing so great ideas can come from playing and collaborating with everything and everyone.

Limited space, register soon! Email: cbodwitch@gmail.com or call/text 201-240-0435. Other RVWS children are attending so contact us for carpooling possibilities.

Tenor Sax Player Needed

We are looking for a tenor sax player to play with our band at Parent Stage. Contact David Bader 610-220-4409 or david@thelab.net

Hawthorne Valley Farm Camp

Kids Can Cook Day Camp – Ages 8-13 – June-August – Cooking, Gardening, Animal Care and more

House Camp – Ages 8-12 - July-August – Archery, Gardening, Feeding Animals, Nature Projects, Hikes, Cookouts, Swimming

Field Camp – Ages 12-16 – July-August – Campers become junior apprentices on the farm – 2 and 4 week sessions

Hawthorne Valley, New York.

Contact: PBLC.HawthorneValley.org 518-672-7500 x201

Film Screening and Discussion - I'm Not Racist...Am I?

Bucks Quarterly Meeting will host a free screening and discussion of the documentary: I'm Not Racist...Am I? on Sunday, March 31 at 1-3:30 PM at the Newtown Theatre, 120 North State Street, Newtown, PA 18940

One of the producers of the film, André Robert Lee, will lead a discussion following the film.

The documentary follows a diverse group of teens through a year-long exploration to get at the heart of racism. Through some tense and painful moments, we see how these difficult conversations affect their relationships with friends and parents and ultimately challenge them to look deep within themselves.

By the end of their time together, we'll see these remarkable young people develop deeper bonds, a stronger resolve, and a more significant definition of racism than any of us ever imagined.

This film is appropriate for young people in grades 7 and up. Please email sarah.crofts@gmail.com with any questions.

Earth School Summer Camp

Staying connected to self through nature...

June 24-August 23 (8 one-week sessions) at Bucks County Audubon in Solebury, PA

For 6-13 year olds. Space is limited (intentionally). www.earthschoolforkids.com, a non-profit rededucational organization. 267-454-4491.

Slow Flow Yoga w. Ivy Giacchino-Berrocal

Tuesdays at RiverSoul Yoga. 9:00-10:15 am

\$12 drop-ins - space is limited, please email Ivy to reserve: karunagoddess@gmail.com

RiverSoul Yoga - 18 Bridge St. Milford

Wanted Dead or Alive – Spotted Lanternfly

Join the Tinicum Conservancy on **Thursday, April 18th, 7-9:30 pm** for a Spotted Lanternfly Community Education Presentation at Tinicum Elementary School Library, 162 E. Dark Hollow Road, Pipersville, PA

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive insect from eastern Asia that has spread throughout southeastern Pennsylvania since its discovery in Berks County in 2014. This colorful devil covers trees and other surfaces by the thousands and is a significant threat to Pennsylvania's hardwoods, fruit trees and grape vines.

Join us to learn how you can identify and help stop the spread of this invasive insect.

River Ballet Company presents Swan Lake

March 30th at 11:30am. Music Mountain Theater, 1483 Rt 179. Lambertville, NJ
Great show for Kids and Adults. Tickets:
www.tututix.com/riverballet

Sacred Harp Singing with Gregory Corbino at Artyard, Alumni of Bread and Puppet and 2017 ArtYard Cranky Fest performer

Over the course of two days, singers of all abilities are welcome to join music director Gregory Corbino for a weekend of learning and singing in the tradition of the Sacred Harp, also known as shape note singing. There will be two workshops; one March 23-24 and the second April 6-7. We will also have a Sacred Harp Singing celebration and potluck in May. For more information and tickets go to ArtYard.org.

Plowshare Farms CSA

Registration is now open! River Valley Waldorf School family, Teddy, Faith, and Clement Moynihan raise chemical-free, naturally-grown produce in Pipersville, and offer a 24 week, on-farm CSA, June through Thanksgiving.

From garden variety veggies to heirloom oddities, we have been growing food for our community for six seasons, and are eager to share the bounty with our new community--Clement just joined the Acorn Room in September.

Please check out what we're all about at plowsharefarms.com or @plowsharefarms.

Artyard

Exhibition: The Creative Commons: Progressive Studio Practice - January 12 – April 15

Upcoming Events:

March 23 - 24 & April 6-7

Sacred Harp Singing School Workshops with Gregory Corbino, (singing & potluck on May 19th.)

Sunday, March 30th, 7:30 pm

Crank Night – This year's theme is *Questions*.

Friday, April 5, 7:30 pm

Please join us for a night of musical celebration with The Lovestruck Balladeers

Saturday, May 4th, 7:30 pm

Screening of Paper Moon, the 1973 comedy drama starring Ryan O'Neal and Tatum O'Neal

Saturday, June 29th, 7:30 pm

Screening of Finding Vivian Maier, directed by John Maloof and Charlie Siskel followed by a communal, bring your own picnic

Go to: artyard.org for tickets and more information about all of these events.

ArtYard, 62A Trenton Avenue, Frenchtown, NJ 08825. Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

From: Screen-freeparenting.com

I Don't Want Parents to Feel Guilty; I Do Want Them to Trust Their Child More

Limiting screen time or even going full bore screen free has been equated with some kind of super-involved, activity-curating parenting. If you walked into my home, you would know this is quite a myth.

We may have more "messes" and odd "junk" lying around than the average family, but perhaps less parent involvement. I do love to play with my kids and do it quite often. But, my husband and I both work, I run everyday, we always cook at home and like to talk to each other once in a while. That means I cannot possibly be playing with my children all the time.

Being Screen Free Does Mean I Trust my Child

When I go for a run, do yoga, make dinner, read, talk to my husband, filter through permission slips and bills, or any other activity that requires my full attention, I trust my child to find something to do. This is called "self-directed play" and it means that I recognize the need to get out of my child's way, at times. I think this sends a very different message than handing over a screen when I cannot pay attention. To me, handing over the screen seems kind of apologetic, "I'm so sorry I can't pay attention to you. Because I feel guilty about that, here's some curated, highly engaging content so you don't have to be aware of my lack of attention.

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I want my child to know I cannot pay attention to them sometimes. I want them to sometimes struggle with that. I want them to know that I believe they can do it. They can handle the struggle. They can find something interesting and creative to do that is far better than anything I could curate for them. I want them to have continuous small exposures to negative emotions (jealousy, boredom, loneliness), so they do not feel the need to distract themselves from these emotions later in life.

I recognize that child development tells me a 4-year-old has a longer attention span and better ability to entertain themselves than an 18-month-old can. But, they both can. The length of time the child can play or work independently will vary by age and personality, but it will increase overtime if they are exposed to it.

An eight-year-old is theoretically better at soccer than a four-year-old. Child development tells us the eight-year-old has significantly better hand-eye coordination, a smoother gait, and faster reaction time. However, if the four-year-old has been messing around in the yard with a soccer ball since she was two and the eight-year-old has never touched one, the four-year-old is going to initially be better. They know the weight of the ball, the force necessary to move the ball and how to coordinate their leg movements (not because of coaching but because of hard scientific work, or as kids call it, play). Self-direct play is the same as soccer. An eight-year-old theoretically has a longer attention span, better problem-solving abilities and more defined interests than a four-year-old. But, only if that eight-year-old has been permitted to work on those things in the spaces where her parents/teachers/caregivers could not pay attention to her in the moment.

The Idea that You Need a Screen to Get Anything Done is a Cultural Myth that Benefits Big Technology Companies

How did this idea that we can only attend to adult activities if an iPad is present infiltrate the broader cultural conscious so quickly? The iPad was invented in 2010! Less than ten years ago! YouTube came online in 2005 and Netflix in 1997. The availability of programming to entertain a child anywhere at anytime is at best 10- to 15-years-old. Yet, the idea that the iPad is the most necessary parenting (and educational!) tool is accepted nearly universally.

The children do not benefit from this idea, as excessive screen time is linked to problematic health outcomes and displaces the critical activities of childhood like playing, being outside, and reading physical books. The parents do not benefit from this idea, as screen use in early childhood is associated with increased protesting when the screen time is over at later ages. In other words, the screen creates a problem (need for constant stimulation) that only the screen can solve. The only person in this triangulated relationship who benefits from this myth is the technology companies: those who are winning the attention economy. Big tech is perhaps the first industry to so efficiently and effectively place itself amongst the "need" categories in our expenditures, alongside shelter and food. Research shows that recreational screen time can hijack your child's ability to develop creative play schemes, continuing the cycle of needing more screen time.

No, Screen Time is Not a Feminist Issue (At Least Not in the Way You Think)

A friend recently shared an article which posited that screen time is a feminist issue, where the author argues that mothers should not be made to feel guilty about meeting their own personal needs. I strongly agree with the author that mothers should not be made to feel guilty about their own personal needs. Moms are people who have needs. Kids have always had to deal with this. However, giving them a screen does not encourage them to deal with it. It half-heartedly apologizes for it. What if guilt were purposeful emotion? What if the guilt were internally motivated? In other words, the mother did not feel guilty because society was judging her, but she felt guilty because she knew the screen time was not great for her kid? She experienced the tantrums after the screen time. She saw that her child was slack-jawed instead of creating a messy fort with the couch cushions. Should we not respect that motherly intuition?

Suggesting that screen time is necessary for moms to obtain some personal time completely ignores the child's needs and capabilities. It ignores what we know about children, which is that they are capable, intelligent people who can deal with strong emotions.

I do agree that screen time is a feminist issue, but not at all in the way the original author does. It's a feminist issue because research shows boys, particularly white ones feel better about themselves after watching programming. In contrast, girls and children of color feel worse about themselves. Some programs have attempted to make up for it but we are not even close to edging out the blatant sexism in children's program. Screen time is a feminist issue as long as the largest producer of children's programming (Disney) continues to perpetuate the princess culture. I appreciate the attempts and strides that have been made, but a lot more work needs to be done. Therefore, the idea that children's programming is good for equality or good for women is almost laughable.

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Navigating competing Needs

The proposition that the screen time issue is a battle between a kid's needs and parent's is extremely oversimplified. It also demonstrates how well technology companies have permeated our homes and our relationships.

Humans have always had to negotiate competing needs in relationships. And they have done so quite well without technology. "I love you. But, I am busy right now," is a good message for a child to hear and work through. It is good modeling and it also tells your child that you believe in their ability to entertain themselves; that you believe they are capable.

Follow the Money

Screen time is not a battle between parents who believe it's fine and parents who believe it's problematic. Screen time is a battle between humans with meaningful, purposeful goals and technology companies who are competing for our time. Just ask Tristan Harris at the Center for Humane Technology.

**After-school Music Program
Registration Form**

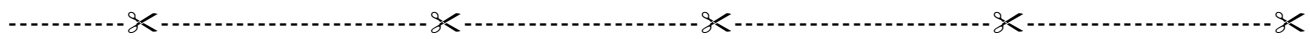
From the end of March to the end of May we will be adding a new Music afterschool session!

Kris Ramakrishna, a River Valley alum, is an international composer, performer and guitarist and soon to be Berklee College of Music graduate. Kris is ready to give back to River Valley by sharing and inspiring RVWS grade school children through music from around the world. Children are encouraged to bring their voices or instruments, and Kris will lead them in an ensemble setting while helping them enrich their musicality.

Recommended for 3rd grade and above.

Classes will meet on Mondays, March 25, April 1, 8 and Thursdays, April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. The classes will culminate in a performance at the Friday assembly on May 31st.

Cost for the program is \$190.



Student's Name _____

Student's Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

I would like to register my child for:

After-School Music Program (9 classes)

TOTAL: \$190

NOTE: Materials fee is included in the price.

Payment in full must be attached to the registration form. Payment is non-refundable and is set regardless of the number of classes actually attended by your child. Class will be filled on a first come first served basis.

2019 Auction Online Bidding Instructions

The online auction is open - <https://rvws2019.ggo.bid>! Go check out all of the wonderful items that are available. You can register and start bidding immediately.


If you are attending the event and haven't registered to bid, please be sure to do so before you arrive at the event. This will make your check-in at the event go much more smoothly. To register, please visit this site above.

Once you're registered, the fun begins. There are several ways to bid. You can even Buy Now, if you absolutely must have that special item. Every item you see displayed in the silent auction has a package number and name. You can use either of those to find the item and bid.

The rubber duck currently has no bids. The minimum bid is \$5.

Test Item

#120



Actions

- Bid \$10**
Place a bid for the next increment
- Bid More**
Place a bid for a specific amount
- Buy Now \$15**
Buy now and end the auction

Description

This is the perfect item for any one who loves rubber duckies.

Bid

The Bid button allows you to bid the amount shown. In the case of the rubber duckie that is \$10.

Bid More

The Bid More button allows you to set the maximum amount you are willing to pay for the item. This is basically a set it and forget it option. Using this allows you to enjoy your evening and socialize without worrying about the items you are bidding on.

Buy Now

It is also possible to buy now for \$15. If you choose to Buy Now, all bidding stops and you win that item.

Once you place a bid, you will receive text and email messages letting you know that you are the leading bidder. You'll also see that you successfully placed a bid immediately after bidding.

Still have questions? Find a member of the Auction Committee. We will be happy to help.