

## School Calendar

### This Week

**Wednesday, March 28**

4th Grade to Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown

**Thursday, March 29**

Diversity Committee Meeting 6:40 pm

**Thursday & Friday, March 29 & 30**

No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences

### Looking Ahead

**Saturday, April 7**

RVWS Open House 10:00 am

**Wednesday, April 10**

Parent Council Meeting – Homestead 2:00-3:00 pm

**Wednesday, April 11**

4th Grade to Pennsbury Manor

**Friday, April 13**

4th & 5th Grades to Harrisburg

**Monday-Friday, April 16-20**

Spring Break – No School

**Monday, April 23**

Faculty In-Service – No School

**Tuesday, April 24**

School Resumes

### How to Contact Us

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

## RVWS All School Open House

Invite a Friend & Come Yourself!

Parent referrals are our most reliable outreach – We need you!

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am**

The Open House format is very dynamic and suitable for prospective parents as well as current parents. Visitors will meet some of our wonderful alums, alumni & current parents and have time to converse with our grade school, early childhood and specialty teachers, view student work and see how our program fits together as a synergistic whole.

The Open House is an opportunity to learn more about what comes next for your children as they move up through RVWS and beyond! Please RSVP so we can plan for our group. We will have childcare. Please let us know if you are coming and if you have a need for childcare.

**RSVP to the office, or info@rivervalleyschool.org**

**There are lawn signs in the lobby; please take them to display in your neighborhood.**

## Mayfaire is Just Around the Corner!

Parents in all classes are asked to make Pocket Fairy items (20 items per family).

The Pocket Fairy Box is located in the lobby.

We will also be collecting bouquets of flowers 2 days before the festival. If each family donates a bouquet we will have plenty for the children to make flower garland headbands the day of festival.

Please contact your classroom coordinators with any questions.

**April Lunch Menu  
is attached to this week's Current.  
Deadline for orders is tomorrow,  
Wednesday, March 28th**

## Auction News

The RVWS Auction site is back up with items that are still available. Whether you attended the event or not, there's still time to get in on the fun and excitement. All items are Buy Now. Check out what's available or sign up for one of the many Unique Experiences. Items are also on display at school. Happy Shopping!  
<https://rvws2018auction.ggo.bid>

## Calendar Adjustments

Because of our late in the season snow days our school calendar needs to be modified in the following ways:

- The April 23<sup>rd</sup> faculty/staff in-service day will proceed as planned – no calendar change - classes will not be in session.
- Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of school.
- Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of school, and will be the last day of school for nursery and kindergarten students.
- Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> will be a 1:00 pm dismissal, and will be the last day of school for grade school students.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation Ceremony will be held Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

A revised calendar is attached to this week's Current. Please be sure to mark these changes on your family calendar to avoid confusion. Thank you.

## From Administration

### Auction Thank Yous

Ron, Kristyn and I would like to thank our River Valley friends without whom the auction would never have happened:

Ivy Giacchino-Berrocal for your guidance, ideas and mad procurement skills; Erica Nichols for your unending creativity, guidance, visual support and on site support; Kat Schilling for generating initial graphics, creation of the catalog, procurement and fantastic auction item ideas and all over support; Lisa George, the reigning procurement Queen and onsite support; Hilary Murphy for your skill and creativity and love; Sharon Ferguson for your creative, inspired organization of the children's art; Tiffany Robinson for the Invitation and the photo booth, without whom it never would have happened; Rich Kroth for supreme technical knowledge and support and procurement; John Wesp for doing what I tell him to do. Carl Brunell ditto; Chris Bodwitch for sharing your brave clown skills; Grandy's Kitchen for the yummy cookies; Moonshine and Millet for the always excellent performance.

To all of the people who helped with set up and clean up. It was awesome! Many hands indeed made for light work; the entire board for their support and work to make the auction a success; the faculty for delivering the curriculum to the students; Administration for the many answered questions and quick turnaround on requests. A special thanks to our regional procurement people: Joy Jarrett, Kerri Rhine, Lorissa Locke and Kristian Summerer, Liz Davach, Saba Siddiqui and last but not least the the ArtYard and Lovin Oven for a wonderful space and delicious food!

With gratitude, Clare Brunell on behalf of the Auction Committee

Thank you, Clare, Kristyn and Ron. You sure do know how to throw a party! We are so lucky to have such talented event planners taking care of us and providing such an elegant, creative, and engaging night for us all to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who played a part in this evening that takes a year to create. We are so grateful for each of the 10,000 pieces that need to fit together to make this puzzle complete. Thank you to everyone who supported RVWS with donations, ticket sales, and bids. It wouldn't be a party without all the cherished guests! RVWS would literally not be able to function without the generosity and giving that this evening provides. Thank you all.

### Chicken Pox Watch

There is a confirmed case of chicken pox (Varicella) in Early Childhood. Please keep an eye on your children, and keep them home if they seem unwell – according to the MayoClinic.org, signs and symptoms, which may appear one to two days before the rash, include:

- Fever.
- Loss of appetite.
- Headache.
- Tiredness and a general feeling of being unwell (malaise)

According to the Buck County Health Department, 3-5 active cases is considered an outbreak. If we reach that threshold, all non-vaccinated students will be excluded from school! If you have questions, please see Cindy or Reeve in the office.

## From the Faculty

### What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Old Testament

Fourth Grade – Local Geography

Fifth Grade – Ancient Greece

Sixth Grade – Physics

Seventh Grade – Wish, Wonder & Surprise

Eighth Grade – History

### Let the Thawing Begin! Happy Spring!

This is a friendly reminder that our garden is very wet, so please be sure that your 1st-5th graders have their rain boots and rain pants for gardening, as we will start to uncover planting beds and compost and haul fresh soil in for the season... good dirty work. This is a good time to think about a garden hat for your child (a simple baseball cap will keep the sun out of eyes). Thank you to the First grade and Yonas and Yana Rahman as well as Aidan Goldstein for helping to prepare and plant our pea bed....It has begun!

## From the Community

**SING OUT FOR ART YARD**

**FRI APR 06 6-9 PM**

62A TRENTON AVE.  
FRENCHTOWN, NJ

ANYONE 12 AND OVER IS INVITED TO SHOW UP, LEARN A SONG AND PERFORM IT AS PART OF A CHOIR.

PLEASE RSVP  
at [artyard.org](http://artyard.org)

Limited menu available from  
**Lovin' Oven!**

**DJ ARM 18 6 PM**

**CHOIR**  
DIRECTED BY  
**KIRA WILLEY**  
7 PM

**POP-UP CHOIR**

SHOW UP. SING OUT.  
DO GOOD.

POP-UP CHOIR .COM

Contributions collected will directly support ArtYard's programming

### Kissimmee River Pottery Summer Camp

July 30th-August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Glaze Day: August 20<sup>th</sup> - 10am-1pm - Ages 9-15

The summer pottery camp is designed to give the students the opportunity to learn the basics of making pottery on a potter's wheel and basic handbuilding methods. The students will spend four classes working at the potters wheel and one class using handbuilding techniques. The students will return two weeks later for one day to glaze their pots. The pots will be glaze fired and available for pickup three weeks after glaze day.

[www.riverpots.com](http://www.riverpots.com). 50 Mine Street, Flemington NJ 908-237-0671

### 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 Berceci, 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 tremoring as a group and with partners. Taking advantage of the quitting of the mind that TRE can bring about, we will also engage in meditation practices. Bonnie will demonstrate some benefits of interventions while tremoring 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](mailto:Bonnie@yoga-loka.com) or visit the website at [www.Yoga-loka.com](http://www.Yoga-loka.com) to register.

### **From Ottsville Traditional Arts**

Elizabeth and the Catapult - House Concert

Saturday April 7th @7:00 pm

Elizabeth Ziman, who performs as Elizabeth and the Catapult,

is a critically acclaimed singer/songwriter from New York, living and working in Brooklyn.

She's toured with the likes of Sara Bareilles and Kishi Bashi; collaborated with Esperanza Spalding, Gillian Welch, Blake Mills and Ben Folds; Scored, with Paul Brill, a variety of international award-winning documentaries including Trapped, a Peabody winner; and won the 2015 Independent Music Award for Songwriting, Folk category. Her songs have been featured in national television campaigns for Google, Amazon, Sky TV, and "So You Think You Can Dance".

Always writing, Elizabeth has narrowed her vast collection of previously unrecorded material down to her fourth full-length studio album Keepsake, produced by Dan Molad of Lucius and featuring collaborations with Richard Swift (The Shins). Her most personal record yet, Keepsake is about nostalgia and transformation, hope tempered with regret—it's a distillation of the human experience, a universe unto itself.

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center, 250 Durham Road, Ottsville Pa. 18942 [www.ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com](http://www.ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com)

### **From the Artyard**

#### **FilmYard**

Please join us for two unique film screenings in the month of April. For tickets or for more information on our upcoming screenings, please visit our website, [www.artyard.org](http://www.artyard.org) to buy tickets..

Faces Places, Saturday, April 7, 7:30 PM - This documentary follows the adventures of Director Agnes Varda and photographer and muralist JR on their travels throughout rural France. Their unlikely friendship springs from their shared life-long passion for images, how they are created, displayed and shared.

Human Flow, Saturday, April 14, 7:30 PM - Over 65 million people around the world have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change and war in the greatest human displacement since World War II. This documentary elucidates both the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact.

#### **Mudlarking at Artyard**

Sunday, March 25 1-3 pm and Sunday, April 8 1-3 pm – Weather Permitting

In preparation for our upcoming exhibition, The Memory Palace: Frenchtown at 150ish, we would like to invite the community to participate in two days of mudlarking in March and April. The term mudlarking draws from the British tradition of scavenging for treasures in the River Thames. Dedicated mudlarkers venture into the mud and water in search of old pipes, broken pottery bits, long-lost coins, belt buckles and the like. What possible treasures lie hidden along the banks of the River Delaware? Join us and find out! We will be meeting at ArtYard on both days and head to the river as a group via the towpath.

Objects found during these expeditions will be on display in the Unearthed section of our spring exhibition, a publicly sourced library of objects found in, near or around the Delaware River. If you are unable to attend the community mudlark but have treasures you have found on your own time that you would like to lend to ArtYard, please bring your objects to the ArtYard gallery Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. To RSVP go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/artyard> and type in Artyard.

### **Journey's End Farm Camp**

Where: Sterling, Pennsylvania, on the edge of the Poconos

Who: 34 campers per session, ages 7 through 12

What: Journey's End Farm is a year-round 210-acre family farm that has welcomed campers to sleep-away camp for three generations, since 1939. Daily farm chores include the care of cows, calves, hens, chicks, rabbits, goats, and alpacas. We grow much of the food we consume at camp and encourage children to enjoy eating the vegetables they help tend. Campers build projects in woodshop and ceramics; explore the natural world; create games, make music, and go on hikes with the staff; and play in the fields, woods, and creeks. Drawing from Quaker values, Journey's End emphasizes inclusion, simplicity, respect, and cooperation. A counselor to camper ratio of 1:3 provides attention and support for each camper, and our small sessions foster a strong sense of community.

When: Four 2-week sessions from June -- August

Cost: Please check website for dates and rates. Early bird discounts and financial aid available. Referral incentive through March 31.

Go to: [www.journeysendfarm.org](http://www.journeysendfarm.org)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:sarajoyfishkin@gmail.com) 908.323.9691

### 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

### 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](http://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](http://peace-youth.org). This event will reach thousands of families in Bucks/Northampton Counties and NJ.

From the Waldorf School of Philadelphia

### Building Forts and Minds: The Importance of Child Built Space

"In these secret places, children develop and control environments of their own and enjoy freedom from the rules of the adult world."

Educational and environmental psychologists, along with educators in the field, have taken a keen interest in fort building. It's a constant presence in early and middle childhood, the creation of secret places, often in plain site, and the experts agree that den, fort or secret space creation offers a host of cognitive and psychological benefits for the developing child.

The most comprehensive review of this research comes from architect, Maria Kylin, at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. She identifies the three prominent scholars as Roger Hart, David Sobel, and Mark Powell, and compiles their research, along with dozens of other studies, that contribute to the comprehensive picture that is child-led fort building.

New York's City University's environmental psychologist, Roger Hart, first noticed secret space building and its importance in the 1970s and specifically noted the psychological importance these places for children in terms of control and order.

David Sobel of Antioch University New England, agrees that control is a major factor in this type of play and its importance to children. In his book, *Children's Special Places: Exploring the Role of Forts, Dens, and Bush Houses in Middle Childhood*, he says, "In these secret places, children develop and control environments of their own and enjoy freedom from the rules of the adult world."

(Continued on the next page.)

“The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity” – Carl Jung

Maria notes this theme of “control” as well, saying, “The common factor in the experience of the den as a social and a secret place is the sense of control that children feel they have, both over the den as a physical space and over the other children who share the den.”

But it extends beyond a simple need to control their personal world. Montessori Teacher and Education Administer, Mark Powell, found that social control was also key since order and control extended into social hierarchy and culture among children. He notes that, during and after fort building, rules were established and managed among the children to a point where he felt fort building was an excellent training ground for social competence.

In the realm beyond control and social culture, The Islington Play Association in the UK outlines even more perceived benefits of fort play in the guide for “playworkers” titled: Children's Places of Secrecy and Play: A Playworker's Guide to Dens and Forts. They speak to the privacy and solitude fort play grants children and notes how essential alone time is for a child's imaginative play and development of an “internal quiet voice.”

But mostly, they discuss the importance of forts in terms of a child-created space, custom-made to suit the child's specific needs. “When children build new spaces for play, they create a new world to experience, and that experience creates a new world – one that runs according to different material and social rules. What this means is that play gives children the opportunity to change their world to suit them. When children construct their own play environments, they naturally create ones that are most responsive to their needs, both at the moment and in terms of their long-term development. The benefits to the children are clear – stronger senses of self and community, belief in one's own abilities to construct, adapt and demolish, the chance to identify and satisfy one's own social, material and spatial needs.”

### **Forts at School**

Waldorf early childhood programs nurture and protect the young child's sense of wonder and imagination

Our role, as educators, is to respect these sacred places children build and to create environments that encourage their creation. Early childhood classroom design, in Waldorf Education, gives children space and materials to build these special places that help them learn in developmentally appropriate ways. Our classroom's large free spaces are ideal for building and linens, scarves, blocks, along with empty mobile and modular shelving along with other elements often lead young ones to create these spaces indoors.

Out on the open playgrounds, older and younger children alike have plenty of space and material to make these spaces. And, most importantly of all, they are given the time needed at recess to create and cultivate these spaces together.

### **Forts at Home**

Parents can encourage fort building at home as well. The New York Times asked prominent architects for their advice on how to best help children make special places inside their homes in their article, Lessons in the Art of Pillow Fort Construction. As a prime example of the pro tips offered, Dallas architect, Bob Borson, says, “Use sheets for the roof, since they're lighter than blankets. Couches are a great anchor. And umbrellas are great for super fast fort construction. Just throw a sheet or blanket over the top of a big golf umbrella — or two, if you have them — and you're all set.”