



# River Valley Current

April 18, 2017 No. 476

*"Only years of practice will teach you the mysteries and bold certainty of a real gardener, who treads at random, yet tramples on nothing."*  
~ Karel Čapek

## School Calendar

### This Week

#### Wednesday, April 19

Parent Council Meeting 2:00 pm  
Geoff Kaufman Concert 7:00 pm

#### Thursday, April 20

Board Meeting 6:30 pm

#### Saturday, April 22

Parent Stage

### Looking Ahead

#### Monday/Tuesday, April 24 & 25

6<sup>th</sup> grade to Pocono Environmental Ed. Center

#### Tuesday, April 25

Diversity Committee 3:30-4:30 pm

#### Thursday, April 27

5<sup>th</sup> grade Class Play 9:00 am  
6<sup>th</sup> grade Field Trip to Sterling Hill

#### Friday, April 28

5<sup>th</sup> grade Class Play 9:00 am & 6:30 pm

#### Saturday, April 29

1<sup>st</sup> grade Workday

#### Thursday, May 4

1<sup>st</sup> grade Parent Evening 6:30-8:00 pm

#### Saturday, May 6

Mayfaire 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

### How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleysschool.org  
lc@rivervalleysschool.org  
bot@rivervalleysschool.org  
pc@rivervalleysschool.org

### Ticks are Back

Be sure to check your children carefully every night for ticks. The woods and grass are full of them and the children spend much of their time outside.

Please be vigilant.

### Please join us for the Upcoming Parent Council Meeting this Wednesday at 2:00 at Homestead

Topics of discussion include: Auction feedback, Mayfaire, alumni babysitting and the future of the Holiday Bazaar.

### River Valley Waldorf School Presents Geoff Kaufman, Acoustic Music with a Pinch of Salt Wednesday, April 19th @ 7pm. Tickets \$10 per person/ \$25 per family

River Valley Waldorf School is proud to welcome Geoff Kaufman for an evening performance of new and old songs in the folk tradition, presented a cappella or accompanied with guitar, anglo concertina, tin whistle, or percussion. Ancient ballads, work songs, songs of love, poignant songs of people in struggle, humorous glimpses of human foibles, and insights into history—all are likely to be woven into one of Geoff's concerts.

In addition to spending years working with Pete Seeger on the sloop Clearwater, active in the advocacy for cleaning up the incredibly toxic Hudson River, Geoff is the Chanty-master of Old Mystic Seaport! Following his evening performance, Geoff will host an open session so bring your instruments and your Irish spirit! Join us for a very special evening!

### Parent Stage

#### This Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm

"Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song.  
And I'll try not to sing out of key."

Fortunately, our friends are always supportive!

**Join us for Parent Stage - Performances for parents, by parents.**

Free, pot-luck.

Come. You'll be glad you did.

### Mayfaire is just around the corner! Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 11am – 3pm



Your classroom coordinators will be contacting you with details of class responsibilities for this event.

Parents in all classes are asked to make Pocket Fairy items (20 items per family) and donate any extra synthetic yarn that you may have so that the children can make jump ropes. The Yarn Box and Pocket Fairy Box are 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.

The Mayfaire Committee

## From Administration

### 2017-18 ENROLLMENT TIME!

Today is the final day for a \$250 deposit and an 'on-time' discount on tuition (\$100 for grade school and \$50 for 3, 4 or 5-day early childhood). Materials, trip and TAP fees will be invoiced and are due May 15, 2017. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cindy Schretlen in the office or: [cschretlen@rivervalleysschool.org](mailto:cschretlen@rivervalleysschool.org). Printed contracts are located in the PARENT FORMS bin just outside the main office. Beginning 4/19, the deposit amount is \$500 (credited toward your 2017-18 tuition).

### A Message from Building and Grounds

Parents who are at school on weekends for any reason are respectfully asked to please keep their children with them at all times. Once the building is cleaned on Friday, the cleaners do not return before Monday morning to mop up mud that has been tracked in over the weekend.

### We Need Boxes

In preparation for summer packing and classroom cleaning our teachers need lots of empty boxes. Please save up your boxes and bring them in during the last week of school.

### Recycle Car Seats and Save

From April 17th to April 30th, Target stores across the country will be hosting Target Take Back, a recycling initiative for old baby and child car seats. If you're interested in recycling a car seat, simply drop it off at any Target store. In return, you'll earn a 20% discount on a new car seat!

Know anyone who might be interested in this recycling initiative? Be sure to share this information with them! For more information about this recycling initiative, go to [Target.com](http://Target.com).

### RVWS SIGNS

Thank you so much to everyone who displayed one (or more) of our yard signs! Please return them to school as we will be able to update them to use again next year.

## From the Faculty

### What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Clothing and Shelter

Fourth Grade – Norse Myths

Fifth Grade – Class Play

Sixth Grade – Geology

Seventh Grade – Geometry

Eighth Grade – Physiology

### News from our School Garden

Spring is in full force and with it comes transformation. Take a look in the garden and you will find things changing. The 1st through 5th grades have transformed the small, raised beds into fun, long rows. These new garden beds align with the flow of water through our space. With long rows to plant in - we can have whole classes planting together, growing more food to share with our community. Thank you children, for your hard working, yet lighthearted spirits with which you made this change possible!

## Class Fundraiser

### SPRING FLING DANCE PARTY

For Family Friends Neighbors and Alumni  
A River Valley Waldorf 7th and 8th Grade Fundraiser!  
DJ Andrew Macintosh

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 9:00**, \$5.00 per person. Free for children under 5 years old  
At the Ottsville Traditional Arts Center, 250 Durham Road, Ottsville, Pa across from Kimberton Whole Foods.  
RSVP [gracefulm@aol.com](mailto:gracefulm@aol.com)

## From Development

### Support the Annual Fund and Watch our Giving Tree Grow!

Did you know that your tuition only accounts for a portion of the funds needed to operate our beloved school? Because we are a tuition-based school, we are not eligible for most grants and subsidies for which other schools may qualify. Additionally, we offer financial assistance for many of our families. Our ability to invest in our programming, support our faculty, serve our students, and maintain our facilities depends upon additional funding from events, gifts and sponsorships. This is why we ask our community to support the Annual Fund each year. In the next several weeks, you may receive a letter, note, email or call asking for your support of the Annual Fund. Please give what you are able so we may provide all the wonderful things that enrich your children's education. When you give, your generosity will be recognized as a leaf on a *Giving Tree* in the lobby. Each class will be represented by its own leaf color. Watch our tree bloom, from the roots to the canopy, as our Annual Fund grows!

The Development Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their support and generosity:

Kimberton Whole Foods, Inc.

MaryBeth Healy

Colin and Christine Aherne

Alfred Bader

Allen M. Solomon and Syril S. Solomon

David and Kira Willey

Stephanie Spencer

Judith B. Huey

Craig Keemer and Geri Huey

Noah and Joy Jarrett

Kamran Ozair and Saba Siddiqui

Joshua and Felicia Holtz

Kristian Summerer and Lorissa Lock

Ron and Sharon Ferguson

Edward and Lisa George

Thomas Rush and Jennifer Saltmarsh

Chuck and Judy Cohen

Sally Rich Designs

Cindy Eberts

Gene Fox and Joan Yax-Fox

Richard and Patricia Kroth

Melanie Niemczura

Larry and Betsy Willey

## From the Community

### Teen Education

Discover another education option for teens.

Thursday, Apr 20th @ 7p - Free. Teens Welcome!

Hunterdon County Library, 314 Rt 12, Bldg #3, Flemington

At our self-directed learning cooperatives teens have the freedom to learn what, when and how they want. Does it really work for a teen to take ownership of their education and life? Join us Thursday and find out what happens...

MaryBeth or Scott @ 908-824-0238

[www.RaritanLearningCooperative.org](http://www.RaritanLearningCooperative.org)

### **Pasta Luncheon at Quakertown, NJ Friends Meeting**

Sixth Grader Lydia George, as part of her Community Service Project, is organizing a Pasta Luncheon with Quakertown (NJ) Friends Meeting in support of the Camper Aid Fund at Camp Onas on May 7, 2017 at 11:30AM.

Camp Onas is a Quaker overnight camp located in Ottsville, PA. Rooted in the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, equality and community, Camp Onas is a place where all kids can take part and feel at home. Many kids want to go to summer camp but sometimes the cost is too great for some families. Join the Quakertown Quakers for this event and help send kids to camp. This event is open to the public with a free will offering. Camp alumni, future campers and their families are highly encouraged to attend!

The meetinghouse is located at 290 White Bridge Road (at the intersection of Route 579) in Quakertown, New Jersey. The pasta luncheon is wheelchair accessible. For more information and to RSVP, call 908-735-0353 or visit the Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1Rk4rl9>

#### **ABOUT THE MEETING**

The Quakertown Friends Meeting, founded in 1729, is a faith community welcoming all ages, religious backgrounds, races, education, sexual orientations, gender identities, and classes. Meeting for Worship is held every Sunday at 10:30 AM. All are welcome. 908-735-0353

<http://www.pym.org/meetings/meeting/quakertown-friends-meeting/>

### **More Items for Sale**

On the occasion of our move to Europe, the next items we would like to sell are:

- A complete set of Stokke baby stroller in great condition
- Kid bikes (0-5 years)
- Christmas tree (used only once): Holiday Living 7.5 ft Pre-Lit Englewood Pine Tree
- House gates for babies
- A complete indoor wooden Play set (Cedarworks)
- A Samsung Bx2235 22" Led Monitor 1920x1080 Dvi Scratch And Dent (in excellent condition)

Interested? Please contact Piergiorgio, Oscar's dad (Moon Room) at 646 830 9250 or [pgv.pier@gmail.com](mailto:pgv.pier@gmail.com)

### **Rieglesville Public Library**

#### **GSK Science in the Summer – Free Summer Program for Kids**

June 26 & 27 – Level 1 (Grades 2 & 3) 10:00 – 12:15, Level 2 (Grades 4-6) 1:00 – 3:15

Science of Sports – Students explore the science behind their favorite sports through fun, hands-on activities. They'll discover why athletes need to stay physically fit, mentally fit and properly equipped. Students will also learn about the teams of professionals who use science to help athletes improve their performance. They'll experiment with sports equipment materials and health drink recipes just like real engineers.

Visit [www.scienceinthesummer.com](http://www.scienceinthesummer.com) for details and registration

#### **\*\* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\***

Volunteers must meet the following criteria: Be a student entering grades 8-12, be less than 18 years old, complete a GSK Science in the Summer volunteer form signed by a legal guardian, wear close-toed shoes for the duration of volunteer hours. Anyone interested in volunteering should speak to a librarian to obtain a copy of the volunteer form. Forms must be returned to the Library by Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rummage and Bake Sale**

Thursday and Friday, May 4 & 5 9 am–8 pm and Saturday, May 6 Bag Sale All Day – 9 am-4pm  
Sponsored by St Luke's U.C.C. in Ottsville, located at building at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611.

Donations are welcome. Drop items off at the building at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 from April 4-30. Any other days, drop off items on the porch at the schoolhouse of St. Luke's U.C.C. Church on Durham Road in Ottsville. Clothing, jewelry, books, housewares, plants, toys, and small furniture. No computers, TV's Cribs or Car Seats accepted. For more information call: 484-357-5274 or 215-479-2724.

### **Earth Day Open Art Studio Event**

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 4-8 pm

An open studio of elementary to high school artists and musicians with a few grown-ups. Ringing school bell hourly in celebration!

A Schoolhouse Space Center production, 500 Stouts Valley Road, Easton, PA 18042.  
[info@welineinouterspace.com](mailto:info@welineinouterspace.com). 212-675-2008

## Childcare Help Needed

We are looking for extra hands to help with our littles (ages 1.5 & 3.5). Our home is located in Perkasio (about 20 minutes from RVWS). We are hoping to find someone who can help us as our schedule transitions and mom is out of the house 2 days a week starting in the Fall. Hours would be 15 - 20 hours per week, 2 days per week. Monday: 5:30A - 1:30P; Friday 7A- 4P.

Support would include: preparing meals and snacks, helping with diapering and toilet-ing, assisting with dressing, overseeing safety during play (preferably outdoors) and transitioning to naps. \*This person DOES NOT have to drive our children - we have plenty within walking distance\*

If possible, this person could also assist with on call hours (mom is a birth doula), able to assist with potentially little notice. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping, please have them email me at: [bkvolpe@hotmail.com](mailto:bkvolpe@hotmail.com).

From the Guardian via [waldorftoday.com](http://waldorftoday.com)

## Creating is Not Just a 'nice' Activity; It Transforms, Connects and Empowers

If we want a world full of innovative, entrepreneurial thinkers, we need to enable and sustain making from a very young age.

By Paula Briggs

As a child, when I wasn't eating, sleeping or at school, I was making. My memories of childhood relate to stuff – smell, material and texture: digging up the garden to make heavy, grogged clay; melting wax crayons to make 3D shapes; building matchstick houses; casting plaster in Disney latex moulds; and cutting out. Always cutting, shaping and sticking.

Since then, I've studied, made and taught sculpture. I know what it feels like to submerge my hands and mind in making, occupied with the struggle to transform and connect material. Since 1995 I've been working with friend and colleague Sheila Ceccarelli through AccessArt to explore how we can enable making in others. We've seen over and over again how making transforms people, just like makers transform materials.

It feels so fundamentally good and right to use our hands to manipulate materials – to use tools to extend our ability; to put stuff out into the world. The urge to alter our environment is part of our genetic makeup. The skill of making lies latent within all of us.

We now know that creativity is good for the economy too. The UK creative industries generate £84.1bn a year and account for 2.8 million jobs. It's the fastest-growing sector of the economy. It's looking good for makers.

We work a lot in schools and see 10-year-olds who can't use scissors. We see art squeezed into obedient slots that require no mess, quick results and easy success. We see children who have never had to solve the problem of a sculpture that doesn't balance; never had an argument with a lump of stuff; and never learnt the need to rebuild.

We see children who have never felt success from using a tool to help them manipulate material, never felt the pride of producing something for others and never felt the optimism of daring to ask: "would it work if ... ?"

Somehow, somewhere along the line, making became seen as a "nice" activity, but one we could do without.

*(Continued on next page.)*

So are we really preparing our children for their creative futures? There are so many reasons not to make and we need to talk about them. Let's get the reasons our children aren't making out in the open.

- ❖ Making connects the hand, eye and brain in a very special way. It's empowering for both maker and viewer.
- ❖ It takes time and energy: making with a class of 30, or even a household of one or two, can be exhausting.
- ❖ There's enough to be getting on with: pressure from other subjects means making and the arts can get squeezed out.
- ❖ Homework encroaches on spare time at home, which could be spent making.
- ❖ It creates mess: wouldn't it be nice if we could make like a singer sings, without the mess to clear up afterwards?
- ❖ Making can be risky: a child might burn their finger on a glue gun or cut themselves with a saw.
- ❖ There's enough stuff in the world: do we really need to make more?
- ❖ Making uses resources: aren't we meant to be trying to use less?
- ❖ We don't need to make to survive: we generally buy what we need, so we don't need to learn the skills first-hand any more.
- ❖ We don't need to make to entertain ourselves: in the past we might have kept our hands and eyes busy with making in our spare time, but now we occupy ourselves through binary code.

But when we give children the time and space to make – and present them with a pile of materials – they fall to it with such a will. The appetite to make is there, even when no one speaks of it.

Making connects the hand, eye and brain in a very special way. It's empowering for both maker and viewer. The act of making is optimistic; it's an act of faith. People of all ages feel better for doing it.

Making can also be very social – conversations can meander while hands are kept busy. But it can also be very personal and give confidence to children who listen to their own internal monologue that takes place as they make in solitude.

If we want a world full of creative, entrepreneurial thinkers, we need to enable and sustain making from a very young age. Not all of us will become sculptors or engineers or designers, but we will become more connected, rounded and creative people.

So while making may sometimes seem inconvenient, we need to find the time, space and resources to make it happen.

*Paula Briggs is director of AccessArt and author of Drawing Projects for Children and Make, Build, Create: Sculpture Projects for Children*