

School Calendar

This Week

Tuesday, April 24	
4th & 5th Grade Parent Evening	6:30-8:00 pm
Thursday, April 26	
3rd Grade Parent Evening	6:30-7:30 pm
Friday, April 27th	
Mountain Laurel WS Orchestra Concert	10:50 am

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, May 1	
7th Grade Parent Evening	
Thursday, May 3	
6th Grade Play	6:30 pm
Middle school Reading Group	7:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, May 5	
Mayfaire	11:00 am-3:00 pm
Wednesday, May 9	
Parent Council Meeting	6:30-8:30 pm
Saturday, May 12	
Parent Stage	6:30 pm
Monday, May 14	
4th & 5th Grades to Harrisburg	
2nd Grade Parent Evening	

How to Contact Us

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

May Lunch Menu

is attached to this week's Current.
Orders are due by **Thursday, April 26th.**

Auction News

Last Chance to be part of the Unique Experiences from the Auction. For more details, see inside under From the Board. To bid go to: <https://rvws2018auction.ggo.bid>

A Visit from the Mountain Laurel Waldorf School Orchestra this Friday

Visiting musicians from the Mountain Laurel Waldorf School are coming to RVWS on Friday, April 27th! There will be 35 middle school students performing for our grade school at 10:50 pm. Parents and guests are welcome to attend.

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.

Mayfaire Artisan Market

Parents and the River Valley Community are gearing up for another Artisan Market! If you have some handmade items and would like to join in as part of the Mayfaire Artisan Market, please email Ivy at [✈ Karunagoddess@gmail.com](mailto:Karunagoddess@gmail.com)

Please contact your classroom coordinators with any questions.



Parent Stage is Coming Down the Pike, Fast!

Saturday May 12 — a week after May Faire, 6:30 - ?

What's Parent Stage? Parent Stage is our big Party for Parents, the night we get down, get funky, get loose. A variety show of performances by parents, for parents. No kids (get your babysitter now!). And no money! It's a free event, not a fundraiser. Potluck & BYOB. It's as amazing as you've heard.

We welcome rusty performers, seasoned performers, and always-wanted-to-be performers. The bold and the shy. If you dance, act, walk on your hands, or make music, bring your act to Parent Stage. There's even a choir if you'd rather sing in a crowd.

Sign ups close April 20th. Please let Chellie Bader (Faye, Grade 5) know if you want to be on the roster. Michelle@smorgasb.org or 617-501-7517. Please contact Kira Willey for choir questions: kirawilley@rcn.com.

From Administration

Contracts Due

It is time to turn in your contracts for the 2018-19 school year. Blank contracts are available outside the office and may be returned to the file on the office door. If you have any questions, please see Cindy.

Donations Needed

A friend of River Valley tutor, Arlene Robbins, is collecting items for children in the foster care system who have been taken from homes of opioid addicted parents. There are over 100 children who have recently been re-located and are in need of tooth brushes, toothpaste and gently used clothing. If you have anything to donate, please bring it to school and put it in the box in the lobby.

Accreditation Visit Tomorrow

We will have an accreditation team from PAIS (Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools) with one Waldorf and one non-Waldorf school representative visiting River Valley on Wednesday, April 25th for our Midterm Accreditation visit. They will be meeting with school leadership and observing and touring the school.

Lost & Found

It's time once again to empty the Lost & Found. Wednesday and Thursday - take what's yours. Friday - take what you can use.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Shelter Building

Fourth Grade – Man and Animals

Fifth Grade – Ancient Greece

Sixth Grade – Drama

Seventh Grade – Africa

Eighth Grade – Africa

From the Board

Don't Miss these Unique Experiences!

There are still spaces available in several of the unique experiences that were offered at this year's auction. Many people have been curious about how they can join in the fun. Please visit the online bidding site - <https://rvws2018auction.ggo.bid> - to reserve your space. Here's what is still available but this is your last chance. Be sure not to miss out!

Sound Clash - The Intersection of Punk & Hip Hop at the Dawn of New Music

Gather with your fellow River Valley music enthusiasts, led by Professor Andrew McIntosh and Ron Ferguson to explore and reflect upon a most magical time in history, the cultural Rubicon crossed by previously unheralded pioneers whose courage in creativity ushered in concurrent eras that forever changed the way we look at life through the filter of music.

Person Protection & Self Defense Class with RVWS Parent JR Nichols - Join River Valley's very own master of martial arts Robert "JR" Nichols as he leads a dynamic, two-hour adult group self-defense class at RVWS. The class focus is to inform and improve the awareness and physical preparation in the event of a violent assault. Participants will learn to diffuse the most common attack situations before they happen, as well as learn simple defensive techniques. We will cover common sense awareness, learning to read situations and self-defense techniques based on common daily actions. Goal: Empowerment. No experience needed.

Men Only Poker Night - Face it gents, you need some time away from the family and time away from the kids. You've had enough. Take a night off with Bill Nyberg and bring the ace up your sleeve and green visor for poker night. Beer and pizza will be plentiful. And don't forget to bring your wallet - there will be a \$10 buy-in to play, with one re-buy. Losers get to play pool and pinball. Only 10 spots so bid early!

Uncle Tom's Cabin with RVWS Parent Ron Ferguson - Join a group of your River Valley peers as we celebrate and investigate this crown jewel of 19th Century American literature. Ever controversial, together we will read and discuss this important document of the pre-Civil War abolitionist movement in an interactive, multi-media session where we will share music and video clips, readings from secondary sources, food and drink of the period and, of course, examine the journey of the characters and draw parallels to life in the new millennium. *"The longest way must have its close-the gloomiest night will wear on to a morning. An eternal, inexorable lapse of moments is ever hurrying the day of the evil to an eternal night, and the night of the just an eternal day."*

Karaoke Night with RVWS Parents, Rod & Katherine Schilling - Join the Schillings for a night of karaoke and party. Food and drinks will be provided but you may bring anything you like. Please remember to coordinate a designated driver or use Uber because Rod and Katherine know how to throw a good party!

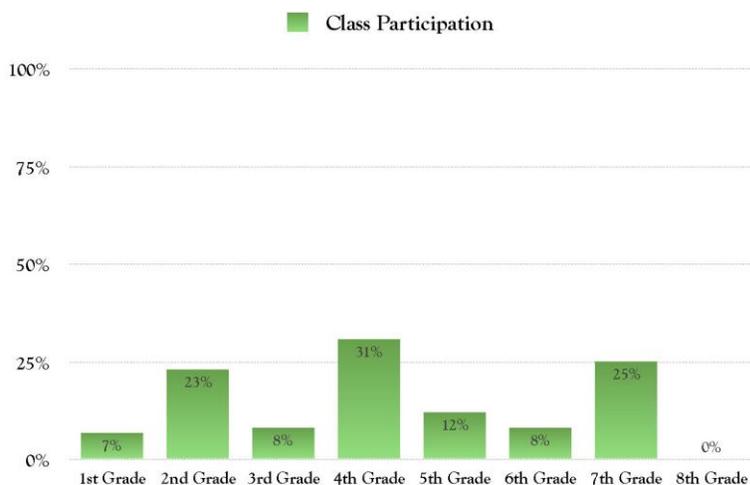
End of Year Garden Party hosted by the RVWS Board of Trustees - Please join the RVWS Board of Trustees on June 2 from 4 to 8 in the Garden for an end of year Garden Party, to celebrate and thank our faculty, and to say farewell to our wonderful gardener, Melissa Goldstein. The evening will include lawn games, cocktails and heavy hor d'oeuvres, and great company!

From Development

Annual Appeal Classroom Challenge

We need the participation of every family in the community to make the annual appeal a success. The first class to achieve 100% participation will receive \$100 towards a classroom wishlist item! All other classes that achieve 100% participation will receive \$50!

Stop by our Community Participation table in the lobby to see our progress and pick up your donation form. Please make your contribution, no matter the amount, and show your support for River Valley. **Help us reach our \$40,000 goal and donate to the Annual Appeal today!**



Class	Number of Donations
1st Grade	1
2nd Grade	3
3rd Grade	2
4th Grade	5
5th Grade	2
6th Grade	1
7th Grade	3
8th Grade	0

From the Community

Muck and Gold Happenings

Chris Bodwitch and Scott Gallagher (parents of Loie in 5th grade) would like you to know about these upcoming events:

Homebody Wisdom: April 28th, 10-12 pm, Free!

Only Don't Know Show: May 19th, 2 pm, Free!

Camp Muck and Gold - July 9 - 13th - there are a few spaces left. For details and registration:

www.muckandgold.com

Items for the Taking

Ms. Molly finally cleared out her garage this week and she found a few things you may like!

Little tykes slide, Train table (3X3 approximately), Small kitchen cart, Vintage woman's bike (needs work), Rocker boat/step toy (needs refinishing/tightening), Lawn mower (needs service but works), Tricycle (radio flyer rusty but still good for riding!!), Very small two wheeler (maybe for a 3-4 year old?)

Please contact Ms. Molly at 610-349-3536 if you're interested.

St. Luke's UCC Rummage and Bake Sale

Thursday & Friday, May 3 & 4, 9 am-8 pm, Saturday, May 5 – Bag Sale All Day 9 am-4 pm.

Sale will take place at the building located at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 in Ottsville. Lunch Available.

Donated items welcome there from April 11-30. Or drop off items on the porch at the schoolhouse of St. Luke's UCC Church on Durham Road. No computers, fax machines, printers, TVs, cribs, car seats, mattresses, encyclopedias, used paint cans, or items needing repair please. For info call: 484-357-5247 or 215-479-2724.

Cut Flower CSA Subscriptions Available for Spring!

Receive a beautiful, lush, bouquet of premium, seasonal, super-fresh flowers and foliage sustainably grown by a former River Valley parent, Jean Tuma of newly launched Flores Temporis, LLC.

I'm passionate about "real" flowers with fragrance and charm, varieties that do not ship well (and therefore are mostly unavailable at standard retail outlets) and heirloom cultivars. Treat yourself or would make a great teacher appreciation gift! 4 consecutive weeks this spring (start date TBD but around late April), one bouquet per week, for \$125 (includes tax, mason jar vase and Tuesday delivery to RV).

Must have at least 4 subscribers for delivery to RVWS. Contact Jean via email at florestemporis@gmail.com or call/text to 484-226-5395 for further details or any questions. Happy Spring!

Kombucha Quest

If you are making kombucha at home, or know someone who does, I would love to have a baby! Contact Melanie at 215-280-3154

German Club Moving to Wednesday

German Club is moving to Wednesdays, and our final round of the year begins April 4, 3:30-4:30 pm, at the Presbyterian Church in Milford. The cost is \$150 for ten classes, (\$15 per class), and car pooling from RVWS is available. German Club provides an opportunity for kids to continue their enthusiasm for the German language, discover the excitement of speaking a foreign language, and learn about European culture. There are songs, stories, games and activities that have delighted Bucks area kids for years. (Tutoring is also available for more advanced students who want to prepare for high school German or families planning a trip to Europe.) Contact: Peter Ray, peter.ray@comcast.net, or 215-794-5816.

Hawthorne Valley Farm Camp

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

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

Field Camp – Ages 12-16 – July-August
Campers become Junior Apprentices on the farm – 2 and 4 week sessions
Named one of the 7 best farm camps for kids by Modern Farmer Magazine!
pbhc.hawthornevalley.org 518-672-7500 X201

From Artyard

The Memory Palace, Frenchtown at 150ish, an exhibit designed by former RVWS parent extraordinaire, Ulla Warchol, opens this weekend at Artyard. The exhibit was conceived and curated by Artyard founder Jill Kearney and Gallery Director, Lucinda Warchol (RVWS Class of 2007)

Exhibition Opening: Saturday, April 28, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

A Memory Palace is an ancient Greco-Roman method of memory enhancement employing the details of one's habitual environment to quickly and efficiently recall information. The most common type of memory palace involves making a journey through a familiar building or town.

ArtYard is pleased to present *The Memory Palace: Frenchtown at 150ish*, a meditation on collective memory, excavation and place featuring a dreamlike scale model of Frenchtown inscribed with accompanying poems by Skye Van Saun. Architect and artist Ulla Warchol constructed the bridge and buildings in collaboration with artist Elsa Mora, who designed the structures and painted the intricate tableaux of architectural detail interwoven with local arcana and gathered memories. Flashlights will be available so visitors can search for Skye Van Saun's poems illuminating the inner lives of every building lining Frenchtown's Bridge and Race Streets.

This exhibition also includes a collection of portraits of Frenchtown Fixtures by artist Joe Ciardiello, a video installation connected to the town's nineteenth and twentieth-century history as the birthplace of millions of baby chicks, and *Unearthed*, a publically sourced library of found objects collected by the local community and excavated in, near or around the Delaware River. This repository was aggregated during an open call for objects as well as during several ArtYard organized mudlarking expeditions. Drawing from the London tradition of scavenging in the River Thames, community members combed the banks of the Delaware and surrounding islands in search of artifacts displaced by the current.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, local families are encouraged to bring framed portraits of their ancestors and sit with them in ArtYard's Photomat. The resulting images will join an ongoing installation of photographs of intergenerational families from Frenchtown.

Please join us on Saturday, April 28, 6:00 - 8:00 PM to celebrate the opening of this exhibition. We will also be inaugurating the beginning of the building process of ArtYard's planned 16,000 square foot theater and gallery complex with a chocolate egg filled piñata.

Bucks County Medical Drugs Disposal

Turn in your UNUSED, UNNEEDED OR EXPIRED medications for safe disposal.

Free and Anonymous – Saturday, April 28, 2018

Products Accepted: Prescription and over-the-counter solid medications, i.e. tablets and capsules, Liquid medications, inhalers, creams, ointments, nasal sprays, Pet medications.

Products NOT Accepted: Injectables and needles, Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine.

For more information and locations go to www.buckspromise.blogspot.com or www.dea.gov

Questions, please call Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. 215-444-2740

Houseparents Needed

The Lukas Community, a small residential community, located in beautiful rural Temple, NH is looking for caring, responsible adults who – as house parents in one of our extended -family households, or as single co-workers – find meaning and fulfillment in sharing their lives and daily work with individuals in need of special care.

We strive to provide a supportive environment in which each individual can unfold their special gifts while we try to meet their particular needs by creating a rich therapeutic environment including activities such as gardening, animal care, crafts, cooking, music and movement, to name just a few. Previous experience would be welcome but is not a requirement. Accommodation and food from our own organic garden will be provided along with a monthly stipend, health benefits, tuition aid for parents with school aged children, and 4 – 6 weeks of vacation per year. Positions available for live-in singles, couples, or small families.

We're looking for a few special people. To learn more, visit our website at www.lukascommunity.org. We love to have visitors - please let us know when you'd like to come! For questions and further information, please contact Kristen Stanton: lukas@community.org. or call the office at (603) 878-4796.

From Education Week via Waldorf Today

Scientists to Schools: Social, Emotional Development Crucial for Learning

By Evie Blad

Schools must broaden their approach beyond a narrow focus on academic work, a group of nationally recognized scientists said in a consensus statement released Wednesday.

That's because students' social, emotional, and academic development are "deeply intertwined," and all are central to learning, says the brief.

"Students who have a sense of belonging and purpose, who can work well with classmates and peers to solve problems, who can plan and set goals, and who can persevere through challenges—in addition to being literate, numerate, and versed in scientific concepts and ideas—are more likely to maximize their opportunities and reach their full potential," the brief says.

It's the product of a year of work by 28 academic researchers who study issues like student motivation, school climate, and social-emotional learning. The panel, known as the council of distinguished scientists, was organized by the Aspen Institute's National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, which has set out to bring together educators, scientists, policy makers, and philanthropists to clarify a vision for social-emotional learning in schools.

While many educators support a "whole child" approach that emphasizes areas beyond traditional academics, they can struggle to synthesize research that focuses on narrow but related ideas, like persistence and self-control. And that search for clarity hasn't been helped by a public debate about what to even call this work—social-emotional learning, soft skills, or something else.

So the commission brought together heavy hitters in the field—like Harvard University Professor Stephanie Jones, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Director Marc Brackett, and University of Pennsylvania Professor Angela Duckworth—to create a document that could set an agenda for future research and clarify what they agree on to this point.

As I wrote earlier this year, that work included one-on-one phone conversations between scientists and educators to discuss what is and isn't working in schools.

"This body of research demonstrates what parents have always known—the success of young people in school and beyond is inextricably linked to healthy social and emotional development, such as the ability to pay attention, understand and manage emotions, and work effectively in a team," Jones, who co-authored the report, said in a statement. "The evidence should move us beyond debate as to whether schools should address students' social and emotional learning to how schools can effectively integrate social, emotional, and academic development into their daily work."

Social, Emotional, and Academic Development

Beyond academic development, the skills students need to be successful in the classroom and in life can be grouped into three areas, the brief says:

"cognitive skills including executive functions such as working memory, attention control and flexibility, inhibition, and planning, as well as beliefs and attitudes that guide one's sense of self and approaches to learning and growth;

emotional competencies that enable one to cope with frustration, recognize and manage emotions, and understand others' emotions and perspectives; and

social and interpersonal skills that enable one to read social cues, navigate social situations, resolve interpersonal conflicts, cooperate with others and work effectively in a team, and demonstrate compassion and empathy toward others."

Among the other areas of agreement:

These skills can be taught and developed.

Effective social-emotional learning programs can improve teachers' effectiveness and well-being.

These programs must engage families and communities to affect children's development.

Effective implementation, training, and teacher support are necessary to make social-emotional learning work.

The brief emphasizes that schools can't effectively carry out social-emotional learning work alone. They need policies at the state and local level that support this broader vision of student success and resources to carry it out.

