



River Valley Current

April 5, 2016 No. 441

"There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by."
- William C. Bryant

School Calendar

This Week

Tuesday, April 5
8th grade Community Service Projects 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 6
2nd grade play 5:30 pm

Friday, April 8
4th & 5th grade Field Trip to Harrisburg
Middle School Dance

Looking Ahead

Monday-Friday, April 11-15
No School - Spring Break

Monday-Friday, April 18-22
7th grade Boat Building Week

Tuesday, April 19
Boat Building Talk 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 21
Open Board Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalley.school.org
lc@rivervalley.school.org
bot@rivervalley.school.org
pc@rivervalley.school.org

8th Grade Community Service Project Presentations Tonight

Tonight at 6:30 PM in the eighth grade classroom, eighth grade parents and family will be enlightened as each of our eighth graders delivers a monologue based on his or her chosen humanitarian. The focus of this year's eighth projects has been community service. Imagine stepping back in time to be inspired by John Muir, Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jane Goodall, Rosa Parks, Rachel Carson or Nelson Mandela, to name but a few! It promises to be a wonderful evening.

Children in grades four and older will have a chance to see a replay tomorrow morning, April 6th, in the eighth grade room, 8:45-10:15 am. We also warmly welcome other interested community members at this time. The other portion of their eighth grade project has been on-going community service, and they will share this portion on Wednesday evening, May 18. More news to follow... We certainly hope that you will join us.

Boat Building

As some of you may know, for the past year, the seventh grade class has been building a small sailboat on weekends. During the week of April 18th the class will receive a huge boost - the help of Mr. Dennis Hansen, an extremely experienced boat builder from Spruce Head, Maine. Mr. Hansen will spend a week working with our students and getting their vessel ready for launch in the early spring. Mr. Hansen has been building small wooden boats for decades now and loves sharing his passion with others.

The seventh grade class would like to invite the whole community on **Tuesday April 19th at 6:30 pm** for an evening chat about sailboat building with young students, and its many positive effects on the individual. Mr. Hansen's visit to our school is completely a volunteer effort on his part and we would love to see as many of you as possible to show him our school's appreciation for his dedication to his work.

Respectfully, Euclides Santiago, 7th grade teacher

Have you Ever Wondered Where to go with a Problem? Or how we use your input?

Please Come to the Annual Open Board Meeting On April 21st
The Board of Trustees and the Leadership Council will hold an open meeting to discuss leadership roles and school-wide communication. The BoT, LC, TDC, IAT and PC will each give a short explanation of the role they play in our school and answer questions from the community. Please join us at 6:30 pm.

Parent Council Corner

Our next Parent Council meeting will be 4/20 at 6:00 pm at Becker's in Quakertown.



Summer Camp

It's time to register for Summer Camp. There are four programs to choose from depending on the age of your child. Descriptions and registration forms are attached to this week's Current and are available on our website.
www.rivervalley.school.org

Mayfaire Festival is Coming - Saturday May 7, 2016

The following items are needed from each family:

1. 20 Pocket fairy items (collection box in lobby)
2. Colorful bright & pastel acrylic yarn (collection box in lobby)
3. 2-3 bouquets of flowers (to be collected the day before Mayfaire)

Please see your classroom coordinator if you have any questions.

Also, we are looking for entertainment, which includes singing, music, poetry reading & dancing from grades 3rd - 8th. If your child is interested please have them sign up on the sheet located outside their classroom.

From Administration

April/May Afternoon Garden

Registration forms for Afternoon Garden in April and May are attached to this week's Current. There are still a few spots left on each day so please sign up if you are interested.

Are you computer savvy?

River Valley IT Committee could really use your help. If interested, please email it@rivervalleyschool.org

Donations, Donations, Donations

Soles4Souls

This is the last week to donate shoes to Soles4souls.org an initiative of Ike (G8) and Mary (G6) Aherne. Gently used shoes are being collected to be distributed to people in need.

Eagle Eyes

Used eyeglasses are also being collected until the end of this week for John Patrick Tynan (brother of Logan, G4 and Georgia, G3) as part of his Eagle Scouts project.

Lost and Found

And last, but not least, our Lost and Found is overflowing and will be donated on Friday. Take what is yours on Wednesday and Thursday and what you can use on Friday.

Thank you

To the cheery 2nd graders who are helping River Valley to be 'green' by regularly taking our office recycling out to the recycling bins!

Thank you to Lizette Tynan for spur-of-the-moment admin help and photography!

Condolences

Warm condolences to Grace, Shepard and Sarah Morgan (G7) on the recent passing of Grace's mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Take Charge of Education

We received a check for \$37.16 from Take Charge for Education, affiliated with Target stores. If you shop with a Target REDcard the store donates 1% of your purchases to River Valley. Thank you to those who have helped raise money for our school. For more information go to: Target.com/TCOE

SAVE THE DATE – May 11, 2016

What's Next? - School after River Valley

Many of us have questions or would like to hear about what's next after River Valley in our child's educational career. For instance: Public, or private? What high schools are out there to choose from? What financial aid options exist? How is the transition from here to there?

Parent Council is hosting a roundtable discussion on this very topic at RVWS on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 from 6:30-8:00 pm. We are inviting alumni parents (and alumni themselves, if they're available) who have experience with both public and private high schools. We plan to gather some literature from various schools to have on hand that evening.

Please send us questions that you have on this subject so that we can make sure we have answers for you. email to pc@rivervalleyschool.org

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Math

Second Grade – Drama

Third Grade – Social Studies/Fiber Arts

Fourth Grade – Language Arts

Fifth Grade – North American Geography

Sixth Grade – Medieval Europe

Seventh Grade – Geometry

Eighth Grade – Chemistry

8th Grade 5K Run

Perhaps you have noticed the 8th Grade gearing up for our weekly training runs after drop-off or before pick-up? Wondering what we're up to? We are training to run the Finish the Fight 5K on Saturday May 14 at 8:30-9:45 am at Dimmick Park in Hellertown, PA. It's the same race Miss Hummel's former class ran in 7th grade a couple of years ago and it is a small, fun run to raise money for the American Cancer Society as part of their Relay for Life event. There is a \$25 registration fee per runner (price increases after April 30) which includes a free tech running T-shirt commemorating the race. We would LOVE to have as many River Valley families as possible join us! Here is the link to register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Hellertown/FinishTheFight5K>. Email Renell (renell@rcn.com) with questions or to let us know to look for you there!

From Parent Council

Pocket Fairy Craft Time

Let's join together to make our 20 Pocket fairy items for Mayfaire on Thursday, April 21 from 8:45-10:30 am and on Thursday, April 28 from 11:30 am-1 pm. We will gather in Miss Molly's Garden Gate room. Please bring your own craft materials and we can provide you with some ideas on easy and fun pocket fairy items.

Please RSVP for the day(s) you will attend to Hilary at HilaryMurphyphotography@gmail.com

People are talking . . . about Parent Stage!!

April 30th at 7:00 PM, at school. Adults only! Pot luck!

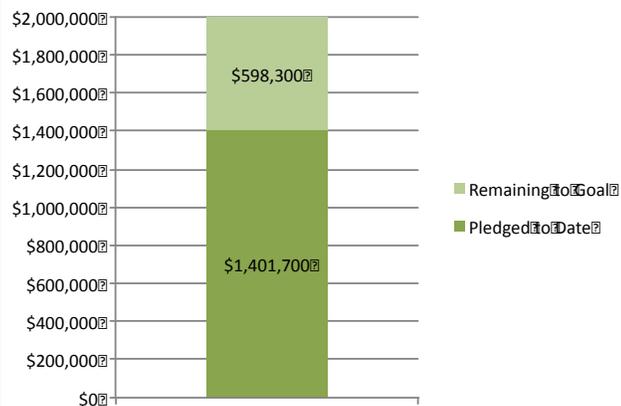
What's Parent Stage? Only the finest event for River Valley parents on the school calendar. A variety show that will blow your socks off — parents performing for parents. And it's free! Come show your stuff — do you sing? play? act? dance? If you don't want to sing in your own bit, come join the Parent Choir. And of course, snag your babysitter and come to the party. Contact Chellie Bader (michelle@smorgasb.org) or Kira Willey (kirawilley@rcn.com) [parent choir] for more information.

From the Capital Campaign Committee

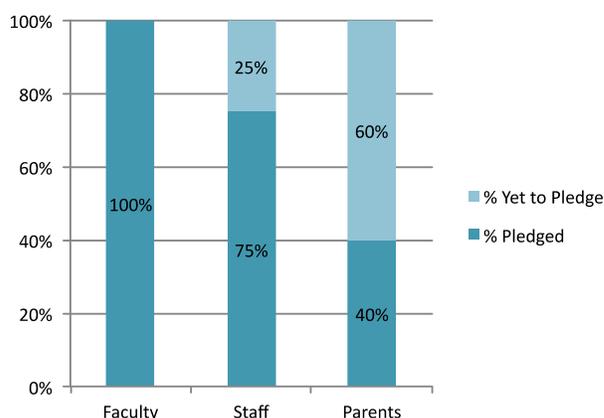
The Time is NOW!

The Capital Campaign is not about nice-to-haves and icing. This is about the long-term survival of our school. We must increase enrollment to provide the operating revenue necessary to maintain our building and pay our teachers adequately. So while it may seem contradictory, we must expand our building to ensure financial sustainability because our current building simply cannot accommodate this full enrollment. River Valley was here for us because of the hard work of the founding families who brought it into being (many of whose children were by then too old to enroll in the first classes). Now it is our turn to pay it forward so the next generation of families will benefit from such a gift. Please join the 40% of parents who have already made their pledge to the Capital Campaign.

Building Our Future Capital Campaign \$2 Million Goal



Building Our Future Capital Campaign 100% Participation Goal



Building & Grounds

School Work Days

Below is the calendar of the upcoming workdays. Please note that some changes have been made from the school calendar. Please RSVP to Mary K. Till (mtill@rivervalleysschool.org), to let us know if you will attend. This way we can plan what projects can be undertaken. Mary K. Till and Lynne Allbaugh - Building and Grounds

2015-2016 Work Days

TBD - 5th grade

April 23 - 1st grade

May 14 - Early Childhood

Alumni News

Carley Zarzeka (RVWS Class of 2007) will enter the M.F.A. program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in the fall. She is a graduate of Dickinson College where she has been participating in a postbac residency, a one-year position extended to one graduating studio art major each year. For more about Carley's artistic accomplishments go to this link:

http://www.dickinson.edu/news/article/2024/traveling_through_space_and_line#.VwKCtk18fRA.email

From the Community

Purely Farm will be back again at River Valley this Friday, April 8th!

Spring is here and the pigs at Purely Farm are eagerly anticipating fresh green grass, calming cool breezes and relaxing in the sun as the soil begins to warm up. This month they are featuring their chipped pork and have attached a recipe for you to try. If you mention this recipe, you will receive \$1 off a package of chipped pork! Don't forget to bring cash or a check so you can take home some breakfast meats and snacksticks for spring break. Purely Farm will be set up outside the front doors of the school, rain or shine, warm or cold. Check out their diverse array of pork and turkey, from ground to shoulder roasts to osso buco; it is all listed on the attachments. Be sure to stop by and say good morning!

Join Youth Orchestra of Bucks County

Audition for placement in a YOBC ensemble!
8 large ensembles (3 bands, 3 strings, 2 full orchestras)
8+ chamber ensembles: string quartet, woodwinds, brass & percussion Open to students in grades 3-12.
Auditions May 14-15, 2016 at Bucks County Community College, Newtown
Special Events for our 25th Anniversary Celebration:
Winds coaching from US Coast Guard Wind Quintet
Master class with composer/musician Chris Brubeck
Philadelphia Orchestra field trips
Special Gala Celebration and Performance with Chris Brubeck and Triple Play ...and more Now Scheduling Auditions for all instruments, all levels, all ensembles.
REGISTER ONLINE WWW.YOBC.ORG
Questions? info.yobc@gmail.com 215.945.5105

The Art of Equitation

Jen Diedrich (mom of Addison in 4th grade) is offering a lesson program individually designed for each rider's expectations, goals and dreams. With attention needed to be safe and have FUN. Safety is always the first priority. Jen is a lifelong equestrian with a passion for teaching that brings out the best in beginning and developing young riders. Students focused on the show arena as well as those who simply love riding and understanding horses are very welcome. Lessons, trail rides, horse shows and camp offered. Ages 5 and up. Reach Jen anytime at 215-603-9999.

PEACE-Youth.org presents the First Annual Upper Bucks Sustainable Living Expo

Connections, Education, and Encouragement for individuals or companies interested in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Independence, and Sustainable Living Practices
Saturday, April 23rd (10am - 4pm) in the Palisades High School and Auditorium

Educational Presentations from notable speakers in the Auditorium throughout the day
Vendor Tables to provide consumer information on obtainable and sustainable products and services.
Food and Beverages available for purchase with Organic and Vegetarian options

If you or someone you know has a sustainable business practice and would like to promote it. Please contact finavenini@msn.com or 610-737-1290 for a vendor application and details. Please Visit www.peace-youth.com to learn more.

A Request from An 8th Grade Student

Dear RVWS parents and community members,

The 8th grade classes at RVWS have been doing projects for years and years, and this year is no exception. The difference between this year and previous years is that this 8th grade class is doing a much more community service oriented project. For my community service, I have been working with a local organization called Grow A Row. Grow A Row is a non-profit farm that grows fresh produce for people in need. During the harvesting season, I helped pick greens and package them, but then the season passed and I needed to find more ways to help out. So I started thinking of ways to bring Pennies for Produce, a campaign that Grow A Row has launched, to the school. This is where the rest of the RVWS community comes in. You can all help by taking a jar home with you and putting it in your kitchen, your car or even a local business, then, when the jar is full of change, bring it back to the school and I will deliver it to Grow A Row. There will also be jars in various classrooms as well as in the lobby. We might also have some fund raising games later in the year to support the Grow A Row.

Thank you in advance, Dominique Wander

New Yoga Basics with Felicia Ruth Holtz

Thursdays 9:30 -10:45 AM

Red Hill Medical Center, 7137 Old Easton Road, Suite 101, Pipersville, PA

Reiki Level 1 with Felicia

May 1, Dig Yoga, Lambertville, NJ 2:30-7:30 pm.

Grounded Kids Yoga Teacher Training at Dig Yoga, Lambertville, NJ

Teaching Kids Yoga and Mindfulness with Felicia Ruth

95 hour Yoga Alliance Certification Program

In four modules - take one or take all for certification

\$500 per module - \$1700 for full certification

All modules include hands on experiences with children/teens/special needs and fall trainings will include teaching in school settings. To register please contact digyoga.com (you can register online under trainings) For questions and information please email me at felicialom@gmail.com

Ground Yourself in Children's Yoga July 14-16th

Based on the principal that you must ground yourself before grounding others, this training is an invitation to create an authentic presence, learn 84 grounded kids yoga poses, explore super powers of kindness and compassion, taming anger, creating calm and laser focus, be introduced to all aspects of teaching children/adolescent yoga and have access to our online learning and teacher fb page and support and be listed as a grounded kids yoga instructor. 22 hrs

Expand Your Reach - Teaching Yoga in Schools September 17-20th

Training within actual schools allows you to see the nuances and efficiently gain the skills necessary to affect classrooms and children with the benefits of yoga and mindfulness through our signature United States of You curriculum. Includes - co-creating with school curriculum and standards, the effect on the entire school community, special needs, child development, assessment and more. 22 hrs

Refine Your Teaching - October 7-10th

Working together to understand and identify the qualities, characteristics of the five universal elements within yourself and others gives you the advantage of knowing how to connect with and inspire children on a very deep level. Includes lesson planning, honing observation, verbal assists, sequencing and more. 22 hrs

Celebrate Your Elevation - December 4-6th

Complete your training with others who have stepped up to earn the distinction of Certified Grounded Teacher, ready and willing to make a difference in the world. Includes anatomy, trauma sensitivity, the business of yoga, manifesting your vision, best practice and more. 22 hrs

For more information about Grounded Kids Yoga gogrounded.com for more information about the potential for yoga in schools, please see my dear mentors' websites: newarkyogamovement.org or atlantayogamovement.org *Help this movement spread across schools in the Delaware River Valley and beyond. Rewarding work on every level. Truth is the word. Love is the answer. Calling all light warriors.*

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center

Every Wednesday

Open Jam with Richard Finch

6:00-8:00 pm • \$5 suggested donation

More at ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com • 250 Durham Rd. Ottsville Pa.

From Yoga Loka TRE and Meditation

What people are saying about TRE:

"I love it!" "I have never felt so relaxed before in my life"
"When can I do it again?" "This has changed my life. I
can be a better mother, wife and friend because of TRE"
"Crazy!!" "I have never felt so in my body and so aware
of my surroundings" "What happened? My head
stopped talking!" "Yes! Finally I can relax." "This is wild"

Wednesdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm 3/30, 4/20, 4/27. Join a
group session, see for yourself. TRE helps release stress,
tension and trauma from your body. It is easy,
accessible, powerful and pleasant to do.
TRE date night! Bring a friend or partner, have dinner
after! Friday 4/8 from 7:00-8:00.

Movie Night at Yoga Loka

TRAPPED!

Friday April 22nd at 6:30 pm, Saturday April 23rd at 3:00
pm. Tickets at \$10

U.S. reproductive health clinics are fighting to remain
open. Since 2010, 288 TRAP (Targeted Regulations of
Abortion Providers) laws have been passed by
conservative state legislatures. Unable to comply with
these far-reaching and medically unnecessary
measures, clinics have taken their fight to the courts. As
the U.S. Supreme Court decides in 2016 whether
individual states may essentially outlaw abortion (Whole
Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt), Trapped follows the
struggles of the clinic workers and lawyers who are on
the front lines of a battle to keep abortion safe and legal
for millions of American women.

Trapped is a feature-length documentary from director
Dawn Porter, whose previous work includes Gideon's
Army — the Emmy and Independent Spirit Award-
nominated film about public defenders in the Deep
South — and Rise: The Promise of My Brother's Keeper.

Trapped premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival,
where it won the Special Jury Award for Social Impact
Filmmaking.

Rummage and Bake Sale

Thursday and Friday, May 5 & 6 10 am–8 pm and
Saturday, May 7 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 of at the building
at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 from April 12-
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 or TV's
accepted.

For more information call: 484-357-5274 or 215-479-
2724.

The Feldenkrais Method

Ready to receive Spring with awareness and joy? Still
carrying "the weight" of winter and looking forward to
reclaim your uprightness and get rid of aches and
pains? Take some time to care for your Self and let
the Feldenkrais Method® help you!

Either participating in group classes or receiving
individual private sessions, the possibilities for
improvement and wellbeing are endless.

Some benefits of the work include:

- * Improvement of Posture and Breathing
- * Rehabilitation from Injuries and Surgery
- * Profound Strength
- * Better Balance
- * Sounder Sleep, Reduced Anxiety, Relaxation
- * Emotional Wellbeing
- * Alignment of Thinking, Feeling, Sensing and
Will Power
- * Increased Self Awareness, Focused Attention
- * Injury Prevention
- * Pain Relief

"We do not work with people's problems, but with
their health. Health as the capacity to recover from
shock; the ability to overcome obstacles; the
capacity to live one's dreams." Moshe Feldenkrais

**Call Dayana to schedule a free consultation at 917-
297-2733**, and visit the website for more information:
www.dayanapereira.com. Thank you!

Costa Rica Rental

Casa de Iguana is a private home built and designed by Ivy Giacchino-Berrocal and her husband Mauricio Berrocal (parents of Lila in the Moon Room). The home is located in Herradura, Costa Rica and is all family owned. It is a two story home with a large comfortable sitting area on first floor with wrought iron spiral staircase leading to a 2nd floor with wraparound porch with views of the mountains. with 2 Large fully equipped stone tiled bathrooms on both floors, open kitchen layout! The home sleeps 10, possibly more.

For more information or to schedule time at Casa de Iguana, email karunagoddess@gmail.com or call 201-694-5166.

You can view pictures here:

<http://www.thekarunashala.com/Casa-de-Iguana.html>

Oofa What? Oofa Miaow!

May 7th and 21st

Muck and Gold (re)lab presents *Oofa Miaow!* a workshop created and taught by play guru, Sarah French, open to parents, teachers, dancers, poets, artists, thinkers, entrepreneurs, and anyone who is curious about the role of play in our lives, and how it can brighten our awareness, feed our dreams, spark discoveries, generate solutions, and even awaken memories. For details and registration please visit www.muckandgold.com. Muck and Gold (re)lab is a collaboration between Chris Bodwitch and Scott Gallagher, parents of 3rd grader Loie.

Free Community talks at the Doylestown Food Market/Coop

On Friday, April 8, Connie Guerin will be presenting a talk on Holistic Addictions Recovery - a very important topic for our greater community. Learn about the missing link in many recovery programs. Studies show a balanced approach provides a dramatic increase in success rates, stress reduction, better mood, increased energy, ease of symptoms.

Location: Doc Bakers in Doylestown, from 6:30 - 8 pm.

There are two other events scheduled the 2nd Friday of May, and again the 2nd Friday of June. You can check out the complete calendar listing here:

<http://www.connieguerintherapy.com/CommunityCalendar.en.html>

Looking For A Nanny In Doylestown For 2 Children

Doylestown family needs a part-time nanny asap for our two girls, ages 3 and 6. You'll be responsible for after school pickups in Upper Black Eddy, PA and care until end-of-workday/ dinnertime in Plumstead/Point Pleasant, PA. Starting the week of April 18th our youngest will be eligible for after-care, so at that point and through the summer the hours will be from 3-6:30 p.m. It is important to us that you have your own reliable car and have a good driver history. We have a large yard and garden and the children like to be outside as much as the weather will allow. We'd like someone who enjoys exploring the outdoors, playing games, and arts & crafts, as the girls are very tactile and interested in crafting. Pay commensurate with experience.

Please email Tom at th47@hotmail.com to schedule a time to chat.

Camp Girl Power

Mon, August 15th - Fri, August 19th 2016 9 AM to 3 PM
Girls, ages 11-13

Develop the skills to be EMPOWERED in the 21st century through a variety of fun and interactive activities. EMPOWERED = Possessing the knowledge, skills, confidence, and resources to stand up for oneself, make positive choices, and be in control of one's future.

Camp Girl Power is facilitated by: Dawn H. Haaz, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist & Samantha Lohr, M.Ed., N.C.C. Girls Empowered P.O. Box 201 Doylestown, PA 18901 267-225-6684

Self-Directed Learning Cooperative for Teens – an alternative to HS

River Valley parents Scott Gallagher (Loie 3rd grade) and MaryBeth Healy (Jaida 1st grade) are excited to announce that they are partnering to open a learning cooperative for teens in Flemington, NJ. Raritan Learning Cooperative will join sister centers Princeton Learning Cooperative (in 6th year, Princeton, NJ) and Bucks Learning Cooperative (in 2nd year, Langhorne, PA) in offering a personalized learning community for teens who are not thriving in a traditional school setting.

What is Self-Directed Learning? Why do teens thrive in this learning model? What paths to college are available if you leave high school? Join us to find out:

Info Session at River Valley - Tuesday, April 26th @ 3:30

Info Session in Flemington, NJ - Sunday, May 1st @ 2p

Contact MaryBeth or Scott @ 908-824-0238 or info@raritanlearningcooperative.org.

Roxey Ballet Fundraiser

Help our school raise money while supporting the arts in our community. Purchase one or more tickets to Roxey Ballet's production of the classic stories, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin & Carnival of the Animals*. Performances May 6th at 10 am, May 7th at 1pm, May 8th at 1pm, held at The College of NJ (2000 Pennington Rd. Ewing, NJ)

www.roxeyballet.org -- Use code RVWS16 when purchasing.

Why Did Waldorf Middle School Students Beat Hopkins Engineers at Their Own Game?

Posted by waldorfschoolofbaltimore

On Wednesday February 19, 2014 a group of 4 middle school girls from the Waldorf School of Baltimore earned an honor they will never forget. After besting seven middle school teams at designing a structure made entirely of marshmallows and spaghetti, they topped that achievement by winning First Place against Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering students and alumni.

This contest is an annual kickoff to celebrate National Engineer Week, and helps to promote STEM education and careers. It is called the Tower of Power in Half an Hour. The challenge is to build the highest tower of spaghetti and marshmallows that remains standing throughout the judging period, usually at least fifteen minutes. This year 15 teams competed, using 1 bag of marshmallows and 1 box of spaghetti each.

Rachel Hopson, (8th), Rachael Stetina (7th), and Fallon Gustin (6th), knew they were going, they had built a tower already that garnered them the invitation. Then they learned the competitors would have a fourth team member, and invited a friend, Rachael Devecka (7th) to join at the last minute. This group had never practiced all together, but they remained excited and unconcerned. A further surprise came when they learned the number of marshmallows they were to receive was half the number they had previously been allowed. It was no problem. They switched to plan B. They are used to working together. They do it every day, in music, in Eurythmy, in acting, in science, and in math.

The room they were in together was loud. Everyone talking or shouting directions, music blaring, the remaining time being called over a loudspeaker. Despite the fact that one team member is deaf and uses an implant in only one ear that provides less-than-perfect hearing in such an environment, the team calmly and flawlessly rose to the challenge as their tower rose quickly above all the others. And it stayed there.

With one minute left on the clock they had to switch to plan C as the marshmallow deficit rendered the original concept even less sturdy than anticipated. With excited parents and onlookers shouting advice and encouragement, the girls smiled, and simply went their own way. Seamlessly, no fuss, no arguing about one idea over another. They worked together as a beautifully choreographed dance, and won.

Now this may sound like child's play, but when you stop to think that they topped the engineering students from one of our country's great engineering and science institutions you realize there is more to it than that. In an era when so many of our current and future careers rely so heavily on science and math, when STEM is the catchphrase of the moment, when everyone seems to be scratching their heads to come up with ways to engage our children, especially our girls, in these very subjects, it is indeed something to know that Waldorf achieves these enviable outcomes. And it is done without stress, without untimely pushiness, without diminishing the importance of all the subjects that are taught in the same kind of cooperative dance the middle school participants illustrated in their winning teamwork.

And if it still reminds you of child's play, there is a good reason. The basis for science, cooperation, communication, flexible thinking, creativity, risk-taking and so many of the skills needed in today's world and illustrated in this design contest are exactly what is found in free play. There is no better way to achieve these goals. And there is no better school to allow these attributes to flourish than the Waldorf School of Baltimore.

At Waldorf, high honors and student achievements don't make the big waves. It is a thing that happens so often, with or without the public notice. But I think word about these girls' science achievement should spread. And so should word about the school that got them there.

Carol Devecka