

School Calendar

This Week

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

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, May 9

Parent Council Meeting-Ship Inn 6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday, May 10

6th Grade Parent Evening 6:00-7:30 pm

Saturday, May 12

Parent Stage 6:30 pm

Monday, May 14

4th & 5th Grades to Harrisburg
2nd Grade Parent Evening

Friday, May 18

5th grade Pentathlon-Kimberton WS

Saturday, May 19

EC Workday
Middle School Dance

Monday, May 14

4th & 5th Grades to Harrisburg

How to Contact Us

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

Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th, 6:30-8:30
at the Ship Inn

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.

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 be collecting bouquets of flowers at the end of this week. If each family donates a bouquet we will have plenty for the children to make flower garland headbands the day of festival. Please leave them in the buckets in front of the school on Friday.

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 is as part of the Mayfaire Artisan Market, please email Ivy at 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

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.

Herbal Conference at River Valley

Botanicwise will be hosting their first "Allies for Plants and People Symposium" on Saturday and Sunday, June 9th & 10th at River Valley.

For more information and to register, go to:
<https://www.botanicwise.com/AlliesForPlants/>

Thank you

A special shout out to the following 3rd and 4th grade parents who showed up Saturday to get our campus all spiffed up for our spring festivities: Carusos, Davachis, Gustavsons, Jarretts, Lovelys, MacDonalds, Stuarts, Lock/Summerers, Robinson/Wesps, Willeys, Bennett/Zhengs, Bells, DiCandias, Goldsteins, Brill/Botts, Siftar/McIntoshs, Brandes and Barnes. My apologies if I forgot anyone. Leaves were raked, brush burned, potholes filled. EC sandbox all redone, mulch spread, limbs cut. It always amazes me how much you folks can accomplish in a few hours!

Again, Thank you from Lynne and Building and Grounds

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Shelter Building

Fourth Grade – Human and Animals

Fifth Grade – North America

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!

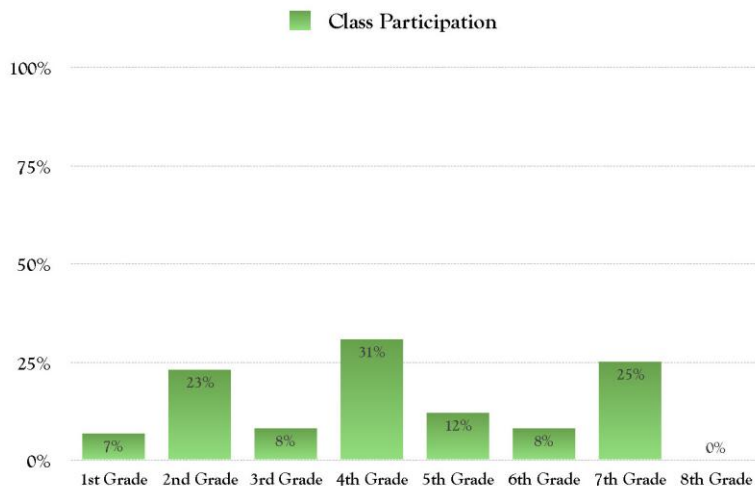
End of Year Garden Party hosted by the RVWS Board of Trustees - Please join the RVWS Board of Trustees on June 2 from 4 to 8 in the Garden for an end of year Garden Party, to celebrate and thank our faculty, and to say farewell to our wonderful gardener, Melissa Goldstein. The evening will include lawn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

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

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.

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

Sweet Bunny looking for a home!

We are moving (locally) and our bunny...is not moving with us. Weasley is a 1 yrs old male Holland Lop, fixed/shots, litter trained, gentle and very quiet. He comes with a regular cage & a townhouse cage. MaryBeth & Jaida marybethhealy@gmail.com 908-672-3455

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

Pre-Order Local Flowers for Mother's Day!

Treat a special person (or yourself!) to sustainably grown, seasonal, specialty cut flowers! Pre-orders being taken for a limited number of hand-tied, lush bouquets featuring premium, super-fresh blooms, sized just right to fit in a mason jar. Or for DIY folks, straight bunches of blooms can also be pre-ordered so you can make your own beautiful creation. Availability TBD one week before drop off on Friday 5/11 (whatever's in bloom in Bethlehem PA), but likely will include fancy daffodils, tulip parrots, and anemones. I'd be happy to make bouquets/arrangements for other special occasions upon request. Contact Jean Tuma, former parent at RVWS, at florestemporis@gmail.com for details. Thanks for your consideration and support!

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.

Learning Cooperative events in May:

Racism Literacy authors Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo to speak and receive The Self-Directed Learning Award. Priya and Winona are writers of the racial literacy textbook, *The Classroom Index*. Sat., May 5th @ Johnson Education Center, Princeton
<https://www.facebook.com/events/156744815145388/>

Teen Open Mic Night. Share a story, poem, song, joke. Fri., May 11th @ RLC, Main St. Flemington
<https://www.facebook.com/events/328143671041248/>

Parent Panel on Self-Directed Learning: "Learning that works: Parents find what works for their kids". Princeton Learning Cooperative parents share and answer questions. Wed., May 16 @ PLC, Princeton
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1609971482405404/>

From Artyard

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

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.

Poetry Event at Artyard

Saturday May 5th at 7 pm.

The evening will start with Warren Cooper whose many years of writing has landed him with a full length book, *What Happened At Dinner, and After*. We are excited to be hosting him at Artyard, excited to hear his work. We love Warren! Following Warren, Kira Willey and the River Valley Choir will perform a mix of world, gospel and contemporary music. And next will be Gabrielle Calvocoressi reading her poetry. See below for more information about this wonderful poet. It is going to be a beautiful event--soulful, thoughtful, fun and thought-provoking. All are welcome; admission is free. Register at artyard.org.

Gabrielle Calvocoressi, an award-winning nationally known poet, is on next. I'll say a little about her work as you most likely don't know her. About her most recent book of poems, *Rocket Fantastic*, a review in *Publisher's Weekly* opens with "Calvocoressi resists the limitations of language—especially where gender is concerned—to more fully capture the experience of a self 'unlimited in its possibilities.' Along with issues of gender identity, these poems "balance wildness and control in a fearless treatment of eros, identity, trauma, and all that resists easy categorization." She is a lovely person, an amazing poet, and an incredible performer.

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 the Boston Globe

Sparing Chores Spoils Children and Their Future Selves, Study Says

Just 28 percent of parents said they regularly assign chores to their kids, even though 82 percent said they grew up doing chores themselves.

By Ami Albernaz

By at least some accounts, tasks like doing the laundry or cleaning up after dinner have fallen off kids' to-do lists. In a Braun Research poll of 1,001 parents last year commissioned by Whirlpool, the appliance manufacturer, just 28 percent said they regularly assign chores to their kids, even though 82 percent said they grew up doing chores themselves.

It isn't hard to imagine reasons for this shift. Tightly packed schedules can leave kids little time for housework — which, unlike calculus assignments or soccer practice, probably won't influence college admissions decisions. Some parents may want to spare their children the drudgery they endured. Others may find that nagging kids to do their chores is more of a burden than they bargained for.

Could letting kids skip housework actually do them a disservice? For some, the answer is a resounding yes. In her recently published book "[How to Raise an Adult](#)," Julie Lythcott-Haims, former dean of freshmen and undergraduate advising at Stanford University, argues that household chores help kids build responsibility, autonomy, and perseverance — traits necessary to becoming capable adults.

"When young people have been expected to roll up their sleeves and pitch in, and to ask how they can contribute to the household, it leads to a mind-set of pitching in in other settings, such as the workplace," Lythcott-Haims said. Not giving kids chores, she added, "deprives them of the satisfaction of applying their effort to a task and accomplishing it."

Having to fit in chores can also help kids learn to manage their time. While it can be tempting to give kids a pass on busy homework nights, Lythcott-Haims said, "real life is going to require them to do all of these things. When they're at a job, there might be times that they have to work late, but they'll still have to go grocery shopping and do the dishes."

Research over the years makes a strong case for chores. A University of Minnesota [analysis](#) of data collected over a 20-year period found that the best predictor of success in young adulthood, on measures related to education completion, career path, and personal relationships, was whether they had begun doing chores at an early age — as young as 3 or 4.

A long-running Harvard University [study](#) of inner-city males found that willingness and capacity to work in childhood — indicated by holding a part-time job, taking on household chores, or participating in school clubs or sports — was a better predictor of mental health in adulthood than was social class, family problems, and other factors.

If your kids don't have regular chores now, it's never too late to get them started, said Richard Bromfield, a psychologist on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and author of the book "[How to Unspoil Your Child Fast](#)."

Have a clear idea of what you would like your kids to do, he advised, and discuss it matter-of-factly. If your kids are older, you'll probably need to approach the discussion and follow through with "greater clarity, firmness, and consistency."

If you tie allowance to chores, attach it to work that benefits the entire household. (Making their own bed doesn't count.) It can be helpful for parents to remember that the payoffs of assigning and enforcing chores, such as a sense of competency and a budding work ethic, can be significant, he said. That's true even if it requires parents to do some of the work themselves, as it likely will when kids are very small.

"When kids are really young, they want to help you rake leaves or prepare dinner," Bromfield said. "Take those opportunities to let kids help. Those moments are infused with love and connection. By the time they're older and really able to do [those tasks] competently, they've lost interest."