



River Valley Current

May 16, 2017 No. 480

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."
— Thomas Edison

School Calendar

This Week

Tuesday, May 16

Diversity Committee 6:30-8:00 pm

Wednesday, May 17

School Tour 9:00 am
8th grade field trip to a Chemistry Lab
6th grade Parent Evening

Thursday, May 18

5th grade to Pentathlon at Kimberton WS
Board Community Session 2:00-3:00 pm
Rising 1st grade Parent Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 20

EC Workday

Looking Ahead

Thursday, May 25

Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, May 25

No School – Faculty In-Service

Monday, May 29

No School – Memorial Day

Thursday, June 1

Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday-Friday, June 2-9

8th Grade Class Trip to Kroka

How to Contact Us

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

There will be one last Parent Council meeting Wednesday, June 7th at 2:00 pm at the Homestead



The time is now!
Order your
2017
Yearbook

Order yours by **May 17th** for **\$35!**
We are only doing **ONE** run this year
so drop your form
in the folder on the office door today!

SCHOOL PHYSICALS, DENTAL EXAMS & NEW PA IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Please schedule now so that everything is in place for the upcoming school year! All forms are attached to this week's CURRENT.

Physicals are needed for Kindergarteners, 1st graders and 6th graders.

Dental exams are needed for Kindergarteners, 3rd and 7th graders. If your child missed the 'needed' school year, they are still due NOW.

The State of PA has revised some of its vaccination requirements for school students:

If your child received a final dose of DTaP or polio vaccine prior to his or her 4th birthday, an additional dose is required. If your child needs that additional dose, you will have recently received email notification from RVWS. Please schedule now to have their immunizations current by the start of school in September!

Thank you everyone!

Auction Items Still Available

If you missed the auction, there are still spots left in some of the Unique Experiences offered by members of the RVWS Community.

You can still take part, purchase your spot here -

<https://mobilebid.greatergiving.com/r/index.php?sl=rivwsauction&s=&cat=reset&str=350>

- Amy & Bill Nyberg are hosting an evening of fun & food in a Dutch oven over a camp fire. \$20 per person.
- Join Rebecca Arnold for her altered Book Workshop. \$50 per person.
- Have some fun learning to Salsa and Merengue with the Schillings and Candelos. \$60 per couple.
- You can also learn to ferment with RVWS gardener, Melissa Goldstein.
- Have some fun at the 4th Annual RVWS Farm to Table Dinner hosted by the Kovachs.
- Spend the night playing games with the 6th grade.
- Enjoy conversation and Pakistani hors d'oeuvres with the Ozairs.
- Gain some knowledge on Pet first aid at Doylestown Veterinary Hospital.

And there are also still items available. Donations to the scholarship fund as well as the fine arts program are also gladly accepted.

Bidding Deadline: May 31st

CLASS OF 2023
FARM TRIP FUNDRAISER

YOUTH T-SHIRTS ~ \$12
ADULT T-SHIRTS ~ \$15

DROP YOUR ORDER FORM
 IN THE FOLDER ON THE
 DOOR
 OR ...



SEE US AT THE TABLE IN
 THE LOBBY AT DROP OFF
 OR PICK UP THIS FRIDAY!
 ORDERS DUE BY 5/19

An order form can be found at the end of the Current.

Orders are due Friday, May 19th.

From Administration

Link to RVWS Videos

Hilary Murphy has been creating videos in classrooms and at school events. To see them, go to:

<https://vimeo.com/217324445>

Lost & Found

It's time to empty our Lost and Found once again. Please take what is yours by Thursday and take what you can use on Friday. After that items will be donated.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Drama

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Math

Fourth Grade – Language Arts/Grammar

Fifth Grade – Botany/Pentathlon

Sixth Grade – Drama

Seventh Grade – History – Renaissance/Reformation

Eighth Grade – Chemistry

Join the 8th Grade and Sign up for a 5K in Hellertown

Saturday May 20th at 8:30am. This is the link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Hellertown/FinishTheFight5K>
 Group name is River Valley Waldorf School. In Honor of Amanda Blanco.

From the Board

RVWS Community Sessions

It is important that school leadership connects with the community to share plans, update progress, and gain input on the challenges that face the school as we chart our course for the next 10 years. The Board of Trustees has scheduled community sessions between now and the end of the school year to create this opportunity.

Dates:

Thursday, May 18, 2:00-3:00 PM

Tuesday, May 23, 2:00-3:00 PM

Thursday, June 1, 6:30-7:30 PM

Topics:

Each session will be about an hour with about 30 minutes of material and 30 minutes for discussion. Topics include: Sustaining the school: financial performance; Status of campus renewal project and capital Campaign; Administration update; Future directions and priorities for curriculum development; Fundraising update.

From the Community

Camping gear request

If anyone would be willing to lend these items, I will guarantee their return or replacement. Men's wool long underwear (size medium), 15 degree sleeping bag. Thanks, Melanie 215-280-3154

Network Chiropractor Extraordinaire

Hello friends! Dr. Renee Sexton, Chiropractor, will hold sessions at 3163 Main St, Springtown, PA on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 4-6:30 PM. Please RSVP to Rose Litschauer asap! 610-570-7408. Adults \$50.00, Kids \$25.

Quilting Help Needed

If you're a seamstress or quilter with time on your hands, I need your help to build a simple quilt. Too many ideas, not enough time. We'll discuss terms. Chellie Bader michelle@smorgasb.org or 617-501-7517.

Gardening Help Needed

Chellie & David Bader (Noa, G8 & Faye, G4) are looking for maintenance help with vegetable and ornamental gardens this year. Some design work might be called for. We're in Erwinna. Please contact Chellie: michelle@smorgasb.org or 617-501-7517.

House for Sale in Milford

Waldorf family is selling their 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home in Milford. If you know anyone looking please share the link. Thank you!

https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/23-Walnut-St-Milford-NJ-08848/38852406_zpid

Yard Help Needed

Former RVWS parent is looking for a student or 2 to do some yard cleanup work. Paying \$10/hr. I could pick you up from school at dismissal if that works.

Call Andy Wander at 610 847-5947, or email at andywander@yahoo.com.

MUSIC for your Child

RVWS alumnus and currently Berklee College of Music student, Kris Ramakrishna, is offering Guitar lessons (beginners to advanced, all styles), Music theory and music history, Introduction to composition, Song writing with professional software. From mid-May to mid-August at your house or ours in Riegelsville. Reasonable rates! For more information please email stramak@aol.com or call 610 749 2690.

Free Used Wooden Swing Set

Two swings, a trapeze, a slide and an awning over the raised play area. Contact Kim 908-310-5613.

Free to good chickens!

Small moveable chicken coop. Contact Alison 646-942-3451

Teen/Young Adult Panel Discussion: Alternative Educational Paths

Hear current and past members of The Learning Cooperatives share their experiences of living and learning without school, including college and career. Teens welcome!

Tues May 30, 7:00-8:30pm, Flemington, NJ
www.RaritanLearningCooperative.org - Accepting applications for Fall 2017!

Salsa & Merengue Classes

"As easy as one step forward and one back"

May 18 6:00 to 8:00 PM & May 25 6:00 to 8:00PM

This is an introductory class to Salsa and Merengue where we will give you the tools to be able to launch yourself on the dance floor and explore the basics. We want it to be more like a get together to learn something new type of experience rather than a strict "one, two, and three" type of class. And we will bring some Latino treats. No Fancy moves... Well... One or two fancy moves...

No special clothing required. Come alone or with a partner.

- Let's talk about Salsa
- Just follow the rhythm
- Let's get in touch with our hips... Yea they exist!
- Finding out we have two feet!!!
- Face your partner
- Let's dance!!!

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 (www.stokke.com)
- Christmas tree (used only once): Holiday Living 7.5 ft Pre-Lit Englewood Pine Tree

Interested? Please contact Piergiorgio, Oscar's dad at 646 830 9250 or pgv.pier@gmail.com

Peaceable Kingdom Conference

May 20, 2017, 8:30am – 3:00pm

Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse,
5684 Old York Road (Rt 202/263), Lahaska, PA 18902

Workshops include: Re-Wilding Our Hearts: A Path to Peace, Speaking Kindly About Animals, Increasing Reliance on Plant-Based Food, Being Kind to Earth and Its Inhabitants, Exploring the Bon Between People & Animals and Why compassion for All Beings is Fundamental to Our Spiritual Beliefs.

Fee: \$20. To register, contact Karen Winkler at karenwinkler612@hotmail.com.

Fresh Connect Bucks County – Mobile Farmer's Market

Fresh Produce at NO COST. Two pick-up locations in Bucks County, same time and place RAIN or SHINE
Pick-up Time and Place: Every Friday in Bristol, beginning April 21 at 12pm, Bristol Campus of Bucks Co. Comm. College, 1304 Veterans Hwy, Bristol, PA 19007
Every Thursday in Ottsville, beginning May 18 at 11am in Ottsville, Intersection of 611 & 412, Ottsville, PA 18942
For more info visit BCOC.org or call 215.345.8175

Erwinna 1 BR Country Apartment for Rent

Available July 15th. 1 BR, private drive, private entrance and parking. Includes all utilities, washer/dryer, internet access, full attic storage. 1 month security - Rent \$1250 (negotiable) – 1 year lease. Prior tenant references available. Call 908-268-2122 or email 4rent.in.erwinna@gmail.com

If you are interested speak with Tara Bowers (Alice's mom in 3rd grade) 908-674-2772.

Muck and Gold Spring into Summer Happenings

Muck and Gold (aka Christine Bodwitch, mother of Loie in 3rd grade and clown from Parent Stage) has all sorts of fun things coming up:

Opening to Joy - Playshop for adults
Camp Muck and Gold - Movement and Art for ages 8-12 year olds
Homebody Wisdom (or Laugh Your Head Off) classes

www.muckandgold.com for details and registration

Happenings at Yoga Loka

We are moving!

Yoga Loka is moving to 23 Race Street in the heart of Frenchtown. (Classes will begin operating at the new location after Monday, 4/24.) An opening reception and open house is being planned for Memorial Day weekend. (Please check the website for details).

A special for new students will be offered from opening day until the open house. If you have never attended classes at Yoga Loka before you can purchase a class block for 10% less than listed prices. If you come in with a friend to purchase, each of you can take an additional 5% off your block. With the new first floor location Yoga Loka will be offering more classes for people with limitations such as chair yoga and therapeutic yoga. Also watch for the opportunity to purchase yoga related items at the yoga boutique. Yoga Loka has been offering yoga classes in Frenchtown since 1999.

Free Introduction to Yoga Class

Interested in Yoga but don't know how to start? Begin with this free introduction class! Bring your bodies, just as they are, your curiosity and a bottle of water. Wear comfortable clothing. We have everything else you need. Sunday 6/4, 1:00-2:00 pm, no charge! Bring a friend!

Other events at Yoga Loka:

Yin Yoga with Sally Saenz - Sunday May 21st, 3:00-5:00 pm

Stress Management Series with TRE (Tension and Trauma Reducing Exercises) will be held on Thursday evenings, 6:00-6:45 pm with Bonnie on 5/11, 18 and 25th.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YogaLokaNJ/> Website: <http://www.yoga-loka.com/>

Mayfaire!



YEARBOOK ~ YEARBOOK ~ YEARBOOK

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____ # OF BOOKS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ PHONE: _____

Preorder your yearbook by **May 17th for only **\$35!**
 We are only doing **ONE RUN** this year
 so drop your order in the folder by the door today!**

T-shirt Order Form	
Youth ~ \$12	Girls ~ \$12
Color: Navy Size: ___ XS ___ S ___ M ___ L	Color: Blue Size: ___ XS ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL
Color: Forest Green Size: ___ XS ___ S ___ M ___ L	Color: Purple Size: ___ XS ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL
Mens ~ \$15	Womens ~ \$15
Color: Navy Size: ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL	Color: Blue Size: ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL
Color: Forest Green Size: ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL	Color: Purple Size: ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL
Name: _____	
Phone: _____ Amount Encl: _____	

From The Atlantic

When Success Leads to Failure

The pressure to achieve academically is a crime against learning.

By Jessica Lahey

I've known the mother sitting in front of me at this parent-teacher conference for years, and we have been through a lot together. I have taught three of her children, and I like to think we've even become friends during our time together. She's a conscientious mother who obviously loves her children with all of her heart. I've always been honest with her about their strengths and weaknesses, and I think she trusts me to tell her the truth. But when she hits me with the concern that's been bothering her for a while, all I can do is nod, and stall for time.

"Marianna's grades are fine; I'm not worried about that, but she just doesn't seem to love learning anymore."

Above all else, we taught her to fear failure. That fear is what has destroyed her love of learning.

She's absolutely right. I'd noticed the same thing about her daughter over the previous two or three years I'd been her middle school English, Latin, and writing teacher, and I have an answer, right there on the tip of my tongue, for what has gone wrong. Yet I'm torn between my responsibility to help Marianna and the knowledge that what I have to say is a truth I'm not sure this mother is ready to hear.

The truth—for this parent and so many others—is this: Her child has sacrificed her natural curiosity and love of learning at the altar of achievement, and it's our fault. Marianna's parents, her teachers, society at large—we are all implicated in this crime against learning. From her first day of school, we pointed her toward that altar and trained her to measure her progress by means of points, scores, and awards. We taught Marianna that her potential is tied to her intellect, and that her intellect is more important than her character. We taught her to come home proudly bearing As, championship trophies, and college acceptances, and we inadvertently taught her that we don't really care how she obtains them. We taught her to protect her academic and extracurricular perfection at all costs and that it's better to quit when things get challenging rather than risk marring that perfect record. Above all else, we taught her to fear failure. That fear is what has destroyed her love of learning.

I look at this mother with concern on her face, her eager pencil poised to write down my words of wisdom. I struggle to find a gentle way to explain that the daily nagging about points and grades both perpetuates Marianna's dependence on her mother's tendency to problem-solve and intervene on her behalf, and teaches her that external rewards are far more important than the effort Marianna invests in her education. Marianna is so concerned with pleasing her parents that the love she used to feel for learning has been crowded out by her craving for their validation.

This mother's hovering comes from a place of love—that's clear. She wants the world for her children, and yet the very things she's doing to encourage the sort of achievement she feels will help them secure happiness and honors may be undermining their future success.

Marianna is very smart and high-achieving, and her mother reminds her of that on a daily basis. However, Marianna does not get praised for the diligence and effort she puts into sticking with a hard math problem or a convoluted scientific inquiry. If that answer at the end of the page is wrong, or if she arrives at a dead end in her research, she has failed—no matter what she has learned from her struggle. And contrary to what she may believe, in these more difficult situations she is learning. She learns to be creative in her problem-solving. She learns diligence. She learns self-control and perseverance. But because she is scared to death of failing, she has started to take fewer intellectual risks. She has trouble writing rough drafts and she doesn't like to hypothesize or think out loud in class. She knows that if she tries something challenging or new, and fails, that failure will be hard evidence that she's not as smart as everyone keeps telling her she is. Better to be safe. Is that what we want? Kids who get straight As but hate learning? Kids who achieve academically, but are too afraid to take leaps into the unknown?

Marianna's mother was extremely successful in school and in business, and she knows the value of that hard work in her own life. Her mother allowed her to fail and play and learn for the sake of learning, but now that she's parenting her own child, she's lost sight of the value of struggle. She is too worried about Marianna's

future achievements to allow her daughter to work through the obstacles in her path. She wants to give Marianna everything and yet she forgets that her best childhood experiences likely arose from the thrill of facing challenge, from the moments she lost herself in the trying and, when she failed, trying again to accomplish something all on her own, simply for the adventure and pleasure inherent in learning something new.

Is that what we want? Kids who get straight As but hate learning?

I know this mom because she's just like me. And telling her the truth is hard both because I'm afraid she'll get defensive and angry, and because it means I have to cop to all the same mistakes in my own parenting. Maybe it's time to share some truths with her as I figure out where I went astray, and together we can help our kids rediscover their intellectual bravery, their enthusiasm for learning, and the resilience they need in order to grow into independent, competent adults. With a little luck, they will look back on their childhood and thank us; not just for our unwavering love, but for our willingness to put their long-term developmental and emotional needs before their short-term happiness. For our willingness to let their lives be just a little bit harder today so they will know how to face hardship tomorrow.

I take a deep breath, cross my fingers, and tell her the truth.