



# River Valley Current

May 26, 2015 No. 414

*"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## School Calendar

### This Week

#### Thursday, May 28

1<sup>st</sup> grade play 5:30 pm

#### Saturday, May 30

RVWS Auction! 6:00-11:30 pm

### Looking Ahead

#### Monday, June 1

4<sup>th</sup> grade to Canal Museum

#### Mon., June 1-Wed., June 3

6<sup>th</sup> grade class trip

#### Thursday, June 4

2<sup>nd</sup> grade planting trip

#### Mon., June 8-Wed., June 10

4<sup>th</sup> grade class trip

#### Wednesday, June 10

Last Day of Early Childhood

#### Friday, June 12

Last Day of Grade School  
Rose Ceremony - Field Day

#### Saturday, June 13

Graduation 10:30 am -12:30 pm

### How to Contact Us

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

## Beware of Ticks

It's that time of year – ticks are everywhere.

When you come in from outside at school or at home, check yourself and your children carefully. There seems to be a bumper crop this year so please, take precautions.

## June Lunch Menu

The lunch menu for June is attached to this week's Current. Deadline for ordering is Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

## THIS SATURDAY- IT'S YOUR AUCTION GALA!

Just four more days until your 19<sup>th</sup> Annual River Valley Waldorf School Auction Gala. The Auction Team has brought together some truly terrific items, wonderful food by Nellie Rae's and outstanding entertainment from Kira Willey, Kevin O'Hara, Amanda Kelly and Noah Jarrett... the last piece of the puzzle is YOU! Please come out with your friends and family and help us celebrate the achievements of this past school year as we remind ourselves of the goodness of our mission and this journey we share with our peers and children.

**Please RSVP NOW to Tracy Fly at [tlkf@me.com](mailto:tlkf@me.com)**

**We will be pre selling group items this week at school for those of you who can not make it on Saturday night... including this year's new addition, Teacher Shout Outs.** Want to send a special message to your favorite teacher AND donate to the school? Buy a Teacher Shout Out to be read during the Auction Saturday night and let them know that they are loved.

Don't forget our amazing one-item online auction for a Private Luncheon for Two at Lovin' Oven with Elizabeth Gilbert including a piece of original henna body art by Catherine Lent!

For full details and to bid go to:

<https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/item/b4gitem.action?id=241793755&query.query=elizabeth+gilbert+>

If you are able to volunteer to help in some small way on Saturday night, please email Tracy Fly at [tlkf@me.com](mailto:tlkf@me.com)

And so as we leave you until Saturday, here is just a short list of the Auction Committee's favorite items that you'll find on the 30<sup>th</sup>:

Seventh Grade Shadow Puppet Theater  
Design Your Own oWowcow Flavor  
Firetruck Ride to School  
Ocean Fishing Trip with Tripp Hann  
Instant Wine Cellar from the Board of Trustees  
Pakistani Cooking with Saba Ozair  
Second Grade Felted Saint Wall Hanging  
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn with Ron Ferguson  
Euphoria Gift Basket  
Sixth Grade Waldorf Curriculum Shadowbox  
Farm to Table Kitchen Challenge with the Kovachs  
Moon Room Plant Dyed Felted Wool Table Runner  
The Amazing Race  
Field Day of Shooting and Lunch with Board President Will Carpenter  
Eight Grade Felt Covered Book of Impressions of the River Valley  
VIP Parking for Next School Year  
Second Grade Monthly Meals from Around the World for One Year  
Salsa Canning with Clare Wargaski  
First Grade Nature Watercolors  
Parenting Workshop with Pete Ryan  
Fourth Grade Norse Rune Embroidered Tote Bag  
Tennis with Sami Rahman  
Third Grade Framed Original Folk Art  
Be a Frenchtown Local for a Weekend with Bonnie and Warren

## From Administration

### Yearbooks

It's not too late to order a yearbook if you haven't already. The price will be over \$30 and will be determined based on the number of orders we have. Please fill out an order form and put it in the folder on the office door if you would like to order.

### COMMUNITY TREEHOUSE

The Community Treehouse is a new online space linking up the Steiner Waldorf community worldwide. Use the chat forums to share information and discuss issues, read the latest Waldorf news streamed from Waldorf organizations across the world, arrange house exchanges, couch surfing trips, working holidays and youth exchanges within the worldwide Waldorf community using our travel service.

You are already part of a huge community, with nearly 4,000 Steiner Waldorf initiatives spread over 61 countries, now join us online to form global connections and embrace the wider Waldorf world! We can learn so much from each other and help each other with so many things, as well as visiting each other's homes and supporting our young people to explore this wide world safely. Simply go to [www.communitytreehouse.com](http://www.communitytreehouse.com) to explore.

### Ipad Found

An ipad with a turquoise cover was turned in to the office with a dead battery so we can't turn it on to find out to whom it belongs. If it is yours, please come to the office to pick it up.

### Something you Might Not Know about Charlene Chapman

Charlene Chapman, whom most of you know as our bookkeeper, is also a documentary filmmaker along with her husband, Jeffrey. One of their documentaries has been accepted and will screen at the New Hope Film Festival on July 25 @ 4:30. A synopsis of the film is below. For more information, contact Charlene, [ginnymacjack@comcast.net](mailto:ginnymacjack@comcast.net), 267.994.1125

### I Once Was Blind Synopsis for Program Guide – New Hope Film Festival 2015

I Once Was Blind documents the transformation of a young woman as she battles for her life and independence. With humor and faith, she wrestles blindness, kidney failure, and the discovery of her new husband's addiction. After surgeries to save her kidneys fail, her brother, YouTube sensation Ed Bassmaster, is tested as a possible donor.  
Charlene Chapman – Director

### Job Postings

We are looking for two part-time teachers for next year. If you or anyone you know is interested, please let Robbie or Brian know.

#### Seeking Part-Time Movement Teacher

River Valley Waldorf School is seeking a part-time Movement/ Games Teacher for the 2015-16 school year. The position begins in September, 2015 and teaches games and developmental movement specific to the Waldorf curriculum. The position is for teaching ten periods per week and is flexible as to lower or upper grade school classes. The ideal candidate will have enthusiasm for the importance of movement in education, have teaching experience in the field, and have begun or completed a training program in Spatial Dynamics and/or Waldorf Education.

#### Part-time Gardener, Starting August 2015

Duties include, but are not limited to, maintenance and upkeep of garden, annual vegetable growing, caring for perennial edibles, and managing the gardening program with River Valley Waldorf School faculty. An understanding of Waldorf Education and curriculum required, teaching experience needed, knowledge of Biodynamic gardening and permaculture a plus.

Interested applicants should submit resume and references by email: [info@rivervalley.school.org](mailto:info@rivervalley.school.org)

## From the Faculty

### WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Language Arts

Second Grade: Drama

Third Grade: Language Arts and Review

Fourth Grade: Language Arts /State History/Geography

Fifth Grade: Botany

Sixth Grade: Geometry

Seventh Grade: Wish, Wonder, and Surprise

Eighth Grade: Class Trip

## Donations requested for EC Woodworking Corner

The Star Room Kindergarten is joyfully anticipating the completion of a woodworking corner for their classroom home! Miss Rebecca and her students are currently searching for the following items:

- Rasps (metal wood files)
- Small hammers
- Sandpaper
- Blocks
- Hand saws

And most specifically, we are hoping to have child sized saw horses built. If you or someone you know is able and willing to help in any capacity, please contact Rebecca West ([bendingbirch@gmail.com](mailto:bendingbirch@gmail.com)) for specific dimensions. All woodworking donations can be dropped off in the Star Room! Thank so very much in advance!

## From the Leadership Council

### What we are working on:

Faculty Hiring for next year along with the Hiring Committee, TDC, and Faculty.

EC programs for next year with TDC and EC faculty.

Planning and review of the Community Board meeting with the BOT.

LC Self-evaluation.

## From the Development Coordinator

### Annual Appeal Update

We are so pleased to announce that the community has shown generous support for the Annual Appeal. In the past two weeks, pledges have been received in the amount of \$7,000. Although this is an impressive number, it still leaves us short of our goal. Please join our success and make your contribution today. Donations may be dropped off in the office or mailed to the attention of the Development Committee. Please indicate that the gift is for the Annual Appeal. Thank you again for your generous support!

Stephanie Spencer,  
Development Coordinator

## Class Fundraisers

### Sound of Music DVDs

DVD orders for the Thursday Evening and Saturday Evening performances of "The Sound of Music" are being taken now through May 29th. DVDs are \$15 each, with \$7 of each sale being donated back to the school. Please use the attached order form and return the bottom portion with your payment to the DVD Orders folder on the Office door. Please contact Pat Warner-Proctor if you have any questions.

### Sound of Music Souvenirs

There are still mugs, caps and key chains available from the Sound of Music and we would love to sell them all! Keychains \$5, mugs \$15, and baseball caps \$20! Please email [louannewillard@gmail.com](mailto:louannewillard@gmail.com) if you want me to pull some aside for you!!

### Auction Babysitting

The 7th Grade auction babysitting fundraiser that was previously announced has been tabled for this year. Please let the auction committee know if this is something you would be interested in supporting next year ([auction@rivervalleysschool.org](mailto:auction@rivervalleysschool.org)). Our apologies for any inconvenience this year — but feel free to email Renell ([renell@rcn.com](mailto:renell@rcn.com)) if you need help identifying a 7th or 8th grader to make your own babysitting arrangements.

## From the Community

### **Ottsville Traditional Arts Center**

Come join us for Wednesday Night Jam Session

We host jam sessions most Wednesday evenings at 6 pm; you can view the full calendar at our website: [ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com](http://ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com).

Many of the songs we sing and tunes we play are posted here before each session so anyone who wants can come already knowing a tune or two! \$5 suggested donation!

### **SAVE the DATE!**

#### **Friday, May 29th - An OTAC FAMILY CONCERT**

Cardinal Direction Workshop & Concert!

5pm jam / workshop (\$10)

6:30pm potluck

7:30pm concert (\$10, \$5 kids under 12)

\$15 combined ticket!

*Massachusetts-based band Cardinal Direction (formerly Firefly) brings beautiful melodies and relentless energy to dance floors and listening audiences across the Northeast. Cardinal Direction is Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle, Rebecca Bosworth-Clemens on clarinet, and Jonathan Cannon on guitar. Their repertoire is drawn from the Irish, New England, and Quebecois traditions, and seamlessly mixes oldies-but-goodies with modern compositions. They take particular pleasure in playing for contra dances, where their love of the drive and flow of the dance comes across clearly in their music.*

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center, 250 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942

### **Ticks bugging You?**

The safest, most effective, and cost efficient way to keep these parasites off ourselves and our children is to make your own bug spray with the highest quality essential oils. As a doTerra wellness advocate I'm passionate about giving my children the outside time that is so essential to their development, yet keeping them safe from tick-borne illness. Visit <http://www.mydoterra.com/bridgetbrier> to purchase Certified Therapeutic Grade essential oils from your fellow River Valley Waldorf family! In addition, for the months of May and June, 5% of all proceeds will be donated to the Lyme Research Alliance in honor of Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

### **Art Classes in Riegelsville**

The Riegelsville Library's Art in the Library program continues to run through the year, offering many wonderful art classes and workshops over the summer, for children and adults. Anyone interested in knowing about upcoming classes while River Valley Waldorf School is on summer break is welcome to contact the library and ask to be included for notices via email. You can reach the library by phone 610-749-2357 or email [Riegelsville.Library@gmail.com](mailto:Riegelsville.Library@gmail.com).

### **At Yoga Loka**

**TRE group session**, Monday, May 31st

#### **One Bite at a Time - A Journey into Mindful Eating**

with Gail Seckrettar and Melissa Pickell

Sunday May 31th, 2-6 pm

#### **Informational meeting for Yoga Immersion and Trainings**

June 6th, 10:30-11:30 am

#### **Singing Bowls with Peter Olsen**

June 6th, 6-7:00 pm

For more information see the website at [www.Yoga-Loka.com](http://www.Yoga-Loka.com)

### **Housesitter Needed**

The Carpenters are looking for someone to barter house/pet sitting for a rent-free place to live in Bethlehem for part of the summer. Please let us know if you can recommend someone — [renell@rcn.com](mailto:renell@rcn.com) / 610-997-0650.

## WHENNA?

All-natural mehndi by Catherine Lent Design

May-July 2015 Schedule 908-996-7325

Check Facebook or Instagram for updates/additions/cancellations

### MAY:

wed. 20th	pulp: 11:15-4 by appointment**
thurs. 21st	moroccan henna party!! at PULP 4-8 p.m.
sunday 24th	MAPLEWOOD, NJ street fair 11 to 5*
friday. 29th	river gypsy 11-6*
saturday 30th	heart strings CLINTON, NJ: 11 to at least 6*

### JUNE:

wed. 3rd	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
fri. 5th	lovin' oven 11:30 - 6ish*
thurs. 11th	river gypsy 10 - 6ish*
wed. 17th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
thurs. 25th	river gypsy 10 - 6ish*
fri. 26th	lovin' oven 11:30 - 6ish*
sat. 27th	WRIGHTSTOWN, PA farm market 9-1*

### JULY:

wed. 1st	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
fri. 3th	lovin' oven 11:30 - 6ish*
fri. 10th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
sat. 11th	BASTILLE DAY river gypsy 10 to 6ish*
wed. 15th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
sat. 18th	lovin' oven 10:30 - 6ish*
thurs. 23th	river gypsy 10 - 6ish*
fri. 24th	pulp 11:15-4 by appointment **
thurs. 30th	pulp 10-4 by appointment **
fri. 31st	river gypsy 11:30 to 6ish*

### Free cat to a good home:

We recently moved into a space that is too small for our outdoor loving cat. She is only 2 years old and is up to date on all shots and is spayed. She would make an excellent cat for a barn as she loves to hunt! If interested please call Chris at 215-859-0610.

### Free Kitten

After a visit to the Moon Room on Friday for "show and tell" there is only one kitten left. It was raised since birth by MaryKate Sandt, a friend of Sam Rhine. If you are interested, call or email MaryKate at: 908-423-9058, msandt5287@gmail.com.

### Volunteers for Peace

Working with individuals, groups and families to plan volunteer experiences in Haiti this summer, Volunteers for Peace is a non-profit organization based in Vermont that organizes service projects all over the world. Go to their website: [www.vfp.org](http://www.vfp.org) for a full listing of projects or call 802-540-3060 for more information about the work they are doing in Haiti.

### A Family in Need

Bucks County Community College is collecting clothing for a single mom with health problems who is unable to drive and therefore providing for her two daughters has become difficult. They are collecting donations for girls size 24 months and up and girls size 8-10. If anyone has things that they would like to donate please email Mandy Reilly at [reillym@bucks.edu](mailto:reillym@bucks.edu) or text or call 908-892-0921 and she will come pick up or make other convenient arrangements.

### Looking for a Room to Rent

I am a former Waldorf teacher from Canada. My son and I would like to travel to Doylestown for two months of summer. We are looking for a place to rent for months of July and August.

My son is taking a shoe making course in Doylestown and we would appreciate anyone who could provide accommodation. My phone number is: 1-250-764-9095.

## Reduced Rate HANDLE® Assessments

Elverson, PA, June 19-25, 2015

HANDLE: Holistic Approach to Neuro-Development and Learning Efficiency

HANDLE is a multiple award winning approach that has helped thousands of people worldwide to enhance human capability from infants to senior citizens.

For the first time in the United States HANDLE Assessments are being offered at a reduced rate in a clinical Practicum. These Assessments are being offered to members of the public as part of the final Module of A HANDLE Practitioner Course. The students will do assessments and an experienced supervisor is involved in every step of the process.

Who might benefit: Individuals with the following labels, syndromes and conditions have benefited from HANDLE programs: Academic differences, Dyspraxia, Learning Difficulties, Autism, Selective Mutism, Behavioral Issues, Brain Injury, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Speech/Language difficulties, Regulation Difficulties, ADD/ADHD, Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Tourette Syndrome, and much more.

Package cost: \$995. (customarily cost is upwards of \$1500.) *Chief Supervisor & Practitioner Course Instructor: Cathy Stingley, HANDLE, Instructor & Education Coordinator of the Americas (ECA) for The HANDLE Institute. For further information please contact, Rose Litschauer 610-570-7408 rgraham21@verizon.net, or Cathy Stingley. To apply for a Practicum Assessment please contact Instructor at 907-235-6226 or handleofhomer@yahoo.com*

## Core Principles of Waldorf Education

### Summer Adult Course Offering - Waldorf School of Princeton

#### Foundation Studies Program

July 15 & 17 and July 20 & 22 - 8:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. (2nd camp session, same hours. Cost \$450)

What are intrinsic qualities and methods of Waldorf Education?

The course will focus on the seven Core Principles of Waldorf Education., developed by The Pedagogical Section Council of North America. As Waldorf education moves around the world, it becomes imperative that schools and individual teachers develop their curriculum out of these principles rather than seeing the curriculum as a recipe for imitation. The artistic work in this course will give participants a view into how these experiences speak to children in their phases of child development.

Created as:

- A continuing education for Waldorf teachers of all disciplines.
- An opportunity for teachers in other schools to incorporate Waldorf methodology.
- An opportunity for parents to gain a greater understanding of Waldorf education
- Personal development for adults in relationship with children

*Elan Leibner will lecture on the Core Principles. Mr. Leibner was a teacher at the Waldorf School of Princeton for 18 years. He is presently the chair of the Pedagogical Section of North America and travels nationally as a mentor and evaluator of Waldorf teachers and faculties. He has been the Pedagogical Director the Foundation Studies Program in Princeton for 13 years.*

*Tertia Gale will offer Eurythmy. Ms Gale taught Eurythmy at the Waldorf School of Princeton for 20 years and was one of the founding teachers of the school. She has continued to teach in the Foundation Studies Program for the past 13 years.*

*Pamela Shafer will offer artistic work in painting, drawing, and sculpture. Ms. Shafer is the Sculpture and Fine Arts teacher at the Waldorf School of Princeton and facilitates the Foundation Studies Program.*

## The Art of Equitation

Jen Diedrich (mom of Addison, 3rd grade) is offering a riding lesson program individually designed for each rider's expectations, goals & dreams with the 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 both in and out of the arena, horse shows and camp offered. Reach Jen anytime (215) 603-9999 or catch her at pickup.

## Editor's Note:

Once again, we have two articles this week to take advantage of all of the wonderful information that is coming our way. The article on languages was sent to us from our very own language teachers, Grisselle Laborde and Peter Ray.

From the Washington Post

## Why Kids are Getting More Aggressive on the Playground

By Angela Hanscom

Tag...a simple game of tag. Seems innocent enough. But is it? Not according to many teachers.

Kids are starting to hit with such force that they often end up whacking their opponent across the back in a monstrous slap. I've seen this myself many times. "Ouch!" one kid cries, now on their hands and knees and fighting off tears. "Don't hit so hard!" they yell up at the child standing over them. Often, you hear the other child whine, "I didn't mean too..." Many times the act seems unintentional, although painful for the victim nonetheless. Tag is now becoming such an issue that schools are starting to ban this once beloved game.

In the fall of 2013, the problem of banning the childhood game hit a little too close to home. At a local New Hampshire school, tag was no longer a reality for many children. A classic game that was cherished through the ages was dismissed due to safety concerns. Parents and children were confused and some were outraged. Headlines stated everything from, "Banning Tag is Dumb" to "More Schools Banning Tag because of Injuries." Curious, I started interviewing teachers in Maine and New Hampshire about what they were seeing at recess time.

One teacher said, "Kids are becoming more aggressive. When they play games like tag, they push with great force, often hurting the other child. We had to implement a 'two-finger' touch rule, so that kids couldn't push so hard." Another teacher that had been around for 30 years, said she had seen an increase in aggressive behavior as well. "They can't seem to keep their hands off each other! Kids are always getting hurt." A local principal stated that tag had become such a problem that they had to get creative. They gave the children foam noodles to "tag" the other children with and avoid actual contact with the hands.

The problem? Due to less time in active play these days, children are not developing the senses in their joints and muscles (proprioceptive sense) like they used to. In the past, it was more common for children to help with the outdoor chores. They would assist with raking leaves, shoveling the snow, and would even earn money by mowing lawns in their neighborhood. They'd also play for hours outside – moving heavy rocks to build a dam, scaling trees to new heights, and digging moats in the dirt. All of this "heavy work" helped children to develop a strong and healthy proprioceptive system.

Pediatric occupational therapists often prescribe "heavy work" to young children who have trouble with their proprioceptive sense. This usually consists of anything that gives weighted input to the joints and muscles, such as pulling a wagon that is loaded with bricks, carrying grocery bags, and digging in the garden. These are things that children would be naturally getting if they spent a considerable amount of time outside.

Due to the busy schedules of today, children often don't have hours to explore the outdoors, to help with the outside chores, or even do small jobs that require manual labor. Therefore, many children don't have the same opportunities to fully develop and fine-tune the senses in the joints and muscles. As a result, more and more children are starting to have trouble regulating how much force to use when pushing and pulling and even interacting with the objects and people around them.

This is why we are seeing children hit with too much force during a game of tag. Their senses are not quite working right – all because they are not engaged in an adequate amount of active play and movement on a regular basis.

What do the adults do?

When we see a problem with a game of tag or any other game for that reason – we take it away. Understandably, we don't want children to get hurt. However, before we go and start banning everything, we should really try to understand why this is happening.

If children are getting more aggressive on a larger scale – there has got to be a good reason for it. It isn't necessarily because children have become incompetent of playing games "safely" or even that they are becoming mean-spirited. There is actually a biological reason for it. Our job as the adults is to seek that knowledge and to fix the underlying problem.

Taking away tag is like putting a Band-aid over a deeper issue. Let's fix the deeper issue.

From The Independent, London, England

## **How the Language you Speak Changes your View of the World**

By Panos Athanasopoulos

Bilinguals get all the perks. Better job prospects, a cognitive boost and even protection against dementia. Now new research shows that they can also view the world in different ways depending on the specific language they are operating in.

The past 15 years have witnessed an overwhelming amount of research on the bilingual mind, with the majority of the evidence pointing to the tangible advantages of using more than one language. Going back and forth between languages appears to be a kind of brain training, pushing your brain to be flexible.

Just as regular exercise gives your body some biological benefits, mentally controlling two or more languages gives your brain cognitive benefits. This mental flexibility pays big dividends especially later in life: the typical signs of cognitive ageing occur later in bilinguals – and the onset of age-related degenerative disorders such as dementia or Alzheimer's are delayed in bilinguals by up to five years.

### **Germans know where they're going**

In research we recently published in *Psychological Science*, we studied German-English bilinguals and monolinguals to find out how different language patterns affected how they reacted in experiments.

We showed German-English bilinguals video clips of events with a motion in them, such as a woman walking towards a car or a man cycling towards the supermarket and then asked them to describe the scenes.

When you give a scene like that to a monolingual German speaker they will tend to describe the action but also the goal of the action. So they would tend to say "A woman walks towards her car" or "a man cycles towards the supermarket". English monolingual speakers would simply describe those scenes as "A woman is walking" or "a man is cycling", without mentioning the goal of the action.

The worldview assumed by German speakers is a holistic one – they tend to look at the event as a whole – whereas English speakers tend to zoom in on the event and focus only on the action.

The linguistic basis of this tendency appears to be rooted in the way different grammatical tool kits situated actions in time. English requires its speakers to grammatically mark events that are ongoing, by obligatorily applying the –ing morpheme: "I am playing the piano and I cannot come to the phone" or "I was playing the piano when the phone rang". German doesn't have this feature.

Research with second language users shows a relationship between linguistic proficiency in such grammatical constructions and the frequency with which speakers mention the goals of events.

In our study we also found that these cross-linguistic differences extend beyond language usage itself, to nonverbal categorisation of events. We asked English and German monolinguals to watch a series of video clips that showed people walking, biking, running, or driving. In each set of three videos, we asked subjects to decide whether a scene with an ambiguous goal (a woman walks down a road toward a parked car) was more similar to a clearly goal-oriented scene (a woman walks into a building) or a scene with no goal (a woman walks down a country lane).

German monolinguals matched ambiguous scenes with goal-oriented scenes more frequently than English monolinguals did. This difference mirrors the one found for language usage: German speakers are more likely to focus on possible outcomes of people's actions, but English speakers pay more attention to the action itself.

### **Switch languages, change perspective**

When it came to bilingual speakers, they seemed to switch between these perspectives based on the language context they were given the task in. We found that Germans fluent in English were just as goal-focused as any other native speaker when tested in German in their home country. But a similar group of German-English bilinguals tested in English in the United Kingdom were just as action-focused as native English speakers.

*(Continued on next page.)*

In another group of German-English bilinguals, we kept one language in the forefront of their minds during the video-matching task by making participants repeat strings of numbers out loud in either English or German. Distracting one language seemed to automatically bring the influence of the other language to the fore.

When we “blocked” English, the bilinguals acted like typical Germans and saw ambiguous videos as more goal-oriented. With German blocked, bilingual subjects acted like English speakers and matched ambiguous and open-ended scenes. When we surprised subjects by switching the language of the distracting numbers halfway through the experiment, the subjects’ focus on goals versus process switched right along with it.

These findings are in line with other research showing distinct behaviour in bilinguals depending on the language of operation. Israeli Arabs are more likely to associate Arab names such as Ahmed and Samir with positive words in an Arabic language context than in a Hebrew one, for example.

People self-report that they feel like a different person when using their different languages and that expressing certain emotions carries different emotional resonance depending on the language they are using.

When judging risk, bilinguals also tend to make more rational economic decisions in a second language. In contrast to one’s first language, it tends to lack the deep-seated, misleading affective biases that unduly influence how risks and benefits are perceived. So the language you speak in really can affect the way you think.

