

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, May 31

Music Concert

2:00 pm

Friday, June 1 – Saturday, June 9

8th Grade Class Trip

Looking Ahead

Monday, June 4 - Friday, June 8

7th Grade Class Trip

Thursday, June 7

4th Grade Trip to Canal Day in Easton

Thursday-Friday, June 7 & 8

3rd Grade Class Trip

Thursday, June 14

EC last day of school picnic

11:30am-1:00 pm

Friday, June 15

Rose Ceremony

9:00 am

Field Day

Grades last day of school - Early Dismissal

1:00 pm

Saturday, June 16

Graduation

10:00 am

How to Contact Us

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Smoothies and Eggs!

Support the 2nd grade!

For the next 3 Tuesdays we will be selling
Organic Berry Smoothies & Eggs!!!

Fairy Berry Smoothies- \$2

Fresh, Organic, Free Range Eggs, grown by
2nd grade families- \$5/doz

Next Year's Calendar

A working draft of next year's calendar is
attached to this week's Current.

Minor adjustments may be made but
the start and end date and
vacations will not change.



Grade School Music Concert Thursday, May 31st at 2 pm

A Message from Ms. Sheldon

I'm really excited for the End-of-the-Year Music Concert we'll be presenting May 31! It's on a Thursday, and the performance will start in the APR at 2:00 pm. I hope you can find a way to put this event in your busy schedules and come see the last concert of the school year...it will feature 3rd Grade and up, as well as the Choruses and the Orchestra. I'm so proud of our kids and I can't wait for you to hear them!

Last Days of School

The last day of school for **Early Childhood** is Thursday, June 14th. There will be a potluck picnic on the back playground from 11:30 am -1:00 pm. Check with your teacher for more details.

On Friday, June 15th, the **Grade School** will hold its annual Rose Ceremony at 9:00 am to honor and celebrate our graduates. Each of the grades will be performing as a gift for the 8th graders. Parents and friends are welcome to attend. This will be followed by Field Day and an early dismissal at 1:00 pm.

The Class of 2018 invites you to their Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 16th at 10 am. All are welcome.



From Administration

Woolies Fundraiser from Nova Naturals

As you know, wool is a wonderful, natural fiber for keeping children cozy. Nova Naturals offers organic Merino woolies from Ruskovilla as a first layer for warmth as well as Ruskovilla's wool/silk blend for a softer fabric that works well in milder climates.

If you order woolies by June 30th, you will receive a 10% discount and River Valley will receive a 10% donation. Just use this code: PRERIVERVAL and go to: <https://www.novanatural.com/school-offers>, to place your order. Pre-ordered woolies will arrive in August. Only natural colors are available for this offer.

Peter Pan T-shirts & Totes

FIRE SALE - \$10 each. Contact Cat Miles (cmiles@broadbent.com) if you are interested.

2018 RVWS ALUMNI PHOTO

Immediately following this year's Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 16, the Alumni Outreach Committee invites all returning Alumni to take a group photo featuring our newest graduates of the Class of 2018. Please help spread the word.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is overflowing. You will find everything displayed on tables in the lobby. On Wednesday and Thursday take what is yours and on Friday, take what you can use.

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/>

A Message from Grandy's Kitchen

Dear River Valley Community,

As you know, Grandy's Kitchen is closing up shop after this year. To allow us time to clean and pack up the kitchen before starting our next employment we will not be offering lunches in June.

Joanna and I would like to thank everyone for the love and support you have shown us over the years. It has been our great pleasure to feed your children and watch them grow and develop from little ones that could barely see over the counter into the poised young people they are today!

We wish all of you health and happiness in the coming years.

Love,
Lynne and Joanna Allbaugh
Grandy's Kitchen

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic

Second Grade – Review

Third Grade – Math/Class Play

Fourth Grade – Math

Fifth Grade – Botany

Sixth Grade – Africa

Seventh Grade – Physiology

Eighth Grade – Physiology

Annual Appeal Classroom Challenge

Who will win \$100 for a classroom wish list item??

The competition is heating up as donations pour in from the AMAZING River Valley Community

A great big THANK YOU for all the contributions received so far!

Remember there is still time to reach 100% participation and win a cash prize for your class!!
Please make your donation to the Annual Appeal today!



Donations per Class

Class	Number of Donations
1st Grade	6
2nd Grade	12
3rd Grade	10
4th Grade	11
5th Grade	9
6th Grade	6
7th Grade	6
8th Grade	3

From the Community

Coming to Frenchtown, NJ soon!

Men's upcycle/consignment store. Now accepting donations of gently used Men's clothing, shoes, hats and accessories. Watches in working condition will be accepted too. Donations can be delivered to 26 Bridge Street, Frenchtown, NJ beginning June 9, 2018. To make a delivery appointment or for more information please email thejuntioemporium@gmail.com.

House for Sale

Come live right in the center of the wonderful Frenchtown community (only a 10 min drive to RVWS) Beautiful all newly done open floor plan, modern low maintenance house for sale half a block from the river (not in a flood zone). We love our house and community, we are relocating for work. If you are interested contact Leah (normaandhenry@gmail.com)

Moving Sale

On the occasion of our relocation to Europe and the sale of our house in NJ, we are selling some of our furniture/items (e.g. sofas, arm chairs, tables, office furniture, changing table, beds, cupboards, bedside tables, lamps, cabinets, toys, plants, bookshelf, shelves, elliptical, etc.). If you are interested, please contact Piergiorgio, Oscar's dad at pgv.pier@gmail.com. The house will be emptied by the end of May.

From Artyard

The Memory Palace, Frenchtown at 150ish, an exhibit built by former RVWS parent extraordinaire, Ulla Warchol, will be at Artyard through July 29th. The exhibit was conceived and curated by Artyard founder Jill Kearney and Gallery Director, Lucinda Warchol (RVWS Class of 2007)

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. This exhibition also includes Unearthed, a publically sourced library of found objects collected by the local community and excavated in, near or around the Delaware River.

Upcoming in June:

Saturday, June 2nd – 7:30 PM

ArtYard is pleased to present a screening of *The Goddess*, a 1934 Chinese silent film, accompanied by the score composed by Min Xiao-Fen. The performance features guitarist Rez Abbasi and Min Xiao-Fen singing and playing multiple Chinese instruments.

Saturday, June 9th & Sunday, June 10th – 7:30 PM

We are excited to announce the world premiere of a one-act chamber opera *In a Grove* with music and libretto by Richard McIntyre. The opera will be followed by a screening of Akira Kurosawa's classic 1950 film *Rashomon*.

Saturday, June 23rd – 7:30 PM

Please join us for a rare screening of the musical documentary *Our Latin Thing*, followed by a conversation with Oscar-winning documentary film director, producer, cinematographer, and editor, Leon Gast.

Friday, June 29th, 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Please join us for *CRANKS UNEARTHED*, an evening of performance and storytelling by local artists, poets, and musicians from the Delaware River community. This event is part of our exhibition specific programming for *The Memory Palace: Frenchtown at 150ish*. We invited members of the local community to take this theme of "unearthed" and use it to inspire or inform a banner or cranky, both precinematic storytelling devices that are derived from the ancient storytelling tradition *Canastoria*, dating back to 5th century India. This art form was more recently revived by the Bread and Puppet Theater based in Glover, Vermont. Please visit our website to see a video of recent performances held at ArtYard.

From Newsener.com via waldorfeducation.org

Latest Research Reveals the More you Hug your Kids – the Smarter they Get

Are you the kind of parent that's always hugging your kids? If the answer is yes then don't stop doing what you're doing.

According to new research, physical affection during a baby's development period is even more important than we thought. The more you hug a baby, the more their brains grow, according to a recent survey from the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio.

125 babies, both premature and full-term, were included in the study, which looked at how well they responded to being physically touched. The results indicated that premature babies responded to affection less than babies who were not born premature. What was also revealed however, was that babies that were subjected to more affection by parents or hospital staff showed stronger brain response.

According to researcher Dr. Nathalie Maitre, this last revelation tells us that something as simple as body contact or rocking your baby in your arms will make a big difference in how their brains develop. "Making sure that preterm babies receive positive, supportive touch such as skin-to-skin care by parents is essential to help their brains respond to gentle touch in ways similar to those of babies who experienced an entire pregnancy inside their mother's womb," Maitre tells Science Daily.

Basically, affection is vital for the development of the brain. So, cuddle and hug your babies as much as you can – and don't forget to share this research to show everyone out there how important it is to be loving to our children!

From Tinkergarten via waldorfeducation.org

Why Creativity Is Just As Important As Literacy

By Mehan Fitzgerald

What is Creativity?

Creativity is the ability to both imagine original ideas or solutions to problems and actually do what needs to be done to make them happen. It is not just a critical skill for artists or musicians, but an extremely valuable way of thinking about -- and being in -- the world.

Why does it matter?

Sir Ken Robinson put it best when he said, "Creativity is as important now in education as literacy, and we should treat it with the same status."

Why, you ask? For one, it is through being creative that a person is able to get their senses, sensibility and spirit working together. Simply put, our kids need creativity to live a full life.

Creativity is also the means by which humans of all ages make an impact on the world and other people around them. A lot of heavy stuff is going to go down in our kids' lifetime, and their generation will need to imagine and implement solutions to big and very complicated problems.

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report, complex problem solving, critical thinking and creativity are the three most important skills a child will need to thrive. Furthermore, creativity jumped from 10th place to third place in only the past five years. And, although our kids are still far from public office or the boardroom, today's political and business leaders worldwide already point to creativity as the most important leadership quality for the future.

How do kids develop creativity?

Children are born with it, but it's hard to stay creative.

The kicker in all of this is that humans begin their lives with the habits that creative adults retain and build throughout their lifetimes. Children are driven by curiosity, asking questions at every turn and experimenting and learning through play. They do not let the conventional or "right" way to use an object limit its possible uses. Sure, a bowl is a bowl, but it's also a hat, an instrument, just the right stepping stool for reaching the cookie jar, and more. And, as we see in the patterns in children's behavior, they are naturally driven to take things apart and transform them into other things— which are core actions in the creative process.

Unfortunately, this mindset is often diminished or even lost when young children enter conventional schooling. When given the Torrance Test of Creativity, 98 percent of kindergarteners score as creative geniuses, while only 3% of people remain in that category by age 25. Even worse, American K-12 students have significantly decreased in their Torrance creativity scores since 1990, with scores decreasing the most among kids in kindergarten to third grade.

This loss is largely driven by the shift in focus from purposeful, playful learning to learning discrete skills. The more kids are trained to perform, and the more a particular right answer becomes the goal of learning activities, the more the mind narrows its focus and fears failure or being wrong.

"To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."

— Joseph Chilton Pearce

This is not to say there is no place for right answers—we all need to learn that when you divide 300 by 20 there is only one correct answer. But, if a child can learn to divide by playing with objects, pictures and numbers before they learn the algorithm, they can learn the fundamental underpinnings of mathematics and continue to nurture their creative mindset by learning from both right and wrong outcomes.

(Continued on next page.)

So, what can we do?

Many Tinkergarten explorers are not yet in math class, but it won't be long. Some of our older explorers already are. Thankfully, there are certain kinds of play experiences that contribute to developing a strong foundation in creativity. By foundation, we mean developing a set of key creativity mindsets or truths, including:

- There are infinite possible uses for any object.
- There are many possible solutions to any problem.
- The messier the better.
- "Wrong" outcomes lead to the "right" outcomes.
- We can take things apart and make new things.

These are all truths that are really easy for little kids to grasp—they come into life thinking this way. So, it's our job to fill their creativity buckets with loads of experiences that reinforce these truths, and continue to reinforce these ideas as a family. As Maya Angelou said, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." So, the more creativity-boosting experiences the better! If we give these experiences to our kids, they will bring these truths into their schooling, giving them the best possible shot to carry a creative mindset into adulthood.

Get started today preserving your child's creative capacity. Try these eight exercises to nurture the foundations of creativity:

Give kids purposeful play experiences. Humans' creativity always has some kind of starting point. Just be sure to offer the starting point and then give plenty of space for kids to take it from there. Try some of these DIY ideas to start.

A truth a week: Take one of the truths listed above and repeat it to yourself as you watch your child play each week. How do you contribute to reinforcing that truth? How might you unwittingly undermine it? It's hard, for example, not to step in to help kids when you see that they are building a tower that is certain to fall. But, from a creativity standpoint, a child will learn so much more from seeing a flawed solution through and learning from the results. It's amazing how really focusing on each of these truths can lead to changes in our behavior!

Encourage (or even just allow) kids to make messes. Not all kids will want to get as messy as others (we all have different sensory systems). But, there is great wisdom to the saying, "Play messy today, think messy (or freely) later." When we allow kids to make mud, mix different paints together, or dump out all of the toys to see what happens, we allow them the chance to get comfortable acting freely and exploring a wider range of possibilities. In short, we're giving them the go ahead to play outside the box so they can think outside the box later on.

Cheer when kids take things apart. There is great value in destruction -- it's one of the key creative acts. Meanwhile, gently teach them that not all objects (e.g. the remote control or your neighbor's flower bed) are open for destruction.

Remember, every object has infinite uses to the creative mind. Try to never correct a child's use of an object unless they are using something in an unsafe way (and even then, try to find a better way to say "be careful.")

Model creative thinking yourself. If you have a creative practice, be sure to share that with your kids. Or, play alongside them as you try out creativity-boosting activities together. Model using everyday objects in novel ways. Model failing and trying again. It's actually a whole lot of fun once you let yourself go!