

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, May 9	
<i>Parent Council Meeting-Ship Inn</i>	6:30-8:30 pm
Thursday, May 10	
<i>6th Grade Parent Evening</i>	6:00-7:30 pm
Saturday, May 12	
<i>Parent Stage</i>	6:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Monday, May 14	
<i>4th & 5th Grades to Harrisburg 2nd Grade Parent Evening</i>	
Thursday, May 17	
<i>5th grade Pentathlon-Kimberton WS</i>	
Saturday, May 19	
<i>EC Workday Middle School Dance</i>	
Wednesday-Friday, May 23-25	
<i>6th grade to Jim Thorpe</i>	
Monday, May 28	
<i>Memorial Day – No School</i>	

How to Contact Us

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

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.

Parent Council Meeting

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

Reminder:

Friday, May 25th is a snow make-up day.
There will be school.

Parent Stage is This Saturday

May 12th, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

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.



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

A Message from Miss 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!

RVWS Open Board Meeting on May 17th

The annual board meeting open to the community is scheduled for May 17 at 6:30PM in the APR.

All community members are welcome to attend.

The agenda includes an update on the building plans and a financial update. While all board meetings are open to the community, the agenda for about the first hour of the May meeting is designed to update community members on the work of the board, and answer questions about current priorities and plans.

Please plan to join us! Light refreshments will be provided.

See From the Board inside for instructions on how to vote in this year's Board Elections.

Deadline next Thursday, May 17th

Join the 5K on May 19th at 8:30 am

Our middle school students will be running a 5K in Quakertown, PA on Saturday, May 19th at 8:30 am.

The location is 4th St & W Mill St, in Quakertown. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.amysriderunwalk.com/>. Everyone is invited; come on out and join the fun,

From Administration

It's Time to Order the Yearbook

At the back of this week's Current is an order form for the yearbook. There will only be one opportunity this year so get your order in right away.



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/>

Box Tops

We received a check for \$65.60 from Box Tops today. Thank you to everyone who contributes Box Tops and special thanks to Karen Jacobs, mother of Piper (G5) and Falyn Justus (G2), who organizes and submits our contributions.

Thank You

Parent Council would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Mayfaire Committee for holding a successful Mayfaire. Many thanks to all: Lynn Lis, Nina Russell and, a very special thank you, to Erica Nichols; we couldn't have had the festival without her! Thank you Ivy for organizing the artisan vendors who shared their beautiful treasures with us. Kymm Phibbs offered wonderful support to the committee...thanks Kymm. And many thanks to all who made the festival a success!

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 – Africa

Seventh Grade – Africa

Eighth Grade – Africa

From the Board

RVWS 2018-2019 Board Slate and Ballot

The RVWS Board of Trustees is pleased to present the following slate for the 2018-2019 school year.

Melissa Goldstein

Patrick Janssen

Alicia Landgraf

David Lovely

In May of each year, new candidates are presented to serve on the River Valley Waldorf School Board of Trustees as a group. According to the school by-laws votes are cast for the entire slate, not for individual candidates.

All votes are due by Thursday, May 17th at noon.

You may vote anonymously through the survey link below, or, you may complete a ballot at the front desk and put it in the ballot box from Tuesday, May 8th until Thursday, May 17th. Every parent, teacher, and staff member may vote. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9LHCKT7>

See the attached document for a complete bio of each nominee and all current members of the Board of Trustees.

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.

Sound Clash - The Intersection of Punk & Hip Hop at the Dawn of New Music with Andrew McIntosh

Person Protection & Self Defense Class with RVWS Parent JR Nichols

Men Only Poker Night

Uncle Tom's Cabin with RVWS Parent Ron Ferguson

Karaoke Night with RVWS Parents, Rod & Katherine Schilling

End of Year Garden Party hosted by the RVWS Board of Trustees

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!

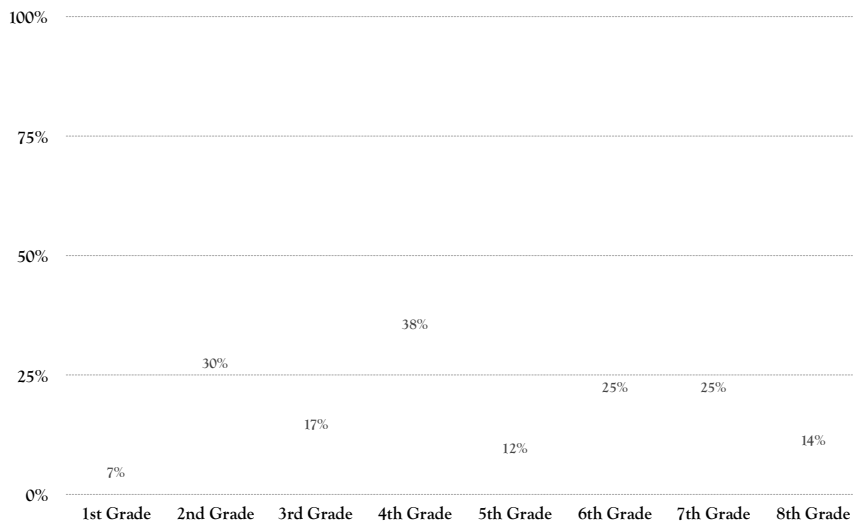
Stop by our Community Participation table in the lobby to see our progress

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 Participation



Donations per Class

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

From the Community

The Lord's Pantry
4050 Durham Rd.
Ottsville, PA 18942
610-847-2402
sjohnsthelordspantry@frontier.com

River Valley Waldorf School
1395 Bridgeton Hill Road
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972

April 23, 2018

To Members of the River Valley Waldorf School Community,

Thank you so much for your donation of 254.5 pounds of food to The Lord's Pantry in March – we truly appreciate it!

Your support helps the pantry serve over 500 low-income families each month from the Palisades community and Plumsteadville.

The contributions you make help our neighbors in need, and will make a real difference in the lives of hungry families.

Again, many thanks!

God Bless,
The Lord's Pantry Volunteers

*Thank you
for helping!*



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!

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/>

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

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.

Muck and Gold Happenings

Chris Bodwitch and Scott Gallagher (parents of Loie in 5th grade) would like you to know about these up-coming 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

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)

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 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.

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.

NOIR FEST

A Festival of Classic Film Noir Movies and an Exhibition of Original Posters, Books, Magazines and Artwork of the Genre - May 18 – May 20, 2018

Opening reception: Friday, May 18, 5:00 – 7:00 PM – Conversation with special guests: Howard Rodman, Vondie Curtis-Hall and William Horberg.

Screenings:

Friday, May 18, 7:30 pm – In a Lonely Place

Saturday, May 19, 3 pm – Detour, 7:30 pm – Fallen Angels

Sunday, May 20, 3 pm – Out of the Past, 7:30 pm – Le Samourai

To buy tickets go to artyard.org

YEARBOOK ~ YEARBOOK ~ YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: _____ # of Books: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Phone: _____

Preorder your yearbook by **May 18th** for only **\$40!**

We are only doing **ONE RUN** this year so drop your order in the folder by the door today!

From KQED.com via WaldorfEducation.org

How Play Wires Kids' Brains For Social and Academic Success

By Jon Hamilton

When it comes to brain development, time in the classroom may be less important than time on the playground.

"The experience of play changes the connections of the neurons at the front end of your brain," says Sergio Pellis, a researcher at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. "And without play experience, those neurons aren't changed," he says.

It is those changes in the prefrontal cortex during childhood that help wire up the brain's executive control center, which has a critical role in regulating emotions, making plans and solving problems, Pellis says. So play, he adds, is what prepares a young brain for life, love and even schoolwork.

"The function of play is to build pro-social brains, social brains that know how to interact with others in positive ways."

But to produce this sort of brain development, children need to engage in plenty of so-called free play, Pellis says. No coaches, no umpires, no rule books.

"Whether it's rough-and-tumble play or two kids deciding to build a sand castle together, the kids themselves have to negotiate, well, what are we going to do in this game? What are the rules we are going to follow?" Pellis says. The brain builds new circuits in the prefrontal cortex to help it navigate these complex social interactions, he says.

Learning From Animals

Much of what scientists know about this process comes from research on animal species that engage in social play. This includes cats, dogs and most other mammals. But Pellis says he has also seen play in some birds, including young magpies that "grab one another and start wrestling on the ground like they were puppies or dogs."

For a long time, researchers thought this sort of rough-and-tumble play might be a way for young animals to develop skills like hunting or fighting. But studies in the past decade or so suggest that's not the case. Adult cats, for example, have no trouble killing a mouse even if they are deprived of play as kittens.

So researchers like Jaak Panksepp at Washington State University have come to believe play has a very different purpose: "The function of play is to build pro-social brains, social brains that know how to interact with others in positive ways," Panksepp says.

Panksepp has studied this process in rats, which love to play and even produce a distinctive sound he has labeled "rat laughter." When the rats are young, play appears to initiate lasting changes in areas of the brain used for thinking and processing social interactions, Panksepp says.

The changes involve switching certain genes on and off. "We found that play activates the whole neocortex," he says. "And we found that of the 1,200 genes that we measured, about one-third of them were significantly changed simply by having a half-hour of play."

Of course, this doesn't prove that play affects human brains the same way. But there are good reasons to believe it does, Pellis says.

For one thing, he says, play behavior is remarkably similar across species. Rats, monkeys and children all abide by similar rules that require participants to take turns, play fair and not inflict pain. Play also helps both people and animals become more adept socially, Pellis says.

And in people, he says, an added bonus is that the skills associated with play ultimately lead to better grades. In one study, researchers found that the best predictor of academic performance in eighth grade was a child's social skills in third grade.

Another hint that play matters, Pellis says, is that "countries where they actually have more recess tend to have higher academic performance than countries where recess is less."