



River Valley Current

September 22, 2015 No. 417

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with success unexpected in common hours."

— Henry David Thoreau

School Calendar

This Week

Wed.-Fri., September 23-25

Fifth Grade Class Trip to Camp Onas

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, September 29

Michaelmas – In-School celebration

Saturday, October 3

EC Open House at Morning Glory

Mon.-Wed., October 4-7

4th grade class trip to PEEC

Monday, October 12

No School – Columbus Day

Thursday, October 15

School Tour
Board Meeting

9:00 am
6:30 pm

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org

lc@rivervalleyschool.org

bot@rivervalleyschool.org

pc@rivervalleyschool.org

October Lunch Menu

It's time to order lunch for October. The menu is attached to this week's Current.

After-School Program

The After-School Program with Josh Laker begins next week. Registration forms are attached to this week's Current.

After-School Snacks

Grandy's Kitchen will again be offering after-school snacks starting this week. Mondays and Wednesdays - 3:15-3:45.

Save the Date

Monday, October 19th

A Mushroom Talk by

Mycologist, David Porter, (who just happens to be Annie Porter's father).

News About Our Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign Town Hall Q & A This Thursday!

This Thursday, September 24th, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, the Capital Campaign Committee will host a Town Hall Meeting during which the entire community will have the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of our fundraising, designs or the building itself. Please take this opportunity to come to school and meet the committee to have your questions answered and your voice heard.

Harvest Fest and Capital Campaign Kickoff Celebration

Saturday, October 10th 11:30am – 3:00pm

On Saturday October 10th from 11.30 am to 3.00 pm the Capital Campaign Committee will host our Harvest Festival and Capital Campaign Community Kickoff event in the time honored River Valley Harvest Festival style. Bring your own picnic and enjoy warm bread from the school bread oven as we celebrate this exciting moment in our school's journey with presentations from our school community and the fellowship of friends and faculty. News will also be shared of a fun and dynamic personalized "Buy a Tile" mosaic fundraiser, which will support the campaign while beautifying our new space. Won't you please save the date and join us then?

Please save the date!

Community Meeting on

Thursday, October 29th at 6:30

The LC and the faculty will be sharing intentions about the future of some of our programs and policies, some important communication dates that are going into our calendar, and some more ideas about the journey of the class teacher. We look forward to sharing these intentions with all of you, and hearing your responses, which will help inform next steps as we work towards implementation and the growth of our school.

Parent Council Corner

Winter Fair Survey

Parent Council is asking for parents' thoughts and opinions around Winter Fair this year. **Specifically about whether or not to hold the festival this year.** Many of you have already participated during the coffee hours last week but we would like as much community feedback as possible. So, if you haven't already, please take a look at the attached survey, fill it out and drop off in the folder at the office. Or if it is easier, email PC directly at pc@rivervalleyschool.org.

Parent Council's **next meeting is Wednesday October 14th at 2:00** at the RVWS Garden (weather permitting). If the weather is bad then we will meet at Homestead General Store. Topics to be covered include Back To School Night review, Winter Fair, and the Auction among others. All are welcome!!

From Administration

Current Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles to the Current is 6 pm on Monday. That deadline will be strictly adhered to this year so please be sure to email your submissions to: info@rivervalleysschool.org before 6 pm on Monday.

Thank you for your cooperation,
The Editors.

Attention Bus/Van Riders

Parents of bus and van riders, **please call the school** if there is a change in your child's plans for riding the bus home. If your children participate in any of our after school programs, please let us know what days they will not ride the bus and when you would like them to start again. This is a very important safety issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

GARDEN GATE - parent-child classes

RVWS is excited to offer a few options for parents (or grandparents, or caregivers – not just moms & dads) to participate in our lovely Garden Gate program for children under 3 years, together with their grown-up. Expectant parents are also most welcome to join in. All Garden Gate classes meet from 9am until 11:30am.

A few spots are open in the Thursday group, which runs now, through January 2016. There is also one spot available in the Tuesday class. Friday is a drop-in day. Come if you can! We'd prefer you contact us by phone or email for more information and so we know to expect you, although last minute additions are always welcome. 610-982-5606 or admissions@rivervalleysschool.org The class meets from 9am until 11:30am.

We are beginning a Monday group at Morning Glory Preschool located in the 'yellow barn' at Pebble Hill Church on Edison Furlong Rd in Doylestown, PA. The class will begin as soon as we have 4 more families register and will run through January, 2016.

Additionally we'll open a Saturday class here at RVWS if there is interest – so please do let us know so we can add you to the list and begin as soon as the critical mass is reached!

If any of the above interests you or someone you know, reach out to Cindy Schretlen, Hilary Murphy or Molly MacDonald for more information, or to register! Garden Gate is a wonderful, fun and relaxing way for your child to learn about participating in a group, as well as a supportive, affirming experience for the adults who bring them. The registration form is attached to this week's CURRENT as well.

Dismissal Procedures

When you pick up your children at the end of the day, please keep them with you until they are in the car. Children are running across the driveway in front of buses (and it's not just the little ones). Grade school ends at 3:20 this year. Children who have not been picked up by 3:30 will be sent to Aftercare.

Directory Update

The new directory and parent handbook are now available on the RVWS website in the parent source section. The password was given at Back to School Night and it is the same as last year. If you don't have it, please call the office and we will give it to you.

Administration Work Schedule

Cindy Schretlen – every day
Renee Goodyear – Monday all day, Tuesday and Wednesday until 1:30
Robbie Miller – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Hilary Murphy – Wednesday and Thursday until 1:00
Pamela Hobson – every morning until 10:00
Charlene Chapman – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday until 12:00
James Hagan – Tuesday, Thursday
TreeAnne McEnery – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday until 1:00

Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar letter and agreement are attached to this week's Current. Any parents, students or classes who want to get involved need to fill out an application and if new, send photos of their wares. We are now accepting applications.

Also, we have Holiday Bazaar flyers and postcards in the office. Please stop by and take some to help distribute and share!

Van Drivers

Are you interested in driving one of the school vans for field trips or other school events? If so, please contact Lorraine Sharaf (mother of Eve G-5) lorraine.jenkins@comcast.net for information about taking the required training course.

Email Update

The IT committee has completed the email migration and system update. If you suspect you are not receiving emails from your classroom teacher, or if you send emails to River Valley staff or faculty and they bounce back to you, please contact Robbie at rmiller@rivervalleysschool.org. Thank you for your patience as we upgrade our system.

Parking Lot Safety

In order to make our parking lot as safe as possible we ask that you adhere to the follow guidelines:

- Please do not park along the curb in front of the school **at any time**. If you are dropping off in the morning, stop to let the children out and then keep moving, do not leave your car even for a minute. **In the afternoon during pick-up, no stopping along the curb is allowed;** buses and vans need to get through.
- No parking is allowed (even on the grass) opposite the parking lot entrance (between the stop signs) where cars need to turn and buses need to get by.
- If you park along the driveway leading up to the school, please park perpendicular to the driveway and make sure your vehicle is **fully off the macadam** and that you and your children **walk along the grass**, not in the driveway.
- Parking across from the front door, and down toward the circle is for small cars only.

There is no parking allowed in the circle near the playground during the day because that area is used during recess. If we all follow these guidelines, we will stop receiving complaints from bus and van drivers and everyone will be a lot safer. Thank you.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE FAMILIES, THINKING ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL?

In addition to their local public high schools, many RVWS graduates have or are currently attending (& thriving at) the following independent high schools. If you're not sure what direction is right for your family, or know already that you would like your child to attend an independent high school, the following will be of interest to you as you explore your options!

KIMBERTON WALDORF SCHOOL

Discover the High School

Visit our High School classrooms, meet and interact with faculty, and learn more about the crowning years of a Waldorf Education. The event will begin in the High School Library. Monday, October 20, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm

Open House

A comprehensive overview of Waldorf Education and the programs offered at Kimberton Waldorf School. Families should attend an open house as early in their process as possible. Tour the campus; meet faculty, students, parents, and alumni; view samples of student work; participate in panel discussions; and gain an understanding of Waldorf Education through inspiring faculty and student presentations. Complimentary childcare is available for younger children. Sunday, October 25, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

GEORGE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 25, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

The program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Meet teachers and students and take a close look into what George School offers for students who value academic rigor, enjoy collaboration and creativity, relish athletic and artistic pursuits, and appreciate the ideals of service, social justice, and diversity.

Please check in at the George School Meetinghouse a few minutes prior to 2:00 p.m. Parking is available at the Fitness and Athletic Center on Farm Drive, across from the Meetinghouse. If you have any questions, please call us at 215.579.6547.

HIGH MOWING SCHOOL (Waldorf Boarding & Day School)

222 Isaac Frye Hwy, Wilton, NH 03086, (603) 654-2391

Admissions Open House 10-17-2015, 1pm – 4pm

MORAVIAN ACADEMY

Upper School Open House 10-24-2015, 9am - 12noon

4313 Green Pond Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18020

(610) 868-4744

SOLEBURY SCHOOL

Open House, Sunday, October 18, 2015, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Prospective students and families are invited to get acquainted with Solebury School, a college preparatory boarding and day school for students in grades 7-12, located in New Hope, PA. Solebury has an average class size of under 11. You will find that this, combined with the warm and accepting environment that is palpable from the second you walk on campus, makes Solebury a place where students not only excel, but where they thrive. A full slate of Honors and AP courses, as well as extensive electives in every subject gives students the opportunity for both breadth and depth in every subject.

Come see the whole school in action as you tour the campus — see classes debating, teams practicing, artists creating and groups rehearsing. Learn what makes a Solebury education unique. Call 215-862-5261 to register.

Thank You

Thank you, Rebecca DiCandia, for signing on for another season of Current creation. You're the best.

Thank you IT Committee for all of your hard work in upgrading and professionalizing our computer and email systems. Alex DiCandia, you have gone above and beyond, it must run in your family.

Thank you to Melissa Goldstein for making the garden such a magical place for our children, our faculty, and our community! It was the perfect venue to honor our leadership families' enthusiastic participation to the capital campaign. We are so grateful, the Capital Campaign Committee

Thank you to all those families who joined us on Saturday evening to celebrate in the garden! The garden was beautiful, the food delicious, the drinks plentiful, the weather perfect, but your friendship and good humor made it a successful celebration of your generous support to our beloved school! Your Capital Campaign Committee

Thank you to the capital campaign committee for your devotion to our school, evident through the time and work you are all contributing to make this campaign a success for our children, faculty and community! I am so grateful to be in partnership with each of you! Louanne

Thank you to Lynne (Grandy) for cheerfully accommodating our last minute requests in the "last minute"! XoXo, the Capital Campaign Committee!

On behalf of the capital campaign committee, we would like to extend tremendous thanks to Catherine Lent for creating exquisite gifts of appreciation for our lead donors! You, yourself, are a gift to our community!

Thank you to Hazel and Olive Ferguson for the beautiful chalkboard art to welcome and say thank you to our guests on Saturday evening! From your friends on the capital campaign committee!

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Language Arts

Fourth Grade – Norse Myths

Fifth Grade – Geometry

Sixth Grade – Geometric Constructions

Seventh Grade – Chemistry

Eighth Grade – Geometry

Weekly Garden Get-Together

Would you like to know what your children are learning in the garden? Are you interested in Biodynamics, Permaculture or Organic gardening? Melissa Goldstein, the gardening teacher, will be in the garden on Wednesdays, starting September 23rd between the hours of 1-3. She would be delighted to meet you! Be aware that she may hand you a pair of gloves and have you pull a weed or two.

After-School German and Schuhplattler

After-school German activities will again be offered this fall, with German Club (henceforth to be called German Songs & Games) on Wednesdays; German Tutoring (for new students and kids who need to catch up), on Tuesdays; and Schuhplattler class on Mondays. Contact Peter Ray at peter.ray@comcast.net, or 215-794-5816.

Class Fundraisers

Planning your child's birthday party?

Let the energetic, fun-loving eighth graders help — and help them raise the funds they need for their class trip! We'll make your child's party one they won't soon forget! Limited dates available--email Renell Carpenter (renell@rcn.com) or Kira Willey (kira@kira.net) now to learn more and reserve a date!

From the Community

Looking for a good home

Affectionate 10 yr old, black cat. Good mouser, completely trained, loves to be outdoors in nice weather. Owners have moved to a pet-less abode, need to find a loving home for our baby, 'Emiliano.' Great company for all ages.

Contact Laura Birdsall 610-310-5819

Help Needed

Looking for a reliable painter and/or contractor for some exterior house work and some window glazing or replacement. Need help as soon as someone is available.

Contact Kevin O'Hara via email at kevinoharaphilly@gmail.com, or by phone at 215-847-4706.

Natural Childcare in Springtown, PA

(20 minutes West from River Valley WS)

Tuesday through Friday 9 am to 1 pm

For a small group of 2-5 year olds, seasonal songs and rhythmic games, free play, story telling, nature walks in our big yard, organic bread making and butter churning, which we eat for snack along with organic veggies and fruit, all provided. \$30 per day

Please contact schooner0506@gmail.com or call 610-442-8095

Speech Therapy at RVWS

Jane Stuart (mother of Eden-3rd, Daphne-1st and Coco-Star Rm.) will be offering speech therapy services at RVWS, weekly during the school day. Children with speech or language needs can be seen individually or in pairs. If interested or if you have questions, contact Jane at (562)208-5048, or jane@mtwservices.com

Mankind's Destiny with Machines

A Lecture on Artificial Intelligence & Consciousness

Friday, September 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Waldorf School of Princeton, 1062 Cherry Hill Road

Sponsored by the Princeton Branch of the Anthroposophical Society

From robotics to human-machine hybrids, artificial intelligence, avatars, and the Singularity: is this our human future? Why must we deal with machines for our evolution? The Western Spiritual Path.

Andrew Linnell is a 41-year veteran of the computer industry and a graduate of the University of Michigan (MSE '73) and Emerson College, England ('79). A member of the Anthroposophical Society since 1979, he is president of the Boston Branch, faculty member for the Village University of Concord, and member of the School for Spiritual Science. He has spoken to branches and libraries throughout the USA and abroad on various topics from Nanotechnology to Christian Mysticism. Contribution at the door: \$10. For more, contact Herbert Hagens: 609-921-8759 or hohagens@aol.com.

Clown/Philosopher offers UNIQUE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP this weekend!

Frenchtown is thrilled to host Jef Johnson, world-renowned creative performance artist, philosopher and teacher, who will speak and present his interactive workshop "S2PID GENIUS" this weekend.

Jef invites you to "experience an opportunity to play, communicate, create, explore, imagine and discover. It is an opportunity for people in creative industries, education and the arts, and anyone interested in the subject of human potential and igniting creativity in their lives, to come together and participate in a series of absurd challenges, to challenge the mind and unlock the heart - to experience once again the genius of the moment."

"...one of the most profound and inspiring experiences of my life to date." – Jef's student, Jon Monastero, Los Angeles (current artist in Cirque du Soleil's Totem)

Talk: Friday Oct 2nd (7p, \$10)

Workshop: Saturday/Sunday Oct 3rd/4th (10a-6p) \$150 (\$200 after Oct 2nd)

To enroll or ask questions call Gerry St. Onge 908-361-9545 or email to gerry@contributiveenergy.rocks.

You may also contact MaryBeth (Jaida in 1st grade's mom) with any questions, and for links to check out Jef's videos and Facebook event page. 908-672-3455 or marybethhealy@gmail.com.

Educate Girls, Change the World!

Delaware Valley University Presents: **Girl Rising**

Tuesday, October 6th 2015, 4:30-6:30, Del Val University: Life Sciences Bldg. Auditorium

700 East Butler Ave, Doylestown, PA 18901 (www.delval.edu for directions)

Around the world, millions of girls face barriers to education that boys do not face. And yet, when you educate a girl you can break cycles of poverty in just one generation. *Girl Rising* is a groundbreaking film that has already been seen by millions. Narrated by Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Helena Gomez, it tells the stories of nine incredible girls across the globe. It's a movement for girls' education that we are proud to support. Investing in girls will bring about transformative change – for families, communities and nations. More info at girlrising.org

FALL FESTIVAL @ OTAC

Fun Fall Events at the Ottsville Traditional Arts Center. Concerts, dances, lessons and jams Oh My! All family friendly. Stay tuned for special student jam and pot luck evenings as well as some off campus RVWS school community events. Check us out!

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center Events

OCTOBER

Wed. Oct. 14 Song Workshop with Bennett Konesni

6:00 - 8:00 pm • \$10 suggested donation

Sun. Oct. 18 Old World Charm School in Concert

1:00-3:00 pm • \$10 adults \$8 kids under 12

Sat. Oct. 24 Scandi Workshops with Lydia & Andrea

3:00 - 7:00 pm \$25 for both workshops and light dinner

Melody instruments workshop • \$15 Slängpolska dance workshop • \$15

NOVEMBER

Sun. Nov. 22 Family Contradance with Coracree

3:30 pm beginners' workshop & caller **Melissa Taggart**

4:00-7:00 pm dance • \$10 adults \$8 kids free under 6yrs.

Every Wednesday

Open Jam with Richard Finch

6:00-8:00 pm • \$5 suggested donation

More at ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com • 250 Durham Rd. Ottsville Pa.

A Message from Pamela Hobson

We need to find affordable housing - rental by end of September. I'm looking to be within 15 minutes of school. I need minimum 3 - 4 bedrooms and ideally 2 baths / garage or barn storage. I would most like a place slightly off the beaten path, (as in more private & close to nature - in a quiet country setting), close to water like creek or river, in either PA or NJ.

I'm also looking for work doing Therapeutic Massage & Intuitive Based Sound & Vibrational Healing Arts. I'm currently licensed in NJ & Certified as Sound Healer through sound healers association since July 2011. I especially love doing aromatherapy foot baths & foot reflexology. I am a Certified Oneness Blessing Giver. I'm looking to start facilitating Oneness Blessing Guided Meditations & Sharing Circles in this community in addition to leading sacred sounds healing concerts using harmonic toning and various ancient sound tools, some of which have been used for thousands of years to amplify prayerful intention balance & harmonize the body, mind & spirit, relieve stress, strengthen the immune system and support greater feelings of peace & Wellbeing. I would like to get started right away. I do have a few massage tables and a ready to install high end, brand new, gently used leather, European Pedicure Chair (for aromatherapy foot baths) Ideally I would love to have a nice studio space with 1 or 2 rooms I can set up massage table & various sound tools in and a bathroom. I'd be open to work exchanges, affordable rental or sharing space with another practitioner so I can start my own healing arts business in the area. And if anyone has a yoga studio I would also be open to sharing my sacred sounds - harmonic toning- vocal talents through facilitating sound healing concerts/prayer- formances intended to raise consciousness, awaken the heart, calm the mind & create feelings of overall wellbeing & peace .

In addition I'd be open to speaking to groups & facilitate mini 1-2 hour workshops about the benefits of harmonics & toning, balancing chakras through sound & the use of ones own voice to generate feelings of inner peace & calm, wholeness & wellbeing by generating Light & Healing Energy through the creation of meditative sacred healing sounds.

German Tutoring Available

Raphael Walter is available for after school German tutoring. His fee is \$10.00 per hour. Raphael will provide tutoring to individuals or small groups (up to 3 children.) Raphael is a native German, living with the Bernhardt family and assisting in the first grade this school year. Anyone interested please call Raphael at 908-995-0558.

From the Huffington Post

Taking Stock in Our Children: In a Time of Volatile Markets, How We Can Play the 'Long Game' by Investing in Our Society's Future

By Riane Eisler and Valerie Young

When world markets convulse, people tend to think short term. But as a society, we must start focusing on what investors call the "long game" -- re-examining our economic priorities to improve and stabilize more lives over time.

Continuing to behave as we have will only prolong economic instability and the growing gap between haves and have-nots. Our skyrocketing child poverty, incarceration, and income inequality rates are not inevitable or irreversible. They are the result of policy failures, and policies can be changed -- once we re-examine and change how we think and operate.

Suppose that instead of thinking only of stock markets or interest rates, we ask what kind of economic policies and practices are good for children. What helps, or prevents, children from realizing their potentials? What makes it possible for them to be healthy, get an education, and become responsible and productive adults?

What do these child-rearing issues have to do with economics? As it turns out, everything. In our knowledge/information era, the most important capital is what economists call "high-quality human capital" -- and we know from neuroscience that this mainly hinges on the quality of early care and education children receive.

Yet the recent report, *Social Wealth Economic Indicators: A New System for Evaluating Economic Prosperity*, shows that our nation invests less in our children -- by far -- than other developed nations. We must change this, and a first step is using new economic measures. Social Wealth Economic Indicators (SWEIs) demonstrate the enormous economic contribution of the work of caring for people, starting in early childhood. These new metrics are already in use by national organizations such as the women's economic security advocates at 9to5 to promote policies such as funding for parental and sick leave, child care, and higher pay for care workers.

SWEIs show that the devaluation of this "women's work" -- which now more men are also undertaking, as family roles shift -- causes untold suffering and is a big reason for the disproportionate poverty of children, women, and communities of color. It is also a major obstacle to our nation's future economic success.

Picture your neighbor caring for a young child while also looking after an aging parent. Think of the parents juggling a job with their family's needs. Think of the workers, mostly women of color and immigrants, toiling long hours for less than a living wage in home, eldercare, and childcare. Visualize the children whose caregivers cannot provide them basics such as healthy food, medical care, books, and above all, the time and attention vital for human capacity development. Then, go back to what economists tell us: that the key to a robust economy in our new knowledge/service age is "high quality human capital."

SWEIs reveal that our country has the lowest public funding for early childhood education and care of any other advanced nation. They also show that the U.S. is the only nation without nationally-funded paid parental leave, and has lower educational enrollment and scores. SWEIs further show we have a higher rate of income inequality, and the highest child poverty rates -- and that these rates are astronomical for communities of color.

(Continued on next page.)

So, at a time when children of color will soon be the majority of US children, our failure to invest in care not only causes enormous suffering and inequity; it is economically self-destructive. Not only that, a more equitable and caring economy is essential for real democracy. To quote from the Social Wealth Economic Indicators report, "In countries where the rich own a growing share of income and wealth, the political process is inevitably captured by their interests, and the poor become objects of disenfranchisement and therefore discrimination. Social mistrust then grows and political and civil disorder become increasingly likely."

Our headlines are filled with examples of exactly this "political and civil disorder" both within and without the U.S. It stands to reason that outcomes can only be better if the inputs are better too. Provided with these connections by Social Wealth Economic Indicators, policy makers can see that greater public investment in pre-school education, support for care work in homes, and better wages for caregivers will decrease economic disparity while preparing the U.S. for the economic "long game."

SWEIs provide data on both inputs (Care Investment Indicators) and outputs (Human Capacity Indicators), and when we see both, the route from Point A to Point B emerges. These connections between inputs and outputs are the stepping-stones we can use to reach solid ground. From that ground, we can build a structural foundation to support practices and policies that much more effectively address seemingly insoluble problems such as economic instability and inequality -- and pave the way for the future we need and want.

Riane Eisler is author of *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics* and President of the Center for Partnership Studies (CPS).

Valerie Young is a public policy analyst and advocate for women's economic security. She is Director of Outreach for CPS's Caring Economy Campaign.