

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday-Friday, Sept. 26-28

5th grade to Camp Onas

Thursday, September 27

Diversity Committee Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm

Friday, September 28

Michaelmas In-school Celebration 9:00 am

Looking Ahead

Monday, October 8

Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day – NO SCHOOL

Thursday, October 11

Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday-Friday, October 17-19

4th grade to PEEC (Poconos Env. Ed. Center)

Thursday, October 18

EC Parent Evening

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org

lc@rivervalleyschool.org

bot@rivervalleyschool.org

pc@rivervalleyschool.org

October Lunch Menu

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

The deadline for orders is this Friday, September 28th

8th Grade Hoagies

The 8th grade has begun fundraising for their much anticipated 8th grade class trip!

An order form is attached to this week's Current for Hoagies to take home.

Deadline for ordering is the Friday before the Thursday pick up of the hoagies. **If you would like hoagies on Thursday October 8th, please get your order in THIS FRIDAY!**

Make checks payable to RVWS with 8th Grade Fundraiser in the memo and place your order in the folder on the office door.

Smoothies are back on Fridays!!

Please help support the 3rd Grade Farm Trip Fundraiser and enjoy a smoothie this Friday in the lobby after pick-up.

Delicious, organic and only \$2.00!!

Michaelmas

September 29, midway between the northern hemisphere's summer and winter solstices, the ancient festival of Michaelmas is celebrated.

As summer's warmth fades, and the cool crispness of autumn falls upon us, mother nature's fruits and vegetables ripen for harvesting. Her gifts help sustain us through the dark cold days of winter and remind us to summon our own gifts and inner strength to help balance our internal light with the darkness of the season.

Stories of good versus evil or light versus dark are often told to illuminate the balance of light and dark that we all must strive towards mastering. Stories of the Archangel Michael exist in Judaic, Islamic and Christian traditions. Michael is often portrayed as an angel warrior, astride his powerful steed carrying a sword of light. In some ancient stories Michael subdues the fearsome dragon thereby guiding and inspiring us all to take courage against the darkness.

A celebration of strength and courage, of facing dragons both internal and external, Michaelmas is a great time to ponder our own inner dragons and to cultivate the courage and strength necessary for self-development.

In our school, Michaelmas is brought to the Early Childhood in the most appropriate way for the children - through themes of strength and courage woven into their daily activities. In the Grade School these themes are brought to life with an in-school Michaelmas celebration. This year, our celebration will be on Friday, September 28th at 9 am. Parents are welcome to attend, but please remember that this celebration is intended for children of grade school age. The looks of wonder on the faces of our first graders will show us that it was well worth the wait!

Diversity Committee Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 27th, 6:30-8 pm in the 2nd grade classroom

The mandate of the RVWS Diversity Committee is to create opportunities for our community to examine ourselves, our curriculum, our policies and practices to identify barriers that hinder and strengths that support diversity as an essential value in the advancement of the RVWS mission.

Everyone is welcome to join us. The committee would like to extend a special invitation to our parents and community members who are people of color, LGBTQ and/or diverse in ethnicity, religion and class, as we seek to amplify these voices in our work.

Article to share:

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-to-use-gender-neutral-words>

Resource to share:

This website has a wealth of resources on gender for parents and educators:

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/resources/>

Mr. Laker's After-school Program Begins Next Week

The registration form is on the last page of this week's Current.

From Administration

Calling All Gardeners

Garden lovers, or any folks who always wanted to know more about our garden or gardening....

Melissa Goldstein will be hosting volunteers who are interested in helping slowly put our school garden to bed for the season. Come to hang out with others who have a similar interest, and participate in giving love to this beloved space. Bring your gardening questions and your gloves!

We will meet on Thursdays directly after drop-off for an hour starting OCTOBER 4th until NOVEMBER 15th. Join Us!

Open Houses for Area Independent Schools our Alums Attend

Bethlehem Catholic – Sunday, 10/21, 2-4 pm
Parent Info Sessions – 10/2, 6:30 pm & 10/4, 9:30 am –
RSVP 610-866-0791 x340

George School – Sunday, 10/28, 1:30 pm
RSVP 215-579-6547

Kimberton Waldorf School – Sunday, 11/4, 8:30-10:30
am – RSVP 610-933-3635 x108

Lehigh Valley Charter Arts High School – Tuesdays, 11/6
& 11/20, 5:30 pm

Moravian Academy – Saturday, 10/20, 9 am – noon –
RSVP www.moravianacademy.org/openhouse

Solebury School – Sunday, 10/21, 1-4 pm
RSVP 215-862-5261

Student Dress Code - General

Clothing for students at River Valley Waldorf School should be modest, comfortable, and clean. The dress code supports safe and unrestricted movement indoors and outdoors in all weather. The class teacher will always have the option to ask a parent to eliminate clothing from a child's school wardrobe if the clothing in some way limits healthy movement or healthy body image. Children should have a change of clothing in their cubbies at all times, and proper footwear for inclement weather and outdoor sports. They also need clean, supportive, indoor shoes.

- No bare midriffs.
- No ripped clothing
- No pajamas
- Clothing should not reveal underwear – including during climbing & play.
- No flip-flops
- No writing and no pictures

If the class teacher observes that a student is not appropriately dressed, the teacher will speak with the parent rather than to the student. In middle school, this conversation may happen with the parent and/or student. Class teachers can ultimately determine what is appropriate for their own class based on the dress code guidelines.

Sports and Games

Grade school children need clothing appropriate for games. Please leave a set of gym clothes, including sneakers, for your child to change into.

Other

Students third grade and older should bring a school bag to carry items back and forth between home and school.

Health Care Coverage from CHIP

CHIP covers uninsured kids up to age 19 in Pennsylvania. It doesn't matter why your kids don't have health coverage right now; CHIP may be able to help. Most kids receive CHIP for free. Others can get the same benefits at a low cost. CHIP is brought to you by leading health insurance companies who offer quality, comprehensive coverage. *CHIP benefits include: Routine Check-ups, Prescriptions, Hospitalization, Dental, Eye Care/Eyeglasses, Behavioral Care, Special Care and more*

There is no limit on income. If your income is below CHIP guidelines, your child may be enrolled in Medical Assistance. To apply for benefits or renew go to: CHIPcoversPAkids.com • 800-986-KIDS

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Form Drawing

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Language Arts

Fourth Grade – Math

Fifth Grade – Mesopotamia and Persia

Sixth Grade –History/Rome

Seventh Grade – History/Middle Ages to Renaissance

Eighth Grade – Geometry

After-school STEAM Club for Grades 3-5

Elizabeth Drew who has joined the faculty as a math specialist and is the founder of Bricks Bots and Beakers is excited to offer after school classes for 3rd – 5th graders starting September 24th. B3 classes teach specialized STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts and provide hands-on, project-based learning that is so important for 21st century learners.

Demo and Q&A: Monday, September 17th 3:15 – 4:00

Featuring: Gross Out 1 – Crazy Chemistry

Grades: 3rd – 5th

Dates: Mondays starting September 24th 3:30 – 4:30

Cost: \$150 for 10 weeks

Register Online Or Pick up a Registration Form at school on Monday.

www.brickbotsbeakers.com/skylands

Flannel Sheets to Donate?

Miss Molly in the Acorn Room is getting ready to make some cozy blankets for nap time in the nursery. Might you have an old set of flannel sheets that could be donated for this project? Solid colors are preferred.

From Parent Council

3rd Grade Smoothies are BACK!

Bring \$2 and your favorite cup!

3rd Grade parents will be blending up our signature Fairy Berry Smoothies for the next few FRIDAYS. Your support is greatly appreciated as we prepare for our farm trip!

From the Development Committee

Please read below to understand more about the Development Committee's 4 main areas of focus that assist in supporting the financial sustainability of River Valley.

As part of the annual school budget, **the Annual Appeal** provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents, alumni and friends to make a fully tax-deductible donation to the school. Funds from the Annual Appeal help to bridge the gap between the tuition the school charges for each student and the real cost of educating that student. That gap is typical for private schools and not-for-profit service organizations, and annual giving is an important component for River Valley to meet its mission for the children and families we serve.

The Auction is planned and executed by the auction Chair(s), under the guidance of the Development Committee. The proceeds from the auction directly support the annual budget for the school year in which it is held. Donations are solicited both from the greater school community and from external sources, and the success of the auction is directly correlated to the preparatory and participatory involvement of the parent body.

The Capital Campaign, by contrast, is a defined-period fundraiser for specified major structural upgrades and improvements. Capital campaigns often support the evolutionary needs of a growing non-profit organization. River Valley's Capital Expansion Project is designed to support the financial sustainability of the school for the long-term future, by constructing early childhood classrooms, expanding our all-purpose room for the benefit of our children and community, and by making much-needed upgrades to the infrastructure of our building.

Through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, many PA tax-paying entities can donate money to River Valley that they would otherwise pay to the state as business tax. Please see board member and development committee member Ron Ferguson for more information on the EITC program and how you can sign up.

Annual Appeal Update

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to RVWS! We have received \$11,866 in pledges and donations. Please help us meet our goal of \$40,000 and 100% participation!

From the Board

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Community Gathering last Thursday. We are deeply grateful that so many parents made time to attend, for the opportunity to sing together as a community, and for the probing questions and the honest dialogue.

While some of the discussion was difficult, we left the evening with optimism for the school's future and renewed energy to undertake the plans for the building and for growth. As we move forward, continuing this dialogue will be critical to sustain the school's mission for decades to come.

A special thank you to Kira Willey, Noah Jarrett, and Eve Sheldon for bringing us all together through music. Thank you to Hillary Murphy for creating the video *Community. Connection. Love*, reminding us why we are all here at RVWS. We are fortunate to have such artists in our community, who share their gifts so willingly.

For those of you have not seen the video here is the link:

<https://video214.com/play/yxPxHdL514NZ3XBX84Wi0g/s/dark> . This video will be added to our website very soon!

For those who were not able to attend the meeting, a brief summary follows, and more details will be shared in the coming weeks and months on the building development and strategic plan centered on improving enrollment.

Meeting Summary

School Leadership: Amy Nyberg introduced the origins and design of the threefold social order - culture, rights, and economics - which is the underpinning of Waldorf School governance models. This was followed by a discussion demonstrating how the board, administration, and faculty work together to support the operation of the school which included our administrative team Cindy Schretlen, Reeve Kelly, and Annie Porter, and board member and finance committee member David Lovely. During this section of the evening, financial trends over the last five years, and the 2018-19 budget were shared and discussed. While the school is expected to experience a loss this year, we will have positive cash flow. Many members of the community asked direct questions about the decline in enrollment, the causes, and current and future plans to sustain the financial position of the school.

Pedagogy: Annie Porter shared the principles at the heart of the Waldorf pedagogy centered on Steiner's picture of child development, and how this picture, along with intense observation of each child, is used by each teacher to develop the curriculum.

Parent Council: Liz Davachi and Lorissa Lock shared the purpose of Parent Council and the plans for the year, and presented the video produced by Hillary Murphy.

Fund Development: Reeve Kelly shared the purpose behind the annual appeal and auction, and plans for development during 2018-19.

Building Development: Reeve shared the plans that are unfolding for the upgrade and expansion of Early Childhood space, funded through existing capital campaign donations. A General Contractor has been engaged to develop specific construction plans and timelines which will be shared with the community as they become available.

Strategic Plan: David Willey introduced the Strategic Planning Committee and the singular focus on enrollment for the year.

Community Choir: We closed with an upbeat chorus of "Oh When the Saints" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot".

Finally, thank you to Ron Ferguson, Rich Kroth, and David Lovely for organizing this event. They worked efficiently to plan and promote the evening and clearly their efforts were productive!

Please direct any questions or further thoughts to the Administrative Team - Reeve Kelly, Annie Porter, and Cindy Schretlen.

Amy Nyberg, President
On Behalf of the Board of Trustees

From the Community

Sunbridge Institute Upcoming Events

- Open Days - Wednesday, October 17th and Wednesday, February 13th for those interested in learning more about Waldorf Education, teaching, and teacher preparation
- Waldorf Weekend - Friday, January 25th and Saturday, January 26th for new and prospective Waldorf community members looking for more first-hand insight and information about the foundations and fundamentals of Waldorf Education

Partnering with Youth and Community

PYC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, non-affiliated community group based in Upper Bucks County PA that strives to give youth members the tools they need to develop into successful adults, bring together families, and benefit our local and global communities through service projects and activities. For more information go to this link:

<https://www.palisd.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=2447972>

Ottsville Volunteer Fire Company's Annual Fire Prevention

249 Durham Rd, Ottsville, PA Friday, October 12, 2018, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Events throughout the evening:

- Fire trucks and emergency agencies from surrounding companies
- will be on display
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher
- See the Jaws of Life used on a vehicle rescue
- Walk through the smoke house
- Smokey the Bear
- Free Raffles and Food for All

Bring a can of food and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a generator ~ sponsored by Moyer's Services Group. Flu Shots will be available throughout the night! All you need to do is bring your insurance card. Minimum age is 9 to receive a flu shot.

The members of Ottsville Volunteer Fire Company thank everyone for their support as we remind our community about the importance of fire safety. See you on October 12th

Tire Recycling

Drop off your tires, support a great cause and help us keep Bucks County beautiful!

Saturday, October 13th 9:00am - 1:00pm

Car, Pick-up & SUV Tires - \$2.00 each

Tractor Trailer Tires - \$10.00 each

Please note: Tires must be rinsed clean and no tires on rims. We cannot accept Tractor Tires, Motorcycle, ATV, Mini Bike, Bicycle or Wheelbarrow Tires.

Tire Recycling Located at:

2320 Township Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

Questions? Contact EAC at eac@springfieldbucks.org

Artyard

The Unlikely Whole – September 15-December 30 – Curated by Lucinda Warchol

ArtYard is pleased to present The Unlikely Whole, an exhibition featuring the works of Mariel Capanna, Amie Cunat, Osamu Kobayashi, Amy Pleasant, Kenny Rivero, and Rudy Shepherd. The selected works explore the landscape, the body, memory, and identity as sites of disassembly and reconstruction. Through methods of fragmentation, translation, and repetition, these artists both challenge and reimagine our conception of the whole.

Upcoming Events:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 7:30 PM

Our second **poetry & music** event with distinguished guest poet Patrick Rosal.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7:30 PM

A screening of **Wanda**, a 1970 American independent film written and directed by Barbara Loden.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Healing Music for a Troubled World, a special evening with artist Rudy Shepherd.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30 PM

In My Corner, an original play by film director Jeremiah Chechik that tells a universal story in a

To learn more about these events, please visit our website www.artyard.org

ArtYard, 62A Trenton Avenue, Frenchtown, NJ 08825

OCTOBER 6, 2018
10A-5P

DOUBLE BROOK FARM FEST

LIVE MUSIC, LOCAL FOOD, LIBATIONS

THE GOODS
FROG HOLLER
MOONSHINE & MILLET
HINTON, BOWER, JONES
MORE...

TICKETS & INFO VISIT DOUBLEBROOKFARM.COM
\$25/ADV. \$35/DOOR · KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

ST. MICHAEL'S FARM PRESERVE IN HOPEWELL, NJ



QUESTIONS? EMAIL FESTIVAL@BRICKFARMGROUP.COM

Looking for a House

If you know of a small house or apartment for rent in or near near Solebury, please let Robbie know.

Cooking Classes for Children and Adults

Ash Chase Cooking School in Doylestown (owned by Bill Murphy, father of Ashton in Early Childhood) offers cooking classes primarily for children, but also offers monthly byob cooking classes for adults. All classes are uploaded to their website approximately a month prior to their class date.

They would like to offer any River Valley kids/parents and staff members a constant 10% discount for any classes they may sign up for. The discount code is to be used at check-out and is: "rvws10." It is a 10% discount on ANY class. Classes focus on local farm to table and completely home cooked meals.

The website is www.ashchaseculinary.com and all classes are held at Bill Vandergriff's Appliance kitchen showroom in the Doylestown/New Britain area (near DelVal College).

SuperNatural Salon and Spa

121 Delaware Rd , Riegelsville, Pa

Tina Venini (Parent of River- 4th gr and Tia - 6th gr.) is offering healing services including; Shiatsu Massage, Shin Tai, Reiki, Lymphatic Drainage Massage, Reflexology and Craniosacral Therapy.

These traditional healing modalities help balance and heal many Autoimmune diseases and illnesses as well as emotional imbalances. \$80 for 60min sessions, 30min sessions also available.

Call to make an appt. 610-749-2051

St. Luke's UCC Rummage and Bake Sale

Thursday, October 11, 9 am-8 pm; Friday October 12, 10 am-7 pm; Saturday, October 13 – Bag Sale All Day 9 am-4 pm. Lunch available.

Sale will take place at the building located at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 in Ottsville.

Donated items welcome there from Sept. 11 to October 5. Or drop off items on the porch at the schoolhouse of St. Luke's UCC Church on Durham Road. No computers, fax machines, printers, TVs, cribs, car seats, mattresses, encyclopedias, used paint cans, or items needing repair please.

For info call: 484-357-5247 or 215-479-2724.

Milford Wellness Center

18 Bridge St., Milford, NJ

Yoga with Ivy

Come meet yourself on your mat! Together we will move and breath, exploring who we are in the moment. We are never the same everyday, all things effect us on all levels. As a community, with support and guidance we will release, strengthen, and renew

Space is limited. To reserve your spot, call 201-694-5166 or email karunagoddess@gmail.com \$15 per class, 75 mins.

5th Annual Kids' Fun Run – FREE Event for the entire family!

Alexandria Park – 242 Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd. Milford, NJ 08848

Saturday, Oct. 6th (Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 7th)

Registration: 10:00am Race Start: 10:30am

Activities Include: Fun Run – 1 or 2 miles run/walk, Games & Prizes, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Snacks & Drinks, Arts & Crafts and Music by DJ Sean

For more info or to register online go to www.ghcm.com/kidsfunrun

Come join the fun at OTAC this Fall!

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

Wednesdays 6:00 -8:00 Traditional Jam and Songs

\$5.00 per person (Special Guests \$10.00)

September

Saturday 9/29 6:00-9:00 - Open Mic -Featuring a set by Eve Sheldon singer-songwriter, RVWS Alumni Aidan Holtz and His band, Impromptu, from Solebury School

Early sign up for kids (at the door or email gracefulm@aol.com), \$5.00 per person, under 15 years old free

October

Friday 10/19 - Contra Dance with Corracree, caller Donna Hunt

Potluck 6:00 - Family/Beginner Dance 6:00 - 7:30 - Contra Dance 8:00 - 10:00

Saturday 10/27 - Open Mic/Coffee House

TBA (if more 3 or more acts sign up for coffee house sets), \$5.00 per person, under 15 years old free

November

Friday 11/2 - Funky Friday Family Disco and Open House Pizza Party 6:00 -9:00

Saturday 11/10 - Open Mic, \$5.00 per person, under 15 years old free

Please let me know if you have an interest in a fundraiser, event, performance, workshop, etc. gracefulm@aol.com

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center is a multi generational and varied community that provides service through what we all have to share. This year OTAC is looking forward to a financially sustainable program. I am grateful to our awesome community and to you!

Thank you!!!

Grace Morgan

For further details check out ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com and our Facebook page.

Empower U at Central Bucks YMCA

Empower U is a Pathway Program at CBFYMCA that was designed by young women, for young women, to enhance girls' self-image through physical activity, healthy relationships and confidence building.

It's a FREE program and participants will receive a complimentary membership for the 8 weeks they are in the program.

There are some really great workshops planned for class participants with weekly topics including:

- Social U: friendships/social media
- Healthy U: Fitness/Membership
- Nourished U: nutrition/healthy eating
- Creative U: creative expression
- Giving U: bracelets for THRIVE program.
- Inspired U: YOGA/Meditation
- Connected U: Team building.
- Be U: Self-image/Confidence

Meetings will be held Tuesday evenings starting October 9th for 8 weeks, 4PM-6PM.

Topics will focus on strengthening and educating each program participant on issues that generally influence teen girls or issues that teen girls will encounter and will need tools to help them make healthy decisions. Our topics each night will have an educational component and a hands-on/active component as well, each around 45 mins-1 hour.

If you are interested in joining our program please email: Brooke Volpe: bvolpe@cbfymca.org ;



Fall Dahlia Bouquet CSA Share

Starting soon for 4 weeks. Treat yourself (or a friend) to local, sustainably grown, fresh cut dahlias. These beauties are the divas of fall!

Two price points available:

- (1) Receive a lush bouquet featuring ~10 stems of dahlias cut that morning, plus additional stems of scented greenery and other blooms, bundled together in kraft paper and delivered to RVWS, \$80 for 4 weekly bouquets.
- (2) Bundle of ~7 dahlias only (no other flower types or foliage), \$56 for 4 weekly bundles.

Dahlia selection will depend on what is blooming and looking best the morning of delivery, colors will coordinate/compliment. Delivery will start week of Sept 17th and shares are limited, so don't delay! Contact Jean Tuma at florestemporis@gmail.com or 484-226-5395.

Home for Rent in Frenchtown

Four bedroom house for rent in Frenchtown on 4th and Harrison available Oct. 5th. Interested? Call Nicole Blasucci 908-581-9706.

Address: 401 Harrison St, FRENCHTOWN NJ 08825. For Rent: \$2,500/mo. 4 bds • 1.5 ba • 2.2k sqft. View this home on Zillow: https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/401-Harrison-St-FRENCHTOWN-NJ-08825/38843394_zpid/

From Waldorftoday.com

Drawing is the best way to learn, even if you're no Leonardo da Vinci

By Anne Quito

"I just can't draw." It's a refrain most adults say when confronted with a blank piece of paper. Something happens in our teenage years that makes most of us shy away from drawing, fretting that our draftsmanship skills aren't up to par, and leaving it to the "artists" among us.

But we've been thinking about drawing all wrong, says the design historian D.B. Dowd. In his illuminating new book, titled *Stick Figures: Drawing as a Human Practice*, Dowd argues that putting a pencil to paper shouldn't be about making art at all.

"We have misfiled the significance of drawing because we see it as a professional skill instead of a personal capacity," he writes. "This essential confusion has stunted our understanding of drawing and kept it from being seen as a tool for learning above all else."

Put another way: Drawing shouldn't be about performance, but about process. It's not just for the "artists," or even the weekend hobbyists. Think of it as a way of observing the world and learning, something that can be done anytime, like taking notes, jotting down a thought, or sending a text.

Mistaking drawing for art is embedded in our institutions, says Dowd, a professor of art and American culture at the Washington University in St. Louis. For centuries, schools have lumped drawing with painting and confined it in an "aesthetic cage," he says.

Our anxiety around drawing starts around puberty, when we begin self-critiquing our abilities to render a perfect likeness, Dowd says. "The self-consciousness associated with 'good' drawing, or a naive form of realism, is mostly to blame," he explains to Quartz. "If you take a step back, and define drawing as symbolic mark-making, it's obvious that all human beings draw. Diagrams, maps, doodles, smiley faces: These are all drawings!"

(Continued on next page.)

Drawing helps us think better

At its core, drawing is a problem-solving tool. Scientists are often avid doodlers, like the Fields-Medal-winning mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani, for instance. "The process of drawing something helps you somehow to stay connected," she explained in a 2014 interview. "I am a slow thinker, and have to spend a lot of time before I can clean up my ideas and make progress."

Even if you're not tackling hyperbolic geometry, drawing is useful for our daily affairs from giving directions, taking meeting notes, outlining an presentation, or making grocery lists. It fosters close observation, analytical thinking, patience, even humility.

An alternative to Google-based learning

Digital technology coddles us by giving us shortcuts to "instant knowledge," but drawing breaks our collective instinct to Google everything, argues Dowd. He cautions against relying too much on easy paths to learning:

When we ask for something from Google Image Search—say "airplane"—we get contemporary definitions of same, which in that case yields thousands of pictures of commercial airliners. That's a narrow result from a general inquiry, and one version of how aggregation keeps us from seeing a wider world.

Drawing works in exactly the opposite way: close observation of almost any particular engages the senses and heightens experience, making the world seem bigger, not smaller.

There is a physical dimension to this, too. Our brains got bigger when our thumbs moved into an opposable position vis-a-vis our fingers. Our hands, fixed on the ends of our arms, brought us news of the world, and we evolved rapidly to take advantage.

Our manual capacities are critical to our understanding of the world. Isn't it weird, and a wicked paradox, that the digital has eroded the manual?

Dowd, who has been critical of the graphic design industry's over-reliance on digital illustration tools like Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop, argues that drawing isn't necessarily anti-tech: "I have no beef with technology per se—after all, pencil and paper is a technology. But drawing offers simplicity and directness compared to other information gathering procedures."

Drawing makes us better humans

There's another fundamental reason for using drawing as a learning tool: It can bring out our better qualities as people. "If practiced in the service of inquiry and understanding, drawing does enforce modesty," says Dowd. "You quickly discover how little you know."

The observation that's necessary for drawing is also enriching. "Drawing makes us slow down, be patient, pay attention," he says. "Observation itself is respectful, above all else."

In the closing chapter of *Stick Figures*, Dowd argues that drawing can even make us better citizens, in the sense that it trains us to wrestle with evidence and challenge assumptions. "It might seem sort of nutty, but I do think that drawing can be a form of citizenship," he says. "Observation, inquiry, and steady effort are good for us."

This form of individual sense-making is a practice that's ever more vital at a time when we're inundated with falsehoods and bad faith, says Dowd: "When we look hard and listen carefully, how are we not led back to questions of justice, of what is right?"

Perhaps drawing pads should be standard issue in government offices and boardrooms.

**2018-19 After-school Program
Fall Semester Registration Form**

Our 2018-19 Fall After-school Program will begin on October 3rd. Josh Laker is ready once again to challenge and entertain RVWS grade school children. Below is a description of activities that will be held on each day.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from October 2nd through December 19th. **Dates are listed next to each class because the program will not be held during vacations, assembly days and early dismissals.** The cost is \$20 per class with a \$10 materials fee for the session.

Tuesday – Sports and Running Games (5th grade and up)
(October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 27, December 4, 11, 18)
11 classes - \$230

Any and all sports, indoor and out, four square, battleship, shark attack, capture the flag, flag tag, handball, wall ball (big and small), indoor Olympics, obstacle courses, etc.

Wednesday – Games, Drama, Challenges and Puzzles, Crafts, Outdoors
(October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 28, December 5, 12, 19)
11 classes - \$230

Park bench, improv, Dinner party, dramatic reading, hunter, Mafia, storytelling, treasure and scavenger hunts, simple ball games, group challenges, nature art, cooperation puzzles, hand and nature crafts if desired, etc.

Thursday – Cooking and Crafts (Class size is limited; first come, first served.)
October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 29, December 6, 13)
10 classes - \$210

Baking bread (especially in the outdoor wood burning oven) pasta, tomato sauce, pickling, desserts, bagels, pizza, sushi, etc. These are just some of the things that were and could be done again, it will be tailored to students' desires.

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Child's Name _____ Child's Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

I would like to register my child for the following After School Program(s):

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|--|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tues. | 3:30-5:30 | Sports and Running Games (5th & up) | <u>\$230.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wed. | 3:30-5:30 | Games, Drama, Challenges | <u>\$230.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thurs. | 3:30-5:30 | Cooking and Crafts | <u>\$210.00</u> |

NOTE: Materials fees are included in the prices.

TOTAL: _____

Payment in full must be attached to the registration form. Payment is non-refundable and is set regardless of the number of classes actually attended by your child. Classes will be filled on a first come first served basis.