



River Valley Current

September 26, 2017 No. 486

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, Sept. 27

8th Grade Field Trip to Thomas Edison Museum

Thursday, Sept 28

Michaelmas, In-School Celebration 9:00 am

Friday, Sept 29

Yom Kippur – NO SCHOOL

Sunday, Oct 1

7th & 8th Grade Sail on the Clearwater on the Hudson River

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Oct 5

Middle School Reading Group 7-8:00 pm

Saturday, Oct 7

Hoedown at the Goldstein's 3:00 pm

Monday, Oct 9

School in Session – Columbus Day

Friday, Oct 13

Trunk or Treat Clothing Giveaway 8:30 am

Saturday, Oct 14

6th Grade Workday
Kim John Payne Lecture 6:30-8:30 pm

Friday, Oct 27

Fall Assembly

How to Contact Us

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

Mr. Laker's After-school Program starts next week – Forms on the back page.

Parent Council Corner

Trunk or Treat Clothing Giveaway October 13, 2017

Come join us in the RVWS parking lot Friday, October 13, right after morning drop off for our Trunk or Treat Clothing Giveaway! Bring your child's outgrown clothes, shoes, winter gear, coats, etc, and set them up in your car, or send with a friend who is participating (no drop offs please). All are welcome to browse and take items your family could use. A fun way to bring new life to your old wear!

Monday, October 9 – School is in Session – Columbus Day

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.

The grade school will have an in-school Michaelmas celebration this year on Thursday, September 28th at 9 am. Parents are welcome.

Harvest Moon Hoedown

On Saturday, October 7th at 3 pm, the third grade class will host a fundraiser for their upcoming Farm Trip.

It will take place at the home of the Goldstein family, Peace Place, 23 Merrill Creek Rd. Washington, NJ 07882.

The event will be family friendly with local live music, including Moonshine and Millet, food, vending and craft beer with an emphasis on sustainability. To request an invite with all the details- email Tina at supernaturaldancer@yahoo.com

An Evening with Kim John Payne, "Social Inclusion and the New Rites of Passage" Saturday, October 14th 6:30-8:30 pm

Kim John Payne, author of *Simplicity Parenting*, will be speaking at River Valley on the subject of social inclusion. This is a rare opportunity not to be missed.

For information about his lecture go to:

<https://www.simplicityparenting.com/social-inclusion-and-the-new-rites-of-passage-2/>. To purchase tickets, go here:

<https://squareup.com/store/rivervalleywaldorfschool>

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 at the farthest end of the sidewalk 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 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, 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 – and please, no small children in this area!
- 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 drivers and everyone will be a lot safer. Thank you.

COMING SOON TO THE RVWS LOBBY Community Art Project

To start off the school year, students in grades 4-8 have been working in art class on a collaborative project that focuses on unity and diversity—both visual and in relation to our student population. Each of our students has similarities with one another, but each of them also brings something different and unique to the table. Creating art is a way to reimagine the future, to build bridges and foster understanding, to develop empathy, to make friends, to express feelings, to build self-confidence, to learn how to be flexible and open-minded, to be exposed to different ideas and learn to listen to the views of others, to work collaboratively. These are all attributes that can help to promote peace. Your children have been working together in art class over the past few weeks to recognize these truths in each other. This project will be hung in our halls in the coming days and will be opened up to the community. We hope that you will join us in celebrating our community's unity and diversity by participating. Look for more information in the lobby on how you can be part of this project!

From Administration

Two Simple Ways to Support Our School

Amazon Smile

River Valley is registered with Amazon Smile which means that when you shop at Amazon, 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to our school. All you do is go to smile.amazon.com and type in River Valley Waldorf School as your charity. Then, **every time you shop you have to go to smile.amazon.com** to begin shopping and it will automatically remember your charity. If you go to amazon.com a contribution will not be made.

Box Tops for Education

You will find "Box Tops" on many of the products you use. Each box top is worth at least ten cents. Participating companies include: General Mills, Cascadian Farms, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Huggies, Cottonelle, Kotex, Pepend, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex, Scott, Viva, Saran and more. Look for specially marked boxes and drop-off the box tops in the basket in the lobby. If you don't use these products, perhaps a relative or friend does.

Every little bit helps, thank you.

A List of Babysitters

Hilary Murphy has graciously compiled a list of RVWS alumni who are available for babysitting. (Thank you, Hilary.) If you would like a babysitter with a Waldorf background, this is the place to look. The list is posted in the Parent Resources section of the website at this link: <http://rivervalleyschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BABYSITING-LIST-Alumni.pdf> It will be updated as we become aware of additional babysitters.

GARDEN GATE Parent-child class

If you, or someone you know has a child under 3 years of age this sweet, once weekly class is just the ticket. We have one space available on both Wednesday and Thursday. There is a 3rd group forming on Tuesdays which will start in the next week or two. Contact Cindy Schretlen for more information, or visit our website.

Health coverage for your child is well within reach with 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 COVERS

- Routine check-ups
- Prescriptions
- Hospitalization
- Dental
- Eye Care
- Eyeglasses
- Behavioral care
- Specialty care
- More

If your income is below CHIP guidelines, your child may be enrolled in Medical Assistance. APPLY/RENEW at CHIPcoversPAkids.com • 800-986-KIDS

Undoing Racism

River Valley Waldorf School is pleased to host a workshop 'Undoing Racism' on October 28 & 29. The faculty and staff, along with Trustees and members of the Diversity Committee will all be participating in this two day event, as our community deepens our understanding of diversity and tolerance. 'Undoing Racism' was highly recommended by other schools and organizations. Kathy Bernhardt, Christina Hummel and Annie Porter participated in an 'Undoing Racism' workshop last spring in NY to see if this would be valuable for our school as a whole. They were incredibly impressed with the experience and were anxious to share what they learned with colleagues. So with the help of the Diversity Committee, they sought a way to bring the training here to build an important foundation for our school.

There are a maximum of 40 spots available for this workshop, if you are interested in participating, please visit the website to sign up online - <http://www.antiracistalliance.com/ARA-training.html> These workshops fill quickly, so do not delay!

The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) are the presenters of this workshop. PISAB is a national and international collective of anti-racist, multicultural community organizers and educators dedicated to building an effective movement for social transformation. Founded in 1980 by long-time community organizers Ronald Chisom of New Orleans, and Dr. Jim Dunn of Yellow Springs, Ohio, The People's Institute has had an impact on the lives of nearly 500,000 people both nationally and internationally. Through this process, it supports a cadre of anti-racist organizers who build leadership and accountability in the communities where they are organizing. Today, The People's Institute is recognized as one of the foremost anti-racism training and organizing institutions in the nation.

Thank you to the Bader Philanthropies for their generous support of this event, and to River Valley's Diversity Committee for continuing the conversation around racism in our community.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who came to our 7th and 8th grade work day on September 16th. The following families were represented: Betz, Kovach, Kroth, Lederer, Nyberg, Fury, Aherne, Miles, McIntosh/Siftar and Ritchie. We stained the garden shed and the new picnic table. The court yard was mowed and raked and we got an excellent start recording some of our documents electronically and thereby freeing up much needed space.

From the Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Form Drawing

Second Grade – Form Drawing

Third Grade – Old Testament Stories

Fourth Grade – Math

Fifth Grade – Botany

Sixth Grade – Geometry

Seventh Grade – Anatomy

Eighth Grade – Physics

Handwork Assistants Needed

If you have some free time during the school day and would like to experience the magic of Handwork in the classroom, consider volunteering as a Handwork Assistant. I am looking for several people who can devote a few hours to helping busy hands learn how to knit, crochet and sew. If you have availability in the mornings and/or afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday please contact Miss Till at mtill@rivervalley.school.org.

From Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting Schedule 2017-2018

September 12th	2:00-3:00 at Homestead	February 13th	2-3pm at Homestead
October 11th	6:30-8:00 TBD	March 14th	6:30-8pm TBD
November 14th	2-3pm Homestead	April 10th	2-3pm at Homestead
December	No Meeting	May 9th	6:30-8pm TBD
January 10th	6:30-8pm TBD	June	No Meeting

From the Parent Handbook

This week we are featuring our Tuition/Payments Policy:

Families may choose to pay tuition in a lump sum, the Budget Plan (monthly: July-April), or Standard Plan (3 payments: July, October, January). The Bookkeeper will send out the details of your agreed payment schedule soon after you sign your enrollment contract, and will send invoices before each payment is due. If you choose either of the plans, tuition is due on the 15th of each month indicated. Tuition payments must be received by this due date.

If payment is not received by this due date and remains unpaid for 15 days past the due date, you agree to communicate with the school and make all payments current within the next 15 days (within 30 days of original due date). If due to financial hardship you are unable to pay the current installment, please contact the Business Office within 15 days of the due date and arrange for a meeting to discuss a payment plan. Families already on a payment plan and facing extenuating circumstances will be allowed ONE revision during the calendar year.

If a payment remains unpaid or a payment plan is not developed within an additional 15 days (30 days of the original due date), I understand that my child's enrollment will be in jeopardy. I understand that if this plan remains in arrears at the start of any of the 'breaks' as outlined in the school calendar, my child may not be able to resume attendance at the end of the school break. School breaks include: Thanksgiving, December/January, February and April.

So please, if you are having difficulty paying tuition due to extenuating life circumstances speak to the Admissions Coordinator or the Treasurer immediately. They can work out manageable payment arrangements with you to help you work through your difficult financial time. Do not stay silent and expect that the problem will simply disappear; it never does, and you will jeopardize your child's continued education at River Valley Waldorf School. No one wants this to happen. Join us in partnership to help keep our school financially healthy by paying your tuition, and paying on time, and as already stated, if you have an unexpected inability to pay the amount due, come in and speak to someone immediately.

From the Community

At the Artyard in Frenchtown

Inanimate - Transience and Transformation in Nature
Curated by Elsa Mora

Opening: This Saturday, Sept 30th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – runs September 30th through December 31st
Address: 62A Trenton Ave, Frenchtown, NJ 08825

ArtYard is pleased to present (in)animate, a group exhibition featuring the works of Bruce Gardner, Carrie Witherell, Lauren Rosenthal, Luci Jockel, Margaret Parish, Naoko Ito, and Thomas Beale. Using organic matter or man-made materials that have fallen to natural processes, each artist's practice is rooted in an examination of nature. Through the repurposing of dirt, tree branches, sunlight, water, bones, insects, rocks, and rust, hybrids emerge in the form of sculpture, drawing, photography, and installation.

This event also occasions the inauguration of a separate exhibition curated by Jill Kearney and inspired by the Rhode Island School of Design's Nature Lab, a miniature natural history museum which since the early 1900s has provided a library of natural materials for artists' study and inspiration. Throughout the duration of the show, the public is invited to contribute nuts, seeds, bones or other found materials from nature, and to model a range of objects or fashion their own for instant portraits in the ArtYard Photomat.

Carpentry Available

Aaron McKay, father of Lily (Grade 1), is a local carpenter offering services ranging from home renovation work (drywall, framing, doors, windows, trim, raised bed garden boxes, treehouses) and made-to-order handcrafted shelving, cabinetry, and furniture (beautiful barn beam dining tables, benches, cubbies, desks, bookcases, doors, bed frames, dressers, work benches, CEDAR STRIP CANOES!). Basically, if you can imagine it, Aaron can build it. Style is clean and simple with all hidden fasteners and mortice and tenon joinery. Projects incorporate local reclaimed wood to encourage a happier, healthier environment. Feel free to email or call Aaron to discuss your carpentry needs: welcometothewoodshop@gmail.com, (908) 274-0731

Give Kids Sight Day

Free Eye Care and Eyeglasses - Walk-in only.

Saturday, October 21, 2017 8:30 am – 1 pm. Jefferson Alumni Hall, 10th & Locust, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Children 17 or under who have not had or have not passed an eye screening are encouraged to attend. Children must come with a parent or guardian. No health insurance, no problem – all children welcome. Please arrive early and allow for a few fun filled hours. For more info go to: pccy.org/sightday, email: gksd@pccy.org. Or call 215-563-5848 x 21.

A Toy Garden

Erika and Pete Gustavson are the proud owners of A Toy Garden, the online source for Waldorf dolls, Bolga baskets, natural toys, crafts, and games, as well as high quality Puddle Gear and woolens! River Valley families enjoy 10% off all online orders with coupon code "RVWS10" -- plus free local pickup at the school! Visit them at

www.atoygarden.com!

Free Farmer's Market – Bucks County

Fresh Connect Bucks County is a free farmer's market bringing fresh, healthy food to our hungry neighbors in Bucks County. It returns to the same location on the same day at the same time each week, providing reliable and needed food to the 57,000 Bucks County residents facing hunger, 32% of whom are children. Fresh Connect is a collaboration of Bucks County Opportunity Council, Philabundance, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue and St. Mary Medical Center, with generous funding by United Way of Bucks County. In case of severe weather, please call 215.345.8175 for cancellations and additional information.

Upper Bucks Location - Routes 611 and 412 in Ottsville

For more info - <http://www.bcoc.org/i-need-help-with/food-2/fresh-connect/>

Healthcare Workshop at Kimberton Waldorf School

"Home Health Care: Nurturing and Nourishing Ourselves and Children" with Anthroposophic Nurse Karen Moyer Alderfer is open to parents and teachers October 7-8 in Kimberton, PA. In this hands-on course, you'll learn how to care for your family at home with natural home health care techniques, such as wraps, poultices, massages, and inhalations for common childhood illnesses and fevers. Karen will explain the importance of warmth, sleep and good nutrition for your growing child, the role that childhood illnesses play in your child's development and more – all with practical suggestions for everyday use.

The workshop is part of the LifeWays Training offered at Kimberton Waldorf School that is open to the public. It meets 9-6 on Saturday, Oct. 7 and 9-12:30 on Sunday. Lunches, snacks and supplies are included in the workshop fee. To learn more and register online, see www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org/upcoming-workshops/. For questions, contact Chinyelu Kunz at 610-933-3635x109 or email her at ChinyeluK@LifeWaysNorthAmerica.org

Annie in Brooklyn

Adele Ricci (4th grade) and her mom, Gina, will be appearing together in a production of "Annie" with the Gallery Players in Brooklyn, September 16th – October 8th. For more information or to buy tickets go to: galleryplayers.com, 212-352-3101.

Scaffolding Needed

Does anyone know someone who would lend me scaffolding for a few weeks? Please contact Mary K. Till at 267-897-0225. Thank you!

St. Luke's UCC Rummage and Bake Sale

Thursday & Friday, October 12 & 13, 9 am-8 pm,
Saturday, October 14 – Bag Sale All Day 9 am-4 pm.

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

Donated items welcome there from Sept. 12. 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.

4th Annual Kids' Fun Run – October 7th (Raindate October 8th)

Alexandria Park 242 Little York-Mt. Pleasant Road,
Milford, NJ 0-8848

Registration: 10:00am Race Starts: 10:30

Free event for the entire family!! Events include – 1 or 2 miles run or walk, Games & Prizes, Music by DJ Sean, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting & Balloon Animals, Food & SO MUCH FUN!

For more info visit www.ghcm.com/kidsfunrun

Car for Sale

As next step of our plan to move back to Europe, we are selling our second car and namely: a AUDI A6 AWD Avant (Station Wagon), 3.2, from August 2008 with about 85,000 miles and in excellent conditions. Interested? Please contact Piergiorgio, Oscar's dad at pgv.pier@gmail.com or 646 830 9250.

From Education Week:

Scientists to Schools: Social, Emotional Development Crucial for Learning

By Evie Blad

Schools must broaden their approach beyond a narrow focus on academic work, a group of nationally recognized scientists said in a consensus statement released Wednesday.

That's because students' social, emotional, and academic development are "deeply intertwined," and all are central to learning, says the brief.

"Students who have a sense of belonging and purpose, who can work well with classmates and peers to solve problems, who can plan and set goals, and who can persevere through challenges—in addition to being literate, numerate, and versed in scientific concepts and ideas—are more likely to maximize their opportunities and reach their full potential," the brief says.

It's the product of a year of work by 28 academic researchers who study issues like student motivation, school climate, and social-emotional learning. The panel, known as the council of distinguished scientists, was organized by the Aspen Institute's National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, which has set out to bring together educators, scientists, policy makers, and philanthropists to clarify a vision for social-emotional learning in schools.

While many educators support a "whole child" approach that emphasizes areas beyond traditional academics, they can struggle to synthesize research that focuses on narrow but related ideas, like persistence and self-control. And that search for clarity hasn't been helped by a public debate about what to even call this work—social-emotional learning, soft skills, or something else.

So the commission brought together heavy hitters in the field—like Harvard University Professor Stephanie Jones, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Director Marc Brackett, and University of Pennsylvania Professor Angela Duckworth—to create a document that could set an agenda for future research and clarify what they agree on to this point.

As I wrote earlier this year, that work included one-on-one phone conversations between scientists and educators to discuss what is and isn't working in schools. "This body of research demonstrates what parents have always known—the success of young people in school and beyond is inextricably linked to healthy social and emotional development, such as the ability to pay attention, understand and manage emotions, and work effectively in a team," Jones, who co-authored the report, said in a statement. "The evidence should move us beyond debate as to whether schools should address students' social and emotional learning to how schools can effectively integrate social, emotional, and academic development into their daily work."

Social, Emotional, and Academic Development

Beyond academic development, the skills students need to be successful in the classroom and in life can be grouped into three areas, the brief says:

"cognitive skills including executive functions such as working memory, attention control and flexibility, inhibition, and planning, as well as beliefs and attitudes that guide one's sense of self and approaches to learning and growth;

emotional competencies that enable one to cope with frustration, recognize and manage emotions, and understand others' emotions and perspectives; and

social and interpersonal skills that enable one to read social cues, navigate social situations, resolve interpersonal conflicts, cooperate with others and work effectively in a team, and demonstrate compassion and empathy toward others."

Among the other areas of agreement:

These skills can be taught and developed.

Effective social-emotional learning programs can improve teachers' effectiveness and well-being.

These programs must engage families and communities to affect children's development.

Effective implementation, training, and teacher support are necessary to make social-emotional learning work.

The brief emphasizes that schools can't effectively carry out social-emotional learning work alone. They need policies at the state and local level that support this broader vision of student success and resources to carry it out.

Dear Parents,

Euclides Santiago will once again be taking our school photographs this year.

A package will cost \$30.00. The package consists of: one 5x7, 4 wallet size of your child and one 5x7 of the entire class. If you buy the package and would like an additional 5x7 print or set of 4 wallet size, you may order them for \$9 each. Individual prints will not be available to those who do not order the package. You may order one 5x7 of the class only for the cost of \$9.

Please return the slip below, with payment. The sooner your order is in, the quicker you will receive your pictures. There will be a folder on the door of the office. Please return a separate form for each child, as we will organize by class. In the case of two house families, each parent needs to fill out his or her own form.

Thanks!

Cindy

PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR ORDER

I would like an individual photo package of my child _____ \$30.00
(includes 1 5x7, 4 wallet size and 5x7 class picture)

I ordered the package and would also like additional 5x7 prints _____ \$9.00

I ordered the package and would also like an additional set of 4 wallet size _____ \$9.00

I would like only a class picture. _____ \$9.00

Total Enclosed _____

Teacher's name: _____

Child's name: _____

Parent's name: _____

Please return this slip to the folder on the office door with payment - make checks payable to Euclides Santiago

**2017-18 After-school Program
Fall Semester Registration Form**



Our 2017-18 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 3rd through December 14th. **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 – Games, Drama, Challenges and Puzzles, Crafts, Outdoors

(October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 28, December 5, 12)

10 classes - \$210

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.

Wednesday – Sports and Running Games (5th grade and up)

(October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 29, December 6, 13)

10 classes - \$210

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.

Thursday – Cooking and Crafts

October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7, 14)

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):

- Tues. 3:30-5:30 **Games, Drama, Challenges** **\$210.00**
- Wed. 3:30-5:30 **Sports and Running Games** **\$210.00**
- Thurs. 3:30-5:30 **Cooking and Crafts** **\$210.00**

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.