



The River Valley Current

June 10, 2014 No. 384

*"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air."
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, June 12

Snow Make-up Day – Full day of school

Friday, June 13

Snow Make-up Day – Full day – Last day for Grades
Rose Ceremony 9:00 am
Field Day

Saturday, June 14

Graduation 10:00 am

How to Contact Us

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

The Last Day of School

Friday June 13th

Please have students dress in festive attire for the Rose Ceremony and bring comfortable clothes, sunscreen and a hat for Field Day which will follow.



Rose Ceremony

On Friday, June 13th at 9:00 am we will have a Rose Ceremony where grade school students and teachers will pay tribute to our graduating 8th grade class. Everyone is welcome.



Wishing everyone
a relaxing rejuvenating
summer.

See you in September!

PC Meeting Tomorrow Evening 7 pm at the Ship Inn

Various agenda items include a recap of this past year (looking at what worked and what did not) and looking ahead to the next year and what PC might want to accomplish. Parents are invited to share their ideas for guest speakers and to share any input on the festivals.



Graduation

Please join us on
Saturday, June 14th at 10:00 am
for our River Valley Waldorf School graduation. Come and help us
celebrate the class of 2014. All are welcome.

It's EITC Season!

How has River Valley accumulated over \$150,000 in donations to our Tuition Assistance fund over the past 5 years...

- without school-wide mobilization??
- in "non-RVWS" money???

EIT – What?

The Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program allows PA businesses to essentially donate their state income tax to help lower-income families afford to choose an independent school like ours for their children. To the tune of \$60 million state-wide last year.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.

New applications for the program are due on July 1st. If you own a business or have a very close connection with one (parent, sibling, close friend) please contact Renell right away at 610-628-4893 or

rcarpenter@rivervalleyschool.org.

See next page for a letter from a parent who participates in the EITC Program.

Dear Fellow RVWS Parents and Community Members,

I am writing this open letter to the RVWS community to share my experience with the Pennsylvania's Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, and to encourage all Pennsylvania business owners amongst us, and also in our wider networks, to participate in this amazing program!

In an effort to expand educational opportunities for children of families that have limited financial resources, Pennsylvania created the EITC program. Pennsylvania recognizes RVWS as a Scholarship Organization (SO), and allows a business owner to make a contribution to the SO of its choice, and earn a tax credit towards its PA state income tax liability equal to 90% of the contribution amount if the business owner opts for a two-year commitment to the program. River Valley Waldorf School will benefit from any contribution amount. There is no contribution that is too small to make a difference, because EITC donations free up funds budgeted for financial aid and allow those newly-available funds to be used where they are most needed without jeopardizing diversity in the student body. The 10% portion of your contribution that does not result in a state tax credit is even deductible from your federal tax liability as a charitable donation. The EITC program is so popular that the state uses a lottery system to select the applications it will grant each year. Business owners who are not selected at the outset are placed on a wait-list.

It was this time last year that I decided to apply for the EITC. Figuring out an appropriate contribution amount to put on the EITC application was like playing a round of The Price Is Right - I wanted to make a contribution that would be close to, but not exceed, my estimated state tax liability. The online application process for the EITC was a breeze, and Renell was on stand-by to answer all of my questions. I submitted the application online, and was on the wait-list until February of this year when my application was finally approved!

Knowing exactly where your tax dollars are going, and having the ability to direct your hard-earned money directly to River Valley Waldorf School, is really a beautiful thing. As a business owner, I feel on top of things knowing that my 2014 state tax liability is already 90% paid. As a proud supporter of River Valley Waldorf School, I am delighted Pennsylvania has the EITC program because it allows me to contribute directly to River Valley Waldorf School at a contribution level I feel is deserving, but that I may not be able to otherwise afford.

I believe all of our children benefit from every dollar channeled directly to RVWS through the EITC program, because their education is enriched by the diversity RVWS embraces. Our RVWS community is filled with entrepreneurs! If you are one of them, then please consider applying for the EITC program this year -- applications are due on July 1st. Please contact Renell Carpenter at rcarpenter@rivervalley.school.org or 610-628-4893. It is a golden opportunity to decide where your tax dollars go and show your support of RVWS!

Very truly yours,

Eleanor M. Breslin, Esquire

Meshkov & Breslin, LLC

830 Lehigh Street, Easton, PA 18042, (T) 610-438-6300, (F) 610-438-6304, www.meshkovbreslin.com

** TAX ADVICE DISCLOSURE **

PURSUANT TO INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CIRCULAR 230, I AM REQUIRED TO ADVISE YOU THAT IF THERE IS ANY TAX ADVICE CONTAINED HEREIN, IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED, AND CANNOT BE USED, BY THE ADDRESSEE OR ANY TAXPAYER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

From Administration

Summer Hours

Beginning on Monday, June 23rd the school office will be open on a summer schedule - Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm. Please make arrangements in advance if you need to come at another time.

For Sale in the Garden

There is biodynamic lettuce mix available this week. The lettuce mix will cost \$3 a bag. Please look for it in front of the school.

School Calendar

A draft of the school calendar for next year is attached to this week's Current. The final version will be published in the directory. Dates may be added, but there will be no major changes.

Last Chance for Lost & Found

Please be sure to check the lost and found by the end of the week. Wednesday and Thursday, take what is yours. On Friday, take what you can use. And after that it will be donated.

5 Beautiful Chickens Looking for a Home

Our chickens need a home for the summer or forever. Please talk to Melanie in the Star Room or email melanietai@yahoo.com

For Sale

One ladies cut Secret Garden t-shirt, size small, \$15. Contact Carol Diven (cdoboe@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Time to Sign Up for Summer Camp

There are still spaces left in our summer programs, but they are filling up. If your child would like to come to Summer Camp, please register now.

Aftercare Position Open for Next Year

We are looking for someone to teach Aftercare beginning in September. The position is part-time and runs Monday through Friday from 3 until 5:45. Experience working with children is required. If you would like to apply, please send a letter of interest and a resume to info@rivervalleysschool.org.

Thank you

A warm thank you goes out to the following families that have donated a portion of their garden space for Mrs. Sweeney's class. Thank you Chellie and David Bader and Claire and Carl Wargaski-Brunell for the garden space to grow the three sister's garden which consists of corn, squash and beans. Thank you to the Miles family for giving space to grow the broom corn for next year's brooms.

From the Faculty

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Language Arts
Second Grade: Math Review
Third Grade: Review
Fourth Grade: Review

Fifth Grade: Review
Sixth Grade: Geography/Africa
Seventh Grade: History
Eighth Grade: Review

Garden Update

In the last few weeks the garden is flourishing with lots of wonderful new plants. Grades 1 through 7 have been planting sunflowers starts from our original sixteen plants that Ms. Till's class planted last year. And we have added zinnias and hyssop to the pollinator planting area. The second graders planted their three sisters garden at the Bader family garden and at the school garden. They also planted the rest of their broom corn starts over by the gnomey woods. The third graders rolled rocks to the garden last week and along with the other classes they have been finishing up our rock lined beds.

This week we will be spraying the 501 and barrel compost biodynamic preparations to finish off our year in Garden.

From the Board

Thank you

The Board of Trustees sends a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing members, Felicia Holtz and Leah Christensen. Your service is a shining example for all of us and you have each left your mark on our community. We will miss you!

Great Auction Items Still Available!

Did you miss last Saturday's Gala? Never fear, great items are still available. Find something you like in the lobby, bring the bid sheet and your payment to the office and it is yours! We have four events for which there are still spaces available. If interested, please contact auction@rivervalleysschool.org. Thank You!

Farm to Table Dinner Challenge, Saturday, July 19

Join the Kovach's for the first annual Farm to Table Culinary Challenge! Adult teams of 4 will begin the evening with a scavenger hunt to local Doylestown markets to gather the ingredients. At the Kovach residence, teams will face recipe challenges and prepare one course for our family style, farm to table dinner. Eric and Linda from Barefoot Gardens will be our guest chefs and Almathea Cellars will provide wine tasting paired with each course. Dietary restrictions will be accommodated! Fun will be had! FOUR SPACES AVAILABLE \$50/per person

Fantasy Football with Josh Holtz and Ron Ferguson

Own your very own NFL team and join Josh and Ron on a fun filled thrill ride through the 2014 NFL season. Live Draft Party in late summer with food and drinks, ridiculous discussion about the sport and it's heroes and season-long hi-jinks! FIVE SPACES AVAILABLE \$75/per person

The Amazing Race, Saturday, September 13

12 teams will journey around Lake Nockamixon in a race that requires deduction of clues, navigation through the park, and physical and mental challenges. The team to successfully complete each challenge and cross the finish line first wins the returning champions space in next year's challenge, a head start in the 2015 race, and most importantly, RVWS bragging rights! Ceremonies will conclude with a BBQ cookout. Open to adults and grade children with an adult. FOUR SPACES AVAILABLE \$100/per team of 2 to 4

The Grapes of Wrath with Ron Ferguson

Join a group of your River Valley peers to celebrate the 75th anniversary of this cornerstone of 20th Century American literature. We will read and discuss this great document of the Depression in an interactive, multi-media session where we will share music and film clips, readings, food and drink, and of course, examine the journey of the Joads and draw parallels to American life in the new millenium. "And thus the angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathering the vine, cast it into the winepress of the wrath of God." TEN SPACES AVAILABLE \$50/each

From the Community

Sunday Soccer, and the World Cup

Let's play soccer at the school from 10-12 on Sundays this summer, including this Sunday. Send a note to Derek Smith (smithder@lafayette.edu) to get on the email list.

Also contact Derek by this Wednesday evening if you might be interested in joining a World Cup prediction game he and Ron Ferguson have set up.

Great Investment Opportunity!

Stone and log farmhouse and barn on 4 acres in Quakertown area. Renovated inside very artistically and set up as 2 apartments. Perfect for a Waldorf family or two teachers. Currently rented. Listed at \$245,000. I would be interested in a lease/purchase arrangement if an investor is interested. Email or call Miss Till for more information at MKT4160@yahoo.com, 215-536-2141.

Homeopathy Made Simple Classes

Cost is \$100 for the 4 week session.

The Homeopathy Made Simple series is a 4 week class series designed to teach you homeopathy from the ground up. If you are a total novice or just someone who has dabbled it will help you to have a solid foundation where you can continue to build your knowledge and skills in using homeopathy. If you are someone who uses it on an ongoing basis you are sure to learn new things as well. Sunday classes start on June 22 at 1PM (2 hour class) held in The Homeopathic Classroom, 1438 Lonely Cottage Road, UBE, PA.

To reserve a spot call Denise Timofai at 610 982 5012 or email homeopathiceducation@yahoo.com or see our facebook page, Homeopathy Made Simple – Pennsylvania for more information. Audio recordings and class notes are now available for purchase. Price is \$100.

Help Needed

The Hobsons need help moving anytime Wednesday-Sunday. A storage trailer needs to be loaded by the end of the day on Sunday. They are willing to pay a few strong guys to help move big stuff and heavier bins in basement and garage.

For Sale

2006 Nissan Ultima 2.5S in good condition, has 174,000 miles. It gets 39 mpg. It's a manual transmission (stick shift). Blue Book value \$4,000.00. It needs spark plugs and covers for mirrors which someone can likely get from junkyard. The mirrors work but outside plastic covers are off. They do still adjust from driver's side electrically, no problem functionality, just minor cosmetic issue. Price negotiable and finance is available with signed contract.

California King Futon Bedframe - mattress needs replacement but frame is sturdy solid wood. Asking \$350.00 or best offer.

Contact Pamela at: devamam1111@gmail.com

Reiki at the Brick House!

Reiki at the Brick House! I will be teaching levels 1,2 and 3 this summer at the Brick House. Please see the dates below as well as information about the reiki 1 class. Contact Molly for information on level 2 and 3 classes.

Reiki 1- Friday June 28- 6-8, Saturday June 29, 9-4

Includes: The origin and history of reiki, the basics of hand healing for yourself and others. techniques on how to incorporate reiki in your everyday life, three attunements which will open your reiki channel, a reiki 1 manual and certificate.

Reiki 2 Sunday July 13 6-8 pm, Monday July 14 9-4

Reiki 3 Sunday August 24 6-9pm, Monday August 25 9-5

Private reiki sessions will be available Thursdays all summer. Take a break and get some reiki! Call or email to book your appointment! 484-241-5343 or mwatson416@gmail.com

This Summer at the Ottsville Traditional Arts Center

Fiddle, guitar, and cello lessons, potluck jam sessions most every Wednesday night from 6 - 8pm, and our summer headliner events:

Friday, July 11th: CONTRAWALTZ with Bronwyn Bird, Justin Nawn, Daniel Hawkins, Peggy Leiby & Ret Turner
6 - 7pm Waltz Workshop with Peggy Leiby and Ret Turner (\$7)

7 - 7:30pm Contradance Beginners' Workshop

7:30 - 10:30pm Contradance with Bronwyn Bird (nyckelharpa), Justin Nawn (guitar), and Daniel Hawkins (cello) (\$9)

\$13 combined ticket, food fundraiser runs through the night, so come hungry!

Saturday, July 12th: All-day music workshop with Bronwyn Bird, Justin Nawn, and Daniel Hawkins
Co-sponsored by the Birdhouse Center. Appropriate for players of all instruments, from those just able to squeak out a tune to those who can already really rock!

If interested in taking lessons please fill out the contact form on our website and we'll be in touch with you!

Thanks for joining us this past year for all the great music and dancing. For further details on summer events, please check us out at:
ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com

AWAKYA LLC –Awaken your spirit! Awaken your life!

Mark your Calendar for the summer events:

Family Full Moon Ceremonies : June 13th 4.30 pm and July 14th 10 am

Shamanic Journeying Monday's for Beginners: June 30th 7pm, July 7th 7pm, July 21st 7pm

Medicine Wheel Ceremonies: June 26th 6.30pm, July 25th 6.30 pm

Next Reiki Level I Beginners Class: June 22nd 10 am to 3pm

Next Reiki Level II Class: July 19th 10 am to 6.30 pm

All events take place at 5 Cynthia Court, Annandale, NJ 08801. Ongoing Reiki Healing Circles dates for different levels can be found on Awakya meetup.

Please RSVP over meetup: Awakya! awaken your spirit! Awaken your life! Enjoy your summer! Sabine Rahman/Saharra White Wolf

Back by Popular Demand!

Fun Day Monday at Durham Creek Farm with Jen Diedrich – 600 acres of fun – horsemanship, riding, creek-wading and time to explore. Ages 6-10 – 9 am – 2:30 pm – June 16th – August 18th. Limited to 10 children. Riding lessons also available. Contact Jen for details 215-603-9999 or diedrichjen@gmail.com

H.A.N.D.L.E Approach Screenings & Assessments

Understand root causes of academic and behavioral differences through a H.A.N.D.L.E program; Holistic Approach To Neurodevelopment and Learning Efficiency. H.A.N.D.L.E employs nonjudgmental observational assessments and in-depth interviews to develop a "Neuro-developmental Profile". From the profile, understanding emerges of the root causes of the presenting concerns, academic, behavioral, physical, and social. Following a screening or assessment, an individualized program is designed to create more ease and support efficient learning. Reduced rates are available for screenings and assessments.

Contact Learning Through Movement for more information 610-570-7408 Screenings and Assessments, as well as weekly tutoring are offered locally throughout the summer.

H.A.N.D.L.E Two Day Training

H.A.N.D.L.E Intro and Basics Level 1 & 2 with Dror Schneider will be held in Kimberton, PA, August 2, 2014. \$350, discounts for HANDLE clients, signing up with a friend, early bird Contact nancy@parzivalacademy.org for questions and registration.

HOUSE FOR RENT

...in the charming, canal-side village of Erwinna, less than 10 minutes from the school. Former RVWS family is looking to rent out their 3BR, 2.5 Bath historic home. The house was lovingly renovated and expanded, preserving historic character while adding modern conveniences, including high-end kitchen with radiant floor heating, central vacuum, AC, etc. The property includes a renovated barn used for office/guest quarters/studio space overlooking the Delaware Canal. Gardens, fruit trees, tree house and swings, as well as easy access to the tow-path and Tinicum Park make this an ideal family location. Please call Alix von Auenmueller at 267-614-5920 or e-mail aeva@me.com for more information.

Summer Rental

Wildwood Crest, NJ Oceanfront May 31 to June 7 or June 7 to 14 2 Bedroom, have the beach to yourself! Perfect for young families, homeschoolers or empty nesters. Relax in the sun and sea without the crowd. Call today to book. Heated pool! Lynn Freeman 267-784-2152 \$800.00 either week + security deposit. Can't get away for a whole week? Give me a call and we can work something out!

Home for rent

12 minutes from the RVWS school : available mid-August until the February break, single or two people, partially furnished but that is negotiable. Please call Anita Warren 610-847-6992 (home) or 267 245 2492 (cell).

Equine Guided Teen (11-18) Camp

Helping teens dealing with divorce or other family issues in a FUN way. Become part of the herd, experience the magic. No riding. Build a bond with the horses, feel a sense of responsibility, learn new skills, improve self-esteem and confidence.

Mon., July 7-Thurs., July 10 – Ages 11-14

Mon., July 14-Thur., July 17 – Ages 15-18

Mon. July 21-Thur., July 24 – Ages 11-14

Mon. July 28-Thur., July 31 – Ages 15-18

Hours 8:45-12 noon, cost \$295, limit of 8 per session. For more information contact Pamela J. Lee, 267-210-4045, leeranchpw@yahoo.com, www.aspiritualwalkwithhorses.com

Learn Fencing

Beginner Youth Classes (ages 7-12) Starts Saturday May 31st at 10am. All 10 weeks for just \$70! Beginner Adult Classes (Ages 13+) Starts after Memorial Day FREE 10 week session! Circle d'Escrime School of Fencing, Sellersville 610-574-8432 www.cdefencing.com

These Fencing lessons come highly recommended by Jens Christensen, father of Gunna G-6 and Sven G-2.

Golden Cabinet Acupuncture has moved!!

Our new office is located at:

6101 Kellers Church, Suite B, Pipersville PA 18947.

Also found at www.goldcabinet.com.

Hope to see you soon.

House and Work Needed

Your favorite gypsy family (Tara Bowers, Matt Pearson and Alice Bowers) is on the road again, orbiting our beloved school and in a family transition. We gratefully invite your eyes and ears, hearts and connections to support our next landing!

1. Tara is looking for lower rent/rent-work exchange opportunity as she builds her income base. Areas include but not limited to: Upper Black Eddy, Tinicum, Nockamixon, Kintnersville, Ottsville, Point Pleasant, Carversville. Open to NJ side as well.

Employment- Part time summer employment and greater employment during the school year.

For both arrangements, I am skilled and excited by nourishing, organic and delicious cooking of many styles, care-taking, "green" housekeeping, organizing on many levels, organic gardening and farming, writing, speaking, advocating, personal assistant work, management, being a 'face' for an organization, person, business, retail--and of course there's more! Special interests: art, music, dance, women, green living, community, nature, the human being/soul, joy of life.

2. Matt is looking for affordable rental in the area as well. Ideally near where Tara and Alice settle. He works for Zone 7 in Ringoes, NJ.

Timing- as soon as possible, within the realms of possibility! Contact: bowersbetara@gmail.com 908-674-2772 mattpearson1@hotmail.com 908-619-6701

Thank you so much for reading this and being part of our journey! Tara and Matt

A Helping Hand from Mrs. Dringus

For parents in need of a little extra supervision of their children I'm extending my services to you. I'd like to be a help to our community and provide any needed care before school or after school, as well as care for full days when the faculty have their in-service, full days during parent teacher conferences and full days during the work week when children are off from school. Starting September I'll be offering care for your children in the times needed in the convenience of my little cottage home only minutes from school.

Located at 1584 Chestnut Ridge Rd, I am a short 10 minute walk from our school's campus. I have a beautiful little house with a fenced in yard and plenty of activities to keep any aged Waldorf student happy and content, plus plenty of nature to explore on our 6 acre property. Space is limited so please do not hesitate to ask for more information or to sign up for the coming school year. As we all have varying needs my rate is on a sliding scale of \$4 to \$10 an hour. I will not refuse anyone, so please talk to me if you feel other arrangements could be made. I can be reached at 484-888-4535, or of course, around school on the days I'm teaching or substituting. Gratefully, Thea

Babysitter Available

My name is Marcella Harvi. I am in 7th grade and 13 years old. I have taken the American Red Cross babysitters course. I am available for babysitting or mother's helper work on most weekdays and some weekends. I charge \$5 an hour for 1 child and \$1 per additional child per hour. You can reach me at 203-343-2500.

Free Bunny Hutch

An RVWS neighbor has a bunny hutch that is looking for a good home. Bunnies not included. Call Bob Compton 610-982-5815.

BUCKS COUNTY Regional Household Hazardous Waste or Electronic Collection Program

All collections are held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise, rain or shine.

Your waste hauler does not want hazardous waste mixed in with your household trash. Therefore, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program is for you. The intent of the program is to provide an environmentally responsible way to dispose of hazardous materials and to provide residents with information on how to produce less hazardous waste in the future.

ELECTRONICS ONLY - June 28, 2014

Palisades Middle School (4710 Durham Road, Nockamixon Township)

ELECTRONICS ONLY - July 26, 2014

Central Bucks South High School (1100 Folly Road, Warrington Township)

At the ELECTRONICS ONLY events residents are encouraged to bring All Sizes and Types of TVs, Answering Machines, Blenders, Camcorders, Cell Phones, Copiers, CPUs, Electric Typewriters, Fax Machines, Gaming Consoles/Controllers, Keyboards, Laptop Computers (All makes, models, and peripherals), Mice, Microwaves, Monitors, Peripherals (Including cords, power supplies and cables), Printers, Radios, Rechargeable Batteries, Remote Controls, Scanners, Stereo/Tape/CD Players, Telephones, Toasters, Vacuums, and VCR/DVD Players. If you are unsure of an item please call (215) 345- 3400.

HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY - June 21, 2014

Upper Bucks County Area Vo-Tech School (3115 Ridge Road, Bedminster Township)

HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY - July 19, 2014

Central Bucks South High School (1100 Folly Road, Warrington Township)

At the HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY events we will accept Household Batteries- All Button Types, Lithium and Rechargeable; Lead-Acid Batteries from Car, Marine, Motorcycle, and Truck; Caustics like Ammonia-Based Cleaners, Household Lye, Oven Cleaner, Drain Cleaner, and Metal Cleaner; Flammables such as Oil-based Paint, Spot Removers, Gasoline, Kerosene, Gas/Oil mixture, and Heating Oil (in nothing larger than a 5 gal container and not more than 220 lbs.); Pesticides such as Chlordane, DDT, Malathion, Sevin, and Rodent Poison; Common Household Toxics like Photographic Chemicals, Pool Chemicals, Weed Killer, Antifreeze, Rust/Paint Remover, Mercury, and CFLs (fluorescent lamps). If you are unsure of an item please call (215) 345- 3400.

The COMBINATION events will accept any item from either list above, and are:

Hazardous Waste and Electronics - August 16, 2014

Quakertown Community High School, 600 Park Avenue (Rear Lot)

Residents may bring a maximum of 25 gallons or 225 pounds of material to the appropriate collection event accepting that specific item. Do not bring: large appliances, biological waste, explosives, radioactive waste, or tires.

Guidelines for safely transporting household hazardous waste to the collection sites include:

- Place all materials securely in a box, to prevent spilling.
- Keep all products in their original containers with labels intact.
- Keep all caps and lids on tight.
- Wrap leaking containers in newspaper and place in a plastic container for transport.
- Do not mix materials.
- Do not leave loaded vehicle in a hot unventilated area for prolonged periods.
- Do not smoke near the chemicals.

If you have LATEX PAINT avoid the lines at the collection and dry it solid and place in your regular trash. LATEX PAINT is not hazardous and can be disposed of normally once dried.

The program is for residents only; no material will be accepted from businesses, industry or institutions. This is a regional program as the counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia are working together to make the program more convenient to the residents in southeastern Pennsylvania. As a result, the residents of Bucks County are welcome to take their household hazardous waste or electronics to one of the neighboring county collection events if that date or location is more convenient. Please verify the details of the Non-Bucks events; some will also only be taking paints or only be taking TVs and electronics. All collections are held on Saturday's from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise, rain or shine.

INFORM

The official AWSNA newsletter for our school communities

Dear Waldorf Community,
Following up on a CNN tweetchat during Screen-Free Week in which AWSNA participated, the New York Times solicited opinions from various educational representatives on the question of whether social and creative skills are compromised by the rapid spread of coding instruction in grade school. Beverly Amico, representing AWSNA, was one of the contributors. She finishes by saying, "In Waldorf schools, where the vast majority of computer-aided learning occurs in high school, students readily master computing and programming skills; more important, they graduate with the key capacities — independent thinking, collaboration, creativity and curiosity—that our future demands."

Wishing you a restful and rejuvenating summer,

*Beverly, David, and
Melanie*



AWSNA SUMMER CONFERENCE

We look forward to seeing you at the AWSNA Summer Conference June 23-June 26, 2014 at the Hartsbrook School, Hadley, Mass. The theme for this year is "Cultivating Humanness within a Technological World," featuring keynote speaker, Craig Holdrege, Ph.D. As always, this annual event promises to be a wonderful way to connect with old friends and to make new ones! See you there.



SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED

This year, five scholarships have been granted to Mexican colleagues to attend AWSNA's 2014 summer conference at the Hartsbrook School in Hadley, MA. This was made possible through a generous foundation grant aimed at engaging our Mexican colleagues more deeply in our continental work and availing them to networking and professional development opportunities. Please be sure say hello!



Richard Mason is the first and second grade teacher at the Ak Lu'um International School in Playa del Carmen.



Luisa Fernanda Peña Olguín is a first grade Waldorf teacher at Colegio Waldorf Amanecer in Aguascalientes. Last year she completed first grade through sixth grade (the elementary school in Mexico). She is on the Board of Trustees and works in the administrative office.



Bonnie Baker is the Program Coordinator at the Center for Anthroposophical Development. She has academic training as a Cultural Anthropologist, and has studied medical anthroposophy and biodynamic agriculture. She and her husband run a Biodynamic Farm and Learning Center in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where she also heads Satteva, a spa and wellness consulting company.



Cristina Franco has 15 years of experience in Waldorf education as a drama teacher and as a grade teacher at the Escuela Waldorf de Cuernavaca. She began her training at the Rudolf Steiner Institute in Maine, completed her training through the teacher training program at the Centro Antroposófico de México (currently CDA), and later received her Certification from the Educator Program at Sunbridge College. She is also a founding member of the Mexican branch, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, of the General Anthro-posophical Society. She

currently teaches 7th grade at the Escuela Waldorf de Cuernavaca.



Sandra Villaseñor Atilano studied fashion design and has been sewing and teaching for 17 years. Over the last two years she has been the 3rd grade assistant and kindergarten assistant and will begin teaching first grade in the fall at Escuela Waldorf de Cuernavaca. She is also a member of the anthroposophic branch in Cuernavaca and a member of the Parent Teacher Board of the school.

GREEN WALDORF

Several Waldorf schools have recently been forerunners in the sustainable movement: The Corvallis Waldorf School is the first school in Oregon to have an award-winning SAGE classroom. The Waldorf School of Baltimore (WSB) has achieved recertification as a 2014 Maryland Green School, an award winning program founded in 1999 by The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. You can read about these school movements on our website: whywaldorfworks.org

AWSNA JOB POSTINGS

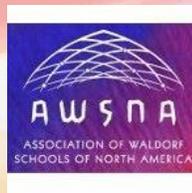
Employment opportunities at Waldorf schools and institutes can be found on the Why Waldorf Works website. Please post your available jobs by submitting them to webeditor@awsna.org.

http://www.whywaldorfworks.org/03_NewsEvents/jobs.asp

SPRING/SUMMER RENEWAL is here! Topics in the current issue include:

- Boys, Girls, Movement and Healthy Development
- Electronic Technology in Education
- Saying Good-Bye to WiFi
- Waldorf in Russia

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How Children Have Become Their Parents' Bullies

By Robin Berman, MD

It used to be that kids were scared of their parents. Now parents seem scared of their kids.

At a toy store, I witnessed a common but ludicrous dynamic; a 4-year-old child was emotionally bullying his mother. The helpless mom repeatedly explained to her son that he was not getting a present because it was not his birthday – they were there to buy his friend a present. It was exhausting watching her quickly lose ground. The more the mother talked and explained, the more her little boy screamed, reaching a crescendo with a full-blown kicking and earsplitting tantrum on the floor. The scene upstaged the shoppers, and I was struck by how powerless the mother looked as she was taken down by her 4 year old.

It used to be that kids were scared of their parents and now parents seem scared of their kids. The pendulum has swung from children being seen and not heard to being heard and perpetually indulged. Parents seem so uncomfortable with setting limits and taking their rightful position as captain of the family ship. Their hearts are in the right place; they want to be more attentive to their kids' needs than their parents had been to theirs. But we have over corrected, turning into a generation of "parent pleasers," rarely saying no for fear of hurting our children's feelings. And as a result, putting a child to bed or leaving a toy store becomes an ordeal.

It is unsafe for a child to have that much power; kids today are more demanding and more anxious. When parents are skittish about asserting their parental authority, too often kids learn that "no" means "maybe." That gives kids wiggle room to keep negotiating, throwing fits and emotionally bullying their parents. This reinforces the bad behavior and fuels the notion that the louder they whine, the more they get. Push fast forward on a child who consistently throws tantrums and gets his way. What teacher would want to teach him, what employer would hire him, and who would want to date him?

We have to be able to tolerate our children's stormy emotions without rushing in to fix them or we are unintentionally crippling our kids. We are trying to grow resilient kids, not fragile, entitled ones. Buying another child a present teaches your child about doing for others, and that the world does not revolve around him. What great life lessons!

Let's remind ourselves that discipline actually means to teach, not to punish or shame, and that setting loving limits will help raise a thriving child. We can acknowledge and empathize with our children's feelings but still hold the line: "I know you want a new toy, but we are not buying you one today." Period. And if the child continues to have a tantrum, you have to leave the store. You need to do what is right for your children, even if it means tolerating a brief drop in your popularity polls. You are the one with experience and perspective – a perspective that children just don't have. Your job is not to please your child; your job is to parent your child. We have to be able to hold a loving space for our child's anger or hurt feelings while staying the course.

So how did the toy store debacle end? The mom, drained and exhausted by her child's tantrum was at the register, purchasing two toys – not realizing that the real gift would have been saying no!

Robin Berman, MD, is associate professor at UCLA and author of *Permission to Parent: How to Raise Your Child with Love & Limits*.

Waldorf News

What's Lost as Handwriting Fades

By MARIA KONNIKOVA

Does handwriting matter?

Not very much, according to many educators. The Common Core standards, which have been adopted in most states, call for teaching legible writing, but only in kindergarten and first grade. After that, the emphasis quickly shifts to proficiency on the keyboard.

But psychologists and neuroscientists say it is far too soon to declare handwriting a relic of the past. New evidence suggests that the links between handwriting and broader educational development run deep. Children not only learn to read more quickly when they first learn to write by hand, but they also remain better able to generate ideas and retain information. In other words, it's not just what we write that matters — but how.

"When we write, a unique neural circuit is automatically activated," said Stanislas Dehaene, a psychologist at the Collège de France in Paris. "There is a core recognition of the gesture in the written word, a sort of recognition by mental simulation in your brain."

"And it seems that this circuit is contributing in unique ways we didn't realize," he continued. "Learning is made easier."

A 2012 study led by Karin James, a psychologist at Indiana University, lent support to that view. Children who had not yet learned to read and write were presented with a letter or a shape on an index card and asked to reproduce it in one of three ways: trace the image on a page with a dotted outline, draw it on a blank white sheet, or type it on a computer. They were then placed in a brain scanner and shown the image again.

The researchers found that the initial duplication process mattered a great deal. When children had drawn a letter freehand, they exhibited increased activity in three areas of the brain that are activated in adults when they read and write: the left fusiform gyrus, the inferior frontal gyrus and the posterior parietal cortex. By contrast, children who typed or traced the letter or shape showed no such effect. The activation was significantly weaker. Dr. James attributes the differences to the messiness inherent in free-form handwriting: Not only must we first plan and execute the action in a way that is not required when we have a traceable outline, but we are also likely to produce a result that is highly variable. That variability may itself be a learning tool. "When a kid produces a messy letter," Dr. James said, "that might help him learn it."

Our brain must understand that each possible iteration of, say, an "a" is the same, no matter how we see it written. Being able to decipher the messiness of each "a" may be more helpful in establishing that eventual representation than seeing the same result repeatedly. "This is one of the first demonstrations of the brain being changed because of that practice," Dr. James said.

In another study, Dr. James is comparing children who physically form letters with those who only watch others doing it. Her observations suggest that it is only the actual effort that engages the brain's motor pathways and delivers the learning benefits of handwriting.

The effect goes well beyond letter recognition. In a study that followed children in grades two through five, Virginia Berninger, a psychologist at the University of Washington, demonstrated that printing, cursive writing, and typing on a keyboard are all associated with distinct and separate brain patterns — and each results in a distinct end product. When the children composed text by hand, they not only consistently produced more words more quickly than they did on a keyboard, but expressed more ideas. And brain imaging in the oldest subjects suggested that the connection between writing and idea generation went even further. When these children were asked to come up with ideas for a composition, the ones with better handwriting exhibited greater neural activation in areas associated with working memory — and increased overall activation in the reading and writing networks.

Samples of handwriting by young children. Dr. James found that when children drew a letter freehand, they exhibited increased activity in three significant areas of the brain, which didn't happen when they traced or typed the letter. It now appears that there may even be a difference between printing and cursive writing — a distinction of particular importance as the teaching of cursive disappears in curriculum after curriculum. In dysgraphia, a condition where the ability to write is impaired, usually after brain injury, the deficit can take on a curious form: In some people, cursive writing remains relatively unimpaired, while in others, printing does. In alexia, or impaired reading ability, some individuals who are unable to process print can still read cursive, and vice versa — suggesting that the two writing modes activate separate brain networks and engage more cognitive resources than would be the case with a single approach.

Dr. Berninger goes so far as to suggest that cursive writing may train self-control ability in a way that other modes of writing do not, and some researchers argue that it may even be a path to treating dyslexia. A 2012 review suggests that cursive may be particularly effective for individuals with developmental dysgraphia — motor-control difficulties in forming letters — and that it may aid in preventing the reversal and inversion of letters. Cursive or not, the benefits of writing by hand extend beyond childhood. For adults, typing may be a fast and efficient alternative to longhand, but that very efficiency may diminish our ability to process new information. Not only do we learn letters better when we commit them to memory through writing, memory and learning ability in general may benefit.

Two psychologists, Pam A. Mueller of Princeton and Daniel M. Oppenheimer of the University of California, Los Angeles, have reported that in both laboratory settings and real-world classrooms, students learn better when they take notes by hand than when they type on a keyboard. Contrary to earlier studies attributing the difference to the distracting effects of computers, the new research suggests that writing by hand allows the student to process a lecture's contents and reframe it — a process of reflection and manipulation that can lead to better understanding and memory encoding.

Not every expert is persuaded that the long-term benefits of handwriting are as significant as all that. Still, one such skeptic, the Yale psychologist Paul Bloom, says the new research is, at the very least, thought-provoking. "With handwriting, the very act of putting it down forces you to focus on what's important," he said. He added, after pausing to consider, "Maybe it helps you think better."

Maria Konnikova is a contributing writer for The New Yorker online and the author of "Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes." This article originally appeared in the New York Times.