

## School Calendar

### This Week

**Monday-Friday, March 11-15**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Hawthorne Valley Farm Trip

**Thursday-Friday, March 15-16**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade to Penn Museum – Overnight Field Trip

### Looking Ahead

**Wednesday, March 20**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent Evening 6:30 pm

**Wednesday, March 27**

Grade School Assembly 6:30 pm

**Saturday, March 27**

Auction Gala

**Thursday-Friday, March 28-29**

No-School – Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Sunday, March 31**

Committee for Social Justice Meeting

**Thursday, April 4**

Middle School Musical – Oliver 6:30 pm

**Friday, April 5**

Middle School Musical – Oliver 6:30 pm

**Saturday, April 6**

Middle School Musical – Oliver 2:00 pm

**Monday-Friday, April 15-19**

No School – Spring Break

### How to Contact Us

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



### Have you Heard the Buzz?

**Our auction is just a few weeks away on  
Saturday, March 23rd!**

Come join us to celebrate - for the Good of the Hive! Need some reasons to join in the fun?

- Beautiful setting at Durham Springs - truly a night out!
- 100 years of Waldorf Education
- 100 students graduated from RVWS
- Variety of auction items - something for everyone and every budget
- Representative Ullman will be joining our celebration, supporting independent education
- Moonshine and Millet will top the night off!

Purchase your tickets today! Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased online <https://rvws.ejoinme.org/2019auction> or by check made out the RVWS.

**Online ticket purchases will end at midnight this Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Any tickets purchased after that will include an additional cost.**

There are a limited number of free tickets available (10) for those willing to put in at least 4 hours of volunteerism on the day of the event! These tickets are first come first served, so please contact Liz Davachi, [liz@familymassage.com](mailto:liz@familymassage.com), 908-397-2737 and let her know if you are willing to help with set up or checking in and clean up!

### Last Chance for a Sweet Deal from Moonshine and Millet Bidding Ends Tonight at Midnight

Moonshine and Millet will once again grace the stage of our Auction!

This is reason alone to get your tickets today! But we're going to sweeten the deal...

#### Want to have Moonshine and Millet play your song at the auction?!

Hear your favorite tune transformed into a high energy blue grass rendition, as only our favorite Strummin', Fiddlin', Finger-pickin', Bass-thumpin' musicians can do!

*Only one caveat – every now and then, there's a song that just doesn't translate well to the Moonshine and Millet style. It's not likely, but if the winning bidder's first choice fits into this rare category, the band will reach out to the winner to pick another of favorite song.*

Bid here: <https://rvws2019.ggo.bid/>

### Please join the Committee for Social Justice on Sunday, March 31

at 779 Cafferty Road in Upper Black Eddy from 1 to 4 for another book discussion!

We will be talking about *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nahisi Coates.

The Committee for Social Justice meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 3:30 to 4:30 in the second grade classroom.

## Grade School Assembly Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 pm

Our Grade School Assembly is coming up on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Students from grades 2-8 will be performing. Parents and families from EC and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are welcome to attend to get a preview of what is in store for their children. Hope to see you there!

Students are asked to wear Festive Attire, as described in the Parent Handbook:

Whenever faculty refer to Festive Attire, the intent is neat, clean and special; "nicer than everyday school clothes" and reflective of the care and effort which has led up to the occasion.

Preferred attire includes dress slacks, khakis, skirts or dresses (no more than 4" above the knee), dress shirts/blouses, button-down shirts. Specifically, no jeans or cargo pants, no torn clothing, no pictures on clothing, no text, no glitter, no sneakers, and please be mindful of high heels vis-à-vis performance requirements.

**Students in grades 2-8 are expected in their classroom at 6 pm.**

## From Administration

### New Music After School Program

From the end of March to the end of May we will be adding a new Music afterschool session! Kris Ramakrishna, a River Valley alum, is an international composer, performer and guitarist and soon to be Berklee College of Music graduate. Kris is ready to give back to River Valley by sharing and inspiring RVWS grade school children through music from around the world. Children are encouraged to bring their voices or instruments, and Kris will lead them in an ensemble setting while helping them enrich their musicality. Recommended for 3rd grade and above.

It will run on Mondays starting March 25, 3:30-5. The week of April 25 (after break) it will shift to Thursdays, same time, until May 30.

**Kris will be introducing his program to the students at our morning assembly this Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. Parents who are interested in learning more are welcome to join us.**

### Amazon Smile

We received a check from Amazon Smile for \$103.55. Thank you to everyone whose purchases contributed to our school.

If you shop on Amazon, please remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) first to sign up and choose RVWS as your charity. After that, a portion of your purchases will be donated to River Valley as long as you order through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

## From The Faculty

### What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Arithmetic

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Farm Trip

Fourth Grade – Norse Mythology

Fifth Grade – Geometry

Sixth Grade – History

Seventh Grade – Geometry

Eighth Grade – Chemistry

## From The Board



### Have you heard the Buzz?

#### We need YOU to make our Auction a success!

Share your talents, creativity or time! We need 3 auction items from each family -- Nourish a belly or soul, host a game night, offer your services or solicit gift certificates from your favorite shops. For more ideas or suggestions reach us at [auction@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:auction@rivervalleyschool.org)

## From Parent Council

### Hello River Valley Waldorf Parents,

It is time to begin planning for Mayfaire! This annual event is both beloved and very important to our children, the community and our school. We recognize that planning a large event can be a considerable commitment of time and effort. Parent Council would like to simplify Mayfaire this year and try a different approach to holding the festival. The new approach distributes the effort across the entire school community, which we believe will help to make this event (as well as Winter Fair) more sustainable over time.

What is changing:

1. Each grade will be assigned and be responsible for a task from start to finish. Parent Council, the Leadership Council and the Administrative Team are here to support each class and to provide guidance, advice and assistance. Communication is the key to success in this process. The class coordinators will be the point people for each class. Please cc: us ([lc@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:lc@rivervalleyschool.org) and [pc@rivervalleyschool.org](mailto:pc@rivervalleyschool.org) ) when you send an e-mail. We will need to work together to ensure that all aspects of the activities are covered.
2. PC meetings will focus on Mayfaire preparations. Notes will be shared with anyone who can't attend. Upcoming meetings are March 4th at 2:00 pm at Homestead and March 20th at 7:00 pm at Frenchtown Inn (please let us know if you're coming so we can reserve a table.) Everyone is welcome to join us – it is a very pleasant way to take care of business! If you have any questions about the meetings – let us know.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to PC (Liz Davachi and Lorissa Lock) with any questions or help that you need.

We look forward to working with the whole community for another fantastic event.

Thank you very much,  
Liz & Lorissa, your PC Co-chairs

### Artisan Market at Mayfaire!

If any of the grades or students would like to participate in selling their handmade creations at the Mayfaire this year, please email lvy at [karunagoddess@gmail.com](mailto:karunagoddess@gmail.com)

## From the Community

### Tenor Sax Player Needed

We are looking for a tenor sax player to play with our band at Parent Stage. Contact David Bader 610-220-4409 or [david@thelab.net](mailto:david@thelab.net)

### Earth School Summer Camp

Staying connected to self through nature...  
June 24-August 23 (8 one-week sessions) at Bucks County Audubon in Solebury, PA

For 6-13 year olds. Space is limited (intentionally).  
[www.earthschoolforkids.com](http://www.earthschoolforkids.com), a non-profit rededucational organization. 267-454-4491.

### Wanted Dead or Alive – Spotted Lanternfly

Join the Tinicum Conservancy on **Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7-9:30 pm** for a Spotted Lanternfly Community Education Presentation at Tinicum Elementary School Library, 162 E. Dark Hollow Road, Pipersville, PA

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive insect from eastern Asia that has spread throughout southeastern Pennsylvania since its discovery in Berks County in 2014. This colorful devil covers trees and other surfaces by the thousands and is a significant threat to Pennsylvania's hardwoods, fruit trees and grape vines. Join us to learn how you can identify and help stop the spread of this invasive insect.

### Rachel's Challenge at Pennridge High School

Join us for a life-changing presentation designed to create a culture of kindness and respect throughout the community.

**Wednesday, March 13, 7 pm**, Pennridge HS Auditorium

Our featured speaker will be Darrell Scott whose daughter's death at Columbine has sparked a powerful movement of kindness and compassion that is transforming schools and communities. Mr. Scott will speak about how each one of us can replace acts of violence, bullying and negativity with respect, kindness and compassion. We sincerely hope you will join us to learn how you can be part of the "chain reaction of kindness and compassion" that is going to sweep our community.

This event is free and open to all community members. No registration is required.

### Please Consider Supporting RVWS Parent's Kickstarter Campaign! Deadline Early Tomorrow Morning

Kevin Bott, father of Lev (2nd grade) and Valor (5th grade) has been developing the non-profit Ritual4Return ([www.ritual4return.org](http://www.ritual4return.org)) for the past 10 years. R4R is an arts-based rite of passage program designed to help formerly incarcerated people overcome the shame, stigma, and trauma of incarceration. Raising \$15K to launch Manhattan program this spring.

Please visit [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and search for "Ritual4Return" or "Kevin Bott."

**The campaign ends at 8:59am on Wednesday, March 13!**

### Slow Flow Yoga w. Ivy Giacchino-Berrocal

Tuesdays at RiverSoul Yoga. 9:00-10:15a

\$12 drop-ins - space is limited, please email Ivy to reserve: [karunagoddess@gmail.com](mailto:karunagoddess@gmail.com)

RiverSoul Yoga - 18 Bridge St. Milford

### River Ballet Company presents Swan Lake

March 30th at 11:30am

Music Mountain Theater, 1483 Rt 179. Lambertville, NJ \*\*Great show for Kids and Adults.

Tickets: [www.tututix.com/riverballet](http://www.tututix.com/riverballet)



### **Break and Make - An art workshop for kids**

Simon Keller, potter/ceramic artist, will lead a fun and physical art workshop where kids will smash pots and use the fragments to create original pieces of art. Simon has over twenty years of experience in both traditional and experimental ceramic arts. Since 2007, he has taught authentic Japanese ceramic techniques and experimental ceramic art workshops at duCret School of Arts in Plainfield, NJ.

March 16, 2-5 PM

Raritan Learning Cooperative 168 Main St. Flemington, NJ, For Kids ages 12 - 17. Cost: \$15.

To register contact:

[scott@raritanlearningcooperative.org](mailto:scott@raritanlearningcooperative.org)

### **Plowshare Farms CSA**

Registration is now open! River Valley Waldorf School family, Teddy, Faith, and Clement Moynihan raise chemical-free, naturally-grown produce in Pipersville, and offer a 24 week, on-farm CSA, June through Thanksgiving. From garden variety veggies to heirloom oddities, we have been growing food for our community for six seasons, and are eager to share the bounty with our new community--Clement just joined the Acorn Room in September. Please check out what we're all about at [plowsharefarms.com](http://plowsharefarms.com) or @plowsharefarms.

### **Film Screening and Discussion - I'm Not Racist...Am I?**

Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00PM

Location: The Newtown Theatre - 120 N. State St. Newtown, PA

Cost: Free will donation

Contact: Holly Olson. [hollybqc@verizon.net](mailto:hollybqc@verizon.net), 215-860-9747

Bucks Quarterly Meeting's Outreach Committee is excited to host a screening and discussion of the feature documentary, I'm Not Racist... Am I? The film follows a diverse group of teens through a yearlong exploration to get at the heart of racism. Through some tense and painful moments, we see how these difficult conversations affect their relationships with friends and parents, and ultimately challenge them to look deep within themselves. By the end of their time together, we'll see these remarkable young people develop deeper bonds, a stronger resolve and a bigger, more significant definition of racism than any of us ever imagined. Unfortunately, our work to eradicate racism from our society will not be over any time soon. Come to this engaging event to become more enlightened.

One of the producers of the film, André Robert Lee will lead the discussion following the film. Appropriate for teens in grades 7 and up. The event is open to the general public.

### **Help for a Friend**

Hi Friends:

Pamela Hobson, mother of Olivia, is in need of financial assistance while she fights cervical cancer. We have set up a fundraiser where those who wish to help can set up a monthly donation to assist with food and other bills. The link is:

<https://www.patreon.com/user?u=2568187>

Thanks, Andy Wander

In addition to ongoing donations, RVWS is collecting money to purchase gift cards for Kimberton Whole Foods for Pamela. Please see Cindy, Robbie or Tiffany to leave your donation.

### **Very Special Grand Piano for Sale:**

Knabe and Co, Baltimore, 1900's

- warm brown walnut, ivory keys, beautiful interior, carved legs, lovely sound
- professionally refinished 10 years ago, temp control system
- needs tuning and a loving home, \$6500

Annie - 203-556-2162, [aporter@rivervalleysschool.org](mailto:aporter@rivervalleysschool.org)  
I can email pics, and you are welcome to come try it out!

### **Sacred Harp Singing with Gregory Corbino at Artyard Alumni of Bread and Puppet and 2017 ArtYard Cranky Fest performer**

Over the course of two days, singers of all abilities are welcome to join music director Gregory Corbino for a weekend of learning and singing in the tradition of the Sacred Harp, also known as shape note singing. There will be two workshops; one March 23-24 and the second April 6-7. We will also have a Sacred Harp Singing celebration and potluck in May. For more information and tickets go to [ArtYard.org](http://ArtYard.org).

## Artyard

**Exhibition: The Creative Commons: Progressive Studio Practice - January 12 – April 15**

### Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm**

Build Your Own Bird Costume for Artyard's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hatch

**March 23 - 24 & April 6-7**

Sacred Harp Singing School Workshops with Gregory Corbino, (singing & potluck on May 19<sup>th</sup>.)

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**

Crank Night – This year's theme is *Questions*.

**Friday, April 5, 7:30 pm**

Please join us for a night of musical celebration with The Lovestruck Balladeers

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**

Screening of Paper Moon, the 1973 comedy drama starring Ryan O'Neal and Tatum O'Neal

**Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**

Screening of Finding Vivian Maier, directed by John Maloof and Charlie Siskel followed by a communal, bring your own picnic

Go to: [artyard.org](http://artyard.org) for tickets and more information about all of these events.

Artyard, 62A Trenton Avenue, Frenchtown, NJ 08825. Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

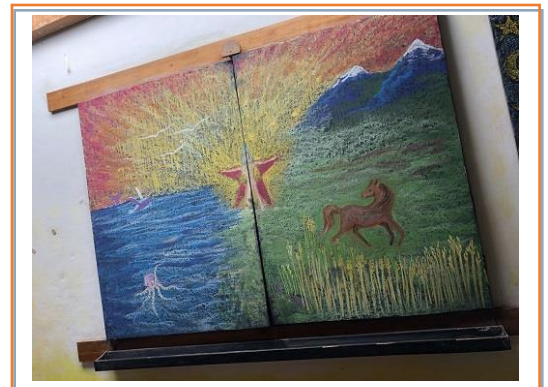
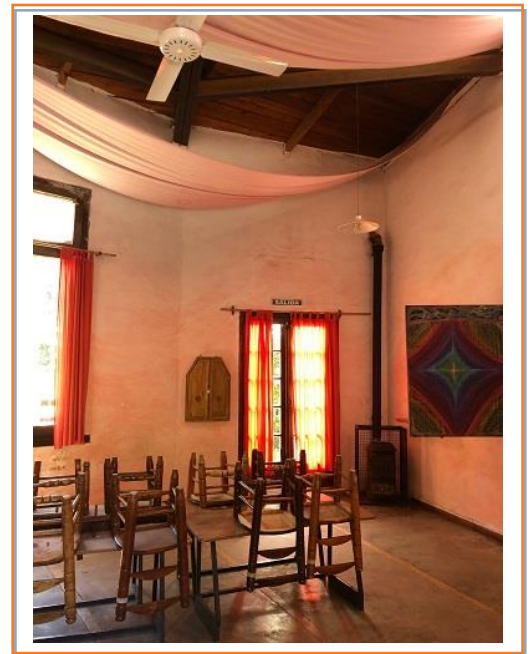
Third Grade as they left for a week at Hawthorne Valley Farm.





## A Visit to Argentina

Katherine, Rod, Sofia (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and Sarina (Moon Room) Schilling visited the Clara de Asis Waldorf School in Argentina where their cousins go to school, and brought back these beautiful pictures. They said it was really wonderful to visit another Waldorf school and to realize how similar it is to our school, our values and our community regardless of the distance.



From Psychology Today

## **Arts-Integrated Pedagogy May Enhance Academic Learning**

### **The arts may help students remember science lessons.**

By Christopher Bergland

Fifth-grade students who created some type of art—such as a drawing, writing a rap song, singing a science lesson, or choreographing a dance—that reflected specific classroom lessons, retained science-based knowledge longer than students who didn't make art in the same class, according to a new study from Johns Hopkins University. These interdisciplinary findings support the benefits of broader arts integration into conventional classrooms.

As a specific example, the researchers found that students who memorized and sang a song with lyrics that held science-based lessons remembered the content much longer and with better detail than most classmates who tried to retain textbook content learned by rote without a song. This paper, "The Effects of Arts-Integrated Instruction on Memory for Science Content," was recently published in *Trends in Neuroscience and Education*. The main goal of this randomized control trial was to determine if an arts-integrated curriculum had any direct impact on learning. The primary focus was on students' long-term memory for science content in astronomy and life science classes or environmental science and chemistry.

Mariale Hardiman from the JHU School of Education was the first author of this study. "Our study provides more evidence that the arts are absolutely needed in schools. I hope the findings can assuage concerns that arts-based lessons won't be as effective in teaching essential skills," Hardiman said in a statement.

"When we talk about learning, we have to discuss memory. Children forget much of what they learn and teachers often end up reteaching a lot of content from the previous year," Hardiman added. "Here we're asking, how exactly can we teach them correctly to begin with so they can remember more?"

For this study, Hardiman and colleagues from the School of Education and Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins enlisted 350 students from 16 different classrooms in Baltimore, Maryland. The trial was designed to measure retention of science content using arts-integrated science learning in comparison to conventional science instruction that didn't incorporate the arts.

During two sessions that lasted between three to four weeks, students were randomly assigned to one arts-integrated science curriculum and one conventional class. Eleven teachers taught both types of classes. Each fifth-grade student rotated through one arts-integrated class and one conventional class.

As the parent of a sixth grader who attends a private K-8 day school that regularly incorporates drawing into science classes, I can corroborate the benefits of arts-integrated pedagogy on academic learning. This week, my daughter spent two days pouring her artistic passion into creating a detailed topographical map (below) of the "Hydrologic Cycle" for a school project due today.

My daughter is lucky. I'm grateful that she's able to attend a day school that reflects the pedagogical philosophy of my alma mater, Hampshire College. When Julia Child's sister co-founded this K-8 school, their mission was to create a "character-building" learning environment that incorporated the arts and an appreciation for nature into academic lessons. Unfortunately, for many students across the country, budget cuts to arts programs and a lack of appreciation for nature do not reflect these core values.

Notably, the Johns Hopkins researchers found that incorporating the arts into classroom learning was most beneficial to low-achieving students who tended to struggle academically.

This study has some limitations. For example, more research is needed to pinpoint whether the benefits of arts-integrated learning are primarily the result of effective instruction, exposure to the arts in general, specific types of art-based lesson plans, or a combination of these interventions in non-arts-based classroom environments. As a next step, Hardiman plans to work with the researchers and educators involved in this study to fine tune an evidence-based, art-integrated pedagogy that expands on the initial findings of this study.

"Our data suggests that traditional instruction seems to perpetuate the achievement gap for students performing at the lower levels of academic achievement. We also found that students at advanced levels of achievement didn't lose any learning from incorporating arts into classrooms, but potentially gained benefits such as engagement in learning and enhanced thinking dispositions. For these reasons, we would encourage educators to adopt integrating the arts into content instruction," Hardiman concluded.



**2019 Annual River Valley Waldorf School Auction Gala**  
**Saturday, March 23, 2019**  
**Durham Springs, Kintnersville, PA**  
**In-kind Donation Form**

<b>Name of Donor</b>	
<b>Position/Title</b>	
<b>Company</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	

Please list each donated item and value. Use the back of the page if needed.

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Thank you for contributing to the RVWS Annual Gala and Auction! Official recognition will be provided after the event. All donations benefit our school. Please deliver items by February 22, 2019.

-----**For office use only**-----

- Auction Committee: Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Development Office: Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Greater Giving: Name Entered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Business Office: Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_