

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, April 24

7th & 8th Grade Parent Evenings 6:30 pm

Friday, April 26

Mountain Laurel WS Orchestra Concert 10:50 am
Middle School Dance 6:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Friday, May 3

Family and Friends Day

Saturday, May 4

Mayfaire and Open House

Monday, May 6

No School – Faculty In-service

Monday, May 13

6th Grade trip to Crystal Cave

Wednesday, May 15

6th Grade Parent Evening 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 16

5th Grade Pentathlon – Kimberton WS

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org

lc@rivervalleyschool.org

bot@rivervalleyschool.org

pc@rivervalleyschool.org

2019 – 2020 School Calendar

On the last page of the Current you will find a draft of the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. Dates will be added but the first day of school and the major breaks will not change.

OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, May 4th

We need your help!

At 9:45 am on Saturday, May 4th, (before Mayfaire) RVWS is holding an Open House. Please invite your friends and family who might like to learn more about our school to attend. If you have a young child and would like to learn more about the grade school program – please plan to attend. The morning will segue perfectly into Mayfaire for ongoing family fun. Faculty and/or staff will continue to be present at the Information booth near ticketing, so questions and conversations can happen throughout the day.

RSVP to info@rivervalleyschool.org.

- Share the event on social media
- Distribute flyers and postcards in your community
- Take a set of yard signs to display
- Invite family and friends

Thank you and see you there!

Mayfaire is Coming – Saturday, May 4th

Mayfaire will be here before we know it!

Here are some ways you can help make it a success:

- ❖ Please sign-up on the board in the lobby for one set-up or clean-up shift AND one work shift.
- ❖ Bring in 20 pocket fairy items per family.
- ❖ Share our flyers in your local area (coffee shops, libraries, mommy & me classes, gyms etc.).
- ❖ Bring a bundle of flowers (from your garden or a local florist) on Friday or Saturday for garland making.

Artisan Market

If any of the grades or students would like to participate in selling their handmade creations at the Mayfaire this year, please email Ivy at karunagoddess@gmail.com



Please join us this Friday, April 26th at 10:50 am for a concert by the Mountain Laurel Waldorf School Orchestra

Save the Date – Parent Stage – Saturday, May 18th

Weren't those middle schoolers magnificent in Oliver!? That play inspired the younger kinds and parents, too. Mark your calendar and book your babysitter — Parent Stage is May 18.

What's Parent Stage? Parent Stage is our big Party for Parents, the night we get down, get funky, get loose. A variety show of performances by parents, for parents. No kids (get your babysitter now!). And no money!

It's a free event, not a fundraiser. Potluck & BYOB.

It's as amazing as you've heard. We welcome rusty performers, seasoned performers, and always-wanted-to-be performers. The bold and the shy. If you dance, act, walk on your hands, or make music, bring your act to Parent Stage. There's even a choir if you'd rather sing in a crowd.

Sign ups close April 25th. Please let Chellie Bader (Faye, Grade 6) know if you want to be on the roster. Michelle@smorgasb.org or 617-501-7517. Please contact Kira Willey for Parent Choir questions: kirawilley@rcn.com.

From Administration

After-school Reminder

Mr. Laker's After-school Program ends this week.

Lawn Signs are here - Please to take a set!

Did you know that marketing professionals say someone needs to see and/or hear about something 5 – 8 times on average before taking action? River Valley's spring open house and our annual Mayfaire are just around the corner! Please consider helping create additional impressions out in the community by displaying a lawn sign for each event at your home, business or other great locations! We have lots of signs available in the lobby – take as many as you can display.

We also have flyers and postcards for you to share with friends and to leave behind on community bulletin boards or business locations. Thank you for your help in spreading the word about River Valley and these terrific events.

Condolences

We send our heartfelt condolences to the Wesp family; Tiffany Robinson, John Wesp, Sawyer (Grade 7) and Payton (Grade 4) on the loss of Tiffany's mother.

A Taste of Biography & Social Art

"Being able to see the other in a new light is so helpful." Our second community session with Kathleen Bowen will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Experience connection and interest through exercises and conversation. Meeting each other in authentic ways, we awaken connections within and with others. Our lives can change our conscious can expand, we can take a new step — through a doorway into a new space, a new way of being, a new relationship with the other. Isn't it our longing to understand ourselves and others on a deeper level? Isn't it our wish to see the world in a new light? Biography and Social Art work is a door.

Kathleen Bowen has been active in developing biography and social art work for many years. Click here to register: info@biographysocialart.org

Thank you

Immense thanks to Eve Sheldon who was inadvertently left out of the Oliver thank yous in the last Current. Your piano accompaniment was amazing and we value the myriad of musical contributions you give to our school. Apologies for the oversight. - Editor



RVWS and WECAN (Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America) enthusiastically support Screen-Free Week- April 29-May 5, 2019. We know that children need to develop un-mediated relationships with the real world through exploration and creative play before engaging with the virtual world. We are grateful to Campaign for Commercial-Free Childhood for its leadership and for providing so many excellent resources to families and educators and we hope our communities will actively participate again this year! Click here for resources and more information: <https://commercialfreechildhood.org/resources>

From The Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Drama
Second Grade – Math
Third Grade – Arithmetic
Fourth Grade – Man & Animals

Fifth Grade – Ancient Greece
Sixth Grade – Class Play
Seventh Grade – Wish, Wonder & Surprise
Eighth Grade – Physiology

House Needed ASAP

The MacDonald family, (Miss Molly, Dave, Oliver, and Edierose) have just been given notice that the farm they live on is being sold and they need to find new housing by May 22. If you know of a place for rent within 20 minutes of the school please reach out to Miss Molly at mollyandollie@gmail.com.

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

I can email pics, and you are welcome to come try it out!

From The Board

Thank You

To you, the River Valley Waldorf School Community - we wish to thank you for your support of the 2019 Auction Gala held on Saturday, March 23.

Of the various fundraising events and campaigns, the Auction stands alone in that it offers a true connection between parents, faculty, administration, and as many corners of the surrounding communities as our procurement volunteers can contact. This event provides a unique experience that allows us to support the school financially and spiritually while simultaneously enjoying the best of what is offered by local vendors, artists, crafters, and our fellow RVWS friends and family.

In addition to our community coming together to celebrate our school and all the wonderful items and experiences purchased by the auction bidders, we successfully raised very generous amounts for the scholarship fund and the revitalization of the courtyard. That so many came together to offer so much is truly humbling and gratifying. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The 2019 Auction Committee

From Parent Council

Summer Camps

Parent Council has compiled a list of summer camps that children from River Valley have attended to serve as a resource for parents making summer plans. A copy of this list is also on our website in the Parent Resources section. (If you need the password, please contact the school.)

BUCKS COUNTY

Camp Onas - sleep away camp, Ottsville, PA, Ages 7-13

<http://camponas.org>

Bucks Audubon Nature Camp- New Hope, PA

Ages 4-10

<https://www.bcas.org/product/summer-camp-nature-camp/>

Painted Dreams Horse Farm- Newtown, PA

ages 6-14

http://www.painteddreamshorsefarm.com/summer_camps.html

Rock Camp- Kintnersville, PA

http://jimmerostudio.com/School_of_Rock/index.html

(Continued next page)

Camp Curiosity

all ages

<https://www.campcuriosity.com>

Grounded Kids Yogic Arts, Games & Swim Camp (A new offering from River Valley parent, Felicia Holtz)

Ms. Prem & friends, Point Pleasant, PA, Tuesday – Friday, July 30 – August 2, 11 am – 4:30 pm, \$260. Ages 8 – 12

LEHIGH VALLEY

Banana Factory Art Camps

<https://www.bananafactory.org/classes/summer-camps/>

Baum School of Art

<https://www.baumschool.org>

Children's Farmhouse Summer Camp

thechildrensfarmhouse@gmail.com

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Camp Muck & Gold- Stockton, NJ

ages 8-14

<https://www.muckandgold.com/summer-camp.html>

Mill Ballet School Summer Camp- Lambertville, NJ

ages 3-18

<https://www.millballetschool.com/summer-dance-programs>

Howell Living History Farm- Lambertville, NJ

<http://www.howellfarm.org/ShowPage.aspx?PageID=25>

Shields Gymnastics Camp- Flemington, NJ

ages 5+

<https://www.shieldsgymnastics.net/camps>

Gravity Vault Rock Climbing Camp- Flemington, NJ

<https://www.gravityvault.com/locations/flemington-nj/programs?>

Paint Party Farm- Sergeantsville, NJ

<https://paintpartyfarm.com/kids-day-camp/#camps>

Milford Summer Camp- Milford, NJ

<https://www.facebook.com/Milford-Summer-Camp-130212740399190/>

Riegel Ridge Summer Camp- Holland Twp, NJ

<http://www.riegelridgecc.org/summer-camp>

From the Community

Babysitting Co-op

Selwin, Megan, and Vernon Briggs are starting a babysitting co-op, for the purpose of swapping childcare. We imagine it would be great if parents could occasionally rely on other parents to take care of each others kids for a few hours for a date night out, perhaps an afternoon coverage for an appointment, or maybe even school carpool rides. If you are interested in joining this potential co-op, the Briggs are hosting a potluck on Saturday, April 27th at 4:00 pm for purposes of bringing people together to discuss how this might work.

Potluck Information:

April 27th, 4:00 pm, 1701 Ringing Rocks Road (at the corner of Bridgeton Hill & Ringing Rocks) Upper Black Eddy, Please bring an appetizer, side dish, dessert, or drink. All kids are of course welcome to join.

Please e-mail Megan at meganbarnesbriggs@gmail.com to let us know you are coming. If you can't make the potluck but you are interested in the co-op idea, then you can also just let us know, and we'll keep you in the loop.

The Lotus School of Liberal Arts Admissions Open House

Saturday, April 27th from 10:30 am –12:30 pm
We have an activity day planned for you! If you have been wanting to see what The Lotus School is all about or want to introduce someone to us, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27. From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, you can tour our school, talk with our teachers, and learn a little about the practice of mindfulness. We will lead a workshop for students to create their own personal Mindfulness Jar that they can take home with them. It will be a reminder to be mindful every day. We look forward to seeing you there! Please send an email to lotus@lotusla.org to register.

RiverSoul Yoga

Spring in to wellness at RiverSoul Yoga located in Milford NJ. Find our weekly schedule at riversoulyoga.com or visit us at www.facebook.com/riversoulyoga. We look forward to seeing you on the mat!

Office/Studio Available in Milford

Beautiful 1st floor office/studio space with high ceilings, abundant natural light & wood floors is available to rent for your business. Opportunity for an office/studio share available for this space as well. Call or message Karen for more information at 908-403-6653.

House for Sale

If you are interested in buying a house in Milford, NJ - 2 min away from our school, please contact Saharra 973 902 5737.

Artyard

The Past is Prologue; Vernacular Photography, Pop Photographica and the Road to Selfie Culture April 27-July 28 – Opening Reception Saturday, April 27, 6-8

Queer Icons exhibition in the Project Gallery – May 18 – June 8, Opening Reception with Silky Shoemaker Saturday, May 18, 6-7 pm

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 4th, 7:30 pm

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

Saturday, May 11th, 7 pm

Kinan Abou Afach, A Letter from Syria, an evening of Middle Eastern influenced jazz

Saturday, May 18th

6-7 pm - Opening of Queer Icons exhibition with Silky shoemaker

7:30 pm – Concert – Pride with Alexis P. Suter

Saturday, June 15th, 11:30 am

Artyard's Third Annual Hatch, 12:30 pm – Bring your own bag picnic lunch in the Artyard tent

1:30-3 pm – Crankie performances

Saturday, June 22nd, 9 am – 3:30 pm

Symposium on Vernacular Photography

(Continued on next page.)

Sunday, June 23rd, 10 am-1 pm

How I Look at Photographs with W.M. Hunt

Saturday, June 29th, 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 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.

St. Luke's UCC Rummage and Bake Sale

Wednesday, May 1 - Silent Auction, Registration & Bidding - 9 am-3 pm. Auction ends Saturday, May 4th at noon.

Thursday, May 2 - 9 am-8 pm, Friday, May 3 - 10 am-7 pm, Saturday, May 4 - 9 am-4 pm.

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

Donated items welcome. Drop off items on the porch at the schoolhouse of St. Luke's UCC Church on Durham Road. No computers, fax machines, printers, TVs, CRT's, car seats, mattresses, encyclopedias, used paint cans, or items needing repair please.

Questions: 215-206-3277/3307 or 610-547-7523.

The Children's Farmhouse Summer Camp

Children will experience the sweetness of summer by engaging in the natural world. Opportunities will be provided for free play, water play, gardening and nature walks. Our seasonal circle of song along with stories and related crafts will gently carry children through their summer days.

July 1 – August 9, Monday through Friday, 9 am-3 pm. Children ages 5 and up (turning 5 this year).

Cost: \$50/day

80 Berger Road, Easton, PA, 610-573-7106, email: thechildrensfarmhouse@gmail.com

Camp Muck and Gold

(6th grader Loie Gallagher's mom and dad's creation) for ages 8-14 July 15-19, July 22-26, July 29-Aug. 2

A home camp run by experienced artist/educators who continue to be curious about the world, find wisdom in imperfection and embrace the unknown. Our program is multidisciplinary - art, music, dance, science, nature, emotions, food, writing so great ideas can come from playing and collaborating with everything and everyone.

Limited space, register soon! Email:

cbodwitch@gmail.com or call/text 201-240-0435.

Other RVWS children are attending so contact us for carpooling possibilities.

Looking for a House to Rent

Hi friends,

Our family is seeking a rental within a 15 mile radius of River Valley. We need a 4 or 5 bedroom and are looking for a peaceful, simple, retreat we can affectionately call home while the kids are in high school. We prefer some privacy, land, and trees.

Call, text, or email if anyone is aware of a place.

Thanks so much everyone! Linda Thompson, cell 908 407 9676. email thompsonlj1@gmail.com.

From Powerofpositivity.com

Harvard Psychologists Reveal: Parents Who Raise 'Kind' Kids Do These 5 Things

Parents are saddled with the difficult task of raising tiny humans. These tiny humans learn all kinds of things from their parents. Most importantly, though, children learn how to treat other people. Raising a child who is considered "kind" may seem easy, but many parents can tell you that it's not always the case.

"Grades and athletic/artistic accomplishments matter, but most of us would agree raising kind kids matters more. If we spend our days drilling math facts and chauffeuring our kids to "enrichment activities," it begs the question: What are we prioritizing most—and why," adds Dr. Robin Berman.

Thankfully, Harvard psychologists have pinpointed the best ways to raise your child to be "kind", and to retain that kindness throughout their lives.

HERE ARE 5 THINGS PARENTS WHO RAISE KIND KIDS DO

1. BE THEIR ROLE MODEL

Nobody is perfect, and everyone makes mistakes. However, being a parent means that your child is going to soak up information from you like a sponge. Especially during their formative years, children are going to be looking to you as a role model. To raise a child that is kind, it's especially important to know how to be "kind" yourself.

(Continued on next page.)

According to a study by Harvard University, "Being a role model doesn't mean that we need to be perfect or have all the answers. It means grappling with our flaws, acknowledging our mistakes, listening to our children and students, and connecting our values to their ways of understanding the world."

Being honest with your child, especially when it comes to difficult emotions, is one of the best ways to be a good role model. Children will learn their values and how they interact with the world from their parents.

2. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN USING EMPATHY

When you're teaching your child how to interact with the world, it can be hard for you to imagine how they see things. Children have all the same kind of emotions and feelings that adults have. However, they're not fully prepared to express them yet. When you teach your child by using empathy, you can show them how to care for other people.

Kind children know how to connect with other people on a personal level. That connection involves being able to feel what other people feel. Show them how by empathizing with them first. "Unfortunately, selfie culture is not helping our children grow their highest or happiest selves. Studies show that the more we connect to others, the happier we are. So we need to make sure we are spending more time looking out, rather than looking at our own selfies," says Dr. Berman.

3. MAKE CARING FOR OTHERS IMPORTANT

As humans, we often make caring for ourselves the most important thing. And sometimes, that's what we need to do to get through life. However, making caring for others an important part of their life will teach your children how to reach out to other people.

"With guidance from adults and practice, young people can also develop the skills and courage to know when and how to intervene in situations when they and others are imperiled. They can become effective "upstanders" or "first responders."," states the study from Harvard University.

Show your children that caring for others is important to you, and it will also become important to them. You will no doubt raise a child that thinks of others before themselves and works hard to make sure that they're being their best and kindest every day.

4. HELP THEM PROCESS THEIR EMOTIONS

Not all emotions are fun. Some emotions, like anger and frustration, can be difficult for children to understand. When children become upset, they need to be taught how to deal with those feelings. Children who aren't taught tend to lash out physically – hitting, kicking, screaming. That kind of behavior doesn't make for a "kind" child at all. Instead, Harvard psychologists say to focus on dealing with and processing emotions in a healthy manner.

"We need to teach children that all feelings are ok, but some ways of dealing with them are not helpful. Children need our help learning to cope with these feelings in productive ways," add Harvard psychologists. Children need to learn that it's okay to feel unpleasant emotions, but also how to handle them and let them go.

5. PRAISE ONE ANOTHER CONSISTENTLY

"The power of mindful words can't be overstated. Words can inflame or inspire. The diplomacy you teach will allow your kids to be heard in the future. It also feeds a gentler narrative in their head." – Dr. Robin Berman

Praise and consistency are key to raising a child who is emotionally well-rounded. It's also key to raising a child who is kind. Kindness comes from practice, and all practice requires consistency. When your child does something kind, make sure you recognize and acknowledge it. Praise them for their kindness, so that they know that they're on the right track. Don't just do it with your children, either!

Parents should praise one another for kindness, because your tiny humans are always listening. Get the rest of the adults in your child's life to get on board, too. The more they see adults being kind, recognizing it, and reinforcing it with praise and thanks, the more they'll learn.

Final thoughts

Kindness is something that children have to learn – like manners, please and thank you, right and wrong, and empathy. Learning kindness becomes way easier when their parents are on board and know the right ways to instill kindness into their children. If you're worried about how to bring your child up in a way that helps them be "kind", here are the ways other parents did it. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, though! Just know how to correct them – because your child is always learning.

SPRING WORKING DRAFT
working draft -- **2019-2020 CALENDAR** -- major breaks

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

8/26-29 - In-service

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

9/2 - Labor Day
9/3 - First day grade school
9/4 - First day Early Childhood
9/27 - Michaelmas festival
in-school celebration

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

10/1 - Rosh Hashanah - no school
10/9 - Yom Kippur - fast/stay at home
in-service - no school
10/14 - Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day - school in session

NOVEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

11/11 - Veteran's day - school in session
11/? - Lantern Walk date not set
- EC, Grades 1 & 2
11/25-26 - Parent/teacher conf.
- no school
11/27-29 - Thanksgiving break
- no school

DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

12/2 - School resumes
12/6 - Spiral of Light -
in school celebration
12/13 - 1pm dismissal - WF set-up
- NO AFTERCARE
12/14 - Winter Fair & Open House
12/19 & 20 - Shepherd's Play
12/20 - 1pm dismissal
12/22-30 - Hanukkah
12/23-1/3 - School closed

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1/6 - School resumes
1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- no school

FEBRUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

2/14 - Grade School Ice Skating field trip
2/17-21 - February Break
- no school
2/24 - School resumes

MARCH						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

3/25 - Evening Grade School Assembly
3/26 - All school 1pm dismissal
- Parent/teacher conferences
3/27 - Parent/teacher conferences
- no school

APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

4/6-10 - Spring Break
4/8-16 - Passover
4/12 - Easter
4/13 - School resumes

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

5/1 - Family & Friends Day
5/2 - Mayfaire & Open House
5/22 - Faculty/staff in-service
- no school
5/25 - Memorial Day
- no school

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

6/10 - Last day Early Childhood
6/11 - Last day Grade school
- 1pm dismissal
6/13 - 8th grade Graduation

FOR YOUR PLANNING:
This calendar will be finalized with additional dates and data. You may receive an update near the end of the school-year and then a final calendar in August/September. The core dates in this calendar are not expected to change. The dates of major breaks will not be changed.