

School Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, May 15
6th Grade Parent Evening 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 16
5th Grade Pentathlon – Kimberton WS

Saturday, May 18
Parent Stage & Pot Luck 6:30pm

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, May 22
Community Biography Workshop 6:30-8:30 pm

Tuesday-Friday, May 28-31
7th Grade trip to Hulbert Outdoor Center, VT

Monday, June 3
6th Grade Class Trip to the Cloisters, NYC

Monday-Wednesday, June 3-12
8th Grade Class Trip sailing in Maine

Thursday, June 6
Community Board Meeting 6:30 pm

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleysschool.org
lc@rivervalleysschool.org
bot@rivervalleysschool.org
pc@rivervalleysschool.org

Parent Stage

This Saturday, May 18th at 6:30pm

Mark your calendar. It's as amazing as you've heard.

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.

A Taste of Biography & Social Art

Our second community session with Kathleen Bowen will take place on **Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

"Being able to see the other in a new light is so helpful."

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

Introducing the River Valley Waldorf School Honeybee Hives!

We have 50,000 new residents in the school courtyard: 2 new thriving honeybee colonies! We have started a collaboration with the beekeeper, Eli St Amour, owner of Eli's Honeybees. Eli installed our new box hives over the weekend, and many of you may have met him at the Mayfaire, where he had a table, an observation hive, and some information about honeybee colonies. Eli will be working with our community and tending our hives throughout the summer.

Eli will be attending our Friday morning assembly this week, May 17th to give a presentation to the students. Parents are welcome to attend.

At some point will be offering RVWS honey! Please contact Annie with any questions!



Please see the end of this week's Current for more photos from our lovely Mayfaire celebration

Ticks Are Back

Please be sure to check your child every day for ticks. Children spend a great deal of time outside in the woods so a daily check is a must.

Stewards of Children

River Valley is hosting a free public workshop called Stewards of Children Tuesday May 21st which the community is invited to attend. Sign-in will begin at 6:15 pm that evening, and the training starts at 6:30 pm.

Stewards of Children is a prevention training that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Faculty and staff participated in this particular training last spring, and we are now hosting this event for our whole community.

[click here to register online.](#)

Barn Sale to Benefit the 8th Grade Class Trip – This Weekend

May 18-19, 8 am-5 pm

135 Riegelsville Road, Milford, NJ

We are gratefully accepting donated items at the school or directly at the sale location. Items dropped at the school should be brought to the 8th grade classroom and will be collected daily at pick up time. Arrangements can be made to pick up bigger items. Anything salable is a welcome donation.

Items not sold will be donated to Worthwhile Thrift in Pipersville at the end of the sale.

Please donate items, or plan to attend the sale to help the eighth grade with their final fundraising effort!

From Administration

Waldorf 100 Film

The third film in a series celebrating the centenary of Waldorf education has just been released! 'Becoming' provides an insight into the inclusive diversity of Waldorf Education under the most diverse cultural, social, religious and economic conditions around the globe, emphasizing the early childhood. The film is 20 minutes in length and [you can view it here](#), along with the two earlier releases. Share with your friends, relatives and anyone interested in Waldorf education.

Lawn Signs

Thank you to everyone who took Open House & Mayfaire lawn signs. Please bring them back to school so we can re-use them next year.

Condolences

Former RVWS parent, Tracy Alverson-Euler, passed away on May 1st. We are sharing this sad news in case anyone would like to reach out to her family. For more information, go to:
<http://m.doylefh.com/obituaries/even>

Job Opportunity

Kindergarten/Nursery assistant positions open for the 2019/2020 school year. We are taking applications now. Hours are from 12 noon, until 4 pm Monday through Friday.

No experience is necessary, however a love for children, interest in and appreciation for Waldorf education and willingness to learn are absolute requirements! Please send a letter of interest to LC@rivervalleysschool.org.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who braved the gloomy weather to celebrate spring at our annual Mayfaire festival. After the initial downpour the glorious sun came out and our community came together in joyous spirits. These events would never survive without our dedicated and extremely hard-working parent body. The parent chairs have a deep feeling of gratitude for all the people who did their part to make such a wonderful experience and memory for all of our children.

From The Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Drama

Second Grade – Language Arts/Play

Third Grade – Social Studies

Fourth Grade – Man & Animal

Fifth Grade – Botany

Sixth Grade – African Geography

Seventh Grade – History/Reformation through Elizabethan England

Eighth Grade – History/The Constitution, Rights, Civil War

From The Board

Community Board Meeting Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 PM

Thursday, June 6 is our spring community board meeting. All board meetings are open to the community, but we are reserving the first hour of the June meeting for any community members who wish to attend. We have already had several community sessions this year relating to our strategic plan. At this hour-long session we will share the completed strategic plan, an update on the building project, and a report on the financial performance of the school. We will also reserve time for open questions and discussion. This meeting will allow the community to welcome our new board members and say thank you to exiting board members.

If you are unable to attend, we will post the information for the community following the meeting.

Thank you,
Amy Nyberg, Board President
On Behalf of the Board of Trustees

From the Community

The Lotus School of Liberal Arts

Admissions Open House for prospective students

May 22 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Take the time to come by and tour our school, talk with the teachers, and learn more about our program. We look forward to seeing you there! Please send an email to lotus@lotusla.org to register.

Apartment for Rent

Upper Black Eddy, PA – 1 BR, 2nd floor apartment with tile bath & wood floors. Beautiful property with towpath access. \$1050/month includes heat #908-392-5653



FREE SWING SET!

The Willey family is hoping to pass along a swing set to a family who wants it and is willing to cover disassembly and transportation. It was hand-built by an Amish craftsman and is 8-10 years old. The footprint is roughly 30 feet by 15 feet. There are two slides, two single swings, two double swings, monkey bars, a sandbox, and a small enclosed cabin. Several repairs are needed and some of the hardware is rusty, but it's in decent shape. If interested, please email us at davidmwilley67@gmail.com and kirawilley@rcn.com. Thanks!



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.

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.

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!

Angora Bunnies Looking for a Home

If you would like to adopt 2 white, male Angora bunnies, contact Miss Molly, 610-349-3536.

Cats for Adoption

Home needed for two wonderful red tabby cats. Severe allergies have developed in our home. Brother and sister, well bonded and they need to stay together. 2 1/2 years old, up-to-date on everything. Contact Brooke at 215-500-5769.

Looking for Childcare

Childcare needed for my 3 year old on Monday mornings 9:30am to 12:00noon. Either in my home in Kintnersville or in Frenchtown. Contact Brooke at 215-500-5769.

Electronics Waste Recycling Event

Saturday, June 8th 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
At Springfield Elementary School 1950 Rte. 212,
Quakertown, PA 18951

All items are free to recycle, except televisions and monitors which will have a \$30 recycling fee (Cash ONLY. LED/LCD screens are exempt.) *OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS* Questions? Call 610.346.6700 or visit www.ewasteexperts.com & www.springfieldbucks.org
Hosted by the Springfield Township, E.A.C.

Do you love Game of Thrones?

Join us at The Ship Inn Restaurant and Brewery and AleHorn to benefit the Milford Public Library!

Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM – 11 PM
Tickets include a three course meal and one short beer. Buy them here at http://bit.ly/for_the_books. There will be a themed meal and Ommegang HBO Game of Thrones licensed kegs. We will also have trivia games. Winners will receive an AleHorn and it will be filled on the house. To top the night off the Ship will be streaming the series finale of Game of Thrones. Seats are limited!

ArtYard's Third Annual Hatch

A celebration of incubation and communal creativity.
June 15th, 11:30 am in Frenchtown's Sunbeam Lenape Park.
With music by Sister Cities Girlchoir and The Hungry March Band – Bird Parade by members of the Frenchtown Community and Friends.
12:30 - Bring your own picnic lunch in the Artyard tent.
1:30-3 – Crankie Performances

To prepare for the occasion, ArtYard will be holding a free costume making workshop on Monday, May 13th from 6-8 PM, and a free bird mask making workshop on Tuesday, May 21st from 6-8 PM.

To sign up to be a bird, [click here](#).

Artyard

The Past is Prologue; Vernacular Photography, Pop Photographica and the Road to Selfie Culture April 27-July 28.
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 18th

6-7 pm - Opening of Queer Icons exhibition with Silky shoemaker
7:30 pm – Concert – Pride with Alexis P. Suter

Saturday, May 19th, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Gregory Corbino returns for a free afternoon of singing in the tradition of the sacred harp, and a potluck dinner afterward.

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

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.

Mayfaire





From the New York Times

Making Playgrounds a Little More Dangerous

"I came to the counterintuitive conclusion that engaging in risk is actually very important in preventing injuries," a researcher says.

By Richard Schiffman

"Oh my God, this is going to be amazing," a preadolescent wearing a gray hoodie exclaimed as he dashed in to The Yard, a 50,000-square-foot adventure playground on Governors Island in New York Harbor.

The Yard, for kids 6 through 13, lacks the usual monkey bars, slides and swings. It is, however, well-stocked with dismembered store mannequins, wooden packing crates, tires, mattresses, an old piano and assorted other detritus of the modern world.

There were a few rules: no iPads or electronic devices, no flip flops and no adults. The painted wooden gate is low to discourage adults from inadvertently wandering in.

Despite a steady rain on Saturday, the opening day for the season, The Yard was a hive of activity. Joey Gunderson, 11, and his crew were attempting — not altogether successfully — to nail together wooden boards and plastic sheeting to construct a ramshackle "house." "Playgrounds have everything already built," Joey explained, "but it's funner to build whatever you want."

Nearby, Matheo Torre Bliss, a lanky youth from Manhattan, and a confederate were smashing a keyboard with a hammer, removing the conical speaker and computer chips. Others were digging holes in the mud, scaling a 15-foot steel platform, sawing away at planks and hacking at a signboard with a crowbar.

"Sometimes parents hover by the fence and watch their kids like animals in a zoo," said Rebecca Faulkner, the executive director of play:groundNYC, the nonprofit that runs The Yard, which opened in 2016. "I tell them, 'You don't need to worry, you don't need to tell them what to do. Just sit back and relax.'"

Children are better at figuring out how to have fun than many adults who build playgrounds for them, Ms. Faulkner said. And they can also figure out how to play safely — even in a place that looks more like a junkyard than a playground.

"We've had our share of bruises and scrapes," she said. "But we've never had a serious injury." Joey's father, Christopher Gunderson, a sociology professor at Howard University, watched the action with other parents from a lawn chair outside the playground. "Kids grow up in these really controlled environments," he said. "This is a place where they can run wild." "Play nowadays is totally structured," Joey's grandfather, Fred Klonsky, a retired elementary school teacher, chimed in. "They play organized sports supervised by adults, even their disputes are settled by adults. Kids used to work all that stuff out themselves."

The Danish landscape architect Carl Theodor Sorensen was bothered by the same trends over 70 years ago. He noticed that children in Copenhagen during World War II preferred to play in abandoned lots and construction sites than on the well-appointed asphalt playgrounds that had been built for them.

Mr. Sorensen developed what he called "junk playgrounds" to help foster children's independence and creativity. The idea spread to England, where some play spaces were opened in the rubble of bombed-out buildings at the end of the war and renamed "adventure playgrounds" to be more attractive to adults. Today there are roughly 1,000 worldwide.

Children are watched by specially trained adult play workers, who teach them how to use the tools that are provided them, but otherwise intervene only when there is danger to the children, for example when a war between rival "forts" turns ugly, or rusty nails or sharp-edged objects pose a threat.

There are a handful of adventure playgrounds in the United States, but the idea has not yet gained traction here. "Many agencies fear being sued if a child gets hurt," said Teri Hendy, the president of an Ohio-based playground consultancy, Site Masters. Ms. Hendy blamed outdated federal rules on playground design arguing that playgrounds don't have to be boring to be safe.

(Continued on next page.)

Some research backs this up. Meghan Talarowski, the founder of a playground research and design organization, Studio Ludo, in Philadelphia, conducted a study that compared playgrounds in London and in American cities. The British playgrounds typically had less fixed play equipment than their American counterparts, and more seemingly hazardous design elements, like climbing structures and tree houses.

Ms. Talarowski found that children were more physically active and remained in the British playgrounds longer than in American ones. And surprisingly, given the potential for risky play, there were fewer injuries in the London playgrounds than in those in the United States.

"The best playgrounds look dangerous but are completely safe," Ms. Talarowski said. Ellen Beate Hansen Sandseter, a Norwegian early-childhood researcher, said that children seek out rough and tumble play, climbing to heights and moving their bodies at high speed — activities that are a critical way that children learn about risks and cope with fears.

When we prevent them from doing these things, they get bored, and are tempted to perform rash stunts like turning somersaults on top of climbing frames and standing on the shoulders of others on the swings, Dr. Sandseter said.

This daredevil behavior born of frustration is a main cause of playground accidents, said Mariana Brussoni, a scientist with the Child & Family Research Institute in Vancouver, British Columbia. "I came to the counterintuitive conclusion that engaging in risk is actually very important in preventing injuries," said Dr. Brussoni, who conducted a systematic review of the scientific literature on playground safety in 2015. "Children are learning how their bodies work, how the world works," she said. "They are learning fundamental skills that ultimately protect them."

And there appear to be social gains as well. A 2017 randomized controlled trial conducted in New Zealand found that children (ages 6 through 9) who participated in what the researchers called "free range play" were happier at school, more engaged with other children and less likely to report being bullied during recess than those whose play time was more structured.

Still, many parents remain wary. "People perceive that the world is getting more dangerous. Parental fears are on the rise," Dr. Brussoni said. She speculated that it was fueled by media attention to child kidnappings and other crimes. Yet "the data shows that it has never been a safer time to be a child," she said — a contention backed up by a 2016 report by the Department of Justice.

To address these fears, Dr. Brussoni developed a website called Outside Play, where users can download an online tool that guides parents to feel more confident about allowing their children to engage in nondirected outdoor play. It may be an uphill battle. There is a widespread belief that time spent on electronic devices is the major reason that children are spending more time indoors. But outdoor play has been declining for decades.

"I don't buy the argument that the screens are keeping the kids from the playgrounds," said Susan Solomon, an architectural historian and the author of "American Playgrounds." "If the playgrounds were better, kids would be there. Better playgrounds would definitely give screens a run for their money."

The need for better playgrounds was the subject of a report published in late April by Scott Stringer, the New York City comptroller. The report characterized large swaths of the city as "playground deserts" and called for the creation of 200 new playgrounds in underserved neighborhoods in the next five years.

"The Yard is an oasis in the desert," Ms. Faulkner said. "We'll be lobbying that some of those new playgrounds should be adventure playgrounds, which are cheap to build and safe to play in."