

School Calendar

This Week

Monday – Wednesday, October 21-23

4th grade to PEEC

Thursday, October 24

Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Saturday, October 26

Fall Community Garden Clean-up 9:00am – 12:00pm

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 2

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Potluck 3:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, November 19

4th Grade Parent Evening

Monday – Tuesday, November 25-26

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday - Thursday, November 27-29

Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

How to Contact Us

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lc@rivervalleysschool.org

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Ribbon Cutting and Potluck Picnic

TOGETHER, WE DID IT!

Join the celebration as the River Valley Waldorf School community cuts the ribbon on our new, purpose-built Early Childhood building. Together, we'll savor our accomplishments, appreciate the new space and the uplifting improvements to the main building. Most importantly, we will thank those whose vision and dedication brought it to fruition.

Then, join us on the playground for a potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share, a picnic blanket, plates, cups, & utensils.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

3:00PM - 6:00PM

November Lunch

It's time to order lunch for November. The menu is attached to this week's Current and the deadline for orders is Wednesday, October 30th.

Learning Opportunities for Parents

Waldorf/Steiner Study Group

Every Wednesday

3:30-4:30 pm – 3rd grade classroom

Middle School Study Group

2nd Thursday of each month

6:30 pm – 7th grade classroom

Fall Community Garden Clean Up

"Many hands make light work"

Come join Melissa Goldstein in a community workday to clean up the garden and prepare it for winter!

The Fall Community Garden Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 9-12, with a rain date of the 27th

RIVER VALLEY PARENT CHOIR!

Is THIS the year you finally sing with us? You won't regret it! We have a blast performing 3-4 times a year for the community. You don't need to be a singer...everyone's welcome.

The rehearsal schedule will be out soon, and our first performance will be at Winter Fair. Get in touch with Kira Willey (kirawilley@rcn.com)!

From Administration

Free Holistic First Aid Class

Thursday, October 24th

7:00pm

at



1395 Bridgeton Hill Road Upper Black Eddy, PA
610.982.5606 rivervalleyschool.org

Taught by Denise Timofai, D.Hom., C.Hom

Denise received her certifications in Homeopathy from the Academy of North America and internationally known homeopath, teacher & author, Dr. Robin Murphy. She continued her education by studying the teachings of David Little, the foremost authority on The Organon (homeopathic bible), Dr. David Lilley and Dr. Luc DeSchepper among others. Additional education includes Reiki I & II; QiGong; Medical Qigong; Rasa Gemstones; Super Tonics & Natural Remedies; Yoga Medicine and Astrology; Isopathic/Tautopathic Prescribing and New, Old and Forgotten Remedies/Tonics.

*** Open to the public ***

Outreach News

River Valley will be having a table at the following events. Parents are welcome to come say hi or stay to talk to prospective parents about our school:

Inlife Holistic Festival, Plumsteadville, PA – Nov. 16 10 am

Is there a festival or event in your town that RVWS should attend? If so, please let Erica Nichols know: enichols@rivervalleyschool.org

What is EITC?

The PA Education Improvement Tax Credit program allows Pennsylvania entities paying income tax to the State to earmark their payable taxes to the registered education institution of their choice, in this case, RVWS. After applying for the tax credit in early May, entities receive approval notification from the State and then make their tax credit donation directly to River Valley.

Do you know or are you the principal of a legal entity paying income taxes in Pennsylvania? Do you want to participate in or learn more about EITC?

If so, please contact Ron Ferguson (rsferg@gmail.com), Chellie Bader (michelle@smorgasb.org) or Josh Holtz (josh@cecassociates.biz)

Community Discussion on Self-Directed Learning

When: Tuesday, November 5, 7pm

Where: RVWS

What kinds of unique educational experiences are possible outside of traditional high school? What happens when educators start with the questions "What are you good at?" and "What do you love to do?" How can the self-directed experience prepare kids for college, career and life. These questions and others will be addressed at this community discussion.

This community event will be led by Scott Gallagher, 7th grade parent and co-director of Raritan Learning Cooperative, a self-directed learning center for teens in Flemington, NJ.

All are welcome!

From The Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Math

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Math/Measurement

Fourth Grade – Math/Fractions

Fifth Grade – Botany

Sixth Grade – European Geography

Seventh Grade – Chemistry

Eighth Grade – History

Eighth-Grade Project Mentors Needed

Our eighth-graders are embarking on an independent learning project with the goal of learning a new skill! They are looking into our community for adults willing to act as a mentor to motivate and inspire them. If you are an adult with a skill to teach and would be happy to volunteer your time to help them learn this skill, please let Mrs. Solomon know! The mentorship requirements are to provide a minimum of 5 teaching interactions with the student. Knowing the talent and creativity of our community, I am confident our students will have a wide range of opportunities for independent learning! Thank you so much in advance for considering!

Please contact Genevieve Solomon, 8th Grade Class Teacher, with questions or to volunteer.

Outdoor Gear Needed

The Moon Room is in need of rain suits/pants/jackets and snow suits/pants, as well as snow mittens and snow and rain boots for ages 4-7. We would like to have extras for children whose outdoor gear gets left at home. If your children have clothing that they have outgrown, please consider donating it to the Moon Room.

Thank you, Jerilyn Burke

Class Fundraisers

8th Grade Halloween Lunch Fundraiser

With our Lunch Leader away on October 31st, the 8th grade has stepped in to provide graders with a lunch option! They will be dishing out chili and cornbread as part of their fundraising efforts for their big trip at the end of the year.

Looking for an easy solution for dinner? They are also offering quarts of chili to go to the whole community.

Please fill out the order form attached to this week's Current and turn it in before Monday, Oct. 28th

Thanks for your support!!

Let the 8th grade make your Secret Garden items for you!

Each RVWS family is asked to provide 20 items for the Secret Garden. For just \$20 the 8th grade will make the treasures for this Winter Fair activity. Sign up in the lobby beginning Tuesday 10/22. Proceeds will go toward the end of year class trip.

Coffee Fundraiser

The 8th grade is selling coffee as a fundraiser for their trip. There are 3 varieties of organic coffee and one decaf variety: Guatemalan Bourbon (rich and velvety), Ethiopian Decaf (bright and vibrant), Arise (sweet & robust) & Indigo (dark and rich). Roasted for the 8th grade fundraiser by Homestead Coffee.\$14/bag. These will be available at the bake sales. Next one on 11/1 at pick up.

From the Community

Milford's Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Bring decorated pumpkins to the library during business hours. Pumpkins will be displayed on Bridge Street and the winner will be announced at the Halloween Parade. Use paint, markers, fabric, collage, mosaic, decoupage, anything you can imagine... but please, no carving.

Take a walk on Bridge St. and vote on your favorite by Oct. 25.

Ballot boxes can be found at Bowker's, Chocolate in the Oven & Pipolo's.

Milford's Halloween Parade

October 27, 2019 - 12:00 Registration begins at ballfield
1:00 Parade begins, judging in front of Bowker's Pharmacy

Categories: 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-8 years, 11-adult
Walking groups, walking floats, bikes, canines

Refreshments, crafts and book giveaway!

12:00-4:00 Ride Millie for \$10 or \$5 for anyone in costume.

Lulu's Rescue Thrift Shop Opening

Lulu's Rescue is a local Bucks County rescue saving thousands of dogs, operating a spay and neuter program, and providing medical care for many sick, abused, and injured dogs. We have opened "Lulu's Repurpose For Rescue" a thrift store and art gallery in Pipersville, PA to support our efforts. We are unique as a thrift store as all sales benefit our rescue dogs and our veterinary programs.

As we are at the beginning stages, it is essential that we receive donations. Many of us hold on to unworn clothing that no longer fits, and hold on to items storing them away where they are unused. It feels good to clean the closets, donating those items to a charity that benefits others, and our charity helps man's best friend!

We are accepting donations of: designer and gently used clothing, vintage clothing, shoes, handbags, hats, jackets, apparel, jewelry, books in good condition, antiques in condition for resale, art, and collectibles. Donations can be made at our store during hours or if needed, arrangements can be made. Contact Julia Ferris 267-371-0156. Thank You!

Located at: 7037 Easton Road Pipersville, PA.
Open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 11:30 - 3:30 pm.
PLEASE follow us on instagram!

Donations benefit Lulu's Rescue a 501c3 public charity and our spay/neuter initiatives and companion animal rescue. All donors will be given a tax letter for the fair market value of the items donated.



Pipersville Free Library Fall Book Sale Fundraiser

Thursday, Oct. 24, 7 to 9 p.m.; Pre-Sale event nibbles/coffee/tea, live music, and first chance at the books with \$10 admission

Friday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free

Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, 353 E. Dark Hollow Road, Pipersville, PA

Join CHOIR & CO. at Godfrey Daniels!

Friday October 25, 8 PM

Sing with us in Bethlehem, PA's legendary listening room. Choir & Co. (formerly Pop-Up Choir) is led by Kira Willey, Eve Sheldon, and Noah Jarrett. All are welcome—there's no singing experience required, REALLY. Tickets at godfreydaniels.org.

Bucks County Medical Disposal Program

Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 10AM-2PM. Over 62 tons of drugs that have been collected in Bucks County through this program. Clean out your unwanted/unused prescriptions and drop off at these locations:

Penndel Regional PD, Grand View Hospital - at the hospital main entrance, Richland Township PD, Hilltown Township PD, Springfield Township PD - at Springfield Elementary School. Tinicum Township PD - at Wehrungs, Dublin Borough PD - at grocery store in Dublin Shopping Center, St. Luke's Hospital Quakertown - at main entrance, Quakertown PD, Perkasie PD

Prescription and over-the-counter medicines accepted. No injectibles, needles or illegal drugs.

House for Sale

Former home of the George family (recent RVWS graduates Lydia and Lloyd) is for sale. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Full basement. Detached, oversized 2 car garage. Recently painted. Hardwood floors. Country setting on nearly 3 acres. 77 Honeysuckle Lane, Milford, NJ. 5 minute walk to shops in Milford. Less than 2 miles from RVWS.

Contact listing agent Mary Alice Heimerl at 908-581-6411.

1st Annual Pet Parade

Sunday, October 27th, 2 pm – Clinton Community Center, Clinton, NJ

Bring the pack and treat your pets to an afternoon of fun, food, music, pet-friendly vendors and an opportunity to adopt a pet from Boxer Rescue of N.J. Free pet photo station and kids can enjoy free face painting, tattoos and a kid's craft table.

Show off your dapper dog or cute kitty in the costume parade. Costumes are encouraged for participating pets and pet owners. There will be prizes in several costume categories: Prettiest, scariest, most creative, best matching pawed participants and their biped friend and owner/pet look-alike.

Registration starts at 1 pm, Costume Contest at 2 pm.
For info & to register go to:
www.CintonSunriseRotary.org.

Fresh Connect Bucks County

Free Mobile Farmers Market available for Bucks County Residents at or below 200% Federal Poverty Limit

Every Tuesday at the Warminster Community Park – 12:00-1:00pm – 1100 Veterans Way, Warminster, PA

Every Thursday in Ottsville – 11:00am -12:00pm
At the Intersection of 611 & 412 (Previously Thompson Auto) Ottsville, PA

Every Friday in Bristol – 12:00-1:00pm at the Bristol Campus of Bucks Co. Comm. College, 1304 Veterans Hwy. Bristol, PA

Registration on site, one sign-up per household and please bring your own shopping bags.
For more info visit BCOC.org or call 215.345.8175

Events at the Riegelsville Library

Autumn 2019 Story Time in the Banko Children's Room

Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10, 17

During story time we read books, conduct age-appropriate science experiments and explore music and art. Story time is designed for children 0-5 years, but all children are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian.

Saturday Story Time

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 9th 11:00-11:30 for a new Saturday Story Time!

We will read 2-3 titles for our Banko Children's Room. Selections will be based around a centralized theme. Story time is designed for children 0-5 years, but all children are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian.

Registration is required

To register and any questions, please call the library at 610.749.2357 or www.riegelsvillelibrary.info

Artyard

New Exhibition:

Janet Ruttenberg: Beholder

September 14 – December 29, 2019

Curated by Elsa Mora and Charles Stuckey

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, October 27, 3 pm – **Silenced Voices**, a Concordia Chamber Music Program

Saturday, November 2, 7 pm – **Poetry Reading** with Toi Derricotte and Hayden Saunier

Saturday, November 9 – **Songwriting Rodeo** with Kira Willey, Eve Sheldon, Noah Jarrett – Collaborative Songwriting Session #1 – 10-10:45 am, Session #2 – 11:45-12:30 pm – Public Performance, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 pm – Filmyard screening of **Spettacolo**

Saturday, December 14, 4-6 pm – **Holiday Lantern Walk & Pop Up Choir** – 4-5 Rehearsal, 5-6 Caroling with Paper Lanterns on the Towpath in Frenchtown, Benefitting Rolling Harvest.

For more information go to: www.artyard.org

Gallery hours: Wednesday Through Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Address: 62A Trenton Ave. Frenchtown, NJ 08825

From Psychology Today

Lessons from Germany: Children Climbing Trees

Why are American kids so much more anxious than kids in Germany?

By Leonard Sax, MD

Rates of anxiety disorders are now three to eight times higher for American kids compared with kids in Germany. (Scroll to the bottom for some citations in this regard.) A generation ago, there was no difference in the rates of anxiety between American kids and German kids. In recent decades, rates of anxiety have soared for American kids, but have not risen in Germany. How come? Can we learn anything from the Germans?

This summer I was in Germany, where I had the privilege of visiting a kindergarten in Oberammergau. What was most striking to me was the attitude toward risk and danger, which my hosts and other Germans told me was common throughout Germany. I saw 4-year-old girls and boys using sharp knives to whittle sticks they found in the woods. Four- and five-year-old children climbed trees without a harness or safety gear, and without help from a grown-up. On this trip and on my previous trips to schools throughout Germany and German-speaking Switzerland, I have found the general attitude toward risk to be profoundly different from the culture of "safetyism" which is now so prevalent in the United States.

I borrow the term "safetyism" from *The Coddling of the American Mind*, by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. They describe how many American schools now prohibit any activity which might conceivably result in any injury to any child. American parents follow suit. Four-year-olds whittling sticks with sharp knives? Not happening. But, researchers suggest that prohibiting children from engaging in risky play, and repeatedly warning kids about the bad things that might happen if they do anything remotely dangerous, may actually increase kids' anxiety. Kids who have never climbed a tree, or whittled a stick with a knife, and who constantly hear warnings about the dangers inherent in everyday life, may be more likely to become anxious, sometimes without even knowing why they are anxious.

What are American kids learning in school? What should they learn? I think school should be about more than learning math and science, reading and writing. Kids also need to develop resilience and self-reliance.

As a family doctor, I have seen how easily kids can get injured when they play with sharp knives or climb trees. But it's not the end of the world if your kid cuts her finger with a knife, or scrapes her knee on tree bark. The great majority of such injuries are easily treated, and the child is stronger for the experience. To quote another German: *Was mich nicht umbringt, macht mich stärker*. What doesn't kill me, makes me stronger.

I have been a family doctor for more than 30 years. Until roughly ten years ago, most American parents were OK if their kid scraped their knee or sprained their ankle at school. But today, if a kid sustains a minor injury at school or on the playground, parents now often swoop in like attorneys, demanding to know how the school could be so negligent.

I tell these parents: If your child gets through elementary school without ever having scraped a knee, or gotten a splinter in a finger, or sprained an ankle, then your child's education is seriously deficient. These minor injuries are precisely the kind of "good stress" which kids need in order to develop genuine self-confidence, by which I mean self-confidence based on real risks faced, not on the kind of puffed-up bloating which is the end result of years of being told "You're Special Because You're You!"

One essential function of education is to help children develop self-confidence. Risky play is Nature's way of allowing kids to figure out what they can and can't do, to push their own limits, to grow strong. Based on my visits to more than 400 schools over the past 18 years, I am convinced that Lukianoff and Haidt are on to something. The culture of safetyism has infiltrated the United States to a much greater degree than I have found on my visits to schools in Germany, Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand. Parents must balance risk and benefit. In the United States, that pendulum has swung too far, toward safety above everything else, depriving kids of almost any exposure to real-world risk.

(Continued on the next page.)

What can you do, if you live in the United States and you want your kid to have a chance to climb a tree, or whittle a stick? You may not have to move to Germany or Switzerland or New Zealand. Explore your community. I have found schools here in the United States which understand exactly what I'm talking about, and which offer kids the opportunity to climb trees and whittle sticks, with reasonable adult supervision. Examples of such schools include Raintree School in St. Louis, the Nature Preschool at Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills, Maryland, and the Aurora Waldorf School in West Falls, New York, among others. The number of such nature-based schools is growing rapidly. Consult one of the online directories to find such a school near you. (I have no affiliation with any such school, or with any website promoting these schools.)

And try to model the virtue you are trying to teach. Of course one of our prime responsibilities as parents is to keep our kids safe. If your toddler is waddling toward the street, you stop them. But be mindful in other situations where the tradeoff between risk and benefit is more nuanced. When you are tempted to say "Don't do that, you might get hurt!" – pause for a moment. Remember that if kids hear nothing but "don't do that, you might get hurt", the result may be kids who are risk-averse, fearful of the world around them, and anxious.

If your 4-year-old is about to climb a tree, don't stop them. Stand by, so that you can catch them if they fall. But let them climb.

**2019-20 After-school Program
Fall Semester Registration Form**

Our 2019-20 Fall After-school Program will begin on Wednesday, October 2nd. Josh Laker is ready once again to challenge and entertain RVWS grade school children. Below is a description of activities that will be held on each day.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from October 2nd through December 18th. **Dates are listed next to each class because the program will not be held during vacations, assembly days and early dismissals.** The cost is \$20 per class with a \$10 materials fee for the session.

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

(October 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17)

10 classes - \$210

Any and all sports, indoor and out, four square, battleship, shark attack, capture the flag, flag tag, handball, wall ball (big and small), indoor Olympics, obstacle courses, etc.

Wednesday – Games, Drama, Challenges and Puzzles, Crafts, Outdoors

(October 2, 16, 23, 30 November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18)

10 classes - \$210

Park bench, improv, Dinner party, dramatic reading, hunter, skits, storytelling, treasure and scavenger hunts, simple ball games, group challenges, nature art, cooperation puzzles, hand and nature crafts if desired, etc.

Thursday – Cooking and Crafts (Class size is limited; first come, first served.)

(October 3, 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14, 21, December 12)

8 classes - \$170

Baking bread (especially in the outdoor wood burning oven) pasta, tomato sauce, pickling, desserts, bagels, pizza, sushi, etc. These are just some of the things that were and could be done again, it will be tailored to students' desires.

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Child's Name _____ Child's Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

I would like to register my child for the following After School Program(s):

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|--|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tues. | 3:30-5:30 | Sports and Running Games (5th & up) | <u>\$210.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wed. | 3:30-5:30 | Games, Drama, Challenges | <u>\$210.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thurs. | 3:30-5:30 | Cooking and Crafts | <u>\$170.00</u> |

NOTE: Materials fees are included in the prices.

TOTAL: _____

Payment in full must be attached to the registration form. Payment is non-refundable and is set regardless of the number of classes actually attended by your child. Classes will be filled on a first come first served basis.