

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, January 23

EC Parent Evening

6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 21

8th grade Parent Evening

6:30pm

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 30

Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Friday, February 6

6th Grade Parent Evening

6:30 pm

Friday, February 7

Candlelight Concert

6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 12

6th Grade Play

6:30 pm

Friday, February 14

Grade School Ice Skating Party

Monday-Friday, February 17-21

Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

Monday-Friday, March 9-13

3rd Grade Farm Trip

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org

lc@rivervalleyschool.org

bot@rivervalleyschool.org

pc@rivervalleyschool.org

Candlelight Concert

This year's Candlelight Concert will take place on

Friday, February 7th at 6:30 pm.

Grades 4 through 8 will be performing and everyone is invited to attend. Please come hear our Orchestras, Choirs and grade school classes make beautiful music for you.

Students in grades 7 and 8 should plan to arrive no later than 5:45 for instrument tuning. Grades 4-6 should arrive no later than 6:00.

Dress is Concert Attire as described below from the Parent Handbook.

The concert will reflect on the message of peace and a celebration of freedom throughout the world, with a thoughtful and joyful program meant to bring light and warmth in these cold winter months.

Concert Attire

For both the Candlelight Concert and the Grandparent's Assembly, in keeping with traditional concert attire, the dress is as follows:

Girls - White Blouse, black skirt no shorter than 4 inches above the knee, or black dress pants, black tights or socks, black dress shoes with maximum 1-inch heel.

Boys - White button-down shirt tucked into black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes (no sneakers).

After-school Music Program Starts This Friday, January 24th

Kris Ramakrishna, a River Valley alum, is a Berklee College of Music graduate, and international composer, performer and guitarist. Kris started the first After School Music program in the spring of last year, and is back at River Valley, this time with 2 days a week!

Children are encouraged to bring their voices or instruments, and Kris will lead them in an ensemble setting while introducing them to music from around the world and helping them enrich their musicality.

Open to grades 3 - 8

Please see the end of this week's Current for registration form

Pizza Fridays Second Session Deadline Today

The new session of Pizza Day begins on Friday, January 24th. This is a fundraiser to support the 3rd grade Farm Trip. An order form is at the back of this week's Current. Deadline for orders is Tuesday, January 21st.

**Registration Form for
Mr. Laker's After-school Program
can be found at the end of the Current**

Alumni News

Attached to this week's Current is a wonderful article about Hannah Blanco (RVWS Class of 2016) from the front page of the Abington Friends School Magazine. Congratulations, Hannah.

After-school Woodworking

Would your child like to join an After-school Woodworking Class? If so, please fill out the form found at the back of the Current and place it in the folder on the office door. More information will follow once we know how many are interested.

From Administration

Social Media Documentary Screening

The Lotus School is pleased to announce a free screening of "Like" (56 mins) followed by a panel discussion about how social media impacts our lives.

January 30, 2020, 7:00 pm – Film, 8:00 pm – Panel Discussion

Delaware Valley University, Life Sciences Building Auditorium, 101 Admissions Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901

"Are you using technology, or is technology using you?"

LIKE is an IndieFlix Original documentary that explores the impact of social media on our lives and the effects of technology on the brain. The goal of the film is to inspire us to self-regulate. Social media is a tool and social platforms are a place to connect, share, and care ... but is that what's really happening? Are we addicted? How do we stop? Where do we start? What do we need to know? By understanding the effects of technology and social media on the brain, on our lives and on our civilization, we can learn how to navigate it more safely together.

Substitute Teachers Needed

River Valley is looking for substitute teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. Early Childhood substitutes must have experience with young children. In the Grade School, teacher training and/or teaching experience are preferred. If you or someone you know is interested, send a letter, resume, and references to: lc@rivervalleysschool.org or call (610) 982-5606 for more information.

Community First Fridays

The Admissions office will be hosting Community First Fridays on the first available Friday of the month. Parents will be greeted with coffee, tea, a snack and a member of the Administration for camaraderie and open discussion. Some weeks a member of the Board or Parent Council will attend.

Please join us on the following dates:

Feb 7, Mar 6, April 3, May 8, Jun 5

Housing for Visiting Teachers

At this time of year, we have teachers who visit River Valley as mentors or candidates for teaching positions for next year. They often come from far away and need a place to stay for a few days. If you have room for a guest and are able to host someone, please let Robbie know.

From The Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Math

Second Grade – Math

Third Grade – Math

Fourth Grade – Norse Myths

Fifth Grade – Ancient Civilizations

Sixth Grade – Astronomy

Seventh Grade – History/Renaissance

Eighth Grade – History

Handwork – First Grade – Knitting Lions and Lambs, Second Grade – Knitting Gnomes, Third Grade – Crochet Hats

From Development

Auction News

This year's auction will be held at Durham Hill Farm on Saturday, March 28th.

The Auction Committee is looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Event Planning and Operations

Procurement of items and/or experiences to be auctioned

Donations and Sponsorships

If you (or someone you know) can help or contribute, please email auction@rivervalleysschool.org.

From the Community

Upcoming Events from LGBTQ+ in Bucks County

We know the research - having supportive adults and community spaces not only reduces the risk of self-harm and suicidality amongst LGBTQ+ youth, it also helps to create a more loving, inclusive and empowering community for ALL! Here are some upcoming (and on-going) programs and events in Doylestown for LGBTQ+ youth and families for you to forward, share and post!

Wed, Jan. 22, 2020, 6-8pm: Gender & Trans Diversity: Understanding & Supporting Our Youth

<https://www.facebook.com/events/426725288245678/>

ALL are welcome to this Community Forum at the Rainbow Room - We are thrilled to have our Rainbow Room Director and staff joined by an outreach educator from CHOP's Gender Clinic as our featured speaker to share about gender diversity, transition issues for trans kids, about what the Gender Clinic provides, and to answer questions. We've also added a local school attorney who specializes in trans rights at school, speaking and answering questions! We have a long list of co-sponsors for this program. Childcare provided. Free. Please contact us to add your group's name or for any questions. MarlenePray@gmail.com Also head to the link above on FB for details.

Sat, Jan. 25, 2020, 1-3pm: Trans & Gender Expansive Kids Play & Hangout Group

New monthly playgroup + kids hangout for Transgender & Gender Expansive Kiddos ages 3-13 in Doylestown. Free, private, fun!

There is a public Page for all to follow and share: <https://www.facebook.com/TransPlaygroup>

AND a private Group for families with trans and gender expansive children

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2613845968696059/?ref=share>

Please share with anyone who may be interested! Run by Salem's Social Action Committee and Marlene Pray, Rainbow Room Director/Founder.

Sat, Feb 15, 2020, 7-10pm: Love Is Love: A Queer Prom for All!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/538389277027045/>

ALL Rainbow Room alum and ALL LGBTQ+ youth AND ALLIES ages 13-21 are invited.

At the Michener Art Museum and brought to you by The Rainbow Room. Sell out expected! DJ, photo booth, red carpet entrance, much fun awaits! It's going to be A-MAZ-ING! Dance and be you in the beautiful glass enclosed ballroom of the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown Borough. Tickets are FREE, but all must register to get in.

Absolutely no tickets at door. Parents, supporters and friends are invited to the red carpet entrance. Message us for details. Email for the registration form! marlenepray@gmail.com (Adult allies! If you know a 13-21 year old who may want to attend, please share this info with them or direct them to us. If you are interested in supporting or sponsoring this free fabulous event, please let us know!)

Wednesdays 6-8pm: Rainbow Room Youth Programs!

<https://www.instagram.com/pprainbowroom>

Every Wednesday night from 6-8pm, for over 17 years, we meet in Doylestown for programs led by professional sexuality educators, focused on education, empowerment, support, resilience, advocacy and making friends. For all youth ages 14-21 (LGBTQ+ and allies). 4th Wednesdays each month are open to ages 12 and 13 as well, with parent/guardian consent. PFLAG Bucks also meets on 4th Wednesdays 6-8pm just down the hall.

Solebury School Summer Programs Fair

Plan your teen's summer in one afternoon!

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020 – 1:00 – 3:00pm at the Solebury School Athletic Center (6832 Phillips Mill Road, New Hope, Pa)

Meet with representatives from over 30 local, national, and international programs. Programs represented offer a wide range of opportunities for students in grades 6 – 12.

For more information and a list of vendors, please go to www.solebury.org

Yoga Loka

-Focus on Patanjali's Yoga Sutras: the Path to Liberation

- 5:30-6:30 pm- Wednesdays 1/29 through 2/26 -

Investigate the practice of self inquiry and other practices suggested in the Yoga Sutras to help better understand the mind. \$80 for the 6 session series

-Meditation Clinic - 12noon-1pm - Tuesdays, 2/4 through 3/10. \$80 for the 6 session series.

-Restorative Yoga with Yoga Nidra - 6:00-7:00 pm Friday, 2/7. \$15 for the session.

-Psoas Clinic - 11:15 am to 12:15 pm - Fridays. 2/4-2/28. \$45 for the three session - series

-Valentine's Day Partner Yoga - 6:30-8:30 pm - Friday 2/14 - \$35 of registered by 2/2; \$45 after.

All workshops require pre-registration. Check the regular weekly schedule for drop-in classes at www.yoga-loka.com/class-schedule.html

The Lotus School of Liberal Arts – Grades 9-12 Admissions Open House for Prospective Students February 6 from 2:00 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 will also be working with prospective students to make a glitter jar as part of a workshop for students to create their own personal Mindfulness Jar that they can take home with them. The jar works as a reminder to practice awareness and kindness toward oneself and others.

Lotus School of Liberal Arts, 8340 Easton Rd., Ottsville, PA 18942, 484-312-0011. Contact: lotus@lotusla.org

Early College Info Session

Did you know that for both traditional high school students as well as homeschoolers, community college can be used for either high school credit or early college credit? On January 23 at 7pm, Raritan Learning Cooperative will host an info session on the various options available to high school-aged teens and how early community college classes might be a good fit. At this event, a representative of Raritan Valley Community College will be present to answer questions on how the process works.

Where: Raritan Learning Cooperative 168 Main St. Flemington, NJ

When: January 23, 7 pm

Sunbridge Institute Opportunities

January 24-25, 2020 (Friday evening and Saturday full day)

Waldorf Weekend: Foundations and Fundamentals of Waldorf Education - Lead Instructor: Linda Ogden-Wolgemuth, PhD, of Sunbridge Institute

February 12, 2020 (Wednesday morning)

OPEN DAY - Exploring Waldorf Education, Teaching, and Teacher Education with Linda Ogden-Wolgemuth, PhD, and the staff of Sunbridge Institute.

For more information go to: www.sunbridge.edu

Silvercreek Baseball Registration 2020 now open

Springfield Township Residents

Co-ed Tee Ball 4-6

Palisades Area Youth Baseball

Rookies 7 & 8

Minors 9 & 10

Majors 11 & 12

Fall Ball League for players who are 8-12 as of 8.31.21 after July 4th -October

All Palisades School District Teens

Bushkill Valley 13 & 14 -April – June

Lehigh Valley Connie Mack 14 -16 end of May – July

Register Online:

www.silvercreekathleticassociation.com

Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter

If you're lacking inside shelter in Upper Bucks County during periods of extreme, life-threatening weather (temperature of 26 degrees or below) between Nov. 15 and Apr. 15, your friends and neighbors are ready at the Quakertown Masonic Lodge (501 W. Broad St. Quakertown, PA 18951) from 8:15pm – 7:00am the following morning. We'll have a hot meal and breakfast for you as well as shelter. Car rides will be provided from the following stops, when requested:

Turkey Hill @ Ottsville/Harrow – 7:45pm Perkasio Square Shopping Center – 8:00pm

Call 267.450.5191 to request a ride. To find out if the shelter is open, contact Code Blue Status Line 267.450.5191 after 1:00pm.

Artyard

Upcoming Exhibitions:

Paper Weight: Works on Paper by Elsa Mora

January 18 – April 12, 2020

An exhibition of Mora's exquisite meditations on consciousness constructed solely of paper and glue.

Mora's 2D and 3D pieces presented in this exhibition are inspired by the cognitive faculties that form the mind: consciousness, perception, thinking, judgment, language, and memory...Thematically, Mora is interested in studying the intricacies of the human brain, the wonders that it can produce, as well as its potential for destruction and chaos. Her work as a whole reflects on universal issues of identity, connectivity, and survival.

Rugland: Wall Tapestries from the Center for Creative Works

January 18 – April 12, 2020

RUGLAND is a group exhibition of punch-tufted rugs made by artists from the Center for Creative Works, a progressive art studio located in Wynnewood, PA. The pieces were produced in conjunction with a workshop led by the textile artist and designer, Tim Eades, in August of 2019.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, January 24, 7:30 pm and Sunday, January 26, 2 pm – Screening of *Inside Out*

Saturday, February 1, 7:30 – *Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till*, written and performed by Mike Wiley

Saturday, February 15, 7:30 – *A Valentine for the Future: On Poetry, Love and Living Forever* with Sasha Stiles and Humanoid Robot BINA48

Saturday, February 29, 10 am-1 pm – Paper Sculpture Techniques Workshop with Elsa Mora

Saturday, February 29th at 3 & 7:30 – Screening of *The Pollinators*

Saturday, March 7, 10 am – 1 pm – Hatch Costume-making Workshop

Saturday, March 14, 7-9 – The Inbetweens, Album release and concert featuring Noah Jarrett, Mike Gamble and Conor Elmes

Saturday, March 21, 2-5 pm – Neurons, Needles & Thread; A Punch Needle Workshop with Elsa Mora

Wednesday, March 25 & Saturday, March 28, 7:30 pm – An evening celebrating Lotte Reiniger, the paper silhouette animation – with screenings of *The Art of Lotte Reiniger* and *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*.

Saturday, March 28, 6:30 pm – Gallery Walk with Elsa Mora (before Lotte Reiniger Screening)

Saturday, April 4 & Sunday, April 5th, 9 am-5 pm – Nesting Box Kit workshop with Ulla Warchol

For more information or to register for any of these events go to: artyard.org

Gallery hours: Wednesday Through Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Address: 62A Trenton Ave. Frenchtown, NJ 08825

From edsurge.com via Waldorf Today

The Answer for Schools Is Not More Technology. It's Teachers and Human Connection

By Danielle Arnold-Schwartz

This op-ed is part of a series of reflections on the past decade in education technology. Danielle Arnold-Schwartz is a teacher of elementary gifted students with experience teaching grades K-9 in public school settings.

A kindergarten teacher recently told me that at conference night one of her student's parents verbally attacked her for using Chromebooks during morning meeting time. This teacher uses Chromebooks responsibly and is a wonderful teacher, but deep down I couldn't help but cheer as I wondered, "Could it be that parents are waking up to the realization that too much screen time is part of what ails our education system?"

The secret is out: technology alone stinks as a learning model

We sit in front of screens to do work, listen to music, play games and escape from life's stress. We put children in front of screens at restaurants to keep them quiet, and we do the same in classrooms that may be too large or when teachers are working with small groups. Screens entertain us, help us relax and help us answer the questions we ponder as fast as we can ask them. However, the secret is out: technology alone stinks as a learning model.

(continued next page)

Education technology is in its infancy, and the appeal to entrepreneurs seems understandably insatiable. The disconnect between business and education is that entrepreneurs focus on profits, while educators focus on children and learning.

A business-minded person may think a large class with 50 students, one adult and 50 screens makes fiscal sense, and is therefore an "innovative" idea. Rocketship charter school chain relies on this type of model: "Students rotating into Learning Labs [means] employing fewer teachers," author Richard Whitmire has written of the schools. "A school such as Rocketship Mosaic could successfully serve 630 students with only 6 teachers plus aides."

A business person may also think that because focus groups of children demonstrate that kids like and enjoy a tech product, that it is educationally sound. Some of them think that teachers want to make their jobs easier by putting little screens in front of little eyes, but I don't know a single person who became a teacher because they wanted an easy job.

I don't know a single person who became a teacher because they wanted an easy job
As the year comes to a close, I urge edtech entrepreneurs to change the lens with which they view their product development. Education shouldn't be viewed as simply a "market," and children are certainly not "widgets."

Education is of dire importance for a strong democracy, and we must view product development for education as an ethical obligation. Technology can and should be used with fidelity in schools, but we must balance technology use with developmental psychology, the psychology of addiction and educational psychology. We need educational technology that puts highly trained teachers at the center of product design and implementation. It is human interaction that truly engages children and inspires them. In the same way that we want our doctors and lawyers to take time to help us, children need real teachers to connect with and trust. It is only then that technology can rise to its proper place in the classroom.

Forget the efforts to appeal to fiscal reforms, my edtech friends. The time has come to open the market to "Teachnology," and to put the teachers at the helm of their classrooms as they guide our children to exciting and unknown horizons.

After-School Woodworking Class

Interest Form

(For grades 5-8)

Does your child want to spend more time in the woodworking studio making more useful and beautiful wooden items? Ms. Siftar is willing to put together an afterschool woodworking program for students in grades 5-8.

In order to gauge interest, please select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of days and return the bottom half to the form to the front door of the office.

Cost is still being estimated but will be in line with other afterschool programs.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

CLASS DAY PREFERENCE

Order from 1-3, cross off unavailable days:

___ Monday 3:30-5:00

___ Wednesday 3:30-5:00

___ Friday 3:30-5:00

**2019-20 After-school Program
Winter/Spring Semester Registration Form**

Our Winter/Spring After-school Program is about to begin. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from January 7th through April 30th. The cost is \$15 per class with a \$10 materials fee for the session. Please be sure to mark the dates on your calendar because classes will not be held every week due to Mr. Laker's prior commitments and school vacations.

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

January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28^h, February 4rd, 11th, 25th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, April 14th, 21st, 28th
12 classes - \$235

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

Wednesday – Games, Drama, Challenges and Puzzles, Outdoors

January 8th, 22nd, 29th, February 5th, 12th, 26th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th
14 classes - \$220

Park bench, improv, hunter, skits, storytelling, treasure and scavenger hunts, kick the can, Frisbee golf, simple ball

games, group challenges, nature art, cooperation puzzles, hand and nature crafts if desired, etc.

Thursday – Archery and Games (for 4th grade and up)

January 9th, 16th, 23rd, February 6th, 13th, 27th, March 5th, 19th, April 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th
12 classes - \$190

We will spend some of the time each class doing archery with adjustable Matthew Genesis 2 compound bows. Students will learn proper and safe technique while doing archery and have some time for various games (not using the bows) after we finish.

-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----

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 grade and up) | <u>\$235.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wed. | 3:30-5:30 | Games, Drama, Challenges and Puzzles, Outdoors | <u>\$220.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thurs. | 3:30-5:30 | Archery and Games (4th grade and up) | <u>\$190.00</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.

After-school Music Program Registration Form

Kris Ramakrishna, a River Valley alum, is a Berklee College of Music graduate, and international composer, performer and guitarist. Kris started the first After School Music program in the spring of last year, and is back at River Valley, this time with 2 days a week!

Children are encouraged to bring their voices or instruments, and Kris will lead them in an ensemble setting while introducing them to music from around the world and helping them enrich their musicality. The two sessions give the students the opportunity to sign up based on their musical ability or grade, but any level is welcome to either session.

If your student is interested in attending twice a week, let us know!

Classes will be held from 3:30-5:

Mondays (recommended 3rd-5th grade) - 12 classes - 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27

and

Fridays (recommended 6th-8th grade) - 12 classes - 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 4/24, 5/8, 5/15

Any questions about the program feel free to contact Kris at: KrisSebastianRamakrishna@gmail.com

-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----

Student's Name _____

Student's Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

Instrument _____ Level _____

Parent's Email: _____

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

I would like to register my child for:

After-School Music Program

Monday - 12 classes \$190

Friday - 12 classes \$190

Amount enclosed _____

NOTE: Materials fee is included in the price.

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. Class will be filled on a first come first served basis.

PIZZA FRIDAYS!

It's time to order pizza again! Third grade will offer pizza and organic lemonade for lunch on Fridays, starting January 24, 2020, to raise money for their Farm Trip.

Please return this form and payment (made out to RVWS)
by **Tuesday, January 21, 2020**
to the folder on the office door labeled "pizza".

Pizza will be provided by Pizza Bella in Revere.
It will be delivered to your child's classroom by the 3rd grade each Friday.

This payment includes 15 weeks of pizza: 01/24, 01/31, 02/07, 02/28, 03/06, 03/13, 03/20, 04/03, 04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08, 05/15, 05/29, and 06/05

Child's Name: _____

Grade and Teachers Name: _____

_____ 1 slice & lemonade: \$47.00

_____ 2 slices & lemonade: \$80.00

_____ 1 slice/no lemonade: \$32.00

_____ 2 slices/no lemonade: \$64.00

_____ Lemonade Only: \$15.00

Questions? Please contact Kristyn Lederer at 1134zar@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!