

School Calendar

Upcoming Events

Monday-Friday, March 9-13

3rd Grade Farm Trip

Thursday, March 12

Middle School Play – Willy Wonka, Jr. 7:00 pm

Friday, March 13

Middle School Play – Willy Wonka, Jr. 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 14

Middle School Play – Willy Wonka, Jr. 1:00 pm

Saturday, March 21

Sing For Good – Pop-up Choir 4:00 pm

Thursday, March 26

Early Dismissal/Parent-teacher Conferences 1:00 pm

Friday, March 27

No School – Parent-teacher Conferences

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalley.waldorfschool.org

lc@rivervalley.waldorfschool.org

bot@rivervalley.waldorfschool.org

pc@rivervalley.waldorfschool.org

RVWS Musical Theater Summer Camp this July

A flyer with details can be found at the end of today's Current.
Watch for a registration form soon.

Handwork Circle for Parents

Tuesdays 8:45-10:00 am

For more information,
see From the Faculty inside.

Community First Friday This Week March 6th in the EC Building

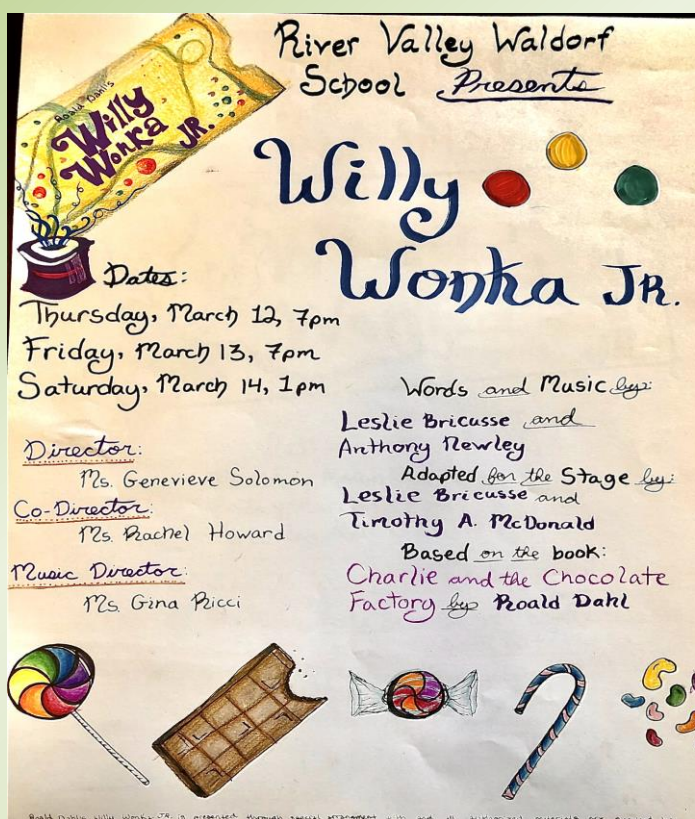
Parents are greeted with coffee, tea, a snack and a member of the Administration for camaraderie and open discussion. Some weeks a member of the Board or Parent Council will attend.

Please also join us on these dates:

April 3, May 8, Jun 5

8th Grade Bake Sale this Friday

The 8th grade will be having a Bake Sale this Friday, March 6th, at pick-up. Both ground and whole bean coffee from Homestead Roasters will be on sale for \$10 a bag, along with an array of delicious treats.



A ticket order form is at the end of this week's Current.



Click here to buy tickets, sponsor and donate.
More details inside.

See you on March 28th!

<https://auction.rivervalley.waldorfschool.org>
<https://durhamhillfarm.com>

Auction Update

We are less than 1 month away from this year's Annual Barn Party and Auction benefiting River Valley Waldorf School! The excitement is palpable!

We've raised almost 20% of our goal so far -- GREAT JOB

All Classes: Expect a note from coordinators this week about progress on your baskets, tickets, and helping gather donations in your neighborhoods.

Event Information:

Location: Durham Hill Farm

Date: Saturday, March 28th, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm doors open, live music ends at 10:00 pm

Ticket prices (limited quantities):

\$50 (Roots) - Access to the event, food, and entertainment, Cash Bar

\$75 (Leaves) - Access to the event, food, and entertainment, 5 drink tickets

\$90 (Sky) - Access to the event, food, and entertainment, Open Bar

\$125 (Star) - Access to special pre-auction event (starting @4PM), first dibs on karaoke picks

"Cash" Bar open for the duration of the event (using your bidder number) featuring:

- "Colonel Left Eye" IPA from **Two Rivers Brewery** in Easton, PA
- "George's Tart Cherry" Cider from **Melick's Town Farm** in Oldwick, NJ
- **Wine, Mixed Drink, and Non-alcoholic options available, too!**

Tickets are available online @ <https://auction.rivervalleyschool.org> -- tell your friends!

We hope to see you there.

Please contact auction chairs, Cat Miles or Alex Di Candia with any questions, donations, or to sign up for **"Karaoke Bidding Battle"**

Email us at auction@rivervalleyschool.org or find us in the lobby!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Wonka Reveals Five Golden Tickets!

Today Mr. Willy Wonka announced that five lucky River Valley Waldorf School students would gain unprecedented access to his illustrious candy factory! How is the possible, you may ask? The mysterious candy maker has placed five Golden Tickets inside five of his world famous chocolate bars; the lucky children that find these tickets will receive very special, one-of-a-kind prize rewards! These Limited Edition Chocolate Bars feature wrappers designed by the students of the River Valley Middle School and will go on sale THIS Friday in the school lobby. Proceeds to offset costs of the upcoming middle school production of Willy Wonka Jr.

Look out for those Golden Tickets!



Attention After-school Woodworkers

It's not too late to sign up for After-school Woodworking – there are a few spaces left. A registration form can be found in the back of this week's Current.

From Administration

Yoga Unwind with Ivy

Come unwind your week with a slow flow of yoga postures to release bodily tension so you feel grounded and ready to enjoy your weekend. Suitable for all levels.

Friday at 8:45 in the Garden Gate Room - \$10 cash drop-in

Airline Miles to Donate?

At this time of year, in addition to housing for visiting teachers, we are looking for airline miles that we can use to fly them here. If there are any frequent travelers out there who would like to donate miles to our school and receive a tax deduction, we would greatly appreciate it. We are also still looking for accommodations. Please let Robbie know if you can help.

Enrollment News

Dear River Valley Families,

Enrollment season is fast approaching. The enrollment season is an important time in our budgeting process, allowing River Valley to plan for healthy school finances in the upcoming year. Administration is here to answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have. Please reach out to Erica Nichols, Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator, at enichols@rivervalleysschool.org should you have any questions at all.

Tuition and Enrollment Contracts

To help you plan ahead, here are some important dates to keep in mind and to put on your calendar:

2020-2021 tuition will be set and enrollment contracts will be distributed at the end of February.

Early deposit discount- please return your signed enrollment contract on or before Monday, March 30th for the 50% discount of \$250 on enrollment contract deposits. After March 30th, the contract deposit is \$500.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance requests are due by March 13th. Complete your Parents Financial Statement (PFS) online by visiting: <http://sss.nais.org/parents/> It is important to have your Federal Income Tax Return completed as quickly as possible so the committee can do its work efficiently and your request can be given full consideration. Tax returns and PFS are due 3/13/20 to be included in the primary round of tuition assistance. Tax returns and W2 forms should be uploaded to the SSS website. If you are unable to upload your returns, please let us know so we can make other arrangements. As always, your tuition account must be in good standing to re-enroll or to be considered for tuition assistance. Please see Reeve Kelly or the business office with questions or to discuss any special situations.

Each year the administration looks forward to working with our many families during enrollment. We hope to be a service to each member of the community, please feel free to reach out with any question or concern.

Warmly,
Erica Nichols

12 months - 12 fairytales: a campaign by the Friends of Waldorf Education

With their campaign "12 Months – 12 Fairy Tales", the Friends of Waldorf Education invite you to travel around the world with twelve stories, taking readers on a colorful journey of stories, fables, and legends from all over the globe.

The Friends of Waldorf Education will this year publish a fairy tale from a Waldorf institution worldwide every month on their website and in their newsletter. The journey begins in Brazil and leads via Colombia, Argentina, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa to Georgia, Russia, Moldova and ends in Ukraine. The stories tell, among other things, of a toad that is determined to join the birds in attending a party in the skies. But without wings this is not easy! Will the toad succeed? A South African fairy tale tells of the day when starlight, moonlight, and sunlight were brought back to the sky to save the earth. The story "Martishor" from Moldova recounts the origin of the spring festival and the custom of knitting red and white tassels.

The fairy tales are illustrated with drawings, blackboard drawings or photographs and are accompanied by a brief description of the institution from which they come. Whether you want to read the fairy tales directly on our website or download them as a handy PDF, they are available online at waldorf-one-world.org/maerchen. The Friends' campaign runs from January to December 2020 and is aimed primarily at teachers with the warm invitation to use it for classes in grade school or kindergarten. But also parents and friends can easily print it out at home and thus build a bridge to the world.

To find the fairy tale collection please go to: waldorf-one-world.org/maerchen

From The Faculty

What the Children are Learning:

First Grade – Language Arts

Second Grade – Language Arts

Third Grade – Language Arts

Fourth Grade – Human Being & Animal II

Fifth Grade – North American Geography

Sixth Grade – Physics

Seventh Grade – Drama/Middle School Play

Eighth Grade – Drama/Middle School Play

Handwork: 7th grade –Traditional wet felting and needle felting; 8th grade –Machine sewing aprons & pajama pants

HANDWORK CIRCLE for Parents!!

Tuesdays 8:45-10:00 am

Our dear handwork teacher, Tina Quintana, has offered this time slot for **anyone** - experienced or not in handwork...Free Of Charge!!! What a beautiful offering and a wonderful chance for community building! Thank you, Ms Quintana!

- Did you ever want to learn how to knit? Crochet? Embroider?
- Are you one of the folks (like me) who started a Fall felted doll with Ms. Till and never finished it?
- Do you have a half-finished project of your own and would love company and support in finishing it?
- Do you want to know how to make what your child is making in handwork class?

Bring your projects and ideas and let's use our hands! The first circle will help us find our direction, but please jump in any Tuesday starting March 3rd. We will meet in the Handwork Room, located in the upper grades hallway in the main building. - first door on the right after the courtyard.

Private Music Lessons

RVWS after-school music program director, RVWS alumnus and Berklee College of Music graduate, Kris Ramakrishna, is offering private music lessons (beginners to advanced, all styles), guitar, as well as music theory, introduction to composition, song writing with professional software, and music school audition prep. Reasonable rates! Please email me at KrisSebastianRamakrishna@gmail.com

From The 8th Grade

Organic Garden starts grown for you!

The 8th grade would love to grow your seedlings for your garden this spring! We have many varieties of vegetables and herbs to choose from. Give Clare a shout for a list. Plants will be well developed and ready to plant outside - \$2.00-\$3.00 each. Contact clare.28@live.com with any inquiries or your order. All proceeds will go to the trip fund.

Photography Project

Dear River Valley Community,

My name is Mia Willard and I am a student in the 8th grade. As part of my community service requirement for my 8th grade project, I will be offering a mini photoshoot at my house. I have been learning photography, with Hilary Murphy as my mentor, and would love to take pictures of you, your family, or you and your dog. In return, I will be accepting donations to be directed toward the Center for Animal Health and Welfare in Easton PA. This is a non-profit organization that cares for displaced dogs and cats.

For your donation, you will receive a 10-15 minute photo session and edited digital copies of your photographs. The date is Sunday March 22 starting at noon.

Please email me at mlw10805@gmail.com if you would like to reserve your spot, or if you have any questions.

Unwanted Instruments?

Lily Brunell is collecting them!

Save the date to Sing For Good!

March 21st, 4:00 at RVWS

For my eighth grade project I am mentoring under Kira Willey to host a pop up choir event called Singing For Good. There will also be a suggested donation of \$10 at the door of the event.

All proceeds of this event will go to an organization called Hungry for Music. They provide instruments to children who otherwise wouldn't have them.

To donate instruments please email me at: tigerlili4640@gmail.com - Hope to see you there!

From the Community

Childcare Help Needed

The Briggs Family (Vernon in the Star Room) is looking for either a nanny, a nanny share, or interested parent with availability one or two days a week for their 3 month old baby, Vera. If you are interested or have a referral for us, please contact Megan at meganbarnesbriggs@gmail.com.

Yoga Loka

Loving the Body with Yin - 3 days beginning Friday, 3/6 through Sunday 3/8. with Sally Miller. Register for the full weekend or individual sessions on sallymilleryoga.com

Yoga of 12 Step Recovery - third Thursday of every month beginning March 19. 6:30-8:00 pm. with Meaghan Emmons. To register call or email Meaghan
Ayurvedic Yoga Therapy Retreat in Florida at Kashi Ashram, Sebastian, Florida - March 20th and 21st
Saturday 12-4 pm - Sunday 1-5 pm

Girish Live Music and Asana - 7-8:30 - Thursday, March 26. pre-register in advance for a discount. Space is limited.

Yoga Teacher Training and Immersion Info Sessions:
10:45 am Saturday 3/28 and 11:45 am Sunday 4/12
Healing Fire Ceremony at Mad Lavender Farm - 7:00 pm Friday, April 17. Chanting Maha Mrytunjaya. Suggested donation \$20.

Spiritual Studies: Durga Sadhana - 1pm-7pm - Saturday, April 18. with Bonnie

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

Lenape Chamber Ensemble

Children's Concert in the Round

For children ages 4-12, featuring music by Schubert, Reinecke and Faure for flute, violin, viola, cello & piano. Refreshments and Instruments demonstrations.

Saturday, March 7th, 10-11 am at Delaware Valley University Life Sciences Auditorium, 700 Butler Avenue at State Street and Rt. 611, Doylestown, PA 18901.
Children: \$2, Adults Free.

For more information, call: 610-294-9361. A non-profit sponsored by the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Morning Drop-off Assistance

I am looking for before school care and drop off help for our daughter, Kendra, in the Acorn Room, Monday-Friday. I would need to drop her off around 7am if in the immediate area. We live in Kintnersville and I drive to King of Prussia for work, using 611 then either 563 or 113 to get on 476 at Lansdale. Please call/text Danielle @ 215-350-7087 or email Dani.Kulp@gmail.com.

National Wildlife Federation Summer Scholarship

The Craig Tufts Educational Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Craig Tufts, Chief Naturalist of the National Wildlife Federation. Each year the fund grants an award to one youth to attend a week-long summer outdoor educational adventure camp at Family Nature Summits. The fund provides travel, room and board, and program fees for the award winner and an accompanying parent or guardian.

The 2020 Redwood Coast Family Nature Summit will be held July 11-17 at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. For more information, visit familynaturesummits.org.

The deadline for applications is March 20th. For more information go to: <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Education-Programs/Craig-Tufts-Educational-Scholarship>

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!

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.

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:

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 Psychology Today

What Learning Cursive Does for Your Brain Cursive Writing Makes Kids Smarter

By WILLIAM R. KLEMM, D.V.M, PH.D.

Ever try to read your physician's prescriptions? Children increasingly print their writing because they don't know cursive or theirs is unreadable. I have a middle-school grandson who has trouble reading his own cursive. Grandparents may find that their grandchildren can't read the notes they send. Our new U.S. Secretary of the Treasury can't (or won't) write his own name on the new money being printed.

When we adults went to school, one of the first things we learned was how to write the alphabet, in caps and lower case, and then to hand-write words, sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Some of us were lucky enough to have penmanship class where we learned how to make our writing pretty and readable. Today, keyboarding is in, the Common Core Standards no longer require elementary students to learn cursive, and some schools are dropping the teaching of cursive, dismissing it as an "ancient skill."

The primary schools that teach handwriting spend only just over an hour a week, according to Zaner-Bloser Inc., one of the nation's largest handwriting-curriculum publishers. Cursive is not generally taught after the third grade (my penmanship class was in the 7th grade; maybe its just coincidence, but the 7th grade was when I was magically transformed from a poor student into an exceptional student).

Yet scientists are discovering that learning cursive is an important tool for cognitive development, particularly in training the brain to learn "functional specialization," that is capacity for optimal efficiency. In the case of learning cursive writing, the brain develops functional specialization that integrates both sensation, movement control, and thinking. Brain imaging studies reveal that multiple areas of brain become co-activated during learning of cursive writing of pseudo-letters, as opposed to typing or just visual practice.

(Continued on next page.)

There is spill-over benefit for thinking skills used in reading and writing. To write legible cursive, fine motor control is needed over the fingers. Students have to pay attention and think about what and how they are doing it. They have to practice. Brain imaging studies show that cursive activates areas of the brain that do not participate in keyboarding.

Much of the benefit of hand writing in general comes simply from the self-generated mechanics of drawing letters. During one study at Indiana University to be published this year, researchers conducted brain scans on pre-literate 5-year olds before and after receiving different letter-learning instruction. In children who had practiced self-generated printing by hand, the neural activity was far more enhanced and "adult-like" than in those who had simply looked at letters. The brain's "reading circuit" of linked regions that are activated during reading was activated during hand writing, but not during typing. This lab has also demonstrated that writing letters in meaningful context, as opposed to just writing them as drawing objects, produced much more robust activation of many areas in both hemispheres.

In learning to write by hand, even if it is just printing, a child's brain must:

- Locate each stroke relative to other strokes.
- Learn and remember appropriate size, slant of global form, and feature detail characteristic of each letter.
- Develop categorization skills.

Cursive writing, compared to printing, is even more beneficial because the movement tasks are more demanding, the letters are less stereotypical, and the visual recognition requirements create a broader repertoire of letter representation. Cursive is also faster and more likely to engage students by providing a better sense of personal style and ownership.

Other research highlights the hand's unique relationship with the brain when it comes to composing thoughts and ideas. Virginia Berninger, a professor at the University of Washington, reported her study of children in grades two, four and six that revealed they wrote more words, faster, and expressed more ideas when writing essays by hand versus with a keyboard.

There is a whole field of research known as "haptics," which includes the interactions of touch, hand movements, and brain function.[5] Cursive writing helps train the brain to integrate visual, and tactile information, and fine motor dexterity. School systems, driven by ill-informed ideologues and federal mandate, are becoming obsessed with testing knowledge at the expense of training kids to develop better capacity for acquiring knowledge.

The benefits to brain development are similar to what you get with learning to play a musical instrument. Not everybody can afford music lessons, but everybody has access to pencil and paper. Not everybody can afford a computer for their kids—maybe such kids are not as deprived as we would think. Take heart. Some schools celebrate National Handwriting Day every Jan. 23. Cursive is not dead yet. Parents need to insist that cursive be maintained in their local school.

William Klemm, D.V.M., Ph.D., is a Professor of Neuroscience at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. He is the author of 13 books, including Science, The Brain, and Our Future; Discovery Processes in Modern Biology; Brainstem Mechanisms of Behavior; Understanding Neuroscience; Thank You, Brain, For All You Remember. His latest book, Atoms of Mind, is an overview of brain function, with special features on origin of consciousness, free will, and dreaming.



JULY 13-16, 20-23 & 27-31

9AM-3PM

Before-care: 8-9AM / After-care: 3-5:30PM
(No camp on Fridays July 17 & 24)

AGES 9-14

all three weeks

\$750

AGE 8

welcome July 27-31

\$325

PERFORMANCES

FRIDAY, JULY 31 | 6PM & SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 | 2PM

*To register or for more information, contact our Admissions Coordinator, Erica Nichols.
610.982.5606 / enichols@rivervalleyschool.org.*

Director: Melanie Niemczura
Set Design: Shannon O'Connell
Vocal Arrangements: Gina Ricci
Accompanist: Eve Sheldon



1395 Bridgeton Hill Road • Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972 • rivervalleyschool.org



Thursday, March 12th, 7:00 pm # adults _____ # kids _____

Friday, March 13th, 7:00 pm # adults _____ # kids _____

Saturday, March 14th, 1 pm # adults _____ # kids _____

Ticket prices \$6 child, \$10 adult or \$30 per immediate family.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

We can only take prepaid reservations.

Make check payable to River Valley Waldorf School. Put "Wonka" in the memo.

Bring form & check to the office.

**After-school Woodworking Program
for Grades 5-8
Registration Form**

If your child wants to spend more time in the woodworking studio making more useful and beautiful wooden items, then this program is for you. River Valley Woodworking teacher, Ellyn Siftar, will be leading an After-school Woodworking Program on Friday afternoons for students in grades 5-8.

Classes will begin on Friday, February 28th and continue on the dates below. Please fill out the bottom of this form, attach a check made out to RVWS, and place it in the folder on the office door.

Woodworking Classes

Fridays 3:30-5:30pm

Dates- 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29, 6/5

Cost: \$205 per student which includes a \$15 materials fee.

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Child's Name _____ Child's Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

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

I would like to register my child for the After School Woodworking Program:

☐ Friday 3:30-5:30 Cost: \$205.00

NOTE: Materials fees are included in the prices.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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.