

Riverside Reporter

Riverside School News



April 7, 2017

Calendar Of Events

April

10-17 SCHOOL CLOSED, Spring Recess
19 PTO Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Cafeteria
20 Environmental Assembly, 9:15 & 10:00, Cafeteria
21 Garden State on Your Plate-Turnips, during lunches
24 Garden Club
25 Science Club, F.I.T. Club
26 Art Club, Running Club
27 District Strings Concert, 7:00 p.m., PHS
27 Math Club
28 Banks Strings Concert, 2:00 p.m., Cafeteria
28 Art Club

News from the



Principal's Journal April 7, 2017

What an amazing week at Riverside!! So much to share....

Positive Education: Our fourth graders have moved to the subject of resiliency! Ready resilience is a skill adapted from The Resilience Factor by Karen Rieovich. The skill enables you to identify counterproductive thoughts in the heat-of-the-moment and fight back against those thoughts. The voice that tells you "You can't" when you know "You can". The goal of Ready resilience is to actively engage counterproductive thoughts and fight back with evidence, optimism or putting them in perspective. Imagine having the tools of Evidence, Optimism and Perspective well-rehearsed for when your mind starts turning on you!!

As you may be aware, the students of Riverside under the leadership of science specialist Mark Eastburn have been working in conjunction with the Princeton Neuroscience Institute to engage students in the study of the brain. This week the scientists from the Institute visited Riverside to create a video showcasing the work our students have been doing in the field of neuroscience and will soon be posted on the Princeton University website. It has been an amazing experience for our students to engage in such high level science, yet in the most accessible way – through the turtles in our courtyard! Our students were even given the chance to examine real animal brains as a result of this valuable partnership!

Have a relaxing and renewing Spring break!!

Valerie Ulrich

PPS Elementary District Strings Concert

Thursday, April 27, 2017
Princeton High School PAC (Performing Arts Center)
5:45 PM dress rehearsal
7:00 PM concert
The concert features string players in grades 3, 4 and 5.



PPS Elementary District
Strings Concert
Thursday, April 27, 7:00

PTO News

PTO Meeting – Wednesday April 19th @ 8:30am, in the Cafeteria

A friendly reminder to join us after you return from spring break for our April PTO meeting on Wednesday as we will be joined by two special guests:

* Mr. Jason Burr, Principal at John Witherspoon Middle School who will talk about the Middle School and transition from Elementary School

* Mr. Eddie Cohen, Science Supervisor at PPS who will talk about the next generation science standards that are coming starting in September 2017

Thanks and look forward to seeing you at the April PTO meeting!

Melodie and Beth

PTO Co-Presidents

PTO Special Session: After-School Clubs - Thursday, April 20th @ 8:30-9:00am, Cafeteria

As parents/guardians of children attending Riverside, you are automatically part of the PTO (parent teacher organization). There are a few people forming the executive of the PTO, like the treasurer, co-presidents, etc. but everyone is part of the PTO.

As such, we would like to enlist your help and input regarding after-school clubs. There have been many positive comments regarding the clubs this year and some negative comments. This was the first year of any type of formal program, so it is definitely a work in progress. We are planning to hold a special PTO meeting on Thursday, April 20th from 8:30am-9am in the cafeteria. We will use this opportunity to discuss lessons learned, what's working well, and next steps for next year. We encourage you to attend this meeting. Of course you are always able to provide feedback at president@rspto.org, but this special meeting will allow for discussion and comments, which helps us adjust our after-school club program for the 2017-2018 school year. Also consider jumping in to be part of the afterschool club process in joining the PTO executive – there are 3 VPs of After-school Club positions for next year. We have included the descriptions below, so if you see yourself in one of those roles, please contact us at the meeting or afterwards at president@rspto.org. We will need these positions filled in order to run after-school clubs next year.

Thanks and look forward to seeing you on April 20th.

Melodie and Beth

PTO Co-Presidents



Pajama Day – Rescheduled for Thursday, April 20th!

Riverside provided 889 lbs. of donated goods in Arm in Arm's Valentines for Food Drive! To celebrate, we're having a school-wide pajama day on Thursday, April 20. Congratulations!

Garden State on Your Plate Tasting - April 20, during lunches -Turnips!!

Spring Fling Committee Meeting – April 21st from 2:00-3:00pm

On Friday, April 21 the Spring Fling committee will be meeting at Riverside to discuss details of the event. We are looking for more volunteers to join us to make this a huge success for the Garden. The Spring Fling is scheduled for May 12th this year, is an event put on every spring to raise money to support the garden. All proceeds will go towards next year's garden.

Riverside Garden Work Day – April 22nd!

Spring has sprung and the garden is busy waking up. It is going to need our help though. On Saturday, April 22nd, we will be having a community garden work day. Please mark your calendars. More details will be coming soon.

Green Initiative!

Hello Riverside Parent! Here is a great way to participate in our Green Initiatives at Riverside! We need ten volunteers to staff the recycling / compost / landfill bins in the cafeteria during lunch. This is a one day per week, 11:00 to 1:00 commitment from the first week after Spring Break (when we will be trained) until possibly the first week of June (when hopefully student volunteers will have been trained and can take over). This is a great opportunity to observe your child at school and for him/her to see you get involved. If you can commit, send the day of the week that is most convenient for you, your name, e-mail and number where you can receive text messages to Beverly Yilmaz at 609-664-6635.

Thank you and enjoy the Spring weather!!

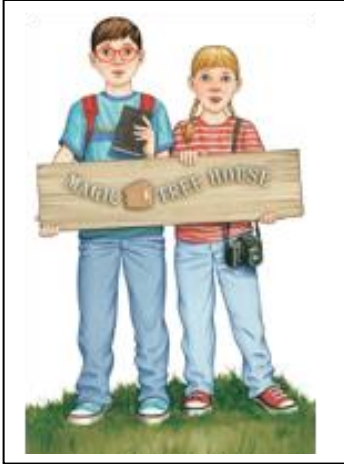
Fundraising Made Easy Reminders!!!

SHOP at AMAZON: Our school will receive up to 15% in referrals for all purchases made at Amazon.com by using this link. Shopping must originate through this link in order for our school to receive credit. Start Shopping!

MCCAFFREY'S RECEIPTS: Deposit your McCaffrey's receipts in the box outside of the nurse's office - the PTO gets 1% and earns about \$1,000 each year.

Book Swap!

Riverside bookworms! Jack and Annie have a message from Morgan LeFay and Merlin for you! Have fun over spring break, wherever your travels take you, whether it's your own backyard or Frog Creek! Wherever you go, Morgan LeFay and Merlin remind you to bring in your old books and leave them in the box in the lobby when you get back! Will the next volume in the Magic Tree House series be "Books Before Breakfast?" or "Reading with Riverbear?" or "Summer of the Swaps"? Find out at the Riverside book swap, coming later this spring! Questions? Just ask Betsy Armstrong, ema@princeton.edu. Jack and Annie thank you for your support of Riverside's book swap!



PTO Classifieds

The following positions/volunteers are wanted. Some are for this year, and some may be for next year, this is indicated next to each position/volunteer activity. Volunteers for many of the jobs can be shared amongst more than one person to alleviate the work required to make sure our children have a great time at Riverside!

5th grade activities – Graduating Class of 2017

One-More-5th-Grade Fundraiser – 5th Graders have done an awesome job at raising money to contribute towards their Gettysburg trip later this spring. At the November bake sale, they raised \$307.78 and at the Pasta Night and Pancake Breakfast they made a combined and whopping amount of \$919! Their goal is almost reached, the 5th graders have made \$1,226 against a budget of \$1,500. Last year they made over \$1,700.

The 5th Graders need a few parents to volunteer and help organize one last fundraiser, it can be as simple as a bake sale or something more complex, it's up to the 5th grade parents! Please reach out to president@rspto.org if you are interested.

5th Grade Yearbook

Each year with the guidance and direction from the 5th Grade teachers, a 5th grade parent (or two) puts together a yearbook for the graduating class to memorialize their precious years at Riverside Elementary. If you are an interested 5th Grade parent, please contact us at president@rspto.org. Thanks!

Moving-On Ceremony

It has been the tradition at Riverside that 4th grade parents organize and coordinate the activities for the 5th Grade Moving On Ceremony, typically scheduled for the week before the end of school (e.g., Wednesday, June 14th) at 9:00am. We are contacting you to see if we can get 3-4 volunteers to assist with this very important event! Please contact Lauren King (lauren.c.king@gmail.com), if you are interested.

Riverside's 39th Science Day 2017

Riverside's annual Science Day will be held this year on Tuesday, May 16th, and we need parent volunteers to help with the day-long event. Have fun helping the kids with hands-on experiments. Help guide the kids from presentation to presentation. Assist the presenters. No previous science experience needed!

Please contact Mel Grzymala at mgrzymala@verizon.net

Thank you!!! The Science Day Committee



After-School Club (ASC) VPS: 3 positions are needed for AY2017-2018

ASC VP #1: Someone who can send out electronic communications regarding anything to do with the clubs, e.g., registration notification via room parent leads, communications to families notifying them of their enrollment selection, emails to volunteers, front office, etc. This position can mainly be done at home, and it's preferred that one has computer skills working with google sheets, etc.

ASC VP #2: Someone who can recruit people (teachers, parents, vendors) to do clubs, and who will organize which clubs are held for all three sessions (Fall, Winter, Spring). They would work with potential instructors to confirm day-of-the-week, fees, and insurance or agreement issues, gather club descriptions, and make sure the overall schedule works, plus work with the Principal to secure rooms. Much of this work can be done off-site; however, it will require some time for face-to-face meetings.

ASC VP#3: Someone who will send out requests, coordinate volunteers for all clubs, and provide orientation or be there to answer questions, etc. They also help with more onsite issues, concerns, etc., and manage volunteers overall. This position better fits with someone who doesn't have work commitments after 3pm.

McCaffrey Receipts Volunteer – Next Year, AY 2017-2018

McCaffrey receipts that are collected and placed in the McCaffrey's box (located next to the nurse's office) provide the PTO with approximately \$1,000 in income each year, so a worthwhile and behind-the-scenes type of job. The responsibility of this volunteer includes picking up the receipts collected in the box (~1/month), checking they are less than six months old, tallying up the totals, entering the total in a spreadsheet and turning in to the front office at McCaffreys. It is the type of thing that can be done at home at night.

VP, Family Programs – Next Year, AY 2017-2018

The VP of Family Programs is responsible for recruiting volunteers to run the Kindergarten Play-Date/Orientation session in late August/early September, the fall and spring picnics, pasta night, pancake breakfast, and international night. The VP role is to pitch in from time-to-time, but really to make sure they can line up others to lead a committee of volunteers.

Riverside Spirit-wear – Next Year, AY 2017-2018

This volunteer role requires someone who is interested in distributing Riverside Cheer Apparel and miscellaneous items (e.g., magnets, bags, etc.). They would display samples of apparel about 3-4 times per year at major Riverside events, collect orders and payments, and work with the vendor to produce the purchased items. They would manage the distribution of the clothing/items to the families, and if desired, work with the vendor to update logos, items from time to time.