

Riverside Reporter

Riverside School News



May 19, 2017

Calendar Of Events

May

- 22 Garden Club
- 23 Walk to School Day
- 23 Author's Night, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- 23 Science Club, F.I.T. Club
- 24 Art Club, Running Club
- 25 Grandpal Luncheon
- 25 Math Club, Theater Club and Science Club
- 26 Art Club
- 29 SCHOOL CLOSED

JUNE

- 1 Book Swap
- 1 Science Club
- 2 Colonial Day
- 2 Gettysburg Trip
- 5 Garden Club
- 6 Art Show, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 7 PTO Meeting, 8:30, Cafeteria
- 7 Student Science Poster Session
- 8 First grade Brazilian Dance performance, Cafeteria
- 9 Field Day
- 9 Spring Picnic, 5:30-7:30

News from the



Principal's Journal May 19, 2017

We are proud to announce the First Annual Riverside Student Council Talent Show! Join us for a night of fun variety acts featuring Riverside students and teachers. All proceeds from tickets, concessions and donations will go towards funding the installation of a "buddy bench" on the Riverside playground. The night will feature a wide range of performances including Flamenco Dancing, Song and Dance, Martial Arts and instrumental performances. Be on the lookout for a pre-sale ticket order form featuring a discounted ticket price for our early birds. We hope you can join us on June 16th beginning at 6:00 for a truly entertaining evening. Fun for all ages!

The student council is brand-new at Riverside this year, with a specific mission of furthering school spirit and connectedness. Fourth and fifth graders signed up to join Student Council and participated in a lottery to select members. In all, 24 students were chosen to serve this year. The Student Council meets monthly to talk about a variety of topics including helping to craft the enhanced Upstander values and providing feedback about our cafeteria and lunch service. Recognizing a need for a "buddy bench" for our playground, the Student Council has spearheaded the Talent Show as a fundraiser to make the "buddy bench" a reality. Come out and support our student leaders, our commitment to inclusion and citizenship as well as the incredible talent of our Riverside family.

Valerie Ulrich
Principal
Riverside School
Princeton Public Schools

PTO Classifieds

There are always opportunities to volunteer, and these are usually fun and rewarding opportunities to engage and get to know others at your Riverside community better. Please consider the following:

5th grade activities – Bake Sale Fundraiser

A few parent volunteers are needed to organize a quick bake sale to support the 5th graders trip to Gettysburg in early June. This bake sale can be done before school, after school, whatever works best and reaches more people – ideas include Walk to School Day, etc.

Bulletin Board

If you have a creative spirit but no time during the day, but still want to make your mark or contribute to some part of your child's experience, consider the Bulletin Board. You can design and post monthly creations that give our school a fun, added dimension to the the everyday. There are of course, many other ways to contribute behind the scenes and in front, it's always your choice!

Garden State On Your Plate

If you are interested in getting involved in this amazing event that occurs several times per year at Riverside, please contact the Co-Presidents at president@rspto.org. It usually involves some minor organization of parent volunteers and organization with the school but can be very rewarding.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“RACE TO NOWHERE”

SUNDAY MAY 21: JOHN WITHERSPOON MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

On behalf of Princeton Balance, I'm very proud to announce that we will screen the groundbreaking film RACE TO NOWHERE here in Princeton... The details are here [A limited # of tickets are FREE and available here:](#)

SUNDAY MAY 21: JOHN WITHERSPOON MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

2:30pm Race To Nowhere Screening

4:00 pm Q&A with Filmmaker Vicki Abeles and Director of Counseling and Psych Services @ Princeton University, Calvin Chin.

Please spread the word and don't miss this chance to get yourself up to speed on what you can do to end the race to nowhere...so all our kids can thrive....

Walk-to-School – Tuesday May 23rd 8:00AM

Riverside Elementary will be celebrating a Walk-to-School Day on Tuesday morning, May 23rd. If you are interested in joining the walk-to-school bus, see the map attached that describes the designated spots that you can meet up with other families and walk or ride bikes to school. These sites will also be posted on the school website. If you are interested in leading this effort or leading a pack of students/families on one of the routes that you are closest too, please contact the school nurse, Sarah Gooen Chen (sarahgooen-chen@princetonk12.org). Please note, any parent whose child takes a bus or comes from a farther away location may choose to drive their child to school and park and walk along one of the routes. No child will be excluded



from this event at their parents' discretion. Children who do take the bus or have other special needs, will be escorted around to the front of the school to enjoy the festivities, e.g., balloons, 4th & 5th Grade pep rally. Flyers will be posted around the front entrance, so please take note.

Author's Nights – Tuesday, May 23rd @ 6:00-8:00pm, Cafeteria

Writing at Riverside: A Celebration of Our Community Authors

A communal evening celebrating the multi-dimensional authors of Riverside from students to teachers to parents. The evening will be kicked-off with several special readings from Riverside's published authors, followed by Riverside K-5 small group readings and/or poster presentations. The evening will conclude with a closing celebration, including a book raffle and treats/refreshments.

All families and students are welcome to attend even if they have opted not to participate in a poster or small group reading. There will be several opportunities to hear from our students, teachers, and parent authors, and these are not to be missed!

If you attend, bring your extra, donated books for the Book Swap! Boxes will be available! Several communications have been distributed, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the organizer, Beth Leman at: bethhabsleman@gmail.com or 973-610-1428. Thanks!

Diaper Drive

Riverside is trying to collect diapers for HomeFront to distribute to many New Jersey families but especially families in Trenton who need fair access to diapers and wipes, and possibly other supplies. This drive has been extended through next week, May 25.

Please consider donating a pack of diapers (even opened but unused) and other baby items. Please contact Anne Lord Thomsen for specific questions at: altlord@gmail.com or the Riverside PTO at: president@rspto.org. We really appreciate your support and empathy for these local families.

Focus Groups for Students with Special Needs, Tuesday, May 30th at 8:45

All parents of students with IEPs are strongly encouraged to attend the focus group on Tuesday, May 30th at 8:45. It is an opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns and really be heard!. These parents are strongly encouraged to attend the focus group on Tuesday because it is an opportunity to voice opinions and concerns and really be heard!

Princeton Public Schools Special Education PTO

Please join the Special Education PTO for its fourth annual Focus Group Discussion with Director of Special Services, Micki Crisafulli and Supervisors of Special Services, Erik Csolak (PreK-5) and Kristin Graham (6-12). Focus groups are open to parents of children in Princeton Public Schools who have IEPs or are in the process of obtaining an IEP. These meetings offer an opportunity to meet with the Special Education Team, provide input to strategic questions that this team is exploring, and offer your feedback during a facilitated round-table discussion.

You are welcome to join any focus group that best meet your schedule, regardless of school:

May 26 8:30am - 9:30am Princeton High School Main Office Conference Room

May 30 8:45am - 9:45am Riverside Black Box Theater Room 21

June 2 9:00am - 10:00am Johnson Park Room 218

Please email specialdpto@gmail.com with any questions! Special Education PTO Advisory Board 2016-2017 Joan Spindel, Co-Chair (Princeton High School): jspindel@erols.com
Lindsay Kruse, Co-Chair (Littlebrook Elementary): lindskruse@gmail.com Ginny Bryant (John Witherspoon Middle School): bryant.us.uk@gmail.com Jen Heuson (Community Park): jenheuson@gmail.com Anne Kiesewetter (Littlebrook Elementary): kiesewetteranne@gmail.com
Steve Mackey (Johnson Park): steve@princeton.edu Beverly Yilmaz (Riverside Elementary): bevshumway@hotmail.com



BOOK SWAP IS COMING!!! – June 1st

Elephant: Piggie, look at all these books.

Piggie: I love books!

Elephant: Me too.

Piggie: But why are they in the Riverside lobby?

Elephant: They are for the book swap.

Piggie: The book swap!!! Yippie! Hooray!!! I love the book swap!

Elephant: Me too.

Piggie: Do you think they will have books about US?

Elephant: Of course they will have books about us.

Piggie: YES!!! BOOK SWAP!!!! I LOVE THE BOOK SWAP!!!

It's true! Book swap is coming SOON and we need more books! Thank you to everyone who donated to our book drive this week! If you didn't get to donate yet, we are extending the book drive for one more week! Please bring in your books! Thank you! Questions? Just ask Betsy Armstrong, ema@princeton.edu.

Interested in the Changes Taking Place at PHS? Wednesday, June 14, at 7:00 PM - John Witherspoon Auditorium

PHS Principal Gary Snyder will lead a discussion about some of the meaningful changes that are being considered at PHS to create a climate that fully supports both deep learning and student wellness. The presentation will incorporate key findings from the Stanford Survey on school engagement, which most of our high school students took this year. While Mr. Snyder will be talking specifically about changes at PHS, we invite all parents in our community to be a part of the conversation about how innovative approaches to teaching and learning can transform all our schools – and our understanding of success for all our students.

Have you done something wonderful this week? Princeton Children's Fund, Inc. www.princetonchildrensfund.org

Our Mission. Princeton Children's Fund, Inc. is dedicated to providing access to enrichment and extracurricular opportunities for Princeton

You may not realize this, but almost 500 children in the Princeton Public Schools are living with food insecurity. When food is scarce, activities like soccer or dance are out of the question and so are costs for SATs, tutoring, yearbooks, the prom, and so much more. There is a charity in town that has made it their mission to change this, literally! Princeton Children's Fund is dedicated to providing access to enrichment and extracurricular opportunities for Princeton Public School students whose families would otherwise be unable to afford them. Their goal is to promote an equivalent experience for all children in the Princeton Public School community. Please join us in helping Princeton Children's Fund make our town a great place for all kids to grow up in! You can make a donation through their secure website at www.princetonchildrensfund.org. All gifts are fully tax deductible.

Spring Fling – Thank You!



The Riverside PTO and Garden would like to extend a huge Thank You to the Riverside Community. The "Trolls in the Garden" event on Friday was a huge success. There is nothing more heartwarming than seeing 100+ Riverside students and family members enjoying an evening of games and activities in the setting of their school garden. The pride that is obviously felt by the students really shone through as students were witnessed giving parents tours of the garden and explaining the different plants and garden beds.

With all of your support and generous donations we have exceeded our goal of raising \$4,000 to fund the garden for next year! We would like to extend additional thanks to D'Angelo's Italian Market, Bent Spoon, and Whole Earth for their food donations: Dor Mullen (our garden founder) of The Supper's Program, the Klein family, our K teachers and the cakewalk/fishing pond team for running activities for the children during the event; and all who lent a hand serving food, selling tickets, and cleaning up. We could not have done it without all of you!

A Special thanks to the Organizing Committee: Betsy Armstrong, Beth Behrend, Bonnie Funicello, Alene Frankel, Michelle Fitzgerald, Melanie Schutte, Louise Senior, and Beverly Shumway Yilmaz (Spring Fling Riverside PTO Committee)

And, An Extra Special Thanks to Beth Behrend for not only her years of service in the Riverside Garden and all that encompasses this special place at Riverside, but for her passion, her dedication, her hard work, and her diligence in advocating and successfully securing district support and funds for all Princeton Elementary School Gardens. For years, Riverside garden was driven by a grassroots approach with local Riverside family and administration support, but this year, Beth was rewarded (and we all are the beneficiaries) in getting the district to support a huge portion of the garden costs. While financial support is still needed by the families, it is a small percentage in the overall cost to run the garden. It's a beautiful, peaceful, and amazing outdoor wonderland, and we are thankful for Beth Behrend and her family. She and her family will be missed at Riverside!

Happy 39th Birthday Science Day – Thank You!

Yet again, Science Day seamlessly went off without a hitch due to the leadership of Melissa Gryzmala and her organizing team, her partner-in-crime, Tom Gryzmala, a team of parent volunteers, a team of volunteer presenters, and assistance and support of all the Riverside teachers, staff, and administration. Congratulations for making yet another year a huge success! It's a long but fun day and all the hard work and sweat is shown by the smiling faces of our Riverside students and the wonderful stories, fun takeaways, and especially the learning that takes place all day long. Not many elementary schools have a full day dedicated to exposing students to science and all things related, so it's another fabulous example of what a special place Riverside is.

A Special Thanks to Melissa Gryzmala, who organizes this event, as well as, corresponding events such as the Franklin Institute Day (Monday, May 15th) and Investigative Reports (June 7th), with an almost science-like approach. Everyone has seen the very well orchestrated schedule for Science Day. This takes weeks and months of planning, recruiting volunteers, organizing, and implementing of activities and supplies that she initiates starting way back at the beginning of the year. Melissa and her family will continue to make their mark on all things Science Day at Riverside but as she begins to pass the torch to other fine leaders, her spirit and passion will always be a part of this very special day. Thank you Mel!

Garden Bite

Cucumber Beetles

This past week, Mrs. Tolin's 2nd graders planted our first cucumbers, and Garden Club also put in our squash in beds 10 & 12. The 2nd graders heard about the cucumber beetle, a yellow striped beetle that loves to feed on plants in the squash family. All last Fall, the 2nd graders concentrated on beneficial insects – butterflies, lady beetles, praying mantis, bees, and pollinators in general. But now it's time to combat an insect pest: the cucumber beetle.

What's with the white netting out there?



Though we could share some of our plants with the cucumber beetles, they bring along a very bad uninvited guest when they bite into our plants: **bacterial wilt**, a disease caused by the bacteria *Erwinia tracheiphila*. The bacteria lives within the gut of the cucumber beetle and is spread to plants via *frass* – insect poop. When cucumber beetles feed on cucurbit plants, they leave their frass nearby. Bacteria can enter the plant when the feeding wound caused by beetle feeding is contaminated by frass. Once inside, the bacteria reproduce and obstruct the plant's vascular system,

which is used to transport water and nutrients. The plant can't absorb enough water and wilts and dies.

This is what happened to our beloved crop of mini spinning gourds last summer!

Penn State and Rutgers have done experiments to combat cucumber beetles – and the best strategy is to protect the plants with netting until they begin to flower. This protects them from 90% of cucumber beetle damage – so that’s why our beds are draped in the white netting outside – please don’t disturb it! We don’t want to let in the uninvited guests.

Let’s hope our netting works and we enjoy a bumper crop of cucumbers and squash this season!

Thank you all for supporting our ‘Trolls in the Garden’ fundraiser last week – it was great fun!

~Louise Senior

Riverside Garden Educator

New email: louisesenior@princeotnk12.org