

Riverside Reporter

Riverside School News



June 16, 2017

Calendar Of Events

JUNE

- 20 1:00 p.m. Dismissal
- 21 School Assembly, 9:00 a.m., Gym
- 21 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, 1:00 p.m. dismissal

A NOTE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE:

If your child is not finishing out the school year and is leaving school before June 21, please let the office know so we may mark your child absent. Thank you.

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE...

- As our school year comes closer and closer to the end...
- Check throughout your home for library books and other items that belong to RS.
- Check your child's lunch account to be sure he/she does not have a negative balance, especially if you may be moving out of the area.
- Check our overflowing lost and found.
- Plan for our 1:00 pm dismissal on the last two days of school (June 20 & 21).
- Let us know if your child will be out the last few days of school.
- Let us know if your child is **not** returning to RS next year or if he/she is not moving on to JW. Parents must sign a form to release the records to the school your child will be attending.

A Reminder from the Health Office

Summer vacation is almost here! Just a reminder, if you have medication in the Health Office please don't forget to pick it up. Medicine cannot be returned after Tuesday June 20 at 1 pm. Additionally summer is a great time to catch up on doctor's visits. If your child has a physical exam, or eye exam, please ask the physician for a report to update your student's file. If there is any change in your child's medical status please notify the Health Office. Thank you, and have a nice summer.

Principal's Journal June 16, 2017

I can't believe this is our last newsletter! Thanks to our amazing staff for working tirelessly for the kids of our community. Thanks to Riverside families for all your support and collaboration throughout the year. Thanks to our custodial staff for keeping our building clean and ready. AND, thanks to our students for bringing such joy to my life and hope to the world! Have a wonderful summer and don't forget to READ, READ, READ!!

Valerie Ulrich
Principal
Riverside School
Princeton Public Schools



News from the



Riverside Student Council TALENT SHOW–TONIGHT!! June 16th @ 6:00pm, Cafeteria

Join the Riverside Student Council on Friday, June 16th @ 6pm in the Cafeteria 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 idea came from the efforts of all the students who participated in Student Council this year, organized by Ben Samara – thank you Ben for leading this great and exciting effort! Learn more about Student Council by attending the talent show, which is open to everyone!

If you did not receive a flyer with ticket information, tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for Children 12 and under – place your order in a clearly marked envelope with your name, # of tickets, email address, and purpose (Student Council Talent Show). Checks can be made out to the Riverside PTO. Forms can also be obtained in the front office.



Petition: Bog turtle for New Jersey State Reptile!

"HELP OUR STUDENT MOVEMENT!

Over the past two months, students at Riverside School have been building a campaign for New Jersey to recognize the bog turtle as our official state reptile, which has resulted in the introduction of State Senate Bill No. 3145 by Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman. Now we need grownup support to make sure this bill passes the Senate, General Assembly, and gets signed by the Governor! Please visit the website [teacherturtles.com](http://www.teacherturtles.com) to sign and share the petition for Bog Turtle as New Jersey's State Reptile, and to find addresses of state legislators who need to hear our voices. Please share this information anywhere and with anyone that you can!"

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/508/104/530/bog-turtle-for-new-jersey-state-reptile/>

Thank you,
Mark Eastburn
Science Specialist
Riverside School
Twitter: [@markeastburnpps](https://twitter.com/markeastburnpps)
Instagram: [markeastburn.pps](https://www.instagram.com/markeastburn.pps)
<http://www.teacherturtles.com>

Stamps Needed! Donate Now to Mark Eastburn!

Mark Eastburn is working on a campaign to put get the bog turtle (students' choice) to be adopted as the official New Jersey state reptile. For the campaign he has ordered the postcards, and will be requesting that students come in during recess (I already have lots of willing volunteers) to address them to schools across New Jersey so that their respective students might write to their local state representatives in order to move this anticipated bill through. There are about 1,500 private schools and 2,500 public schools in New Jersey, so the more stamps that parents might be able to send in, the better. Other Princeton Elementary Schools may also work with Mark to get the word out.

So, if you are able to purchase and/or donate a book of postcard stamps, please turn them into Mark Eastburn directly, or you can drop them in the PTO box in the front office. Thank you!

PTO is Still Looking to Fill Positions for Next Year!

The PTO is actually in pretty good shape, we have a lot of parents who have stepped up to the plate next year to take on VP roles as well as just one-off activities – thank you! However, if you are thinking of ways to get involved next year, please reach out to the Co-Presidents, Charlotte Glen and Melodie Schweitzer at president@rspto.org.

Consider some opportunities to involved include:

- 3 After-School Club VPs (Electronic communications, club recruitment, and volunteer management)
- Bulletin Board Lead (monthly, behind-the-scenes work, and creativity needed!)
- Book Fair Lead (1 week or less commitment in November)
- Pancake Breakfast
- Pasta Night
- Party Boards
- Fall or Spring Picnics
- Author's Night
- Science Day
- Spring Fling



SUMMER GARDEN HELP

Hello Garden Friends,

Garden club and classes are over and school is almost out but that doesn't stop our garden from continuing to grow!! Louise will continue to be at the garden on **Monday evenings from 5-7pm**. Please join us when you are in town for a summer garden "club" (no charge). Catch up with friends, pull some weeds, harvest some produce and enjoy the peace of the garden in the summer.

Riverside garden is a designated "City Harvest" garden. We receive free seedlings and seeds and in return produce from our garden is donated to the local food pantry, Arm In Arm, here in Princeton. Please consider helping to deliver produce on Tuesday afternoons. It is a great experience to see the operations and be a part of helping our local community. Use the link below to sign up for a week. The first tab on the page is directions and the second tab (tabs at the bottom) lists the weeks for signing up.

[Riverside Garden 2017 Summer Harvest and Drop Off to Crisis Ministry](#)

We could also use help in watering our garden throughout the summer. If you are available for a week this summer please let me know and we will coordinate. Bfuniciello@gmail.com
Thank you for your support,
Bonnie Funciello

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!!!!! With the last three days of school (ack!) looming ahead of us, the PTO wants to take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened at Riverside this year. It's been quite an exiting year, thanks to all that have done so much for Riverside, students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents, grandparents, and more.....our children have such an amazing community!



Riverside Spirit-Wear – Many thanks to Julie Cho who took over spirit-wear paraphernalia very late this year and was extremely successful in getting free t-shirts designed, produced, ordered, and distributed for all students and staff at Riverside this year with a brand new logo. It was a huge challenge that Julie took on fearlessly and made it happen seamlessly – everyone was very pleased. Thank you! She will be offering opportunities to order items next year, so stay tuned!

Spring Picnic – Thank you to Wendy Bond & Kristen Suozzo for organizing and coordinating the spring picnic again this year! It's always a fun and relaxing evening for families, so we really appreciate the work that goes into making this end-of-year event happen! Also, thank you to all who contributed food and/or time for set-up/take-down and serving – it truly does take a village to make this all happen! We were very lucky to have great weather, and it was a beautiful evening!

Field Day – Best Ever First Field Day Ever! - Many thanks to our amazing Gym Teacher, Alison Unkert for pulling together and exciting field day for all our Riverside students! It was a gorgeous day, kids had a blast, and we think teachers and parent volunteers did too! A special thanks to all those who volunteered in many different ways, from donations, to helping with the stations, and so much more! It was incredible to see the wealth of generosity displayed, especially last minute when we had parents dropping off multiple coolers, ice, and Italian ices for over 300 children – donations never surprise us but it always makes us thankful for our Riverside community!

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Thank you to Lauren King, VP of Teacher Support for pulling together an end-of-year breakfast celebrating our amazing teachers and staff at Riverside! We are extremely grateful and thankful for all our teachers and staff who support our children in so many different ways all throughout the year. Riverside is amazing because of all of you! Thank you also to the parents who volunteered help with set-up and take-down, and providing baked goods, refreshments, etc. Many thanks!

Front Office

A special thank you to our two favorite people on the front line and in the front office, Cathy O'Neill and Indra Barnwell – these two wonderful people work tirelessly to support the PTO behind the scenes – thank you for all your help, guidance, and patience with us as we work together to get things done! A huge thanks to the both of you for all that you do for the PTO!

Room Parent Lead – A special thanks to Caitlin Freeh who works behind the scenes to disseminate information, morning, noon, and night to our fabulous room parent leads. While sometimes the flow of information is higher than our “inboxes” would prefer, this mechanism of getting information is a very helpful one and having someone to lead this effort takes time and effort. Thank you Caitlin!

Room Parent Leads - Also, thank you for our room parent leads, it is another way for parents to get information and we all know that multiple forms of communication are useful. Thank you for being the point of contact, and for actually doing much more than just pushing email communication through to the classrooms. Room parent leads also help to coordinate parties, events or activities that happen throughout the year, and collect donations for teachers and staff, and really whatever help the teachers need. It is so helpful and more efficient for teachers to have this consistent point-of-contact. And, it's a great way for parents to be involved in their child's classroom. Thank you room parent leads!

Garden Bite – June 16, 2017

End of School, 2017

Yummy Peas! Come visit in the summer!

Our students have had fun this week harvesting their peas – and feasting on them!

The 3rd grades harvested their Shell Peas, in their First Peas to the Table project:



And our 4th Graders harvested their Garlic crop – the center of their Allium Family lessons. They each got to take home a clove, and the others are reserved for everyone to enjoy at next year's Pasta Night.



You are welcome to come enjoy the garden this summer – but first a few ‘rules:’

- 1) Find out what things are by coming on Monday evenings from 5-7 pm for our informal Summer Garden Club! Louise/Mrs. Senior will be there.
- 2) ALWAYS close the gate behind you when you leave! Even for the wildflower patch (which is currently more wild than ‘flowers’ – but will evolve over the summer). If you cannot get the gate to close, please find something to PROP IT CLOSED WITH – this will keep the deer out. Otherwise they come in and eat LOTS.
- 3) At any time, you're welcome to taste – but please pick only what you will eat at the time, and keep your children from picking wildly and wastefully. Our harvest is donated to those in need – via the Arm in Arm food pantry.
 - a. We do this because a part of the ‘City Harvest’ network of gardens that help relieve hunger in our region. City Harvest is a program sponsored in part by the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society.

Through the program, we've received many wonderful seeds, fabulous healthy plant starts, as well as organic pest controls free of charge. The 'price' is that our summer produce harvest is donated to Arm in Arm food pantry (formerly the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County).

b. Last summer we donated over 550 pounds of fresh organic veggies – and over 100 flower bouquets! Let's top that this year!

4) Harvest help is welcome! Bring your kids along – it's fun! See info on how to sign up via the PTO message in this newsletter, or click on this link: [Riverside Garden 2017 Summer Harvest and Drop Off to Crisis Ministry](#) – the first page has instructions, and the 2nd page(worksheet) has dates where you can fill in your name to harvest.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year, and have a wonderful summer,
Louise Senior

Riverside Elementary School Garden Educator
Cell: 609 240-6543 (text messages are a great way to reach me) Email:
Louisesenior@princetonk12.org or drlsenior@gmail.com