On April 30th, Ms. Hall, Ms. Widman, Mr. Galli, and I had the pleasure of bragging about our students at a meeting of Warren families interested in sending their kids to Rivendell. Representatives from other schools talked about school programs. We talked about the quality of Rivendell students as friends, learners, leaders, helpers, and problem solvers.

We stressed that we know our students well. Knowing the students is the starting point of all education. Strong programs begin with seeing the whole student and building the learning environment accordingly.

We have made progress in developing an ethos of respect and responsibility at RA, but I also know that we have work to do. There are students in the school who feel isolated. I know that pockets of bullying and harassment ebb and flow.

Porter Miller, an Orford educator and consultant, spoke at the Academy recently about human potential—seeing risk as an opportunity for growth, being fearless in the face of failure, and using setbacks as opportunities for finding new paths. I would argue that reaching for greater potential develops from a strong sense of personal responsibility, being accountable for your actions, gaining respect by not disrespecting others, and seeing yourself as a choice maker who has control of your destiny. This is a difficult path. It means not playing the victim, casting blame to avoid admitting your contribution to a problem, making excuses or rationalizing your behavior.

In thinking about responsibility, two types became clear to me: one involves taking positive action and the other involves resolving a problem or conflict. The work of Ms. Rizos and the 9th grade class with their plastic bottle recycling program reflects the first type of responsibility. There wasn’t a direct conflict or breach of trust. People saw an opportunity to do some good, and they took action, which helps the environment and saves the school money. It might also make money for the trash company.

The other type of responsibility involves a conflict of some sort—disrespecting someone, not following through with a commitment, putting someone in harm’s way, etc. Negative emotions are triggered. In these cases people often lose sight of long-term negative consequences because their view is clouded by short-term payoffs (prestige, safety, maintaining status). These situations tend to have the greatest negative impact on self, others and the social environment.

At the Academy we have been building the first type of responsibility, filling a need, by encouraging student voice and empowerment. Student government’s role in planning the summer reading program or the work of the entire school in raising money for Leukemia research through the Pennies for Patients campaign are examples of the first type of responsibility.

Addressing the second type of responsibility is much more difficult. No one wants to admit they have done wrong, even when the negative consequences weren’t intended. These cases trigger self-defense strategies of blame, excuses, or rationalization kick in. These self-protecting behaviors are negative at two levels. At the first level, the person escapes earning back trust, respect, freedom, self-worth or forgiveness. Even worse, the self-protecting behavior makes it nearly impossible for the person to learn to behave differently in the future and change what might be a negative pattern. In another iteration of this type of behavior, a person or people form a negative judgment about someone without discussing it directly with the person or other people involved. The judgment can easily turn into a self-fulfilling prophecy or scapegoating.
At the Academy, we have been dealing with this more difficult type of responsibility issue by investigating situations, interviewing people, observing situations, describing situations, and writing contracts that attempt to get people to respond differently to circumstances that cause them difficulty. We attempt to listen. Sometimes we bring people together to talk it out. When the behavior has a significant negative impact on self, others, or the community, we take more immediate action, which usually involves removal or a referral elsewhere.

Positive change begets more of the same. The support between the boys’ and girls’ soccer teams is better this year than it was last year. I would hope that next year the mutual support is even stronger. A year ago student government complained about the summer reading, but they also took responsibility for making improvements. This year’s government made even more improvements. Two years ago students’ complaints about the TIPS program led to the creation of an internship program that students like. A parent call recently helped to improve a bad situation.

Yet we still need to do more to develop a community where more people understand that taking responsibility helps everyone achieve goals that are important to them. As I have tried to do in this article, we need to articulate a philosophy of responsibility. We need to develop simple “assignments” that hold people accountable for solid evidence when making allegations. We need to call out behavior that supports a culture of complaint rather than a culture that supports investigation, dialog, listening, ideas and actions that test solutions. We have come a long way, and we have some miles yet to travel.

Some Recent Happenings at Rivendell:

- Congratulations to junior Richard Otis for being one of 25 students, nation-wide, to receive the prestigious Lenore Annenburg Scholarship, which provides full tuition and room and board to the student’s college of choice.
- 6th, 8th and 9th grade Warren students visited. We hope all of them join us next year!
- The French trip was the best ever. (Student drinking reflected the sort of issue that prompted my discussion of responsibility. The two students who stepped forward reflect the level of responsibility that we feel all students should work to achieve.)
- Doc Browne and the Robotics Team took a second place in their first competition.
- Ms. Sanders and Doc Browne led the first ever southwest national parks trip. The group hiked and camped in Zion National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and Mojave National Preserve.
- Ms. Alden and Mr. St. James and the “Hello Dolly!” cast have been working hard to prepare for opening night on May 16th.
- Coach Thatcher, Mr. Galli and 8 Rivendell athletes traveled to Essex High School to learn how to start a student-led athletic leadership team.
- Ms. Moffatt had the wonderful idea of purchasing a ping pong table for the café. Students and staff love it (especially Mr. Steckler and Mr. Newsted).
- Any current sophomore interested in trying to receive a paid internship at CREEL next summer should see Ms. Hall for application materials.
- Alex Rand made us all envious with his slides from his trimester abroad in Costa Rica though the CIRENAS program. A CIRENAS representative will be at Rivendell on May 21st to encourage students to apply for next year.
- Thanks to all the Juniors and Junior Advisors for hosting an excellent prom. We had a great mix of students from grades 9-12.
- Plans for the summer reading are underway.
- We have developed a new structure for 7th and 8th grade summer school.
- The Academy staff is working to design electronic portfolios. Thanks to Ms. Surprenant, Mr. Bardos and Ms. Martino for their hard work in getting this project underway.
- The Yearbook is done and paid off. Ms. Barsamian and her staff are now busy on the Community Resource Directory.
- The student government is making adjustments on Spring Fling to include some community service beyond the school.
- We have made plans to upgrade computers at the Academy next year.
Academy teachers are working to improve the integration in math and science and English and history that we began this year.

Thanks to everyone who helped with fundraising this year, especially Lisa Hinsley with her tireless efforts on behalf of the 8th grade spaghetti fund raiser, Judy Siemons’ generous contribution to the Senior Class Raffle and Heidi Peyton and Ariana’s Restaurant for their contributions to making the Rivendell Abroad fundraising one of the most successful ever.

We are sad to lose three members of our staff at the end of this year.

- Ms. Widmann, 7/8 school counselor, has accepted a full-time position in Grantham. She has done great work for Rivendell.
- Ms. Murphy will be leaving the front desk in the office to pursue her interests in gardening, photography and accounting and to lend a hand at Ariana’s Restaurant.
- Tom DuBois, Special Ed Case Worker & instructor, has figured out a way to combine his passions for teaching and cooking and will become the Culinary Instructor at River Bend in the fall. We will miss his subtle sense of humor…and drum expertise at Winter Carnival!

Congratulations to Mr. Newsted who is getting married this summer.

A number of Rivendell students are pursuing track & field this spring with great results:

- Practicing with Thetford Academy’s Track & Field team and in Rivendell colors, Andrea Haehnel, won her division with a 9’ pole vault, beating her personal record by nearly a foot! Sam Emerson tied for 5th place in the high jump and 6th in the 100m dash at the Slater Invitational and Liam Fleming recently brought in a 2nd place in the 3000 meter.
- Practicing with the Thetford Junior High Team and in Rivendell colors, Bodie Avery placed 3rd in the Relay Race and Owen Pelletier finished 1st in the Hurdles and Long Jump (15’4”) at recent meets.
- Practicing with Chelsea’s Track & Field Team and dressing Independent, Senior Molly Pierson had the 3rd longest Shot Put in her first meet.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work and dedication this year!

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**Mark your Calendar!**

- **May 16 - 18:** Spring Theater Production
- **May 18:** Allen Avery Memorial Raptor Run
- **May 21:** Family Meeting - WES Library @ 6:00 p.m.
- **May 22:** EXPO
- **May 22-24:** Senior Class Trip
- **May 27:** Memorial Day Holiday - No Classes
- **June 4:** School Board Meeting - WES @ 6:30 p.m.
- **June 6:** VISIONS Family Picnic at Pastures Campground
- **June 7:** Spring Fling (School-wide Community Service Event & Picnic)
- **June 9:** Baccalaureate (contact Kathy Landgraf or Janna Pierson for information)
- **June 10-11:** Senior Class Final Exams
- **June 10:** Soccer Information Night for Players/Parents/Coaches - RA Café, 6:00 p.m. G9-12
- **June 11:** CCS Ceremony (Grades 7-12) RA Cafe & Gym @ 6:00 p.m.
- **June 12:** WES & SME 6th Grade Transition Day @ RA
- **June 12-14:** Senior Class Marching Practice
- **June 12:** G8 Passages Ceremony & Dance - RA Gym & Multi-Purpose Room @ 6:00 p.m.
- **June 13-17:** Freshmen - Junior Final Exams
- **June 13:** Senior Night/Dessert Buffet - RA Cafe & Gym @ 6:00 p.m.
- **June 14:** G8 End of Year Class Trip
- **June 15:** Graduation - RA Gym @ 11:00 a.m.
- **June 17:** Last Student Day & Awards Assembly (grades 7-11)
Juniors interested in taking a Dartmouth College Class in the fall can get a jumpstart this spring. Get your paperwork started before the professors leave for summer. See Ms. Hall for a packet of information or visit the RA Guidance Web site at http://www.rivendellschool.org/schools/rivendell-academy/guidance/academic-opportunities

College Overview for Junior and Sophomore Students and Parents – Rivendell Academy Library, Wednesday, May 29th at 6:00 pm presented by NHHEAF (New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation). VT and NH residents are invited. Topics include: narrowing your college list, questions to ask on a college tour, college essay pointers, the application timeline and the basics of financial aid.

Financial Literacy Workshop – On April 23rd the Academy spent the first hour of the day split out by grade level and met with a two-person team – a banker from Wells River Savings Bank and a Dartmouth College Student in the Money Smart Club. Grades 7 -12 learned about the following topics:

- Saving money
- Personal economy (managing/budgeting)
- Wants vs needs
- Understanding one’s place in his/her household economy
- Careers/income potential/educational path

Decision-Making Presentation – On May 9th, the Academy welcomed Porter Miller who delivered a presentation during assembly to grades 7-12 on Decision-Making. Gordon “Port” Miller, is the Owner of Camp Moosilauke. He grew up at Moosilauke and took over for his father over forty years ago. He attended Horace Mann School, Colgate University, and received his doctorate from Columbia. He has written a number of books in the field of decision making, including Teaching Your Child to Make Decisions and The Little Book for Big Decisions.

The Leo’s Club thanks the entire Rivendell Community for helping in their efforts to raise funds for “Pennies for Patients” run by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) which is dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. The total raised was $1,302.30 with the most raised by Mrs. Hyder’s 7th grade Advisory ($408.02). Their efforts were rewarded with a pizza party! Joining the Leo’s Club is a great way to earn community service hours. Open to all grades, 7-12. Students should see Ms. Hall or Scott Calhoun (president) if interested.

Applying to College Workshop, sponsored by the Middlebury College Admissions Office, is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2013. While preference is given to juniors, all high school student and their parent(s) are invited to attend. The program gives an overview of the general selective college application process and does not focus on Middlebury College. It runs from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and covers five areas of the college application process: 1) choosing a college; 2) how to visit a college; 3) how a college admits its class; 4) financial aid; and 5) understanding the common application—a hands on session. Following the final presentation, individual afternoon appointments can be scheduled with Student Financial Services. In addition, for any students who are interested specifically in Middlebury College, a group information session will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. and a campus tour will be offered at 2:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at http://www.middlebury.edu/admissions/start/ccworkshop.

Dartmouth College is offering the College Learning Strategies Course (CLSC) this summer for juniors and seniors to help prepare for college level learning. Topics include: Reading: Increased Rate and Comprehension, Writing College Papers and Essays, Learning and Memory Strategies, Assessing Your Learning Style, Library and Research Skills, College Admissions Process, Listening and Note Taking, Time Management. The program will run from 10:00 am - 11:30 am on Monday, Wednesday, Friday for the second two weeks of July. The cost is $60. For more information and to register call 603-646-2014 or E-mail ASC@Dartmouth.edu.

Earn 3 UVM College Credits this summer! For Sophomores and Juniors interested in getting a jump start on college, UVM is offering a Summer Academy involving two weeks residential on-campus (July 15 - July 26) and two weeks online (July 29 - August 9) taking a course for 3 UVM college credits. The topic areas include:
Rivendell Theatre

“Hello Dolly!”, The Rivendell Academy Spring Production
May 16th, 17th & 18th
7:00 in the Rivendell Academy Gym

Students and teachers have been busy preparing dance, costumes, set, music and all that comes with putting on a large musical production!

Hello Dolly! is about a matchmaker named Dolly Levi (Meg McCormack) who takes a trip to Yonkers, New York to see the "well-known unmarried half-a-millionaire," Horace Vandergelder (Christian Knowlton). While there, she convinces him, his two store clerks (Cam Day & Will Ussler) and his niece and her beau (Andrea Haehnel and Bill Bliss) to go to New York City. She then proceeds to weave a web of romantic complications involving Vandergelder, his two clerks, a pretty milliner (Molly Pierson) and her assistant (Christina Moreland). Eventually, of course, all is sorted out, and everyone ends up with the right person!

With twenty six 7th through 12th grade students in the cast, Silas St. James & Anna Alden directing, Cami Buster designing sets, Jennifer Bottum directing choreography, Brooke Stewart directing the costuming and a small orchestra you are in for quite an experience!

So join us for a lot of fun and laughs at “Hello Dolly!”
It’s an experience you won’t want to miss!
Robots Club

The Rivendell Robotics Team; Shannon Robbins, Maxwell Green, Sam Emerson, Jack Winagle & Wiatt Suich, with advisor Doc Browne, competed in their first VEX Robotics Competition at Pembroke Academy in Manchester, NH, finishing 2nd in the Green Division. Despite some mechanical/overheating problems Nog, their Robot, was one of the most successful designs in their division.

Internship Program

Career Internships (TIPS) are wrapping up for Seniors. Upper Valley Business & Education Partnership (UVBEP) has been able to make a wide range of placements, some of which include:

- Copeland Furniture, Bradford, VT – Alex Bates
- Great Eastern Radio, West Lebanon, NH – Bill Bliss
- 99 Rock, Hanover, NH – Richard Blodgett
- Hartford Fire Department, White River Junction, VT – Scott Calhoun
- Ariana’s Restaurant, Orford, NH – Shawn Farnham
- Valley News (photographers), West Lebanon, NH – Jack Guadagni
- Tranquilities, Bradford, VT – Cassidy Hodge
- COVER Home Repair, White River Junction, VT – Scott Johnson
- The Car Store, Norwich, VT – Tony Lupachino
- AVA Gallery, Lebanon, NH – Meg McCormack
- Journal Opinion, Bradford, VT – Christina Moreland
- Upper Valley Aquatic Center (fitness trainers), White River Junction, VT – Justin Rasnic
- Green Mountain Children’s Center, White River Junction, VT – Ashley Schwarz
- Piermont Police Dept., Piermont, NH – Hannah Smith
- Henderson’s Tree and Garden Service, White River Junction, VT – Bruce Taylor
- Tip Top Pottery, White River Junction, VT – Tala Wilson
- Montshire Museum, Norwich, VT – Stacie Wright

Community Service

8 students from Rachel Sanders’ Environmental Science class from Rivendell Academy and 13 students from Crystal Laroque’s 6th grade class from Westshire Elementary joined forces with the West Fairlee Conservation Commission and the Vermont State Department of Environmental Conservation to plant trees on the banks of the Ompompanoosuc River in West Fairlee, just north of Westshire Elementary school.

The group planted 240 trees in 4 hours of work… an enormous accomplishment! While planting, they discussed reasons for planting trees; from bank stabilization and increased water retention in case of flooding to shading and cooling the stream encouraging plant and animal life, and more. The trees will also work as a barrier to help keep agricultural runoff out of the stream.

The 11th and 12th graders each worked with one or two 6th graders and took the opportunity to talk with them about their transition to Rivendell Academy in the fall.
A Night with Gatsby – Prom 2013

Prom Court: Freshmen Corinne Lyndes & Cameron Surprenant, Sophomores Miranda Garrow & Kolin Huntington, Juniors Nicole Bates & Joshua Marshall and Seniors, Queen Lacey Stever & King Logan Gardyne

The Junior Class hosted the Gatsby themed Prom on Saturday night at Dowds’ Country Inn in Lyme. Beautiful dresses, elegant tuxedos and plenty of dancing ruled the evening.

Spring Break Trip to the American Southwest

On April 14th, 8 Students - Josh Marshall, Brandon Whitehill, Sam Emerson, Nate Eastman, Amber Wolf, Stacie Wright, Cole Stever, Shannon Robbins and 3 Chaperones - Rachel Sanders, Kerry Browne and Dave Robbins flew into Las Vegas for a 10 day trip (April 14-24) through the American Southwest. Their travels took them to Zion National Park for 5 days, back to Las Vegas for one hotel/shower night then to Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park for the remainder of the trip, leaving from Las Vegas on the 24th.

Zion National Park, located just outside of Springdale Utah and carved by the Virgin River, features the tallest sandstone cliffs in the world (over 2000 ft.). Mojave National Preserve, located in the Mojave Desert along historic Route 66, is home to the Kelso Dunes, the tallest dunes in the southwest.

The first day of the trip in Zion National Park, started out a little rocky with rain and snow but the weather gradually improved to sunny and warm for most of the trip. Some of the hikes in Zion included Weeping Rock, Angels Landing, Observation Point, the Narrows, and the Subway, which included hiking through some very cold water. In Joshua Tree National Park, the group tackled an overnight hike, hiking the Boy Scout Trail along the western edge of the Wonderland of Rocks.
Rivendell Abroad Trip to Saverne & Paris, France

In Zion Canyon along the Riverside Trail

On the Angel's Landing Trail in Zion National Park. The trail ascends the narrow ridge onto the promontory in the background.

On top of a rock pile in the Wonderland of Rock along the Boy Scout Trail in Joshua Tree National Park.

Hiking on Angel's Landing

Rivendell Academy Students with their French hosts visiting the memorial at Verdun.

In Paris: Shamus Peyton, Tim Stimson, Megan Perkins, Kaitlin Maddock, Jake Welch, Megan Winagle, Miranda Piper, Ariana Murphy, Cody Woodward, Tali Gelenian, Stefanie DeSimone, Tayo Ameden, Brandon Gardner, Scott Calhoun & Emmy Spaulding

Frog’s Legs anyone?

La Tour Eiffel

Le Cathedral de Notre Dame

Rowing at Versailles
What’s New in the Health Office?

When reporting an absence due to illness, please include any information that might alert us to a trend for contagious illness (for example, head cold, bouts of severe coughing, stomach bug, any of those accompanied by aches and pains, sore throats, headaches, etc.) Please contact school nurse, Creigh Moffatt, about any illness or injury that your student may have so that we can provide the best environment possible at school while they mend.

A reminder that hand washing (20 seconds of good, sudsy hand washing followed by a thorough rinse) and coughing and/or sneezing into one's own inner elbow is the best protection against catching or spreading illnesses.

Please contact the health office at cmoffatt@rivendellschool.org or 603-353-4321 X 7 anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

News from Celise Johnson, Food Service Director

Dear Parents,
The end of the school year is approaching quickly. Please be sure to remind your child to check in with me regarding any unpaid balances. As a reminder all students must have a positive balance to make purchases.

Thank you for your assistance.
Please contact me with any questions.
Celise Johnson, District Food Service Director
cjohnson@rivendellschool.org 603-353-4321 ext. 121

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<td>Orange Wedges Green Bean Macaroni and Cheese Milk</td>
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All money to be applied to your child(ren)'s Café account should be submitted to Tracy Page in the office. Checks must be made payable to “RISD” and can be dropped off with Mrs. Page at any time during the day. For your convenience, you can send one check for multiple children. It’s very helpful to include your child(ren)'s name(s) in the memo line.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (800) 793-8902 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employee.
Community News

Fairlee Public Library

Book Discussion - May 15th at 7:00 p.m.
This month we will be discussing the Woman in White by Wilkie Collins.
"One of the greatest mystery thrillers ever written, Wilkie Collins’s The Woman in White was a phenomenal bestseller in the 1860s, achieving even greater success than works by Dickens, Collins’s friend and mentor. Full of surprise, intrigue, and suspense, this vastly entertaining novel continues to enthral readers today. The story begins with an eerie midnight encounter between artist Walter Hartright and a ghostly woman dressed all in white who seems desperate to share a dark secret. The next day Hartright, engaged as a drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie and her half-sister, tells his pupils about the strange events of the previous evening. Determined to learn all they can about the mysterious woman in white, the three soon find themselves drawn into a chilling vortex of crime, poison, kidnapping, and international intrigue."

–Amazon

Patron’s Picks
Come check out what other patrons are recommending or recommend one of your favorites! Email your review to fairlee.library@gmail.com Help your favorite books get some recognition!

Creative Writing Group - Thursdays May 23th at 7:00 p.m.
A bi-weekly beginner's writing workshop focusing on craft and criticism hosted by Colleen O'Connor. Members will look at and experiment with various different elements of writing. Each month, one meeting will be spent discussing these elements and one will be spent discussing members’ work. All are welcome, however the workshop is focused toward beginners. As is always the case in writing, openness and respect in accepting and giving criticism is required. This will be an ongoing program on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Board Game Night - Friday May 24th at 7:00 p.m.
Come to the library for board games! Bring your own or play the ones here, including Monopoly, Risk, and Apples to Apples.

Scrabble - Every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
And keep an eye out for a Cribbage Night coming in June

New Website
The library is going to be launching a new website soon. Check it out before it goes live at www.fairleelibrary.weebly.com. Then fill out this survey with your feedback so that we can make the site easy to use and full of helpful information. Thanks!

Summer Reading Program
This year’s theme is Dig into Reading, sign up will start at the end of May. We have a busy summer planned for all ages so keep an eye out for more information.

Puzzling Around
We have got puzzles! The library has puzzles to check out or to work on while you are at the library.

New England Trifest
Help the library raise some money by volunteering with the New England Trifest on June 29th from noon-5:00 p.m. and June 30th from 4:45a.m.-6:45a.m. For every volunteer from the library the Trifest will donate $25 to the library. A signup sheet is available in the library along with more information.