Dear Rivendell Families,

Congratulations to all Rivendell students for the high level of engagement, independence and leadership that they have demonstrated this year.

Students have embraced the advisory program that staff worked tirelessly to put into place. When I walked into Ms. Barsamian’s morning meeting one day, the entire junior class and their advisors were discussing complications surrounding a fundraising event. The level of student focus, collaboration, and problem solving was exemplary. In a short time they had worked through the issues and had all the necessary information needed to make a wise decision. I believe that the effectiveness of the group that day was a reflection of the other purposes of morning meeting—learning to listen, share appropriately, develop a positive group identity, support others, and seek to help when needed. These skills are developed further in advisories where we work on projects to develop character, community, and scholarship.

Students are currently developing their personal learning plans and building their electronic portfolios. Each advisory has also taken on a service project for the year.

Some reflections on students

Our senior class is an outstanding group. They are thoughtful leaders in the classroom, on the soccer field and in the community. Every student in the school benefits from the quiet leadership they demonstrate each day. Besides the collaborative skills I witnessed, the juniors have also shown us that three of them can keep four balloons in the air longer than any other class in the school! Their level of seriousness with the NECAP testing this week was outstanding. They have matured into thoughtful and responsible individuals. The sophomore class has continued to develop their confidence and ability to take on major responsibilities. As demonstrated by their recycling work last year, they are especially reliable. The ninth grade is made up of solid individuals who know how to work together. This is an unbeatable combination. The word dynamic comes to mind when I think about the 8th grade. They exude energy, ideas, and laughter. The 7th grade has proven to be ready, willing and able to jump in and get going. Within days it seemed as though they had all been going to school together for years. They showed up en mass at the homecoming dance. All this is to say that we are very, very lucky to have such high quality students at Rivendell Academy.

Trust the students

Last year’s student government left us with a challenging idea: Around the theme of survival, give Rivendell students summer reading books about individuals facing severe social and psychological difficulties. The student government wasn’t worried about adult opinions or concerned with challenges we would face in building a positive educational experience for students when they returned to school. They made us think and dig deep for ideas. They also helped us by including Carmen Tarleton’s book, Overcome. They knew there was a good chance that Carmen could be our main speaker. Carmen’s hour with us was magic. We also had help from Peter Tse and Robert Bryant. Students also came up with the idea of the survivor’s garden for the main community event. Each student honored a “survivor” in their lives on a 6x8 card, and we hung the cards between the maple trees on the green in Orford. It was a powerful installation. Again, we have our students to thank.

Good things build on themselves

Two of our alumni, Mariah and Cassondra Gray, came back to Rivendell the day Carmen spoke. The Valley News selected a photo of Carmen hugging the girls for the front page. The girls shared their story with some teachers and the theme of survival became less abstract. As a school community we were compelled to try to do something to help Mariah and Cassondra meet some of their immediate expenses related to housing, gas money, counseling services, jobs and/or
education. Students again took the lead. With one volunteer from each advisory and a weekly meeting, we were able to organize a complex and successful fundraising event.

**Academics and Extra Curricular Activities**

Our **mid-trimester grades** close on October 4th and will be mailed on Tuesday the 8th.

In August we received three congratulatory letters from the state of Vermont. The first letter acknowledged meeting **Annual Yearly Progress** for all groups of students. The second letter congratulated us for improvements of more than 10% in reading or math and the third congratulated us for scores 15% to 20% above the state average. This year we broke up our **NECAP testing** into four ½ days, October 1st and 2nd and 7th and 8th.

Scott Calhoun, Nate Eastman, Josh Marshall, Richard Otis, Ryan Fauci, and Maxwell Green are taking advanced math courses at **Dartmouth**. Hanna Rockwell is completing an LN course at **Lebanon College**. Moriah Ludwig is attending the **Mountain School** this fall.

**NECAP Science Scores** were almost at the level of last year. Two to three students moving from level 2 to 3 would have made all the difference. The scores do demonstrate the consistency we are looking for. We are very pleased to have hit the lowest percentage of Level 1 students in three years.

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With the establishment of functioning advisories, the Academy is transitioning back to **three-way conferences**. Our conferences are Friday, October 11th. Rather than moving around to different teachers, parents or guardians and the student will only meet with their student’s advisor. Students will focus the conversations on their personal learning plans, community service and reflections on their academic progress this year. Advisors will discuss e-portfolios and observations of the quality of each student’s participation in morning meeting and Tuesday advisory meetings. Each advisor is responsible for sending home information about scheduling a 30-minute meeting. If the information has not reached you, contact your student’s advisor directly.

**You should have received student’s mid-term grade reports before Friday, October 11th.** If you have concerns about grades, please contact those teachers directly via email or a phone call. The three-way conferences will not focus on student grades.

Rachel Sanders has started a **SMART team** at the Academy. SMART teams … delve into the molecular world, explore science as a process and not just a collection of facts, and work closely with a researcher to understand and model the structure-function relationship of a protein the researcher studies. After designing and building a model of the protein using Rapid Prototyping technology, SMART teams create an oral presentation explaining their work to a lay audience and a poster which is presented to a scientific audience. For more information, see the Center for Molecular Modeling web site: [http://cbm.msoe.edu/stupro/smart/](http://cbm.msoe.edu/stupro/smart/)

We instituted “**Green Cards**” (to be renamed Eligibility Cards) as a way to better monitor extracurricular eligibility. Students must come to the office, complete a card, have Bridget Peters check their records, and get the card signed by her in order to be eligible to participate in an activity. The cards are then given to the coach or activity leader. The cards have proven to be the most effective method we have tried in order to monitor eligibility. This will be done at the start of each trimester.

Sincerely,

Keri Gelenian
Dear Rivendell Families,

Our annual Harvest Dinner will be Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The students will eat as regularly scheduled and the Orford Senior Citizens will be served at 12:15. Students will assist in serving and performing for the crowd. As usual this event is expected to be a grand time. It is our pleasure to have members of the community come and share a meal with us. Any questions about this event please call me at 603-353-4321, ext 121.

I am pleased to announce that this year the Food Service department for the District will be purchasing from Upper Valley Produce. Upper Valley Produce has over 75 local farms from NH and VT that supply a variety of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, and eggs. In all schools our focus will be providing healthy nutritious food and giving students the knowledge and environment to make food choices that support healthy bodies.

Thank you for your support of the work we do.

Celise Johnson CDM, CFPP
RISD Food Service Director
Vermont Becomes the First State to Offer Free Breakfast and Lunch to All Low-Income Students

BARRE – With the school year just underway, Gov. Peter Shumlin and Education Secretary Armando Vilaseca today visited Barre Town Elementary School to herald a new law making Vermont the first state in the nation to provide school meals --breakfast and lunch -- at no charge for all students qualifying for the federal reduced-price meals program.

“We all know that hungry children can’t learn,” said Gov. Shumlin, who was joined by advocates committed to the battle against childhood hunger. “Vermont is the first state to ensure that all children have access to good food, and therefore a better education.”

Previously, children whose families earned over 130 percent of the federal poverty level (roughly $30,620 for a family of four) were ineligible for free school meals. The new law means that 37,000 children are now able to have breakfast and lunch at no charge during the school day.

“With the Governor’s support, the Agency of Education and food advocates worked together to ensure that all students have the resources they need,” said Secretary Vilaseca. “This is a huge step in the right direction. Schools will be able to provide kids with a reliable food source, allowing students to focus on their academics without worrying where their next meal will come from.”

School meals are the main source of nutrition for many children. The USDA provides various levels of federal reimbursement for meals served to all students. Vermont’s schools are in a unique position to ensure that all low-income students have access to healthy school meals at no charge with the new legislation, which was passed by the 2012 Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Shumlin.

“This supports not only our students, but our school food service programs as well,” said Laurie Colgan, VT-AOE Child Nutrition Program Director. “I hear from many schools that they are spending a lot of administrative time trying to collect bills for school meals. This support from our Governor and the Legislature indicates a strong commitment to the future of Vermont’s students and the schools they attend.”

In 2008, Vermont made history by making breakfast free for all students who qualify for the reduced-price program. Hunger Free Vermont is an active voice in the on-going conversations about food insecurity. They assist schools with establishing school breakfast and lunch programs while also working to improve food quality and expand access to this reliable source of nutrition for school age children.

“We are thrilled that Governor Shumlin and the Vermont Legislature supported this school meal expansion to ensure that all children in Vermont schools have proper nutrition on a daily basis,” said Marissa Parisi, Executive Director of Hunger Free Vermont. “We believe this will positively impact children’s health as well as their ability to learn and focus in the classroom without the worry of whether or not they will be able to eat lunch.”

Improvements in children’s health and education have helped Vermont maintain its No. 3 ranking by the annual Kids Count report, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in education, family and community, as well as No. 4 in overall children’s health. However, as it is elsewhere in the nation, poverty continues to be a problem in Vermont, and the percentage of children who rely on summer meal assistance has been increasing in Vermont.

“Improvement of educational opportunities when faced with societal issues like poverty requires systemic approaches,” said Sec. Vilaseca. “These are not easy problems to address, but the Agency of Education, in partnership with education stakeholders, has been able to make a difference through increased use of our full service approaches for delivering essential needs for Vermont’s youth.”

“While we rank high nationally in many areas, we always strive to do better,” said John Fischer, Deputy Commissioner of Education. “It’s about continuous improvement. We want to graduate all students from high school and with better career readiness every year.”

School officials across the state endorsed the change. “The elimination of the reduced price for students will benefit families, students, and teachers,” said Steve Marinelli, Milton Town School District Food Service Director. “No longer will families have to struggle to pay for lunch and teachers will not have to worry about the nutritional needs of these students.”

“This bill finally removes a barrier between low income students and food access that has been in place throughout the country for over 50 years,” said Doug Davis, Burlington School District Food Service Director. “By becoming the first state in the nation to eliminate the reduced priced meal category, Vermont has once again proven itself to be leader in the fight to end childhood hunger.”
Many new books have arrived this year and should spark everyone's interests. Romance, sci-fi, fantasy, survival and current topics are among the new arrivals.

**Titanic-Voices from the Disaster** by Hopkinson, Deborah
The author pieces together the story of the ill-fated voyage, drawing on the voices of survivors and archival photographs. Packed with heart-stopping, devastating drama, loads of photos on every page and quotes from primary sources, this gripping story follows the Titanic and its passengers from the ship's celebrated launch from Belfast, Ireland, to her cataclysmic icy end in the North Atlantic in 1912.

**Graffiti Moon** by Crowley, Cath
Senior year for Lucy is the year when she will find the mysterious graffiti artist, Shadow, whose works appear all over the city. Somewhere out in the darkness, the Shadow seems to create works that stir her emotions. She *really* wants to meet the guy who has spoken to her heart and admits she definitely has a crush on him. But Ed, the guy she previously punched in the nose, is the only one who can lead her to him. So it is an all-nighter with Ed, searching the moonlit city for the elusive Shadow and discovering something that she never would have imagined.

**YOU** by Benoit, Charles
Fifteen-year-old Kyle Chase is your average sophomore, now a member of the hoodies, the high school's burnouts and slackers. Everything was great being a member until Zack came along. Zack was a new transfer student from a private school who wears sports jackets, quotes Shakespeare and seems to have everyone in the palm of his hand. Zack takes on Kyle as a pet project, deciding to reform Kyle by inviting him to swank parties and daring escapades. Only the escapades grow in scope and danger for everyone.

**Never Fall Down** by McCormick, Patricia
When soldiers arrived in his hometown in Cambodia, Arn was just a kid dancing to rock n' roll and selling ice cream on the streets. However, all that changed when the sadistic Khmer Rouge troops separated his family and assigned him to a labor camp. Trying to survive with death all around him Arn is asked if he plays a musical instrument. Arn says “Yes”, without flinching but there is a problem - Arn has never played one musical note. Now Arn must master his instrument quickly or lose his life.

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**Fall Theater Production**

The Rivendell Academy Players are busy working on their fall production of “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court”. Audiences always enjoy watching their favorite literary characters come to life on stage, especially when seasoned with the wonderful humor of Mark Twain. Hank Morgan (Teddy Wilkin), a teenager who works on his school’s stage crew, is knocked out by a co-worker and finds himself transported back to the thrilling days of King Arthur (Alex Rand), Queen Guenevere (Sarah Parenti), and the Knights (Caleb Day and Sam Tilden) and Ladies (Gabbi Miles, Lauren Holt and Katana Labadie) of the Round Table. Hank, who has been studying astronomy, predicts an eclipse of the sun and is hailed a great wizard. His is knighted “Sir Boss” and sets about modernizing Camelot, complete with telephones, bicycles and t-shirts. But the king’s wicked half-sister (Tali Gelenian) plots against Camelot, planning an invasion with her own army. How ‘Sir Boss” overcomes the evil plot and finds his way back to Hartford, Connecticut, provides fun and excitement for everyone!

With Anna Alden directing, Cami Buster leading the set design and construction, Brook Stewart leading the costume design and 20 students working hard to tell the story, we are in for a great show! The show will be Thursday, November 7th, Friday November 8th and Saturday, November 9th in the Rivendell Academy Gym. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $5.00/students, $8.00/adults.
What's New in the Health Office?

**IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES!**

- **FREE one-day only FLU CLINIC at the Academy October 28th.** Academy students will be offered FREE FLU vaccine from noon – 3 p.m., if they have their consent form. Elementary students age 5 and up and other Rivendell community children will be offered FREE vaccine from 3-5 p.m. as long as they have a parent or guardian provide consent. All RISD staff will be offered FREE vaccine from 2-7 p.m. Rivendell parents and all other adult Rivendell community members will be offered FREE vaccine from 3-7 p.m. Please contact School Nurse Creigh Moffatt, RN, at the number or e-mail below for questions.

- **Immunizations** for students entering 7th grade, (especially the new TDAP, second varicella and all 3 Hepatitis B) must be complete by December 14, 2013. Please call me if you have questions. **NEW! All students** are required to have a TDAP booster after the age of 11 – this is very important now that VT and NH have had outbreaks of Pertussis (whooping cough).

- **Molar Express, a Dental Care Clinic** that the health office has worked with for four years, and which comes with high recommendations from parents and students, will be at the Academy in **Early November! The Dentist will be here during the spring visit.** They set up a complete dental suite in the Multipurpose Room of the “West Wing” of the Academy during school hours. The program will serve all children of Rivendell and is based on a sliding fee scale, including free dental work for eligible students, and also insured or uninsured children. Returning students will need to fill out a **new form.** Please let the school nurse or the office know if you need another form for your child to be seen.

- **VISION exams for grades 7, 9 and 12 will begin in October.**

- **BASELINE “ImPACT” testing to assist diagnosis of possible head injuries is beginning soon for untested students. Students must have parental permission.**

There have been no trends of illness or disease at the Academy to date, However there is confirmed FLU in the neighborhood. Please let the school office know of any reason for absence due to health: head cold, or just bouts of severe coughing, stomach bug, either or both of those accompanied by aches and pains, sore throats, headaches, etc., or any information that might alert us to a trend for contagious illness. Also, please **contact** me 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, including FLU.

Please contact the health office **anytime** for any questions at cmoffatt@rivendellschool.org or 603-353-4321, ext. 7, during school hours.

Creigh Moffatt, RN
RA School Nurse
9\textsuperscript{th} Grade Old Sturbridge Village Field Trip

On Tuesday, September 24\textsuperscript{th}, the 9\textsuperscript{th} grade American Studies class visited Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA. Students toured the recreated colonial community and researched New England colonial lifestyle. Students particularly enjoyed the working blacksmith shop and the Salem Towne House. They also agreed that life would be significantly more challenging at that time due to no running water, electricity, or consistent heat as well as having to work all of the time. Some of the students thought that living during that time would be enjoyable because they would get outside more because there would be little to entertain them inside and that would lead to an increased sense of community. Their research will be an important component of their upcoming Colonial Diary project where they create a persona of a person living in the 1770s and write about daily life and the events leading up to the American Revolution.

Visiting French Students

Bienvenue à Rivendell Academy! On October 14\textsuperscript{th}, a group of 28 French students will be coming to spend nearly two weeks with us. The students, all seniors at Lycée Leclerc in Saverne France, hosted a group from Rivendell last April. This visit is the second half of the biennial exchange between the two schools. While here, the French students will live with host students and their families, attend classes and take field trips to local sites of interest. After their stay here, they will visit Boston for five days. For most of them, this visit will serve to challenge many of the stereotypical images of America they have gleaned from mainstream American entertainment. The most important part of the exchange is the lasting connections created between these students. In the past, some of our students have returned to France multiple times to see their French friends and visa-versa.

If you are interested in meeting the students, come to the square dance on October 23\textsuperscript{rd}, from 7-9 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the exchange as a future host or traveler, be in touch with me, gkeefer@rivendellschool.org
Mr. Steckler's 8th grade classes recently studied the ecology of the Ompompanoosuc and performed a water quality analysis of two sites on the river, assessing the physical characteristics of the stream and the biological community that resides there.

Bodie Avery writing down observations of the physical features of his team's site.

Sarah Parenti performing a dissolved oxygen analysis.
SENIORS
Reminders ...
* Do you have your community service hours complete (60hrs)? Does it show on your transcript?
* Have you asked for a teacher recommendation and have you provided the application deadline?
* Do you plan to take the SAT or ACT this fall? The next deadline to register is October 3rd!
* Go visit and tour the colleges you are considering!

PSAT and PLAN
On Wednesday, October 16th all Juniors will be taking the PSAT (practice for the SAT) and all Sophomores will be taking the PLAN (practice for the ACT). Students should remember to eat a good breakfast and get a good night sleep.

Paying for College Night
(presented by VSAC)
When: Thursday, October 24th
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: RA Library

Money Smart Presentations
On Thursday, October 24th, students from Dartmouth College will be coming to Rivendell to meet with all grade levels (7-12) to present on financial literacy topics to include:
- Needs/wants, electronics, cars (new/used), budget
- Savings/checking accounts, debit/credit cards, loans
- Senior year of high school costs/college costs/life costs
War in Afghanistan

Just weeks back from the front of America’s longest war, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Kathy Kelly is making a special visit to Rivendell with fellow activist Buddy Bell. Kathy and Buddy are on a 35 state speaking tour to “challenge the U.S. government to end the cycle of war in Afghanistan by paying up on the original rhetoric offered as justification for war.”

Ms. Kelly and Mr. Bell will deliver their eye-witness testimonials and take your questions:

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<td>Photo retake day</td>
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<td>Family meeting, SME library, 6pm</td>
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<td>Early dismissal, 1:00</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)</td>
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**What is “Morning Meeting”?**

A time to have the first interaction at school be a positive one.

A place to be people first, students and teachers second.

A daily routine.

A way for me to hear school announcements.

A place to check in about my classes, my schedule, and my academic work.

A community that should be positive and supportive.

**What do I need to do?**

Get to school on time and be in my Advisory room by 8:00.

Say hello to my teacher and classmates.

LISTEN to others.

Try to help out and to ask for help when I need something.

Participate and try to be positive, even if I don’t love the activity.

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**News from the Fairlee Public Library**

- **Story Time**
  Story time this month will be October 1st and 15th at 10 a.m.

- **Game Night**
  October 11th at 7 p.m.
  Bring your own games or play some of ours. There will also be cribbage going on as well. Snacks provided!

- **Trustee Meeting**
  The Trustee meeting this month will be on October 8th at 6 p.m.

- **Movie Night**
  October 25th at 7 p.m.
  Come see the movie Thor rated PG-13. Thor the Dark World comes out in November so this is a good chance to re-watch the first one.

- **Writing Group**
  Writing group will meet this month on October 10th and 24th at 7 p.m.

- **Friends Group**
  Do you love the Fairlee Library? Do you want to get more involved? We are interested in starting a friends of the library group. If this is something you would like to be involved in, please stop by the library.

- **Book Discussion**
  October 16th at 7 p.m. This month we will be reading Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling by Ross King.

  "In 1508, despite strong advice to the contrary, the powerful Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the newly restored Sistine Chapel. With little experience as a painter (though famed for his sculpture David), Michelangelo was reluctant to begin the massive project. Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling recounts the four extraordinary years Michelangelo spent laboring over the vast ceiling while the power politics and personal rivalries that abounded in Rome swirled around him. Battling against ill health, financial difficulties, domestic problems, the pope's impatience, and a bitter rivalry with the brilliant young painter Raphael, Michelangelo created scenes so beautiful that they are considered one of the greatest masterpieces of all time. A panorama of illustrious figures converged around the creation of this great work—from the great Dutch scholar Desiderius Erasmus to the young Martin Luther—and Ross King skillfully weaves them through his compelling historical narrative, offering uncommon insight into the intersection of art and history." – Amaz