Dear Rivendell Families,

In advisory at the beginning of the year, students wrote responses to four questions:

- What is community?
- What is great, unique or special about Rivendell?
- How do you contribute?
- What holds you back?

Mary Rizos and Jenny Ellis took every response and fed them into a computer program that prints out the information in a unique pattern and increases the size of responses based on frequency. Frequent responses are bigger and bolder than less frequent responses. The information from this activity has been hanging in the café on four, 5’ x 3’ banners since the second week of school.

The day after the posters appeared in the café, students crowded around looking for their particular answers to each question. Now, we all walk by the posters without giving them a second thought.

I decided to devote some time to reflect upon what students had to say about the questions.

People working together is printed in big bold letters on the poster about community. Other significant words were help out, support and advice, friends and neighbors, accepting, understanding, everyone contributes ideas, and care about each other.

Small and freedom stand out on the poster about the “What is great about Rivendell?” question. The other frequent words were voice, creativity, innovation, sports and activities and academics.

By far the largest response to the question about contributing was By helping others. This was followed by community service, being positive, listening to others, I don’t know and I don’t. Any way I can and giving everyone’s ideas a chance were great individual responses on this poster.

The students’ responses to the question about what holds them back mostly opposed their answers to the other three questions. The top responses were People followed by Nothing. Many of the less frequent responses specified how “People” held them back. The issues with other people were negative people, mean people, people who judge, getting judged, people who don’t contribute and people who don’t listen. The poster also identified issues more internal to the individual who was responding: not knowing if I am right, not speaking my feelings, laziness, and lack of motivation. The responses to this question reflect what still seems to be on our “to do list.”

Reading these posters again so carefully has made me realize that the students predicted what we have all experienced so far this year—people working together, helping out, being positive and receiving support and advice. I would also concur that the levels of creativity, voice and freedom are higher than ever. As a group we are demonstrating higher levels of responsibility, respectfulness and trustworthiness than I have seen in my previous three years at RA.

In looking at the questions and responses again, I believe that students were thinking more about the social atmosphere at RA than the academic atmosphere. But because student learning is the number one purpose of RA, I started to think about what it would mean to maximize freedom and voice in the learning process.

I wondered how students would respond to four slightly different questions:
What is a community of exciting learning?

What is great, special or unique about teaching and learning at Rivendell?

How do I contribute to the development of a rich and exciting learning environment?

What diminishes my ideas and creativity?

I believe that the students’ excellent perceptions about community strength, uniqueness, contribution and hesitation would be equally keen if we focused their attention on the process of teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

Keri Gelenian

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**When you write a check for school purposes**

*(such as your child's Café account, fundraisers, yearbook, athletic purposes, the Visions Program, etc.)*

**please make it payable to "RISD" or "Rivendell ISD."**

*It's helpful for us if you use the memo line to designate the purpose and/or your child's name.*

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**REMEMBER: All students driving their own cars or being picked up/dropped off by parents are to use the upper entrance. The lower parking lot and entrance are for buses only.**

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**The March 18th Family Meeting**

scheduled for 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Samuel Morey Library

*has been cancelled.*

The next Family Meeting will take place on April 22nd from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the RA Library.

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**LifeTouch Spring Picture Day**

Thursday, April 24th

Flyers will be distributed when they arrive prior to the April Spring Recess.

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**Friday, March 28th is Conference Day.**

Report cards for Trimester 2 will be distributed during individual conferences. Advisors will soon be contacting parents & guardians to schedule an appointment.

Convenient times will be available throughout the day.

If you do not hear from your child's Advisor by Monday, March 24th, please call the school office at 603-353-4321.

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**All schools will be celebrating Free Fruit Week**

during the week of March 24-27. Apples and oranges will be available to staff and students throughout the week.
The State of Vermont requires us to do a Secure the School Drill (a.k.a. lockdown drill) every other month. When a drill is in progress, a red flashing light will be activated in the office window next to the main entrance. This light means that the school is locked down and no one should enter the building. When it’s a drill, there will be a school official standing outside near the light. If you see the light flashing but no school official, it should be considered a real lockdown.

### Special Olympics

At the Vermont State Winter Special Olympics games held at Suicide Six ski area on March 7, 8, & 9, the Rivendell Raptors team won Program of the Year, Phil Metayer, the snowboard coach, won Coach of the Year, and Rivendell Academy junior, Andrew Paton, was awarded Vermont’s Special Olympics Sportsman of the Year. Andrew completes on the winter Special Olympics team in snowboarding, and he has been on the team for three years. Andrew is a team player who is always looking out for others’ safety and wellbeing. He encourages the others on his team to do their best and cheers them on during their events. Andrew will also be representing New Hampshire at the National Special Olympics Games in Princeton, NJ in the spring on the bowling team. Congratulations to Andrew and the Special Olympics team!

### NEEDED:

Substitute food service workers in all schools.

Please contact Celise Johnson at 603-353-4321 if interested.
Art Department News

Rivendell Academy recently had eight of its artists featured at the Best of the Upper Valley High School Art Exhibition at AVA Gallery in Lebanon, NH. There were 145 student artists from eleven Upper Valley schools in the show. Our students’ work was very well received at the show’s opening. Tayo Ameden (painting), Andrea Haehnel (painting), Wylie Seace (sculpture), Cole Stever (drawing), Cameron Surprenant (photography), Veronica Weisberg (photography), Katharina Westrup (drawing) and Kaileigh White (painting) had work in the show. Tayo and Katharina received honorable mention from the judges for their artwork and both Cameron and Veronica sold their photographs at the opening! Great job to all of our artists!

Middle School News

8th graders and parents: April 1st is Job Shadow day. The purpose of the day is to give students a chance to learn the importance of school subjects in the workplace and make behind-the-scenes observations at local companies. This is intended as an early step in students’ ongoing career exploration and development. More information about the day will be coming home with your student.

7th grade girls and parents: On May 1st, 7th grade girls have been invited to attend the Sister to Sister conference at the Hopkins Center of Dartmouth College. The day will include a broad array of activities, including presentations, group discussions, games, a movie, lunch and a performance. More information regarding this day will be coming home with your student.

Summer Camps/Opportunities:

Attention 7th and 8th graders and parents: The Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) is providing its first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Summer Camp Program in the week of July 14-18th. This event is FREE for 7th and 8th grade students who are interested in science and technology. Registration ends March 31. If you would like an application or more information about the camp please contact Cindy McLaren, middle school counselor.

Green Mt. Conservation Camp (GMCC): Basic camp is offered for girls and boys ages 12-14. Advance weeks are offered for those who completed basic camp and passed the Hunter Education course. For more information about GMCC visit their website at: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/edu_camps.cfm or contact Cindy McLaren, guidance. Scholarships are available, but limited.

From the Theater Department

Congratulations to Ruby DiCarlo, Karina Ricker, Mikayla DeBois, Sarah Parenti, Shannon Fleming, Bea Green, and Griffin Formica for being chosen to participate in the Winooski Valley Junior High Music Festival. Ruby & Karina will be playing violin in the orchestra and the rest will be singing with the chorus. Students from all across the Winooski District will come together for a day of rehearsals and then perform for the public on April 2, 2014 at the Montpelier High School in Montpelier, VT. The concert starts at 7:00 and tickets are $4/student and $6/adult.

Rivendell Academy Players are revving up to do another fun spring musical! The cast is ready to go for “Back to the 80’s”. Remember when actors became American presidents? When bubble skirts and blue eye shadow were cool? When Atari was cutting edge technology? Back to the 80’s is a totally awesome musical that tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School that graduated in the 1980s, as remembered and seen through the eyes of now thirty-something Corey Palmer. Throw in a Star Wars dream sequence, high-energy dance routines, the obligatory 80s party scene, twenty cans of hairspray, as well as some of the most popular 80s songs ever written, and the result is a musical "Master of the Universe!"

Anna Alden and Carol Sobetzker will be directing with John Bristol, Bonnie Blake, Denis Lambert and others in the band. Actors are Cameron Day, Michael Galli, George Grant, Tali Gelenian, Moriah Ludwig, Seanna Rivera-Perry, Gabbi Miles, Sam Tilden, Caleb Day, Griffin Formica, Teddy Wilkin, Trillium Cserr, Ruby DiCarlo, Lauren Holt, Sarah Parenti, Will Ussler, Jessica Noyes, Karina Ricker, Bea Green, Abby Hinsley, Rachel Fauci, Katana LaBadie, Dakota Bertholet, Jenna Gilbert, Lilia Tse, Shannon Fleming & Chelsey Dexter.

So mark your calendars for May 15th, 16th, & 17th for a fun adventure!

“Like” Rivendell Academy on Facebook for important updates & information! Click on the at rivendellschool.org to get connected!
RIVENDELL ACADEMY CORE VALUES & BELIEFS

Rivendell Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). This means that our school has been evaluated according to the seven standards of:

- Core Values and Beliefs
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Assessment
- Leadership and Organization
- School Resources for Learning
- Community Resources for Learning

Our last NEASC evaluation was in May, 2009 and we recently finished our 5-Year Progress Report updating NEASC on the progress we’ve made in addressing the recommendation from the 2009 Evaluation report. One of the recommendations that we addressed was the development of a Core Values & Beliefs statement.

During January and February, all staff, all 18 of the student advisory groups, and a group of Academy parents brainstormed, discussed, and developed statements reflecting Rivendell’s values of character, community, and scholarship. Having so many people working together was an exciting and invigorating process and we thank everyone who participated.

What’s New in the Health Office?

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFO & DEADLINES

- **Molar Express**, a fully mobile Dental Care Clinic will be at the Academy again in early April! The dentist will be here on April 2, and the hygienists will follow in mid-April. Please let me know if you would like your child to be examined by the dentist, or if you would like them to have their teeth cleaned or sealed with a fluoride treatment.

- **BASELINE “ImPACT”** testing to assist in the diagnosis/extent of possible head injuries is ongoing for untested students. Students must have parent/guardian permission.

- **We continue to need Immunization updates** for students (especially the new TDAP for students entering 7th grade, second varicella and all 3 Hepatitis B) which must be verified for every student to be in school. Please call me if you have questions.

- **Flu season** should be tapering off during the spring. Please give a call if you have questions or concerns about flu season or suspected flu in your family.

- 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 recuperate.

- **A reminder**: 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 any time** for any questions at cmoffatt@rivendellschool.org or 603-353-4321 x 7 during school hours.
Rivendell Academy believes in

Character
Rivendell Academy recognizes that a successful community depends on the strength of individual character.
Rivendell Academy encourages individuality, advocacy, and respect for self and others.

Community
Rivendell Academy actively promotes a healthy school culture in which students, staff, and families have a voice.
Rivendell Academy strives to welcome, connect with, and develop relationships among our neighbors at the local, national, and global level.
Rivendell Academy encourages exposure and connectedness to new peoples and communities.

Scholarship
Rivendell Academy recognizes that learning is hard, rewarding and valuable work.
Rivendell Academy champions academic growth through flexible and creative teaching and learning.
Rivendell Academy embodies a challenging learning environment that promotes questioning and critical thinking, while providing tools for success.

RIVENDELL ACADEMY LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Academic Competencies
Rivendell Academy students will:
• Read, comprehend, analyze, and critique a variety of media.
• Demonstrate effective problem solving skills in a variety of disciplines.
• Communicate effectively for a variety of audiences and purposes.
• Demonstrate cultural awareness and understanding of national & global interconnectedness.
• Apply mathematical analysis in a variety of situations.

Social Competencies
Rivendell Academy students will:
• Accept individual responsibility and awareness of social context.

Civic Competencies
Rivendell Academy students will:
• Be positive contributors to the community.
Freshmen . . . will receive a visit from folks at Hypertherm on April 9th during their science block. They will participate in a “Learn-to-Earn” activity sponsored by Upper Valley Business & Education Partnership (UVBEP). The presentation will involve students working in teams of three in a challenge to put-together a laser component simulating real-life work situations. The Hypertherm presenters will give a brief overview of their backgrounds including important classes they took in high school and the educational training they needed for their specific professions.

Juniors . . . While it is only March, and the seniors are still scurrying around working on scholarships, it’s time for YOU to get started with the college search process! You should begin by signing up to take either the SAT or ACT:

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<td>SAT - May 3rd</td>
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(Stop in Guidance for a fee waiver if you receive free/reduced lunch.)

Institute for Security, Technology and Society at Dartmouth College
This program for high school students will explore cyber security and privacy. It runs from July 7-11th and is grant-funded so there is no cost to students. Applications and a teacher recommendation are due April 22nd. For more information call 603-646-0700.

SENIORS
You are in the home stretch!!! Be sure to watch deadlines for scholarships. The Frank & Olive Gilman Foundation Scholarship can be found at www.nhcf.org and the deadline is April 15th.

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors in VT and NH!

Summer Governor’s Institutes (GIV) have been announced. The programs include: arts, engineering, current issues, Asian cultures, entrepreneurship, math, science technology, leadership, or food systems. **Deadline to apply is April 1st.** For more information visit [www.giv.org](http://www.giv.org) or contact Valerie Russell at 802-865-4448 or Valerie@giv.org.

Law & Order Cadet Training Program – sponsored by The American Legion held June 22 - June 27th for a junior or senior, boy or girl, who is sixteen years of age or older. Stop in the Guidance Office for more information. Great opportunity if interested in police work. **Deadline to apply is May 9th.**
The Rivendell Academy Robotics Club (aka The Fellowship) has finished their 2013-2014 season. This year the robotics club was made up of four teams: 6191A (Richard Otis & Maxwell Green), 6191B (Sam Emerson, Wiatt Suich, Scott Powell, & Willie Barnes), 6191C (Bea Green & Ruby DiCarlo) and 6191D (Jack Winagle & Michael Delany) and team photographer Lauren Holt. From September to the beginning of March, our members spent up to ten hours per week designing, building, programming, and driving their robots. While the building components and programming environment stay the same from year to year, the particular challenge changes each year. This year’s game, Toss Up, involves pushing, carrying or throwing balls from the one end of the field to another. Along the way, the robots must overcome a two-inch bump (quite a challenge for a 12” robot) and pass under a 12” barrier. Robots can score additional points by stashing balls into 24” high cylinders or doing a pull up from a bar 40” in the air. Our four teams came up with a variety of robot designs to meet this challenge.

Designing and building began in late September, with team 6191A ready for our first competition in North Conway, NH on November 23rd. After a long break due to a weather delay, our second competition was on January 19th, the Green Mountain VEX Challenge at Thetford Academy, where team 6191B competed in their first ever VEX competition. (VEX Robotics competitions are events held in over 150 countries all over the world, in which students use a common set of parts to build and program a robot to complete a specific challenge.) During this competition, 6191A won the Excellence Award, given to a team that showed overall excellence both on the competition field and in their designs and building. Team 6191B were pushed to their limits as they took on the power house Green Egg Robotics, three time world champs, in the finals of the event. Putting up a good fight, they took second place with their alliance.

The next few weeks were a blur of robot parts, wires, and computer code as two new teams, 6191C and 6191D, prepared to compete in the Seacoast Winter Classic in Winnacunnet, NH on February 8th. At the end of the day, in a heated finals match up, 6191C’s alliance took second place, and won the Judges Award, a special recognition for displaying exemplary effort, perseverance, and teamwork. In addition, team 6191A won their second Excellence Award of the season.

Refinements were made as all the teams geared up for our last regular season competition, the NHTI New Hampshire/Vermont Championships in Concord, NH on February 22nd (the first competition in which all four Rivendell teams competed). At only their second competition, 6191D was selected to compete with some of the top teams in the playoffs.

Our final competition of the season was the two-day New England Regionals, where the top 75 teams from New England competed in Worcester, MA for the opportunity to go on to the VEX World Championship in Anaheim, CA. Working together over the weekend of March 1-2, our teams had the opportunity to interact with and learn from many teams across New England, including one team who travelled all the way from Northern Quebec. Despite the fact that none of our teams qualified for the World Championship, our teams all held their own among a field of very strong competitors, with 6191A receiving the Innovate Award for their novel design and effective teamwork. More than one team noted how well we had done for a first year team and many had words of encouragement.

All in all, our first full robotics season was a great success. We have been especially blessed to have the mentoring support of the Thetford Academy robotics team as well as the generous financial support of the Byrne Foundation and the REC Foundation. We are also thankful for the school’s support of the robotics club and the robotics class which will be taught for the first time this spring. Our team is also thankful for the support of Ms. Sanders and all the parents who generously drove us to and from far-flung competitions and provided us with support throughout the season. The team also wants to recognize the hard work of our team photographer and videographer, Lauren Holt, our head coach, Kerry (Doc) Browne, our assistant coach Dave Green and our fundraising and trip coordinator Juliette Bianco.

The Robotics Club is open to all students, grades 7-12, and we look forward to welcoming new members next year. Anyone who might be interested should talk to Doc Browne or any of the robotics club members.
### March 2014

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News from the Fairlee Public Library

Book Discussion
March 19th at 7 p.m.
This month we will be reading "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson.
Books are available at the library.
"In the small village of Edgecombe St. Mary in the English countryside lives Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired), the unlikely hero of Helen Simonson’s wondrous debut. Wry, courtly, opinionated, and completely endearing, the Major leads a quiet life valuing the proper things that Englishmen have lived by for generations: honor, duty, decorum, and a properly brewed cup of tea. But then his brother’s death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by their shared love of literature and the loss of their spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming into something more. But village society insists on embracing him as the quintessential local and regarding her as the permanent foreigner. Can their relationship survive the risks one takes when pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?"
– Amazon

More Than Books
Interested in starting a small business? The library has many resources for you to use including the Small Business Resource Center (infotrac.galegroup.com). This database has resources on starting and managing a small business including how-to guides and samples business plans. The password for the database is "peach" and the Small Business Resources Center is all the way at the bottom.

What's on Your Craft Table?
March 20th at 6 p.m.
Join the library and the What's on Your Craft Table group for an informal craft night at the library. Bring something you are working on or start something new.

DHD/ADD Support Group
March 26th at 6:30 p.m.
This group is open to parents and caregivers of children with ADHD/ADD. The purpose of this group is to give parents a place to vent, support each other, and brainstorm about strategies for parenting kids with ADHD/ADD. Light refreshments will be served. There will be no childcare.

Movie Night
March 28th at 7 p.m.
We will be showing Frozen, rated PG. Snacks provided!