Dear Rivendell Families,

We have had a very, very good first week of school. The seventh graders seem excited by the change to a new building and teachers. During our first all-school assembly, several seventh graders rushed onto the gym floor to take the microphone to give their opinions on a question that I had posed. We think that combining the 6th grade class at Samuel Morey last year helped make the transition much smoother for many of the students.

**Responsibility**

We are working to create self-directed individuals who know how to solve problems, set personally valuable goals and achieve those goals. As the trimester unfolds, the pressures of school will increase. We are coaching students to ask for help when life at schools starts to feel difficult. Advisors are students’ advocates. Students can bring up issues directly with their advisors, teachers, or in the office. Learning to raise issues, analyze the problem and work productively toward a solution might be the most important skills students will learn at Rivendell.

During the first weeks of school, we have had excellent conversations with students who approached us with problems or with alternatives to deal with situations that they didn’t like. The issues related to how they feel they learn best, future career paths, or how to get on track to graduate. If your RA student is facing a problem, please help them bring the problem to us. We will work with them to figure out a solution. In the process, they learn how to advocate for themselves.

**Technology**

Currently, all 9th and 10th grade students have school laptops. Gary Ackerman, our new Digital Project Leader, is moving RA to a digital platform for curriculum documents and instructional materials used in our classrooms. This means that students will only need to go to one place to access assignments and materials for their classes. We will also continue to use Google Docs as an instructional tool. The educational environment at RA will soon mirror what nearly all our students will experience when they are in college or technical schools.

We have also created a sixteen-station media lab with eight PC computers and eight Macs. Students and staff will now have more powerful tools to create their own media. The graphic design and digital photography classes will now have up-to-date equipment and the work from these classes will support the yearbook. *Raptor Connections*, our newspaper, will benefit, as will *The Asterisk*, our literary magazine produced by Visions.

**Web Presence**

We need your help. These days, people considering relocating to the area often use the information about local schools found on real estate websites to inform their decisions. Unfortunately, Rivendell Academy is not listed on many of these sites. This is a problem. Zillow, one of the largest real estate advertising sites, has a partnership with the school-rating site GreatSchools (www.greatschools.org) which is one of the biggest school rating sites in the country. It would be a great help if students and families went on the GreatSchools site and rated the Academy and submitted comments. Once you are on the GreatSchools site, type in “Rivendell Academy” and you will be directed to a page that allows you to rate the school.

We are, however, listed on the US News and World Report site: [http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/vermont/rankings?int=9bcc08](http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/vermont/rankings?int=9bcc08)
Choose Your Own Adventure
Last year we used grant money to organize a day called Choose Your Own Adventure. We invited twelve people with interesting career paths to discuss their experiences and decisions that led them to their current careers. Small groups of eleven to twelve students rotated to hear four different speakers. This was not a “career fair.” We wanted students to hear that even people who are very accomplished in their careers had to face many challenges and decisions as they worked their way through life. We also wanted students to hear how these people went about making their decisions. For example, one of our speakers originally wanted to be a teacher, but as he had different experiences, he discovered that teaching wasn’t a good option for him. One speaker completed an undergraduate degree in engineering, but learned that he hated sitting behind a desk. His experience as a guardsman showed him that law enforcement was a perfect fit for him.

Our work with this theme extended into our summer reading. Each student chose his or her own biography to read and explored the obstacles and opportunities of the subject of the biography.

Now we have decided to weave the theme of Choose Your Own Adventure into the fabric of our curriculum by encouraging students to spend a day away from school to explore an area of personal interest. For example, a student interested in forestry could arrange to spend a day with a forester to learn more about the profession. Students are responsible for submitting a short digital reflection on their experience that will be posted on the school web site.

The process begins with a student approaching his or her advisor with an idea and using a protocol to brainstorm ideas for a Choose Your Own Adventure Day Proposal. Once the advisor accepts the proposal, it will go to parents or guardians and the office for signatures. We are currently looking for grant money to help support travel.

A Great Start
The start of the school year has been terrific. Students seem happy to be back and are focused. They seem ready to continue the process of making RA their school. Our message has been that responsibility begets greater freedom and choice. We are committed to jointly creating a school that maximizes students’ ability to set and achieve goals that are meaningful to them.

Sincerely,
Keri Gelenian

Dear Parents,
Your student has been given a copy of this year’s 2014-2015 Student/Parent Handbook to bring home. Extra copies are available in the main office. You may also access the handbook on the Rivendell Academy website.

Mark your calendar!
Picture Day is coming Thursday, September 18th. Look for more information on your child’s Picture Day flyer / order form that came home. Visit Lifetouch.com for clothing suggestions, online payment details and more.

NEEDED:
Substitute food service workers in all schools.
Please contact Celise Johnson at 603-353-4321 if interested.

REMINDER: 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.
Rivendell Academy is now home to an Olympic Athlete! Andrew Paton, a senior at RA, participated in the Special Olympics USA Games held in June 2014. Governor of New Hampshire, Maggie Hassan, greeted the team and wished them good luck before the 39 athletes from NH traveled to Princeton, NJ for the Opening Ceremonies. During the week of activities, Andrew participated in singles, mixed doubles and team bowling events. He won a bronze medal for Singles, a silver in Mixed Doubles and their team won bronze. Congratulations, Andrew!
A note from the Food Service Director

Dear Parents,

Regarding café accounts at Rivendell Academy: All balances, positive or negative, from the previous school year carry over if your child attended Samuel Morey Elementary.

We offer à la carte items. If your child has money in their account, they can make purchases. If they owe a balance, they will not be able to make à la carte purchases. Some à la carte items such as tossed salad, fruit, breakfast sandwiches, and yogurt can be a part of a reimbursable meal. If your child receives free/reduced lunches, they must choose a fruit or a vegetable, meat, milk, and a whole grain.

Please remember to fill out the free/reduced application A.S.A.P. and have your child bring it to the school office.

I will begin sending weekly bills via email for accounts that are negative.

If you have questions about your child’s account, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Celise Johnson
cjohnson@rivendellschool.org

Welcome Back From the Middle School Counselor

I hope you and your family had a fun and relaxing summer. I would like to take this opportunity to explain the middle school counseling program. This program is designed to focus on improving school climate and increasing academic performance. School-wide programs this year will focus on Kindness Promotion, Tolerance and Respect. Grade-level programs focus on Career and College Awareness, Study Skills, Goal Setting, and Time Management.

Students may see the counselor for small group and individual counseling to assist with a variety of concerns and problems, including: friendship, problem-solving, academic improvement, divorce, grief and loss and crisis intervention.

It is my hope that this school year will be full of successful experiences for all students.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me at 603-353-4321 ext. 4 or cmclaren@rivendellschool.org.

Sincerely,
Cindy McLaren

10th Annual Rivendell RAMBLE

SAVE THE DATE
10th Annual Rivendell RAMBLE
Saturday, September 27th
Rivendell Academy in Orford, NH

10K & 5K Trail/Road Runs and Morning Hike on the Cross Rivendell Trail (CRT) in Orford, NH. A community event for all ages and abilities! Come for the challenge of a rugged 10K trail/road run, a more moderate 5K trail/road run, or a 4-mile round-trip morning hike to Mount Cube. Trail/road runs include trail sections on the CRT as well as town roads. The hike leads to the south summit of Mount Cube where the CRT meets the Appalachian Trail. Join us for this guided hike and to celebrate “Family Hiking Day on the Appalachian Trail” on the summit with families all along the 2,200 mile AT from Georgia to Maine!

Pre-registration forms are available online with an opportunity to order a RAMBLE event shirt (wicking t-shirt) at the special event price. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the hike and trail runs to follow (full schedule available online). Shuttle service from Rivendell Academy to trailheads and lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. with items generously donated by local farms & restaurants (lunch is FREE with registration). See the RAMBLE schedule, as well as all event information including registration details and times, online at www.crossrivendelltrail.org. Volunteers welcome and appreciated for the RAMBLE including students who would like to earn community service hours. Contact Trail Coordinator Andy Boyce for more information (aboyce@rivendellschool.org).
IMPORTANT HEALTH INFO AND DEADLINES!

- **FREE FLU CLINICS:**
  - School-based clinic for Academy students during school: Early October
  - Community clinic for all ages, 4-99+: also Early October

- **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 contact the Health Office if you have questions.

- **If you have questions about Equine Encephalitis**, please contact the Health Office. There have not yet been any cases locally. However, it is always a good idea to protect against mosquito bites. Early morning and late afternoon/early evening are the likeliest times to get bitten. Students who walk or wait for a school bus or ride to school may want to consider bug spray in the early morning.

- **Molar Express**, a fully mobile dental care clinic will be at the Academy again this fall. Forms were sent home with students on the first day of school. Thank you for the high rate of return. If you did not receive a form, need another one, and/or have any questions, please contact the Health Office.

- **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 the school nurse about any illness or injury that your student may have so that we can provide the best environment possible at school while they recuperate.

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

- **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.

Dear Parents,

Please be aware that a pocket knife is classified as a "weapon" according to RISD's Weapon Policy and is not allowed on school grounds or school busses. According to the policy, "Any student who brings a weapon to school shall be brought by the Superintendent to the School Board for an expulsion hearing." For more information please see RISD Board Policy F24.

"Like" Rivendell Academy on Facebook for important updates & information! Click on the 🗣️ at rivendellschool.org to get connected!
Sam Emerson (bottom right): “Over the summer I spent five and a half weeks studying engineering as a part of the advanced studies. During this time period, we learned about lost foam metal casting, created 3D cars on the computer, and built remote controlled submarines.”

Trillium FitzGerald Cserr acted in a production of William Shakespeare’s Hamlet with the Harborside Shakespeare Company on Mount Desert Island, Maine. She played several roles including Prince Fortinbras of Norway (pictured).

Kirsten Surprenant became an Ironman after finishing Ironman Mont Tremblant on August 17, 2014. An Ironman is comprised of a 2.4 miles swim, a 112 mile bike ride, and then 26.2 mile run all which have to be completed on the same day in 17 hours or less.
The Counselor’s Chronicle

September 2014

Lots of information on the RA Web site under Guidance!!! Visit http://www.rivendellschool.org/schools/rivendell-academy/guidance

ALL Grades

7-12

Mini Fair

On Friday, Sept 19th, representatives from New Hampshire Colleges & Universities will visit Rivendell from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. to meet with students in all grades, 7-12.

Financial Aid Nights

VSAC — Thurs., October 9th
NHHEAF — Thurs., Nov 6th
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: RA Library

College Fair

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd
Southern New Hampshire University
Seniors will be traveling to Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH for the annual NEACAC College Fair. There will be over 100 colleges represented, the majority from across New England along with others nationwide.

Deadline to register for the ACT is:

Sept 19 for Oct 25 test

College Rep Visits to RA

Location: Guidance Conference Room
- Meredith College — Thursday, September 18th at 8:00 a.m.
- Drew University — Thursday, September 18th at 8:30 a.m.
- New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI) — Thursday, September 19th at 10:00 a.m.
- Johnson State College — Monday, October 14th at 9:30 a.m.
- Merrimack College — Wednesday, October 15th at 8:00 a.m.

PSAT for Juniors

Wednesday, October 15th at Rivendell Academy
Rich Steckler’s 7th Grade Science class started off the year with an inquiry lab, practicing protocol, including measurement and the mixing of reactants. The students recorded their observations, discussed them in their small teams and then proposed an explanation for what they observed. (L to R: Ross McFate, Kelsey Peebles, Arlena Welch)
Smart Snacks in School Fundraisers

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 directed the USDA to establish nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to students in school during the school day, including foods sold through school fundraisers. The new Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards will help schools to make the healthy choice the easy choice by offering students more of the foods and beverages we should be encouraging – whole grains, fruits and vegetables, leaner protein, lower-fat dairy – while limiting foods with too much sugar, fat and salt.

USDA understands that fundraisers are time-honored traditions that support local school activities, including class trips, athletic programs and the purchase of school supplies. Under the “Smart Snacks in School” nutrition standards, USDA has sought to balance the needs of schools to conduct occasional fundraisers, while still ensuring that students have access to healthier foods and beverages during the school day.

Highlights of the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards include:

- **States set an appropriate number of exempt school-sponsored fundraisers.**
  States are well-positioned to identify the particular needs of their local communities. As such, each state will have the flexibility to set a certain number of fundraisers that can sell foods or beverages that do not meet the nutrition standards.

- **No limits on fundraisers that meet the new standards.**
  In addition, fundraisers that sell non-food items or foods or beverages that meet the new standards are not limited under the nutrition standards. There are many healthy fundraising options available to schools, including selling books, fresh produce, school spirit merchandise or other non-food items during the school day. Your school’s local wellness committee may have some great tips on how to raise funds and help students make healthy choices at the same time.

- **Schools decide what can be sold at events outside of school hours.**
  Smart Snacks in School only applies to foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day. The nutrition standards do not apply to foods and beverages sold at events held after school, off campus, or on weekends, such as school plays or sporting events.

- **Exceptions for fundraiser foods not intended for consumption in schools.**
  Fundraising activities that take place outside of school, such as cookie dough or frozen pizza sales, are exempt from the nutrition standards. Distribution of order forms and foods not intended for consumption at school may continue.
### September 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Picture Day Homecoming Dance 6-9:30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8th Gr. Science field trip to Vershire (water samples)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### October 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flu Clinic in RA West Wing Multipurpose Room</td>
<td>School Board meeting at WES, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Board meeting at WES, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Theater Production/Perf. Skills field trip to Northern Stage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Theater production rehearsal, 5-9 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Special Olympics NH State Bowling Tournament (location TBD)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HALLOWEEN-O-THON

HALLOWEEN-O-THON: “Take a strong dose of Chiller Theater and throw in a cup of Creature Feature and you have the annual CATV Halloween-o-thon” (Valley News)

Do you have a teen who wants to be the next Alfred Hitchcock or Wes Craven? This year the Hop partners with CATV to present their 3rd annual Halloween-o-thon, a fun-filled competition for young local filmmakers. Starting October 3, teams of middle and high-school students have three weeks to write, direct and star in their own five-minute mini horror masterpieces. The finished films will premier live in a gala showcase over two nights in the Loew Auditorium. Cash prizes and awards will be given out for the best film, director, and actors—as well as a few wild cards, including Best Scream! This year’s contestants can also attend workshops taught by Dartmouth student filmmakers. Topics such as killer sound, spooky special effects and deadly camera work will help teens hone their skills for the top prizes!

To register and learn more about Halloween-o-thon contest fees, rules and workshops, visit http://catv8.org/halloween-o-thon-challenge/

News from the Fairlee Public Library

Book Discussion
September 17th at 7 p.m.
This month we will be talking about The Fault in our Stars by John Greene. Don't forget to come see the movie on the 19th at 7 p.m.
"Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, The Fault in Our Stars is award-winning-author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love. " - Amazon

After School Gaming
Teens every Thursday after school stop by the library and play some games. We have board games, computer games, and RPGs. Everyone else please note that the library gets loud on Thursdays.

Creative Writing
September 25th at 7 p.m.
Come join our creative writing group.

The Vermont Movie
October 1st at 7 p.m.
Come see the first part of the Vermont Movie. A program of the Vermont Humanities Council and co-sponsored by the Fairlee Historical Society. After the movie there will be a discussion led by Alan Berolzheimer a local scholar.

Craft Night
September 18th at 6 p.m.
It is time to start thinking about making gifts for the holidays. Come socialize while you get a jump start on your holiday crafting.