

# Riverway current

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 17 End of 1st Trimester
- 17 Thankful Meal
- 17 Annual Fundrasing Bazaar
- 17 National Parent Involvement Day
- 18-25 No School
- 21-22 Conferences
- 28 Begin 2nd Trimester

### DECEMBER

- 21 1/2 day early release
- 22 to Jan 2 No School
- Winter Break

### JANUARY

- 28 Saturday School Frozen
- River Film Festival

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## Laurie Krause, Director

### Greetings!

During a recent presentation on Riverway Learning Community, when I heard myself sharing the school's key characteristics, I was reminded of how much innovation resides at our school. I think that because we are so enveloped in the day-to-day life of the school, it is very important to sometimes take the time to intentionally reflect on our uniqueness.

One of the characteristics that make our school unique is the development of individual learning plans. An individual learning plan (ILP) is created by the learner with the aid of both learning leader and parents. The ILP is developed with the learner's needs, interests, and learning style in mind to reach the learner's highest potential. The plan may establish short-term and long-term goals, objectives, strategies, resources, and use of the community as a classroom. An individual learning plan allows for assessment through ongoing community critiques of the learner's accomplishments, and culminates in a presentation celebrated by the learning community. Additionally, to model lifelong learning, Riverway parents are also asked to develop an adult individual plan for themselves, identifying something they plan to learn and something they plan to teach during the current academic year.

Through the development of the ILP, students and adults have an opportunity to influence educational programming, foster independence and self-motivation, and keep learners at the center of decision-making. As an evolving tool, the Riverway ILP literally has the potential to create a roadmap that spans from pre-school through twelfth grade and make dreams come true.



**Riverway Learning Community** is committed to the foundation of a more hopeful and enlightened future by the development of an environment that nurtures the growth of mind, body, and spirit, both as individuals and as members of the larger community. Riverway will promote respect for the simultaneous independence and interdependence of all things.

**RIVERWAY 101**

*Get to Know Your Learning Teams!*

Each classroom is made up of a Learning Leader and an Assistant

**The Primary Team**

**Children's House**

*(aka Pre-Primary)*

Miss Dana

Miss Kam

Jen *(AmeriCorps Member)*

**Elementary I**

*(aka Primary I, Grades 1-3)*

Coe

**Elementary II**

*(aka Primary II, Grades 4-6)*

Kate

Julie

**Special Education**

*(Grades K-6)*

Tracy

Julie

Sonja

**The Secondary Team**

**Secondary Leader of Teaching & Learning**

*(Grades 7-12)*

Leslie (Math)

**Secondary I**

*(Grades 7-9)*

Zach (Language)

Jamie

**Secondary II**

*(Grades 10-12)*

Sharon (Science)

Jennifer

**Special Education**

*(Grades 7-12)*

Erin

Karen

**Dana Merkel, Children's House Learning Leader**

*Why is the Primary Program a 3-year program?*

Every year is an important year for the child. The first year is one in which they are familiarizing themselves with the classroom, learning how to care for the self and the environment. The children begin to learn to focus and to concentrate. As the child looks around in their new environment they notice older children working on fascinating materials. The Montessori Method has found that the younger children in the classroom respond faster when emulating the older children. The second year is just as important. An ease and comfort of the environment allows your child to jump right into choosing work – no adjustment time is wasted. Your child now has concentration and can learn how to teach themselves anything they show interest in. The child notices the older children using materials just out of their reach, giving the child motivation to practice their lessons further. The third year is the most important year. Not only is the child more capable of learning even greater riches through the now very familiar materials, they are now at the top of the class. The child can truly feel confident, secure and independent with high self-esteem. The child now shares work and lessons with the smaller children in the class, solidifying the knowledge of all that they have learned in the past years. And then those new, young children look up to your now older child and the cycle starts again.



Regina, a foreign exchange student from Mexico, is doing an internship in Children's House teaching Spanish.

*I love learning at this school!*

Ahron Kennebeck,  
Kindergartner CH



## Coe Kropuenske, E1 Learning Leader

Our Elementary I classroom community is busy getting to know each other, learning how to work together, establishing routines, and of course, investigating activities in the classroom and observing all the living things they can find in our school building and out in the biome in our backyard! It is an honor for me to watch our young people grow over the three-year-cycle in the Elementary I classroom. The child in this plane of development becomes highly social and finds collaborative work fulfilling. The child's capacity for abstract thinking and their creative imagination make great work and discovery abound. They have big questions and a hunger for knowing everything in the universe. I hope you will find time to make an appointment for observation and see our classroom community in action. Conferences become highly productive when families have a context for understanding the child's day.

*I want to make the biggest number!*

Peter Swanson, 1st-grader



### **Field Trips!**

*There were lots of trips to cool places in October. Our second-graders were happy to report on our adventures. Serena is seen dancing at our Dance and Music class, with other classmates waiting their turn. Serena reported on a trip to the apple orchard, while Anna and Tatum, who are pictured hula-hooping in the rain together, chose to report on the Wednesday's at Valencia, and Anna reported on the Big Muddy River Rendezvous.*



### **Apple Orchard**

by Serena Foss

At the orchard, I went to the haunted house. Cyrus was so scared. My favorite ride was the spinning apple. Me and Cyrus flipped 5 times. That's a lot! I liked the tractor ride. Afterwards we got to pick an apple. I picked a red one, Brock's mom picked a yellow apple called smoothie. My sister picked corn off a corn plant. She was not supposed to. It had a lot of colors on it. There was yellow, white, black, and a little red.

### **Dance and Music**

by Tatum Dulek

Every Wednesday in October we have dance & music. Every Wednesday in December we have hip hop & music. It is AWESOME. Kathleen is our student teacher, because she goes there for dance class. One class, we had to draw a super hero. I drew Lava girl. We got to act like our super hero. I just ran. We also did stuff on the lines of tape. We pretended we were from a circus on the tape line.

### **Rendezvous**

by Anna McCormick

One day we went to the Rendezvous. It was fun. We got to meet a Native American. He taught us a song. We got to go in a teepee. We got to look around and shop. That was fun. When we were out of money, Lindsey walked by and gave us a dollar. With that money we got five pieces of licorice. We also got to go to another stand where they talked about beaver skin. It was fuzzy.

**Kate Olson, E2 Learning Leader**

Fall is flying by quick! The month begins with field trips to the Woodlawn Cemetery for the Cemetery Walk, Ferguson's Apple Orchard in Wisconsin, and the Big Muddy River Rendezvous at Prairie Island. We have also enjoyed our weekly lessons from the Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts on Wednesdays where we are learning to play the recorder and experiencing modern dance moves.

Monthly nutrition lessons have also begun, and we are learning about the different color groups of fruits and vegetables that are healthy for us to eat. We take turns each week preparing a healthy snack for our class, and we are enjoying trying new recipes and healthy dishes. We continue to enjoy working with our Children's House buddies, and we performed our first reader's theater

*I like this classroom because we go on a lot of field trips.*

Brayden Frame



**Pictured left to right:** Lydia, Brayden, Zech, and Collin.

*I like the food here, and being able to work at my own pace.*

Collin Berlin-Burns

*I like choosing my works and having fun.*

Zech Rocky

*I like it when we do art. My favorite thing is the color wheel.*

Lydia Matteson

**RIVERWAY FAMILY OF THE MONTH**



**Meet the Spagg Family**

Four of our five children are currently attending Riverway: Taylor 15, Emily 13, Carson 11, and Senora 6. Alayna, age 4, will start kindergarten next year. We live in the country and enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hunting, fishing, gardening, etc. We like Riverway because they encourage parent involvement and they individualize the student's learning. Our family also appreciates the hard work of all the learning leaders and other staff.



## Leslie Lehnertz, *Secondary Leader of Teaching and Learning*



The Secondary classes have been very busy this fall. It is amazing how fast time flies when you are having fun.... it is hard to believe that the first trimester is coming to a close. I would like to highlight some of the incredible changes that have taken place in the Secondary School. Our mornings are filled with academics; each student takes three classes in the morning:

math, science and language arts. I am impressed every time I look around and see that every student is engaged in learning.

Zach has taken on teaching Language Arts and the students are truly enjoying the class. Zach engages the students in active learning. This trimester all language classes have been focusing on the parts of speech, short story writing and figurative language arts. Zach has been a wonderful addition to the Secondary Staff; he has a great presence with the students, and they really enjoy his style of teaching.

Sharon has been running the science classes, and doing a very impressive job. Sharon teaches three science classes: Earth Science (7 & 8), Physical Science (9 & 10), and Biology (11 & 12). Earth Science has been focusing on planets and biospheres, Physical Science has been working on magnets and electricity, and Biology has been focusing on a lot of hands on plant activities. I have continued teaching math, which I truly enjoy. Math for the Secondary covers an incredible amount of knowledge and, currently, I am teaching Pre-Algebra, Algebra and Geometry. I also have five students who are using the computer-based math program, Aleks, to

complete Advanced Algebra. I have seen amazing things in every one of these classes.

Erin has been an amazing support for all of the students. She does a great job of providing extra support for anyone who may need help; it is because of Erin that so many of our students are doing so well.

The students would probably say that Thursdays are their favorite days. The mornings are filled with interest groups. Some of these groups include: guitar, art, soap making, pillowcase making, yearbook, internships, Key for a Cure, gardening and River Photography. There is something for everyone. The afternoons are spent at the Minnesota Conservatory of the Arts, dancing and learning music. It's Beautiful!

We have an incredible Learning Leader Assistant staff. Jamie Harper, Jennifer Al-Saeed and Karen McKern bring so much to our community. Jamie has an incredible love of nature and music and offers the students so many opportunities both in and out of school. Jennifer has an amazing gift for organization and technology and has worked so hard to implement technology into our daily work. Karen, well her sense of humor alone would brighten any classroom, but her love and respect for all is what stands out the most. I would personally like to thank all of these amazing people for all they do for our community.

Lastly, I would like to invite everyone to come and observe what is going on in our classrooms. I am very proud of the staff, as well as all of the students. It has been an incredible experience thus far.... I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has to offer.





## Secondary Builds Community During Their Retreat

Monday, October 24, was our Secondary Student Retreat at Whitewater State Park. Students have been busy organizing menus, as well as activities for our community building retreat. We traveled to Whitewater early Monday morning and participated in a number of Environmental Education activities and volunteering some our time there to some service projects. We stayed in the modern group camp and cooked our meals in their wonderful kitchen facility. A truck load of wood was delivered Monday morning to keep us warm inside the community building and out by the fire ring located next to the Whitewater River. Some of the activities we participated in are: Hiking the 10 miles of trails throughout the park, making walking sticks, a pond study, Geocaching, a live snake program, and much, much more. Good food, board games, yard games, flag football, hanging out by the fire, s'mores, hot cocoa and the list goes on. Look for more pictures from our trip in next month's newsletter!

Don't Forget  
**Student-led Conferences**  
*November 21-22, 2011*

## *Volunteers Needed!*

The Riverway Learning Community needs your help. There are many different ways to volunteer; find the one that is right for you.

- **Help with planning a meal for teachers at conferences**
- **Grant Writing**

Interested? Contact Julie at [jmccormick.riverway@gmail.com](mailto:jmccormick.riverway@gmail.com) or 507-457-9910

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered your time, efforts, and supplies to make our school a better place!

# Riverway Hosts a Parent Development Night

Parent Development Nights are held once each trimester. Parents are expected to attend each one. There will be dinner and childcare for the event. The focus of this year's parent development will be on the Montessori Curriculum in practical life, math, and language. It will also showcase the importance of the three-year-cycle in a learning group and the importance of continuing onto the next three-year-cycle in the next learning group.

Try to make the next one - It's really cool to see what the kids are learning!

Ms. Dana gives parents a lesson in practical life at the October 25th Parent Development Night.



## Bieroks (Cabbage Pockets)

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 lb. sausage
- 5-6 cups shredded cabbage
- 1/2 to 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 tsp. salt



**Directions:**  
Use favorite bread dough recipe.

Brown meat in skillet, set aside. Cook cabbage, onion and salt together, simmer for approximately 20 minutes or until the cabbage is tender. Mix meat and cabbage together, cool to lukewarm. Roll small portions of bread dough into either squares or circles (either will do -- we rolled our dough into circles for ease of folding dough and sealing it). Fill dough with cabbage mixture, fold dough over and seal edges. Place on a baking sheet, brush with butter and let rise for about an hour. Bake for 25 minutes (or until golden brown) in 375° F oven. Serve warm.

Our Children's House had a lot of fun making and sampling these cabbage pockets! We hope you will enjoy them also -- Happy Baking!

-- Miss Kam

## RIVERWAY'S MARKET PRICE LIST

<b>Apple Dumplings</b> .....		\$3.00 / each
<b>Banana Bread</b> .....		\$3.00 / one pound
<b>Cinnamon Rolls</b> .....	\$2.00 / each	\$8.00 / four
<b>Cookies</b>		
Chocolate Chunk .....	\$3.00 / six	\$6.00 / thirteen
Peanut Butter .....	\$3.00 / six	\$6.00 / thirteen
Peanut Butter Chocolate Chunk .....	\$3.00 / six	\$6.00 / thirteen
<b>Granola</b>		
Multigrain Fruit .....		\$5.00 / twelve oz.
Peanut Butter Crunch .....		\$5.00 / twelve oz.
<b>Granola Bars</b> .....		\$1.00 / two oz.
<b>Maple Syrup</b> .....	\$ 5.00 / eight oz.	\$8.00 / 12 oz.
<b>Pesto</b>		
Basil .....	\$5.00 / 1/2 pt.	\$8.00 / pt.
Chive .....	\$5.00 / 1/2 pt.	\$8.00 / pt.
Kale .....	\$5.00 / 1/2 pt.	\$8.00 / pt.
Scape .....	\$5.00 / 1/2 pt.	\$8.00 / pt.
<b>Pesto Rolls</b> .....	\$2.00 / each	\$8.00 / four
<b>Pumpkin Bar</b> .....		\$3.00 / twelve oz.
<b>Whole Wheat Bagels</b> .....	\$4.00 / six	\$8.00 / thirteen
<b>Whole Wheat Bread</b> .....		\$4.00 / one lbs. eight oz.
<b>Whole Wheat Pizza Crust</b> .....	\$3.00 / twelve inch,	\$5.00 / sixteen inch
<b>Whole Free Range Chicken</b> .....		\$3.25 / lbs.

**Contact the school, if you are interested in ordering!**

Minnesota's  
"Give to the Max Day"  
November 16

The nonprofit organizations in Minnesota encourage people to donate to their favorite charities at GiveMN.org during the third annual "Give to the Max Day" on Thursday, November 16. Last year the event raised more than \$10 million dollars for the 3,663 participating nonprofit organizations, including Riverway Learning Community.

**Please check your child's backpack or your e-mail messages for directions on how to make a donation.**

# 11.17.2011

Riverway Learning Community's

## Annual Fundraising Bazaar

November 17, 2011 from 9-11 am

Come support our students' effort to raise money for their classrooms. This is a whole school event, and all classrooms are working hard to create unique products to sell. These hand-crafted items will consist of baked goods, crafts, artwork, sewing, woodworking, jewelry, and much more. Talk with your child(ren) about what he/she is contributing, and please provide support as needed. On the 17th, bring some spending money, and bring some friends!



Kids prepare crafts for the annual bazaar.

### Elementary 2 Classroom is in need of the following items:

Clorox disinfecting wipes (lots!)

Aluminum foil

Plastic wrap

Dish drainer rack and mat

Sponges (lots!)

Pillsbury All-Purpose Baking Spray

Mini muffin tins (to make about 20)

Bread pans (2)

Cookie sheets (3)

Serving tongs

Felt (assorted colors)

Watercolor paper

Craft paints

Quality paint brushes

Modeling clay

Hemp twine

## ~ SAVE THE DATE! ~ National Parental Involvement Day

17th Annual Celebration,  
held on the third Thursday in November

For nearly two decades Project Appleseed has inspired millions of parents to volunteer in thousands of schools nationwide. We have created signature family engagement days for schools, that produce hundreds of millions in volunteer time each year. Through our national events - National Parental Involvement Day, Public School Volunteer Week and National Family Fitness Week - local parents can engage with their public schools and raise valuable social capital for their school community.



*Our goal at Riverway is to have 100% participation.  
Please mark the date and hope to see you at the*

## Thankful Meal at Riverway Learning Community

November 17th at 11am.