



Riverside Review

A publication of Riverside School in Richmond, Virginia

Fully Engaged Parents Help Students Succeed

Riverside School's new Parent Involvement Program is transforming parents from traditional helper volunteers into fully-engaged collaborators in their child's education by instituting a ten hour per year per family volunteer program for Riverside parents.

The program was developed in response to research that shows that parents who are actively involved in their child's education help maximize a student's success. According to the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Castillo, "Students will need more than just good teachers and smaller class sizes to meet the challenges of tomorrow. For students to get the most out of school, we need to promote partnership between parents, community leader, and teachers... Only through partnerships can our schools keep improving and stay on the right track."

Other benefits of the Parent Involvement Program for Riverside families include the ability to aid in keeping tuition cost down with the use of volunteer manpower and the opportunity to promote community while parents work side by side with other parents and students.

Family members' hours are being tracked by the Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, Kathy Consuegra. "Each time a member of the family comes to school to volunteer, they are asked to record their time in our Parent Involvement Log. So far the response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive and a few families had completed their hours by the end of the first quarter," reports Mrs. Consuegra. There are volunteer opportunities to meet every family's needs and interests including assisting in the Expressive Arts classroom, sharing their heritage as part of a Continent Day, assembling new outdoor benches and picnic tables, and providing support for classroom teachers.

Grandparents, alumni and special friends are also invited to volunteer at Riverside School. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kathy Consuegra at KConsuegra@Riversideschool.org.



Parents volunteer to construct new picnic tables and benches.

Grandparents, alumni and special friends are also invited to volunteer at Riverside School. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kathy Consuegra at KConsuegra@Riversideschool.org.

Grandparents, alumni and special friends are also invited to volunteer at Riverside School. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kathy Consuegra at KConsuegra@Riversideschool.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

Moss on the James Tea Party May 7, 2011

Join members of the Moss on the James Society for their annual Tea Party and Silent Auction benefitting the Riverside School P. Buckley Moss Scholarship Fund.

In This Issue

Heads Up & Alumni News	2
Moving Around the World	3
Backpack or Pack-Pack?: <i>An Alumni's Reflections</i>	4
Grandparents & Special Friends Day	5
Faculty Focus: Cathie Ricketts	5

Heads Up



...the work we do with our students actually rewires their brains.

In October, Pat and I attended the International Dyslexia Association annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a great conference with sessions on everything from Assessment & Intervention to Teacher Training and Meeting the Academic Needs of Dyslexic Students as well as sessions specifically for Heads of Schools.

Most importantly, we were also able to hear first-hand some of the findings from the latest research on the dyslexic brain.

Current research supports the fact that the work we do with our students actually **rewires their brains**. Dyslexic brains that receive the OG training are able to process language more efficiently than prior to instruction using the Orton-

Gillingham Approach. While experts have known for many years that the Orton-Gillingham Approach is effective, we now have the fMRI (functioning Magnetic Resonance Imaging) that explains how and why it works.

This fall we were also privileged with our annual visit from Dr. Joyce Steeves. While on campus, Dr. Steeves shared her work in teaching mathematics to dyslexic students and the systematic, structured, sequential, incremental and cumulative methodology that her research is showing to be most effective. This year our teachers are focusing on additional math instruction, and we look forward to seeing positive outcomes as a result.



Alumni News

A Riverside School education is just the beginning for our students - the seed has been planted and then it is time for them to bloom. It is an honor to share the many ways our alumni succeed after leaving Riverside.

Reece Camp Carter ('88)

graduated from VCU in Interactive Media Studies in 2000 and is now working in film production in Santa Monica, California.

Drew Sundin ('99)

graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in May 2010 and is now working in management for Claire's, Inc. in Richmond.

Desmond Vincent Moore ('00)

graduated from Virginia State University in 2008 with a degree in Fine Arts & Visual Communication. He is currently working in Richmond as a freelance graphic designer.

Jon Gravely ('01)

is a sophomore in the Corps of Cadets at Norwich University in Vermont. He is majoring in Business Administration and Political Science with a minor in Economics.

He is a Corporal in the Marine ROTC Program. Jon was selected to be an Academic Mentor to the first year cadets for 2010-2011. He was elected Vice-President of the Law Club and plays Varsity Lacrosse.

Kelly Allen ('03)

is in her third year at the University of Virginia where she is on the Dean's list and is involved in the University's student council and is the Treasurer of the Student Nurses Association of Virginia.

Wil Kay ('03)

is now living with his family in PA but will be back in VA this summer attending LAX Camp at UVA. He has also been invited to attend THE 205 LAX Camp in MD.

John Michael Kay ('04)

is attending Malvern Prep in Philadelphia, PA where he has just been selected as

one of four students who will be an exchange student this summer in Australia.

Paulie Owen Lanier ('08)

attends Goochland High School and plans to graduate in the spring of 2011.

Paige Healy ('09)

is working for the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyoming.

Andrew Greenberg ('10)

is attending Trinity Episcopal School where he was on the honor roll and Dean's list for his 8th grade year.

Louisa Mauck ('10)

graduated from Tuckahoe Middle School and was on the Honor Roll. This year she is attending Freeman High School.

Jack Poindexter ('10)

is now attending Trinity High School.

Moving Around the World

Students Dance, Sing, Taste, Touch and Celebrate

Riverside students have a richer knowledge of Europe and North America thanks to the Continent Days organized by our PTO led by President,



Students enjoy food from Mexico during the North America Continent Day.

Shelly Kern. In support of our theme "Moving Around the World," The PTO has planned seven Continent Days this school year. The Continent Days will culminate in an "International Festival" in May. Each Riverside teacher has been assigned a continent that will represent their class for the next three years. Each year the classes will focus on an area of study for their continent. This year the students are focusing on the culture and geography of their continent. The Continent Days are a unique opportunity for everyone to become familiar with the world's seven continents.

In October, our students (with passports in hand) were treated to a tour of Europe featuring a unique display of cultural items, a sampling of European food (including cheese fondue, Swedish meatballs, and crepes from France), the chance to create a mosaic "urn," play

traditional games and learn about the geography of the continent. Each "station" was manned by a group of parents who were in charge of presenting the lesson or demonstrating the activity to the children. Like true travelers, the students received passport stamps at each stop. In October the lower school students also held a dance/music recital choreographed by The Latin Ballet. Each class presented a dance or rhythmic musical selection from around the world. It was a wonderful chance to incorporate our theme into our movement program.



Lower school students perform with members of The Latin Ballet.

The continent of North America was highlighted in November. The children had the chance to see Mrs. Wingfield's collection of Native American artifacts, design quilt squares and experience a variety of North American foods.

In December the students held a special assembly for each other and shared information about Christmas and New Year celebrations from around the world. The presentations included singing, Powerpoint slides, costumes and displays.



Students in Miss Myers' class enjoy European treats.

Coming this winter/spring the PTO will be organizing Continent Days for Africa, South America, Antarctica and Asia. If you have visited any of these continents and have memorabilia or information to share or you would like to be a part of these interactive, multi-sensory learning experiences for our students, please contact Shelly Kern at Shellydiner@gmail.com.



North American quilt patterns were made by the students.

Backpack or Pack-Pack?

An Alumni's Reflections on Riverside School by John Michael Kay

How do you pronounce the words backpack and festival? For many this is a quite simple question. However, for me it was a difficult and excruciating process. When I was in kindergarten and first grade instead of saying "festival" I would say "vegetable" and for "backpack" I would say "pack-pack." Because of this I was always afraid to say words in class for fear of embarrassment from my peers. I was also made to read hundreds of those small books to help me read and learn how to pronounce words. It helped a little bit but I was still not pronouncing words as well as the other kids. So my parents held me back in first grade; however, that still didn't help me with words. At the time I didn't understand what dyslexia was, but my parents learned all there was to know. Then we moved to Richmond, Virginia. This is where my dyslexia was "cured."

Richmond is where I learned about my disability and the name of a small school that changed my life forever, Riverside School. Riverside School was a school for all types of dyslexics. For me, I had Central Auditory Processing Disorder. This means that I would jumble up words in my head when people spoke to me and sometimes not understand what they were trying to say. This was particularly annoying to me, my teachers, and probably for my classmates who had to hear me constantly question what the directions were for homework again and again. But Riverside was different. The teachers were all understanding and would repeat the information as many times as we needed. Because everybody was a dyslexic, I didn't feel like a loser if I said a word wrong. We also had a class period named LF, Language Fundamentals. Here we would sit one on one with a teacher for 45 minutes and they would help us understand how to pronounce and read words. The teachers would put earphones on our ears; this would make us hear ourselves say a word. If we pronounced it wrong then they would help us correct the problem. They would also teach us how to study properly

for tests, quizzes, etc. This school was by far the best school I ever went to. They gave me the tools in order to succeed. But all good things must come to an end.

Our family had to move again and this time it was to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My brother and I spent a mere two years at Riverside. But those two years helped us tremendously and were the best two years of my life. It helped me by practically erasing my disorder. Even today people have no idea that I have dyslexia and think I am a "normal" person. Feeling and hearing that I was normal was an ecstatic

feeling to experience. Before Riverside I was a boy who was confused about his disorder and couldn't even pronounce backpack right, but when I left Riverside I became a boy who could pronounce backpack and be



John Michael Kay

able to be successful. Thanks to Riverside School, I am able to be here at Malvern and be the person I am today. 🌱

John Michael Kay submitted this essay on a life altering experience in applying to become a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). John Michael was inducted into the NHS on October 25, 2010. John Michael's grandmother, Frances Kay, is a member of the Riverside School Board of Directors.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day 2010



A grandmother shares her experience following the simulation.

Our Grandparents and Special Friends Day was a wonderful celebration of the people who are so special to our students. This year over 90 people attended the three “sessions” during the day. At each session, our guests were provided the opportunity to experience learning as a dyslexic student through a series of classroom simulations. Groups of students led the simulations of what it was like to be a student with an auditory processing disorder, dysgraphia and dyslexia. At the end of each hour long session the guests reported that they were “completely exhausted” by how hard they had to work to complete the assigned task.

After the simulations the students presented our guests with special “Thank You” gifts including inspirational clay ornaments made by the students. During the day a silent auction was held in the library and

the student council sold “Bowls for the Hungry.” The auction raised over \$500 to benefit Riverside School and the student council sold enough bowls to ultimately donate over \$300 to the FeedMore, the Central Virginia food bank.

A special thanks goes to the PTO for providing refreshments for our guests throughout the day. Thank you also to the teachers and staff for making this day possible. 🌱



Students present simulations during Grandparents & Special Friends Day 2010.

Faculty Focus: Cathie Ricketts

Bringing Energy and Enthusiasm to the LF Department

We welcome Cathie Ricketts as our new Language Fundamentals Coordinator at Riverside School. Cathie has been an LF Teacher for the past five years here at Riverside. She has a degree in Special Education from James Madison University, and spent several years in Henrico County and the Virginia Beach area teaching special education and preschool. She has been a certified group exercise instructor and personal trainer for the past 30 years! Cathie has helped our staff stay fit by teaching after school fitness classes this past year.

Recently, Cathie has attained her certification at the Certified Level, from the Academy of Orton Gillingham Practitioners. In addition, she was awarded the Robert G. and Eleanor T. Hall Scholarship from Educators Publishing Services to attend the 2009 International Dyslexia Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Cathie enjoys traveling with her husband and three children, ages 21, 17 and 15. She spent two weeks in India this past summer, working at an orphanage and school, teaching English and helping with construction work. In her spare time, she loves to read, play tennis, and run! Cathie brings lots of energy and enthusiasm to the LF Department! 🌱





Board of Directors
2010-2011

Anthony N. Strange, President
Kathleen Miller, Vice President
Patty Ramsey, Secretary
W. Hugh Catlett, Jr., Treasurer
Jean Claud
Elizabeth F. Edwards
Ann Hawkins
Dr. Charles E. Hutcheson
Frances L.W. Kay
Randolph N. Reynolds, Jr.
Burrell Stultz

Advisory Board

Thomas M. Crowder
Allen Mead Ferguson
Deborah Flippo
E. Duncan Getchell
Jeffrey Gumenick
Curtis Hofstetter
Elizabeth Lanier
William J. Longan, Jr.
Diane Lowder
Randolph W. McElroy, Jr.
Neil Millhiser
Thomas Millhiser
P. Buckley Moss
Jane Nott
George G. Phillips, Jr.
John B. Purcell, Jr.
Dr. Joyce Steeves
Brude Stoeber
Anne C. Woodfin

Honorary Board

James Darden, Jr., M.D.
Mary Ann Scanlon
Robert B. Scoggins, M.D.

Administration

Patricia W. DeOrio,
Founding Director
Julie D. Wingfield,
Head of School
Kathy Consuegra,
Dean of Academic &
Student Affairs

Riverside School
2110 McRae Road
Richmond, VA 23235
www.riversideschool.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 1951

Parents: If this issue of the Riverside Review is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer resides at this address, please notify us of their new address at (804) 320-3465 or development@riversideschool.org. Thank you!

Without you, the picture just isn't complete.

At Riverside School, you are an essential piece. If you have not already contributed to our 2010-2011 Annual Fund Campaign, we hope you will take this opportunity to join the many who have already sent in their contribution. It takes everyone to create the picture perfect educational experience that we want for our students.



Remember that your gift, no matter the amount, will help our little school make a BIG difference in the lives of children with dyslexia. If you have questions or would like to give a gift of stock, please contact our development office at (804) 320-3465 or development@riversideschool.org.