

Riley Notes

November 2009

Reminders:

Thursday & Friday, November 19, 20 - 6:30 Theater Musical "Westward Woa"

Friday, November 20 - NO SCHOOL Faculty Workshop

BRING IN FOOD FOR THANKSGIVING BOXES FOR 3 FAMILIES IN NEED

DROP OFF IN HALL NEXT TO SCIENCE ROOM

Wed, Thurs, Fri, November 25, 26, 27 - Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

Friday, December 4 SILENT AUCTION

December 14 – 18 = Secret Santa – child draws a name and becomes that persons secret santa , leaving little hand made gifts/notes/etc each day in the chosen child's cubby and on Friday brings in a wrapped hand made gift with chosen child's name on it - the chosen child guesses who his/her secret Santa is

December 18 - Finger Food Fest and Holiday Singing – everyone brings in finger food to share at lunch time – than all go to the Theater for festive singing.

January 11, 2010 Back to School

Notes from Kathryn – Head Teacher

It is amazing how fast the time goes by as the holidays approach. We will continue our tradition of Secret Santa the week of December 14th-18th. A detailed description of how we celebrate will be sent home when we return from Thanksgiving break. Please remember that all gifts are to be homemade and suggestions for these will be given in my next letter.

We had a rousing Middle School Halloween party in the Library that included great music dance contest and listening to a classic tale from Edgar Allen Poe. The Lower School came over to Trick or Treat so we got to see their costumes. I heard that the Upper School party was a success again this year. Thanks to Todd and Andrea for being there and Kristy for organizing the party and the decorations.

If you have any questions about events, the daily routine, your child's schedule or anything else, please call me in the Library at 542-7294 or leave a message with Bev in the office at 596-6405 and I will return your call. Any questions about your children's belongings that may get left behind, please direct to the adult who does Reflections with your child.

Writing with children truly brings forth all of their individual styles. Seth is writing a story that he tells me will continue the entire year (he finishes about a chapter a week), Sydney is writing another very long story (in fact, it is going to be as long as the Main Room in the Library! We call it 'the scroll') and my newest writers from the Lower School have taken off with ease as they begin their first compositions in the Main Room. Evie, Eli and Julia have all started stories during their times in the Main Room. I also had fun reading one of the Box Car Children books with Caitlin C who also has joined us from the Lower School. Max and I always have lively conversations about his kittens and other topics whenever he's in the Library.

Please donate to our annual Thanksgiving baskets for those less fortunate. Anything that will add to a great holiday dinner may be left in the boxes next to the Science Room in the Lower School building. Thank you all for your support and, mostly, for sharing your children with me. I hope your Thanksgiving celebration is filled with love, good food and laughter!

Notes from Stefanie- Drama:



Fall is Fun! Autumn is my favorite time of year, and since we are working on exploring our creativity with writing this month, I feel inspired to be creative with my notes:

A- Adventures around Riley--Some lower school children went on a scavenger hunt around the campus and had a great time looking for everything from leaves to robots (which we found)!

U- Uncovering buried treasure--Other lower school children dressed up like pirates and had a swashbuckling good time deciphering clues to find Treasure!

T- Telling Stories--Upper and middle school children came up with wonderful stories about mysterious, cone-shaped machinery and invented colorful character histories.

U- Understanding Fairy Tales--Lower school children took apart classic tales like the Three Billy Goats Gruff, and The Gingerbread man, and told them in new and creative ways.

M- Monologues--Children in the Monday technique class performed stellar comedic monologues!

N- Nerves and excitement build--As we prepare to head West for our musical. See you this Thursday or Friday at 6:30 for Westward Whoa!

Notes from Peter - Pottery

We're busier than ever this year in the Pottery Barn. Silvia, Lindsay, and I usually have classes running every day of the week, and the children are the beneficiaries of all this time, experience, and guidance. By now most, if not all of you have begun to receive completed pieces of sculpture and/or pottery, and should look forward to many more in the months to come. The energy, enthusiasm, and creativity demonstrated in our little building are remarkable. I particularly value how the children work together encouraging and supporting each other. It is quite wonderful and I want you all to know you are welcome to visit any time to observe. I tell the children that pottery is rarely a "spectator sport", so be prepared to work as well. Hope to see you soon.

Notes from Sarah in the Round Room

It seems like each month we all write about how quickly the time is going by. I was recently speaking to a group of our children about the speed of which our year is going by. The explanation I got was simple. "Time goes fast here because we like being here." I couldn't agree more.

Thank you so much to everyone for your wonderful recipes for the Washington, D.C. cookbook. We were able to collect over 100 recipes and they all look delicious. Also, thank you for your pre-



orders. Feel free to see any of the girls - Isabel, Willow, Adrianna, Lizzie, Emily, Louisa to place your order. They will make great Christmas gifts.

On Tuesday, November 17th, Sydney, Ezra, Ruby, John, Nicholas, Nicki, and Jack spent the day at Old Fort Western. While there, the children participated in a trading post exercise that had them speaking the language of the Abenaki Indians, as well as trading items like beaver pelts and wampum beads. After enjoying lunch by the river, the children then participated in military drills that had them walking as a company, loading

a cannon together and listening to their captain, Captain Cullen.

Don't forget, ice skating season is around the corner. If you have old skates that your children have outgrown, we will gladly add them to our collection of loaner skates. While cold weather is not on my list of favorite things, seeing children zip around the pond is high on that list.

I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We certainly all have a lot to be thankful for.

Notes from Andrea - Math

Hello everyone! The year is flying by as we approach the holiday season. Children have been working on new material and figuring out new ways to look at things. Many of the younger middle school children have been working addition with big numbers, and looking at where to put the commas in their answer and how to read it. Others have been looking at multiplication, either finding tricks that help them remember their "facts" or making multiplication charts to help them with larger multiplication problems such as 24×3 or 485×6 . Dice games as well as the "block game" help reinforce these ideas in a fun way.

Older children have been working on their division and fraction skills. These have been explored using white boards, mixed sheets, and discussions during focus groups. Some children started pre-algebra this term. They are not only learning about variables, negative numbers, and graphing equations, they are learning how to manage their time, work more collaboratively, and be more resourceful with problem solving. It is wonderful to see the children asking thoughtful questions of each other, and me and creating ways to express their ideas clearly. We use the small white boards quite a bit in order write out the steps of the problems and as a prop to help communicate ideas. Kudos to the children working hard towards the goals they set at the beginning of the year!

Notes from Benji - Science

Art week was awesome. Thanks Noah for all your hard work, and thank you to all who pitched in to make it work? It was great fun seeing parents, and a child, leading workshops.

Splash! Splash! Whoa! What 's that? Jerry and Lily (or the Jerries and Lilies), our resident mallards, are dabblers, tipping their bottoms up daintily as they feed. But last week we had some visitors that definitely were not dainty feeders. They dove, making a loud splash, and then they came back up twenty feet or so from where they went under. They had the blue speculum with white edging front and back typical of mallards, but mallards they were not. Our best guess - hybrid Mallard/Black Ducks? If anyone can add to our knowledge, please let us know!

Several science classes have participated in the tallest card structure design challenge this week, and we have all been impressed with several towering structures. We are holding out on whose was tallest until everyone has had a chance to try. But as Philip said, as his structure came crashing to the ground, "It's all about fun!" and on that count we have all succeeded!

Thank you to the Primes for their donation of a sewing machine to the science room - and to Kieran and Betsy for a birdhouse kit. Enjoy the holidays,

Notes from Todd/Liz/Lindsay - Lower School

This year is moving along quickly. It seems like it was just yesterday that the children were wearing shorts and tee shirts. Now we are reading books about Thanksgiving. We have been taking advantage of these beautiful days. The children enjoy reading outdoors and playing soccer at recess.

As the holiday season approaches we will be taking time in our reflection groups to discuss ways in which we can help the people around us. To support this effort I am encouraging the children to help fill the food donation boxes. My hope is that they will bring this up in conversation while packing lunches or during drop off.



I was working with a small group of children in the library today and realized what a joy this time can be. I sat down with a child to read a book. Today was the first day he was able to read a book on his own. His sense of pride was evident by the giant smile that overtook his face. Can you remember the first book you read without assistance? I tried but could not.

I am looking forward to this years performance, you are in for a treat. Enjoy our Thanksgiving break. Play outdoors, make music, read, dance and be well.

Notes from Angie - Photography

We have had a prolific November thus far! In photo we have been spending time looking at portraits while creating and capturing our own. The children viewed a slide show presenting varied styles and approaches to portrait photography. We examined the work of Mary Ellen Mark, Cindy Sherman, Diane Arbus, Matthew Brady and Richard Avedon to name a few. Vik Muniz, an artist and photographer from Brazil, was among the children's favorite. Muniz creates his portraits out of found objects, and often times food... one of our favorites is his re-creation of the Mona Lisa, painted out of peanut butter and jelly, and then photographed!

We have some very exciting news from photography this month! We would like to congratulate Kristy Wotton for having her photograph selected for exhibition in *Fashionably Late*, a show at Julia's Gallery for Young Artists at the Farnsworth Museum. *Fashionably Late* is a teen art exhibit that explores identity, history and culture through fashion. Kristy's photograph, a macro shot of blue shoelaces (below, left) was selected for exhibition out of over 100 submissions from all over the state! Congratulations Kristy!!!



Shoelaces



Kristy (photo by Luke Burstein)

Julia's Gallery will host an opening for *Fashionably Late* on Saturday, November 21st, from 5-7pm. The show will be on display through December 31, 2009. Julia's Gallery is located on the corner of Union and Elm Streets in Rockland.

You can read more about the show at the address below:

<http://www.farnsworthmuseum.org/exhibition/fashionably-late-0>

Julia's Gallery hours are: Wednesday through Friday, 3-5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Closed on holidays.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and have fun taking photos of your feasts and festivities!

Notes from Noah – Art

A sincere Thank you to all parents and faculty who donated their time and positive, helpful energy during Art Week. (Thank you notes will be sent out before Thanksgiving break. There is a new show up in the gallery "Land, City, and Sea scapes" As always parents are welcome and encouraged to stop in the Art Room anytime!

Jack Prime and Hunter Schade have painted a stunning Solstice picture on canvas for the upcoming Silent Auction on December 4. Be sure you view it and let the bidding begin!!!

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Notes from Bev in the office

Please bring in food to go into the Thanksgiving boxes for 3 families in need – Glenna buys the turkeys. Non perishable food such as canned goods and boxed goods (vegetables, soups, tuna, peanut butter, pasta, cereal, crackers, cookies, etc.) perishable food such as potatoes, squash, carrots, fruits, eggs, milk, pies, cakes, bread etc can be brought in on Tuesday (if needed can be put in the refrigerators in the Science/Lower School – I will check them) Thank you for helping to make a difference in these families life's.

In December we will collect new and slightly used toys /clothes/hats/mittens/coats/boots Items for parents and food for 3 families for Christmas - This is a tradition that was started 9 years ago, and prior to that children at Riley collected toys/clothes/food for my mother Thelma Marr who passed away in 2001, and was known as the “Thomaston Toy Lady” who collected and distributed to hundreds of families in need each year. She was featured on CNN, Good Morning America, Channel 6 news and received awards and recognition from many organizations and a Governor and President Reagan. Her motto was “All Smiles, No Tears” and her efforts brought many a smile to faces of children who would not have had a Christmas. Riley continues with this tradition in my mother's name, which is special to me!
It is a great feeling to help others!

The Silent Auction is an ALL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER in which every family is asked to donate an item or service to be auctioned. If you cannot think of a service to donate than go through your attic/closets/basement – I am sure everyone can find a gift they were given that just wasn't your style and you tucked it away – well donate it - donations are tax deductible and it is for a good cause – Scholarships. Auction items are listed on line – not much bidding going on yet – so be sure to send the link to all your friends and relatives, you will be doing them a favor! Give Kirsten a call or email, don't make her seek each and everyone out – it's too time consuming – help her out!!!!

Note from Cathy Caveney – Parent

Earn books for ALL ages to be used in the classroom and library at Riley School. Order now through www.barefootbooknook.com and/or visit the Barefoot Books table at the Silent Auction for cash & carry. Orders to arrive before Christmas. Each order earns more books for our children. Autographed Barefoot Books are available to bid on in the silent auction as well. If you have any questions, please call Dena at 354-0614 or send an email to BarefootBookNook@gmail.com. Thank you and have a super day

Winter Break Trip! – Barbara Boardman – Parent

We have a studio apartment in Cambridge MA conveniently located between Harvard and MIT and a quick walk to the subway system, markets and restaurants. Available for short term stays during the Riley winter break - it is perfect for an educational foray! Features include an eat-in kitchen, living/sleeping room, and one other room with a futon couch. For beds it has one double, one double futon couch, and one twin in a pull- out sofa. A three night stay is 225.00 (negotiable if you can provide your own sheets and towels and depending on number of people).

Email us for more info (incl photos) or call -Barbara 563-2177 boardman@midcoast.com

Note from Rona Spear - Parent

Rockland District High School's Just Off Broadway Players are presenting 'The Wiz' November 13th, 14, 20 and 21st at 7 o'clock, Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. on November 22nd. Many Riley Alumnus are in the play - Tickets are; Students \$6.00 and Adults \$8.00

Thought the thespians of Riley School might enjoy

Return of Wednesday Whims from Bec Waddell

The Wednesday Whims is a parent-produced school newsletter that will return after Thanksgiving Break! The purpose of the Whims is to share more of the Riley community with parents, remind of upcoming events, showcase student writing and artwork, include photographs of campus activities, and more.

Parents are urged to contribute – photographs, artwork from your child, community events you think may interest Riley families, items you have to sell, give or want . . . It would also be wonderful to have parents share some healthy, child-friendly recipes, exercise tips, articles, etc. Are you going on a trip? Have your child write about it and send it in! Emails can be sent to Bec Waddell at becw@hughes.net.

Look for the first issue on December 2nd. The plan is to email and do hardcopies that will be distributed Wednesday in your child's reflection's group. Please email Bec as soon as possible if you would prefer to save ink and paper and get your Whims by email only. They will be sent in Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf) – a free PDF reader can be downloaded at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Note from Parent Chris Burstein

- Dear Parents: Many Thanks to the 14 families that have given to the Annual Appeal so far. We still have far to go. There are still many families that haven't sent in their appeals. Please remaining parents, facilitators, family and friends, check that pile of paperwork on your desks, dig deep to feel for that generous spot and write a check! Many, many families are able to come to Riley due to tuition assistance. We all need to give so we can continue to support these families.....
Thanks so very much

After School Program at the Thompson Community Center in Union

After School programs cost is \$50 for 8 Mondays or 8 Tuesdays or 8 Thursdays

The second session began November 16 and runs to January 31, I would assume they would prorate for the missed days??? Offerings are: Monday 3:30-4:15 - Guitar 4:20-5:05 Tennis or Ballet 5:05-5:45 Tap dance or Auto basics Tuesday yoga; photography or basketball; art or martial arts

Thursday: jewelry; drama or knitting; basketball or needlework

Transportation – Luce Bus or suburban transportation from Riley to the Center can be arranged for a \$30 fee which covers the 8 days. For more information or to find out about the next session call Cassandra at 594-8526

Note from parent Amy Smereck

BRING THANKSGIVING TO THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE!

You can drop off donations for the shelter animals at the same time you put donations of food items for families in the Riley collection box. There will be a separate receptacle for the shelter. The Camden-Rockport Animal Rescue League is in particular need of dry food for kittens, adult cats, and dogs, but all pet food items are greatly appreciated. And if you want to add treats and toys, that would be wonderful as well. **THANK YOU!**



NEWS from the CAMDEN-ROCKPORT ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE.

146 Camden St., Rockport. 236-8702. www.crarl.org

KITTEN-PALOOZA! The shelter is overflowing with tiny feline bundles of fur. Adopt one kitten for \$100, and adopt a second kitten for half-price.

DONATIONS NEEDED: The shelter has not been receiving as many donations as it used to. We are in particular need of dog food, both dry and canned, and dry cat food. **THANK YOU!**

Items the shelter always needs: paper towels, paper plates, dry cat food, Purina Kitten Chow, dry & canned dog food, AA batteries for

digital camera, large kitchen garbage bags, cat litter, laundry detergent, bleach, Odo-Ban cleaner, Windex, dry & moist treats for cats & dogs, cat & dog toys, old towels & blankets.

Upcoming events that benefit the shelter:

Saturday, November 28: PET PICTURES WITH SANTA

Pictures with Santa Claus at Critter Outfitter in Camden from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your furry friends for a holiday portrait with Santa. All proceeds support the shelter cats and dogs. Call 236-8702 to make an appointment for your photo session.

Thursday, December 3: "ORNAMENTS FOR ANIMALS" Open House & Silent Auction at Prism, Rt. 1 in Rockport. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come and enjoy delicious refreshments and liquid libations and bid on items just right for holiday giving.

Notes from Kirsten Cronin - Silent Auction to Benefit Riley Annual Fund

Do you have a business or service that you have been considering donating for the Auction? Not sure what you get from it other than donating for the Scholarship Fund? Consider this a great source of advertising! With the new auction website (<http://rileyauction.primeswd.com>) your donation is being seen by hundreds of people. There is space to not just put the service or item you are donating but a little bit about your business, if you have a website there is a FREE link directly to your site.

In addition, there will be information in Village Soup, if you use Facebook you will see an event listed for the auction. At the event itself we are making signs that give a little bit of information about each donor as well. Remember also that every time one of us forwards the website link to our friends and family not only is it additional "face time" for the auction but for each and every business and service listed!

So, a few thoughts on possible donations. Are you (or is your child, or do you know a) dog walker, pet sitter, house sitter or baby sitter? Do you love to cook, bake or clean? Are you a jeweler, an

Kirsten notes continued

artist or scrap booker? Do you love to garden, weed, mow lawns, or shovel snow? Do you have a collection of children's books - Boxcar Children, Jack and Annie, Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys (in good shape and all there) that you haven't decided what to do with? Do you sew, quilt or love to decorate? If you answered yes to any of these - you have something to donate! These are just a few possibilities of ways you can help the Scholarship Fund - for someone just getting started in a business or service, what a great way to inexpensively spread the word!

If you haven't yet, please go to the website <http://rileyauction.primeswd.com> and take a look at it. Remember you can already start bidding, so if you see something you like - go for it! You can add your donation right to the website too.

Forward the website on to family and friends - I've had lots of interest from people that aren't in the area - remember a lot of things can be mailed, a lot of people come for vacation or summers too!

We need your help to make this event a success. Many of us are able to send our children to Riley because of the Scholarship Fund. If everyone donates one item, can you imagine the possibilities?

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns.

Thanks,
Kirsten
691-2675