

Riley Notes - February/March 2010

Reminders:	<i>March 10 and 31</i>	Wednesday Whims
	<i>March 24,25,26</i>	Musical Production "A Twist of the Tongue" 6:30 Theater
	<i>April 8, Thursday</i>	Special Interest Fair 6:30
	<i>April 9, Friday</i>	No School – Faculty Workshop
	<i>April 19-23</i>	Spring Vacation
	<i>April 26</i>	Back to School and Kite Week (children bring kites to school The best day for flying kites will be determined by the faculty – be ready)
	<i>May 1, Saturday</i>	Annual Riley Dinner/ Auction ALL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER
	<i>May 27, Thursday</i>	Grandparents Day – Be sure Bev has addresses
	<i>May 27, 28 Thursday/Friday</i>	Shakespeare Play 6:30 Theater
	<i>May 28, Friday</i>	No School – Faculty Workshop
	<i>May 31, Monday</i>	No School – Memorial Day

Notes from Kathryn – Head Teacher

Special Interest workshops have started and they are going very well. I asked my group to create their own time frame for finishing various components of this project. Please remember that each child in the Middle and Upper School does need to purchase a display board and bring it in to school soon. Wal Mart or Staples have these boards and the children know which ones to purchase. It's really fun and interesting to support children with their topics. Even our visiting child, Finn Grannis-Phoenix, did a "mini" project on food and learned that pancakes are the oldest prepared food! Nan is having fun learning about roller coasters and amusement parks with Riley and Milton Hershey, the founder of Hershey's chocolates, is Madeline's focus. What fun!

Mallory, Tristan, Brian, Kristy and I are reading Eugene O'Neill's play, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and find the Tyrone family to be quite interesting! Everyone takes on a character, reads aloud and has the chance to view life through the genius of O'Neill. Hunter, Teal, Jacob, Alec, Kaitlyn and Louisa were each asked to read a specific short story such as "The Fall of the House of Usher" or "Roman Fever" from our collection of American Short Stories. They will then share what they have discovered in these pieces and, hopefully entice their classmates to also read them.

Our Lower School transition children (those ready for reading and writing in the Middle School): Julia, Evie, Caitlyn, Eli and Max are now joined by Sam and Nigel who will bring their bright spirits to the Library for read aloud with me or Nan. It's wonderful having them in the Main Room.

Just a reminder, that we do not have a lost and found at Riley. Each adult Reflection leader is expected to support their children with regard to getting things home at day's end. So, if something has gone astray, please, contact the adult in your child's Reflection group.

It's unbelievable that we are now into March and spring truly begins to appear. I'm looking forward to classes outdoors once again and watching the world wake up from its winter sleep.

My days are better because I spend them with loving and thoughtful children. Thank you, again, for sharing them with me and Dudley.

Notes from Angie - Photography

This month, we have been learning about Mixed Media Photography. Children have enjoyed looking at the work of artists that mix photography with paint, printmaking and other media. Artists we've looked at include Andy Warhol, David Hockney, John Baldessari and Robert Rauschenburg. We discovered a new favorite too, Lisa Kokin, who creates sculptural objects by stitching together photographs she finds at yard sales! Emma, Martha, Ruby, Isabel C., Fiona and Lizzy have particularly enjoyed incorporating various media with their photographic images to create unique pieces of art. I can't wait to see more as the weeks progress. Isabel Crane's piece, below left, incorporates pinhole & found photos, with hand coloring, paint, fabric, pastel and press-on letters. Nathan, below right, shows his mixed media collage, in which he gave old film a new life!



We would like to welcome Noah Kleiner to Riley. Noah is interning in the photo room on Wednesdays throughout March, during his final semester of school at the College of Atlantic. The children continue to work away capturing yearbook portraits, and have only a few left! They have done an impressive job considering light, composition, angle and background while capturing images. I enjoyed having my yearbook photo taken by both Nathan and Cecile – they did a wonderful job making me feel at ease in front of the camera, especially since I prefer to be behind the lens! I loved watching Willow, Julius and Preston combine their comedy with their photography skills (to guarantee smiles!) as they captured portraits of Lower School Children! The children are off to a strong start on the project. I hope you all have a healthy and happy vacation!

Note from Amy Mitchell – Devin Guphill's mom

Do you have some muscles from winter sports, are you feeling stressed or do you just need a relaxing break from daily life? Massage can help. I have been providing massage in the mid coast area for several years and have recently joined Balance Massage Studio in Rockland for Sunday appointments. Come and enjoy the benefits of therapeutic massage at 25% off a one-hour session for new clients. For more information or to make an appointment call 596-3537 or send an email to danandamyg@gwi.net. I am also open to doing trades. Thank you (I purchased this at the Silent Auction – Amy is very good - DEEEEEEP Massage) Bev Camden Rockport Little League 2010 Registration Has Begun.

Notes from Sarah - Round Room

It is very hard to believe that March is already here. Winter Festival was a great example of how children make the best out of a less than perfect situation. Faced with little snow on campus, children who stayed on campus for the day still had a great time sledding, skating, painting in the small patches of snow and dancing. Thank you to Rona and Liz for joining me at Glenna's for sledding. I couldn't have pushed or caught the children alone!

Children in the Round Room have been participating in many different activities. Emma and Sydney worked hard putting together an Olympic Medal Count map. They were responsible for labeling all twenty-six medal winning countries and placing the correct number of medal on the map. It was fun listening to all their Olympic discussions as they worked.

Emily Quinn, Lizzie, Willow, Isabel Crane, Louisa Crane and Adrianna are working on their Washington, DC research project. Children are currently researching people who have monuments in their honor in the city. When the information is gathered and the papers are written, children will be putting the information into a travel guide that will accompany us on our trip. Did you know that Thomas Jefferson kept a mockingbird in his office to keep him company? Just one of the interesting facts the girls have found.

Upper School Literature classes have been working on descriptive writing. After reading the essay "Subway Station," children were each given a space on campus to observe and write about. Here is Lizzie's piece:

I sat alone in the science room loft, exploring. There was a ladder leading up to it, and steps leading up to another platform about three feet above it. A dusty telescope sat in the corner, books and magazines were neatly shelved, while games lay stacked in messy piles against the railing. I went up to the raised platform and stood on a pillow to look out the high up windows, obviously placed there to look at the sky. I looked down the sloped roof at a few trees and a circular driveway with two cars parked in front. I came back down and noticed a dirty rug, a marker and two rocks appearing to have no purpose. On the lower platform a lawn chair sat next to a table with a wood surface and shiny forest green painted legs with some paint chipping off. The white ceiling looked like it had been brushed in swirling patterns. It was then that I noticed something a bit odd. A metal hook hung from the ceiling with an old piece of string around it but it didn't look like anyone could read it, as it was about two feet from the loft railing, and the science room has an unusually high ceiling. Going over to the railing I realized how big the science room really is. I stepped away and looked around again and noticed that the walls were cracked and stained. I leaned over the green table and realized that a piece of wood had partially fallen off. I touched it and it fell completely off. I reattached it and thought, this table's legs were quite rickety. I walked up again to the second platform and noticed pieces of foam splattered with blue paint, and one with a shark painted on it.

All together, it was not a neat place, but it served its purpose well. It looked like a private school science room loft. And, it was, and it probably will be for a long time.

Gen and Jesse facilitated their History class this week. It was great learning about the Constitution and Valley Forge from two prepared experts. I look forward to the rest of the presentations that will follow.

What do Ethan Frome, Boo Radley, The Giver and Dacey Tillerman have in common? They are all main characters in novels being read in the Round Room and have been the topics of many essays and discussions. As always, it is a pleasure reading with your children and listening to what they have to say about what they are reading.

Please remember at pickup to park on the right hand side. If you park on the right, cars can't get by to leave. This is especially important on Fridays when faculty members are returning to campus and need to get to the front to drop off children. Thank you. Here is to March entering like a big wet lion and leaving like a lamb.

Notes from Todd – Lower School

The Lower School is working on a number of different projects. The children have been making planets out of paper mache. The ceiling of the Lower School has been transformed into our own planetarium. This has spawned a number of conversations about space exploration, meteors, rockets and constellations.

We have learned in the last week that with rain comes big rapids. The children have been busy making boats to float down the stream. We have used Popsicle sticks, Styrofoam trays, bubble wrap and anything else we could find. This process has led to a number of discussions about boat building, flooding and what makes rapids. We went to explore the stream in the woods and everyone was shocked at how high the water was. We spent time sailing boats, having races and measuring the distance our boats traveled. A few boats got caught in a strong current, so fast that we could not catch them. They went through the culvert and out to sea. We took a walk over to the Cove but the boats were nowhere to be found. We did find a lot of debris that washed up on the beach.

I would like to thank all of the very understanding Lower School parents. There have been many days when children go home with wet clothes, muddy pants and soaked socks. All of this is a result of hands on learning! It is tough to resist large puddles, sink mud and streams.

Over heard by a seven year old. We were reading a book about knights. There was a picture of a knight swinging a giant sword. Imagine my amusement when a child said, "take a look at that picture. He is brandishing a huge sword". What great use of vocabulary.

Notes from Joan - Music

Singing classes are working toward our May 7 concert. Selections will include tunes made famous from classic Johnny Cash and Frank Sinatra, to Bobby McFerrin and Kool and the Gang. Please check your calendars for that evening date and set it aside.

Bill Moseley has graciously agreed to record the Chamber Singers this year at UMA Audio in Augusta this year. Our annual pilgrimage to produce a CD will start in early April. I am always appreciative of his professional gifts, and the Chamber Singers always have an amazing experience.

We are less than a month away from the opening night of "A Twist of the Tongue," the musical for the spring. Check your calendars for the show dates. The show is a whirlwind of ten song and dance numbers, strung together by a plot that is based on a tongue twisting tournament. Fasten your seatbelts for a fast and furious show! I will be sending some information home about costumes. Because the story is set in a present day school, the costuming needs are simple, and certainly we will work with what is already in your closets!

Let me take a moment to thank Cortney Simmons and Mallory Simaitis for their work doing choreography for this show. There are many more musical numbers in this show than in any other Riley has produced, and the amount of work needed to design and rehearse the dances is huge. Each of them also conducts the rehearsals for the dancers. They are professional, competent, and patient teachers working with eager students.

As our choral warm-up states, music is fun, fun, fun!

Notes from parent Suzanne Schecter

Teeball, Minor Softball, Lower Minor Baseball, Upper Minor Baseball,
Major League Baseball and Major League Softball <http://crl.sportsoffice.com>

Registration is ON-LINE only. Visit our new website for description of league levels, league fees, CRL news, schedules and to register.

Whether you are a returning player for Major League Levels OR trying out for a Major League team the Deadline to Register is March 21st Major League Tryouts @ CRMS gym Saturday, March 27th Deadline to register for all other levels is April 10th

Once again CRL in connection with Pen Bay YMCA will hold a Winter Baseball/Softball Clinic beginning March 1st - Contact the YMCA for dates and times and to register

Notes from Stefanie-Drama

Congratulations to the entire cast of Pieces of Cake! Such hard-working buccaneers! And thanks to all the parents and friends who came out to support them, even with the added hiccup of weather. As mentioned at the show, there will be a DVD of the play available for purchase. If you are interested, please send in \$10 with your child by March 12. Cash is fine, or checks can be made out to Dan Miller, the gentleman creating the DVD's.

Now that the pirates have turned in their swords, they will start work on small group projects. Taking short scripts, they will get a chance to focus whichever element of the theater interests them: some want to try their hand at directing, others want to work with costumes, or sets, and some want to continue to build their stage skills. I even have a child who is developing his vocal talents by doing a sound recording. I can't wait to see the finished products.

Upper and middle school children in the Monday classed will be getting their dramatic monologues in another week or so and will be working hard on those. Some of the older lower school children have also received a monologue, a short comedic one, and are excited to have their own project to work on. In the meantime, we're all looking forward to putting our energies into the upcoming Spring Musical, A Twist of the Tongue!

Notes from Andrea - Math

What crazy weather we have been having! We went bowling last week with the skiers and riders due to conditions and had a great time. It is up to mother nature whether the Snowbowl will stay open or not. Thank you to all of the people who volunteered their time to drive. We could not do it without your help!

In the math room, children have been exploring new topics. Younger children have been working on borrowing and division, and others have been working money. Other children have been exploring fractions and order of operations. Many older children have been working on completing their "checklist" of skills to broaden their understanding of the variety of topics out there. In pre-algebra, children have been investigating properties of exponents, linear equations, and three dimensional geometry. It has been great seeing how much the children have done since the beginning of the year.

The graduates and I are heading to Sunday River March 10-12 for their trip. We are very excited and are getting the last details in order. Thank-you Ginny Savage for volunteering to be a chaperone on the trip. I want to also thank Rona and Kathy for working the children while I am away on the trip. I truly appreciate all the assistance that Kathy and Rona have provided, these ladies are the best! Enjoy March and think snow....

From Angie – on a personal note

This winter, my father was approached by a local gallery to show his photography. He suggested our family take the opportunity to do a group exhibit. Between my parents, both artists, my sister (who is about to complete her BFA) and myself, we will be exhibiting photography, printmaking, sculpture, painting and pottery. We'd love to extend an invite to all. Please join us at the mid-show reception on March 13th from 5-7 pm!



TIDEMARK GALLERY

902 Main St., PO Box 374, Waldoboro, Maine 04572 - 207-832-5109

Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Pottery

Wednesday, **March 3** through Saturday **March 27**
Artists' Reception: Saturday, **March 13**, from 5 to 7 PM

PARENTWORKS OFFERS SIX-WEEK COURSE:

"WHAT OUR CHILDREN NEED US TO KNOW"

ParentWorks is a non-profit organization based in Knox County that provides monthly parenting education classes to families experiencing separation and divorce. These classes have run successfully for over a decade.

In answer to frequent requests for a more in-depth parenting class, Parent Works has developed a six-week course entitled, "What Our Children Need Us To Know." The purpose of the course is to educate participants in responsible communication between family members. This course would be appropriate for parents experiencing separation and divorce, as well as for parents in intact families during times of stress and otherwise. ParentWorks hopes that parents will feel free to bring their children. Dinner will be provided for participants and family members. During the class time childcare will be available.

The six-week course will be held on Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, 2010, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Rockland. There is no cost for this course, but attendance on all six Mondays is expected.

The curriculum will include instruction in the language and vocabulary of expressing thought and feeling, recognizing the difference, and identifying the difference between controlling one's own actions and those of others. Emphasis will be placed on developing age-appropriate listening, communication, and coping skills, especially suited to times of stress or crisis. Reservations for the course may be made by calling ParentWorks at 596-0014 or emailing the organization at pworks@midcoast.com.

Girls' Conference 2010: Finding YOUR Way!

Where: Point Look Out in Lincolnville When: Friday, April 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Who: Middle school girls have their program. High school girls have THEIR OWN programs!

And yes, by popular request, there will be a full day of programs for adults who attend.

Cost: \$10 for girls. Scholarships are available. \$20 for adults.

Transportation: Two busses will transport many of the attendees coming from the south and the north, free of charge. Overnight accommodations are available. Please contact us if you are interested in staying overnight. How does one sign up? Registration materials will become available on our web site: www.mainelygirls.org. You can also call us at 230-0170 for more information.

Boys' Night Out - for boys in grades 3,4,5 their dads, uncles, grandfathers, or other male role models - Food – Facts – Fun – Thursdays March 11, 18, 25 Penobscot Bay YMCA 6 – 8 p.m. It's Free! Supper included! To register Contact: Nancy Laite at 594-5440 ext 2 or nllaite2@myfairpoint.net - Program presented by Connections - Developing healthy male roles through non-competitive games, discussion and activities.

Notes from Bev – Office

Many contracts have been sent – I cannot stress it enough to please sign and return your contract upon receipt – regardless when your deposit is due. If anyone has questions or concerns about their contract, please call or email me. If your child will not be returning to Riley or you are unsure, please contact the office – In order for Riley to plan effectively for next year we must have an enrollment number for Lower, Middle and Upper schools. **It would be totally helpful if EVERY parent would email or call me with YES OR NO on their child returning - this will help me get a correct number now so we will know how many new children we can enroll without exceeding our limit.**

Scholarship applications are due – please get your applications in with supporting materials, if your tax papers are going to be delayed, please call the office for and we can figure it out. All scholarship contracts (with exception of incoming children) are to be out in March – with return dates by April 15.

I am still collecting ink cartridges for recycling, they can be dropped off at the office or put in the metal “mail” basket that sits on the chair on the front porch at the House. Thank you to those who have donated these. I am also, still in need of good working computers and/or Game sets like Play Station or Atari, etc with games - These go to disabled and/or elderly people – playing games give them more to do than watch television and helps keep their mind active and alert.

The purpose of Riley Notes is “communication” to inform parents of what goes on at Riley – what their children are doing in different classes – reminders of up coming events/happenings at Riley – outside of Riley community services/events – requests – a visibility tool for parents to publicize “sell, buy, trade” their services/items.

Note from Glenna –

Mark your calendar – May 1st Riley will be holding its annual ALL school Dinner/Live Auction Fundraiser for Scholarships. Kirsten Cronin will, once again, head this important fundraiser and will need help. ALL School Fundraiser means ALL Parents, Faculty, Staff, Board are requested to participate in some way, either by donating, soliciting donations, Head a table, set up, decorate, clean up, etc, etc. If everyone pulls together we can all make this a huge success.

Notes from Noah – Art

Art work continues to prolifically fill the Gallery and Portfolios of Riley artists. A sincere thank you to Laura Jones, Brian's older sister who shared her drawing talent with Studio Artists in the beginning of the 2nd term. Her caring instruction and energy facilitated many beautifully drawn graphite people drawings made by Riley children.

Make a point of stopping by the Gallery in the Arts Building to enjoy the mixed media exhibit hanging through March. Both art and photography are on display.

Congratulations to Leo Washburn, Kristy Wotton and Lulu McClure as they have Art Work hanging in the State of Maine Capital Buildings. These Riley artists will be honored by the 1st Lady on Tuesday, March 30th in Augusta.

Artwork for the Federal Duck Stamp competition is under way and art will be mailed by March 15. Who knows... one proud Riley parent and child may be heading to D.C. with \$5,000 cash in pocket for grand prize ceremony at the Nation's Capital if a Riley Duck Stamp is chosen

Duck decoys are being made by Riley children and will be displayed at the Ducktrap Bay Carving Co in Camden in May (Date / time will be announced later) If anyone has any nice scrap wood 2x 6 is most desired - laying around and want to be rid of it , please bring it to the Art Room. A few will be chosen for Auction.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS: Win a gift certificate for art supplies and get out an important message by participating in a Bug Poster Contest. Most bugs, by far, are our friends by pollinating (like bees), eating mosquitoes and aphids (like dragonflies and ladybugs), and creating healthier soil for tasty things to grow (like worms). Illustrate the theme "Bugs Make Good Buds", with color on a regular size piece of paper, write your grade and contact information on the back, and submit to the Riley School secretary or art teacher by **APRIL 5**. Winning artists from different grade levels will receive gift certificates to Rockport Blueprint, with a value of up to \$50, and the winning entries will be displayed at the Green Fair at Plants Unlimited in Rockport on April 17. This contest is opened to all young people, aged kindergarten through high school, and is sponsored by Citizens from a Green Camden, which promotes healthy lawns and discourages the use of dangerous lawn chemicals for cosmetic purposes.

SING, PLAY & LEARN FRENCH

8 Mondays, 9-9:45 AM, starts March 15 at Penobscot School in Rockland.

A class combining music, play and movement for young children, ages 8 mos-5 years, and their parents. French will be taught via games, traditional French songs, puppets and movement. Instructor is Margot Stiassni-Sieracki, M.A. French, Stanford, who has 13 years experience teaching languages through rhythm and song to children and adults in Vermont and Maine. Fee: \$75. Scholarships available. Penobscot School is located at 28 Gay St, in Rockland's north end.

FMI: 594-1084; www.languagelearning.org

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Free demonstration classes with Madame Margot at area libraries:

Rockland Public Library: THU, MAR 3, 10:30 AM.

Thomaston Public Library, on SAT. MAR 27, 1 PM

-in the childrens' room-

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Kelly Zeiner

&TOWN
COUNTRY,
REALTORS®

Office: (207) 236-4777
Cell: (207) 542-9851
Fax: (207) 236-3132
E-Mail: kellyz@midcoast.com
Website: www.tcreal.com
Website: www.kellyzeiner.com
66 Elm Street, Route 1
Camden, ME 04843



If you or someone you know is thinking of buying/Selling – Give me call!