

## Annual Riverside Events



**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE DAY (August)** provides rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders with introductory leadership training and time to organize some of the logistics of the first week of school.

**NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION (August)** gives new families an opportunity to meet each other, familiarize themselves with the campus, and to learn about the routines of the school day, week, and year.

**ALL SCHOOL BRUNCH (September)** is the official welcoming of the whole community to the academic year. We share a potluck lunch, hear the Head of School introduce faculty and outline goals for the year, and organize volunteers for various school projects.

**FALL FIELD TRIP (September)** is an all-school adventure over two nights. We usually rent a facility that can host us all and we encourage parents to attend for at least part of the trip. Students help to prepare meals and experiencing learning challenges together.

**GLOBAL FAIR (October)** is the culmination of major geography projects that are researched and presented by 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in social studies classes. The day involves setting up displays, presenting learning to judges, sharing international foods in a community potluck, representing countries in a simulated United Nations summit, and an awards ceremony.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY (November)** is organized by Student Council in conjunction with faculty and allows our students to put their time and energy into efforts that interest them and improve the community resources around them. Work like preparing food at a homeless shelter, visiting with the elderly and disabled, and advertising for a clothing donation organization are framed with thematic introductory and debriefing activities as a whole school.

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY (November)** falls just after the Thanksgiving vacation in hopes that extended family will still be in the area. Inviting grandparents to spend the day with students at school provides allows them to learn about Riverside and for us to welcome new friends of our School.

**WINTER CONCERT (December)** is a celebration of what our students have learned in music classes. The concert includes performances by grade-level music classes, the chorus, and the band. Students are involved in selecting pieces to perform or the planning of the event's theme and often show off their talents with solos and duets.

**MYTHOLOGY DAY (December)** is a festival of classical studies. Students prepare costumes and presentations on a particular god/goddess, participate in lessons taught by 8<sup>th</sup> graders about different aspects of classical culture, and share gifts with each other.

**WINTER CARNIVAL (February)** is a collaborative challenge for students, who have been working together in daily clean up teams all year, to compete in group efforts like snow fort building, tug-of-war, and snowshoe relays.

**PLAY WEEK (March)** is the time when we work carefully together on the production elements of our all school play. We depart from academic classes while students work on set construction, costume collection, prop development, choreography, advertising and full rehearsals. Performances are Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

**LATIN DAY (April)** is a state-wide Latin competition organized by the Classics Department at the University of Vermont. Typically the only middle school in attendance, our 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders compete in history and grammar tests, thematic projects, and dramatic skits.

**SPRING CLEAN UP (May)** is a community effort to spruce up our campus in conjunction with Vermont's Green Up Day. Families bring tools and a helpful attitude to wash windows, complete minor repairs, care for our gardens, touch up paint and rake gravel.

**SPRING CELEBRATION (May)** is a celebration of what our students have learned in art and music classes. Much like the Winter Concert, students show off their efforts through musical performances. The best of student art is on display as well.

**SPRING FIELD TRIP (May)** is a two-night expedition to an exciting destination. We embark together on a trip to explore the attractions and learning opportunities in a place like Montreal, Boston, Cape Cod or Portland, ME.

**GRADUATION (June)** is an official school day that celebrates the efforts of all of our students during the school year and especially those of our graduating class. Speeches, awards and musical performances comprise a ceremony in the cedar circle followed by a community potluck lunch.