From the Superintendent . . .

With Memorial Day fast approaching, the 2016/17 school year will soon come to a close and our students will be on summer break. The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2017 will be held on Friday June 9th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Gymnasium. The valedictorian for this year’s graduating class is Chloe Naumann, and the salutatorian is Mason Derkacy. All community members are invited to attend this event to celebrate the achievements of our graduating seniors.

Congratulations and thank you to Paula Donner, Paul Goodman and Cynthia Knuth who will be retiring from River Valley Schools in June. Our retirees have a combined 75 years of experience at River Valley.

Congratulations to our newest inductees in the National Honor Society—Joshua Clark, Teya Haughey, Dalayna Morrow, Jessie Rieth and Madison Vollman. There are now 23 members in the River Valley chapter of NHS.

The 2017/18 school calendar appears on page 7 of this newsletter. Some changes have been made to the format of parent/teacher conferences for next year. Instead of two days of evening conferences in October and February, each building will have a separate date for evening parent/teacher conferences in October and February. Additionally, there will be a day of afternoon conferences (11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) for all buildings during each of the conferences. A schedule of the 2017/18 parent/teacher conferences can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Next school year, we will also be changing the manner in which our preschool program operates. Beginning with the 2017/18 school year, River Valley will not participate in the state-funded Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). While GSRP is a fine program, enrollment was limited to students who met the eligibility requirements. By running our own preschool program all River Valley families can participate in the program, and we will be able to focus on kindergarten readiness.

Thank you to all of the community members who attended one of our Community Lunch Programs this year. We are planning to hold our Community Lunch Programs again next year during the months of September, October, November, March, April and May. Our community calendar will be published again next school year, and will be mailed out to all postal patrons in August. Thank you to all community members who have supported this project by advertising in the calendar.

Finally, thank you to all community members who served on a district or school committee this year. Your contribution to improve student learning is valuable and appreciated. As always, if you have any ideas, thoughts, questions, or concerns please contact me at 269-756-7675.

William J. Kearney

May 2017 Issue

Class of 2017

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2017 will take place on Friday June 9th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Gymnasium. This year, the River Valley community will celebrate the graduation of 32 students.

The Valedictorian for this year’s graduating class is Chloe Naumann (pictured right), and the Salutatorian is Mason Derkacy (pictured left).

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their parents for their achievements.
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM

The last Community Lunch Program for the school year will be on Thursday May 25th starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Middle/High School. The cost of the lunch is only $2.00. The program will include this year’s top graduating seniors, and the principal and superintendent will also provide updates.

The Community Lunch Program will continue during the 2017/18 school year, and will be held six times during the year in the following months: September, October, November, March, April and May.

For more information, contact Will Kearney at 269-756-7675.

River Valley 3rd graders were treated to a trip to Shuler’s Dairy Farm in April. They learned about where milk comes from and the process that goes into it. Thank you to The Pokagon Fund for funding this trip for our students.

Submitted by Terry Bronson

Congratulations to River Valley Preschool teacher Rose Montie for being awarded a $500 grant from the Berrien Community Foundation. The grant will be used to establish a preschool garden at Three Oaks Elementary. Pictured with Rose is Susan from the Berrien Community Foundation.

ADVERTISERS NEEDED FOR THE 2017/18 RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We are beginning to compile our annual community calendar. This brightly colored, eye-catching calendar lists all important school functions and days to remember from September through August. Calendars will be distributed to all River Valley parents and community members in August 2017. River Valley stakeholders can support this endeavor by placing a full color ad in the calendar, and getting your message out to the entire River Valley Community.

- Ad on a month page 12 available $150.00
- Ad on extended cover Only 1 available $1,000.00

For more information, contact Will Kearney at 269-756-7675 or wkearney@rivervalleyschools.org.

Community Calendar Coming in August
The River Valley School District Community Calendar will be published again this year, and will be mailed out in August. Thank you to the community members who supported this project by advertising in the calendar.
“EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS” CONFERENCE
On Saturday April 29th, twenty-four middle school students attended the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference at the University of Notre Dame. This day-long event includes hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). At the conference, our girls had an opportunity to meet STEM role models and learn more about careers in those fields. The ultimate goal of the conference is to motivate girls to become innovative and creative thinkers ready to meet 21st century challenges.

Submitted by Pam Kaniuga

Facility Use
Our District facilities are available for use by community groups for meetings and other events. In many instances, the use of District facilities is available for little or no cost. For more information, please contact the office of the school building that you would like to use.

FIRST GRADERS VISIT LINCOLN PARK ZOO
River Valley’s 1st graders enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the Lincoln Park Zoo on Wednesday April 26th. They created tie dye shirts as a class project and they wore them on their field trip. A big thank you to The Pokagon Fund for funding this memorable trip to the zoo.

Submitted by Terry Bronson
BAND TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD
The Marching Mustangs had a musical and memorable spring break at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Included in the trip was a Disney professional leading a concert band workshop to give the experience of what it is like to be a professional musician. The band worked for only two hours on music from the movie *Aladdin*, before it was recorded behind scenes from the movie. The next day the band experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity when they marched in a parade through Disney World’s Magic Kingdom. The band also visited all four Disney World parks, went on rides, enjoyed a Blue Man Group performance at Universal Studios and made countless memories. While in Florida, the Marching Mustangs represented River Valley in the highest regard and took tremendous pride in their community, school and themselves. The band would like to thank the River Valley School Board, administration and community for their support to make this trip happen.

Submitted by Mary Lynn Edwards

BAND CAMP IN AUGUST
The River Valley Marching Band Camp will take place from Wednesday August 2nd through Saturday August 5th this year. The band show will take place on the football field at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday August 5th.

2017/18 Athletic Physicals
The Southwest Medical Clinic will be offering athletic physicals for the 2017/18 school year on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. They will be held at River Valley Middle/High School beginning at 8:00 a.m. The physicals will be done during the school day. The physical would include all sports for next school year. In order to participate in a sport or to begin practice your child MUST have a physical and your insurance information must also be on file.

Advance registration with required pre-payment is going on now in the RVMHS library. The cost is only $30. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks should be made payable to: Lakeland Medical Practices (LMP), and the student’s name is to be written in the memo line. Take advantage of this option as it allows you to know that your child will be all set to begin their sport for next school year.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Linda Flick at 269-756-9541, extension 1139.
CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF MEMBERS WHO WILLING BE RETIRING IN JUNE.

Paula Donner  
Second Grade Teacher  
26 years

Paul Goodman  
MHS Guidance Counselor  
34 years

Cynthia Knuth  
Elementary Teacher Assistant  
15 years

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Listed below are updates from the March and April District School Improvement Team meetings:

**Elementary School Buildings**

- Nutrition lessons are being conducted in all classrooms, and these have been popular with students and staff.
- Some classroom are participating in the Red Cross Pillowcase project which focuses on emergency awareness.
- Elementary teachers returning from conferences have implemented some of the strategies that they learned at the conferences.
- The bottom 30% analysis didn't reveal any surprises. Since M-STEP data was limited to two grade levels, the report included additional assessment data.
- Grade level teams are working with Berrien RESA staff to unpack and map English Language Arts standards.
- Preschool roundup registered 14 preschoolers for next year. It was mentioned that families are excited that we will be running our own preschool program next year rather than GSRP.

**Middle/High School Building**

- Departments are working to identify their reporting (power) standards.
- Grade level action plans for students have been beneficial. They will work on better identifying whether a specific intervention has been helpful.
- MHS staff returning from conferences have already implemented some new ideas in their classrooms.
- The bottom 30% analysis provided some interesting findings as they were surprised to see some students in that category that they didn't expect.
- Forty-two students will be taking the Advanced Placement exams.
- Eight students were selected for the Whirlpool Art Show, and five students were inducted into the National Honor Society.

**Other Discussion Topics:**

- The District Improvement Plan and District Systems Review report was reviewed and updated.
- There was discussion about starting an “Alumni Hall of Distinction” to recognize the accomplishments of River Valley alumni after they graduated from high school.
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

On April 30th, the Phoebus Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted five new members. Candidates are initially considered according to their grade point average, the scholarship cornerstone of NHS. River Valley requires a 3.60 GPA. The average national requirement is 3.50. The cornerstones of leadership, character and service are evaluated by the candidates’ teachers and by someone in the community. The candidates must also compose an essay explaining why they should be considered to be a member of the National Honor Society. The River Valley chapter currently has 23 members (8 seniors, 11 juniors and 4 sophomores). Along with earning excellent grades, our members are active in varsity sports, graphic arts, performing arts and in Student Congress.

Congratulations to our new NHS members!

Submitted by Pam Kaniuga

Preschool teacher Rose Montie was recently the recipient of a MEEMIC grant that provided her with $500 to spend at Office Depot. Pictured with Rose is MEEMIC agent Dean Hagen and Elementary Principal Heidi Clark.

Berrien County Science Olympiad Competition at Lake Michigan College

2017/18 School Calendar Changes

The school calendar for the 2017/18 school year appears on the opposite page (page 7). Please note that some changes have been made to the format of parent/teacher conferences for next year. For next year, parent/teacher conferences will be held as follows:

- October 3—Three Oaks 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- October 4—Chikaming 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- October 5—All Buildings 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- October 5—MHS 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- February 20—Chikaming 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- February 21—MHS 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- February 22—All Buildings 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- February 22—Three Oaks 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
## RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
### 2017-2018 Staff Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Staff Report</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>All Staff Report</td>
<td>24, 25, 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29, 30, 31</td>
<td>Staff Professional Development</td>
<td>Full Day for Staff – End of 1st Semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Staff – Labor Day Weekend</td>
<td>Early Dismissal for Teacher Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No Staff – Labor Day</td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (Chikaming)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>First Day – ½ Day for Students</td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (MHS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ Day for Staff Planning</td>
<td>½ Day for Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Early Dismissal for Teacher Training</td>
<td>Parent Conferences 11:30-3:00 (All Buildings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (Chikaming)</td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (Three Oaks)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ Day for Students</td>
<td>½ Day for Students/Staff</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (Three Oaks)</td>
<td>Early Dismissal for Teacher Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (Chikaming)</td>
<td>End of 3rd Marking Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>½ Day for Students</td>
<td>½ Day for Students/Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Conferences 11:30-3:00 (All Buildings)</td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (MHS)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evening Parent Conferences (MHS)</td>
<td>½ Day for Students/Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>½ Day for Students/Staff</td>
<td>½ Day for Students/Staff</td>
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<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>End of 1st Marking Period</td>
<td>No School – Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ Day for Students</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ Day for Staff Planning</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Early Dismissal for Teacher Training</td>
<td>2 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22, 23, 24</td>
<td>No School – Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>No School – Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>No School – Holiday Break Begins</td>
<td>No School – Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>June</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ Day for Students K-12 (MHS Exams)</td>
<td>Full Day for Staff – End of 2nd Semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Full Days
- **Chikaming** K-2: 7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.
- **Three Oaks** 3-5: 7:55 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
- **MHS** 6-12: 7:50 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

### Half Days
- 7:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
- 7:55 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.
- 7:50 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

### Early Dismissal
- 7:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- 7:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.
- 7:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
“Home of the Mustangs”

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.rivervalleyschools.org

Main Number: (269) 756-9541
Chikaming Elementary: (269) 426-4204
Three Oaks Elementary: (269) 756-9050
Middle/High School: (269) 756-7872

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Notice of Nondiscrimination
The River Valley School District Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, “Protected Classes”), in its educational programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The following individuals are designated as the District’s Compliance Officers: Mrs. Heidi Clark, Elementary Principal or Mr. Patrick Breen, Middle/High School Principal, 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, MI 49128, 269-756-9541.

Upcoming Dates:

- May 13: Elementary Super Saturday—Three Oaks
- May 17: Spring Choir Concert—MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- May 22: School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- May 23: MS Oration Contest—MHS Library 6:00 p.m.
- May 25: Community Lunch Program—MHS 1:00 p.m.
- May 29: No school—Memorial Day
- May 31: Senior Awards Night—MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- June 1: Last day for Pre-Schoolers
- June 2: Seniors Last Full Day of Classes
- June 4: Baccalaureate Ceremony—MHS Auditorium 4:00 p.m.
- June 6: MS Awards Night—MHS Auditorium 6:00 p.m.
- June 7: HS Underclass Awards Night—MHS Auditorium 6:00 p.m.
- June 9: Class of 2017 Graduation Ceremony—MHS Gymnasium 7:00 p.m.
- June 11: Flag Day Parade 3:00 p.m.
- June 12: Half day of school for students (MHS Exams)
- June 13: RV Challenge at Chikaming
- June 14: Half day of school for students (MHS Exams)
- Last day of school
- June 26: School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- July 10: Elementary Summer School begins
- July 24: School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- August 2: Band Camp begins
- August 5: Band Camp ends
- Band Camp Show—Football Field 5:30 p.m.
- August 10: Elementary Summer School ends
- August 28: School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m.
- September 5: First day of school—Half day for students

“Like us” on Facebook to stay updated on the various events and happenings of our district.

SCHOOL VISITORS
Parents and community members are encouraged to visit our schools. During the school day, please enter at the front entrance of the building. All other doors are locked to maintain a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ON THE RADIO
River Valley School District Board of Education meetings are recorded and broadcast over WRHC 106.7 LFPM. The scheduled broadcast times are Mondays at 10:00 a.m.