



## E-Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020

### [Message from the Superintendent](#)

Dear River Vale Education Community:

Hope you and your families continue to be well at this time. While COVID-19 has been a challenge for all schools, we have found a way for students to remain connected to annual events and participate in related activities to commemorate special weeks during the past month including Week of Respect, Violence Awareness Week, Fire Prevention Week and Halloween.



Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.

Similarly, staff continue to expand their horizons as new programs and new mandates find their way into our curriculum. Professional Development for staff was a virtual event this year. In this newsletter, you will find a brief article that captures a glimpse into the events of the day.

I also want to remind you that we continue to take our responsibilities seriously with regard to keeping students and staff safe. We are working closely with the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission and the NJ Department of Education in monitoring up-to-date information and guidance with regard to COVID-19. While school closures are disruptive to all, I am also grateful to have the support of experts in the field who are ensuring that we have the latest available information and resources to help guide our decisions.

As a reminder should your child be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or you have traveled out-of-state, please inform your school principal or nurse immediately. We will work closely with you to maintain confidentiality and to help keep everyone safe.

Stay well and enjoy the fall colors!  
Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

### [District Professional Development Day](#)

On October 12th, all staff engaged in meaningful professional development differentiated for their content and/or grade level. All elementary teachers and the Holdrum Middle School Language Arts Department convened with our literacy consultant, Shelly Klein, and discussed best practices, digital reading and writing notebooks, and ways to reach all learners, whether in-person or remote. Additionally, all elementary teachers and the Holdrum Middle School Math Department engaged in professional development with our *Big Ideas* consultant. *Big Ideas* is the math series that the River Vale School District is currently piloting and will be implementing during the 2021-2022 school year. As recently stated, *Big Ideas* was developed with the Standards for Mathematical Practice as its foundation and clearly balances procedural fluency with conceptual understanding, which directly aligns to our regionally-developed curriculum. This program strongly emphasizes problem solving skills, which allows students ample time to become comfortable with the process of problem solving and apply their understanding to real life situations.

Staff also had the opportunity to work with our own Andrew Eisler and Alyssa Merritt, our new Regional Curriculum Coordinator, on the Google add-on, Pear Deck. Teachers were able to sign up for beginner or advanced training sessions to best meet their instructional needs. Pear Deck is an instructional tool that allows teachers to engage students in learning by making Google Slide presentations interactive. Each student is able to interact with the material, which provides teachers with the formative assessment data to help facilitate student learning. Staff also had time to explore new features released through Google Meet, such as Breakout Rooms, Polls, and Q&A.

Regional meetings were created to allow time for our staff to work collaboratively with their colleagues

in Hillsdale, Montvale, and Woodcliff Lake. Articulation meetings were also scheduled for speech therapists, school nurses, guidance counselors, and the following groups of teachers: pre-school, media, art, music, world language and physical education.

Lastly, the RULER implementation team met with their coach to discuss the roll-out process in River Vale. RULER is the district's new research-based social and emotional learning program in coordination with Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence.

The professional development day consisted of valuable trainings to support staff in all instructional settings.

## REMINDERS

- Governor Murphy's Executive Order 177 declared Election Day, Tuesday, November 3 an all-remote day for all schools throughout the state.
- The school district will be closed November 5-6 for NJEA Teachers Convention.
- The school district is also closed November 26-27 for the Thanksgiving recess.

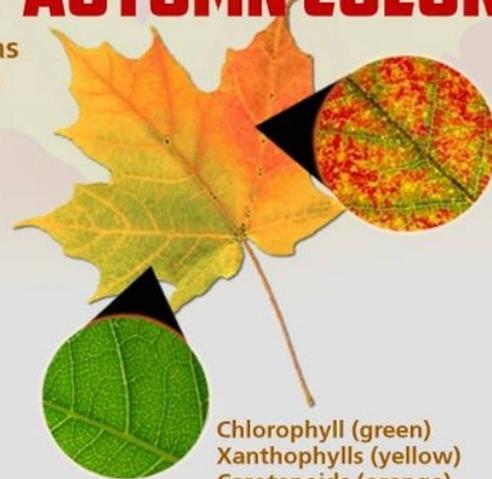


# THE CHEMISTRY OF AUTUMN COLORS

The colors are always there. However, as the chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellow, red and orange colors become visible giving the leaves their fall splendor.

## WHAT'S THE BEST WEATHER FOR BRIGHT COLORS?

- Ample summer moisture then a dry Fall.
- Warm days and cool, frostless nights.
- Heavy rain or wind can knock leaves off the trees before changing color.
- Drought during the growing season can cause leaves to fall early.



Chlorophyll (green)  
Xanthophylls (yellow)  
Carotenoids (orange)  
Anthocyanins (reds and purples)

Since conditions vary from year to year, no two fall seasons will ever look exactly the same.

## PTA Updates

Spiritwear, choose your child's school or pick River Vale swag.

- Holdrum: <https://thatsabuy.com/school-team.../river-vale/holdrum/>
- Roberge: <https://thatsabuy.com/school-team.../river-vale/roberge/>
- Woodside: <https://thatsabuy.com/school-team.../river-vale/woodside/>
- RV: <https://thatsabuy.com/school.../river-vale/rv-spirit-wear/>

Woodside 5th grade Carousel Pie and Cake fundraiser  
<https://rivervalepta.new.memberhub.store/store/items/214138>

River Vale PTA membership [click here](#).

Student lunch will be offered for either pick up or delivery go to [Boonli](#) to check out the options. Reach out to [Rivervaleptalunch@gmail.com](mailto:Rivervaleptalunch@gmail.com).

Don't forget to "like" the River Vale PTA Facebook page to stay updated on current

events. Please view the PTA upcoming events page, [click here](#) .



## [Happy Thanksgiving](#)

On behalf of all of us in the River Vale School District may the good things in life be yours in abundance, not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the entire year. We sincerely hope you enjoy this special time with family and friends. Stay safe!



**Click the link to check our [Go Green Folder](#) on the District website!**

Join Our Mailing List!