



The Cupola Academy Inquirer

A COLLABORATIVE POD II PUBLICATION



Issue #1

Welcome To CA!



Founders and Co-Directors, Mike Hilbert & Julia Bergson-Hilbert with Partnership Education pioneer Peter Bergson

What We Do

Cupola Academy (CA) is a secular, nonprofit educational organization that provides a supportive community-base for homeschooling families. CA offers full-day programs for young people ages 4-18 to attend 2 days a week in a collaborative and resource-rich environment. We nurture the innate intellectual curiosity of young people in a pro-social atmosphere.

At Cupola Academy, we embrace our responsibility of making the world a better place by providing a nourishing environment for changemakers. At the heart of all of our programs is our belief in natural curiosity, the value of collaboration, the importance of engaging in Real Work (vs. make work) and an emphasis on Process Consciousness.

Cupola Academy is designed for families who are seeking an intellectually rich atmosphere that promotes a growth mindset, encourages lifelong learning, and emphasizes social and environmental justice. These values are fostered in all of our programs.

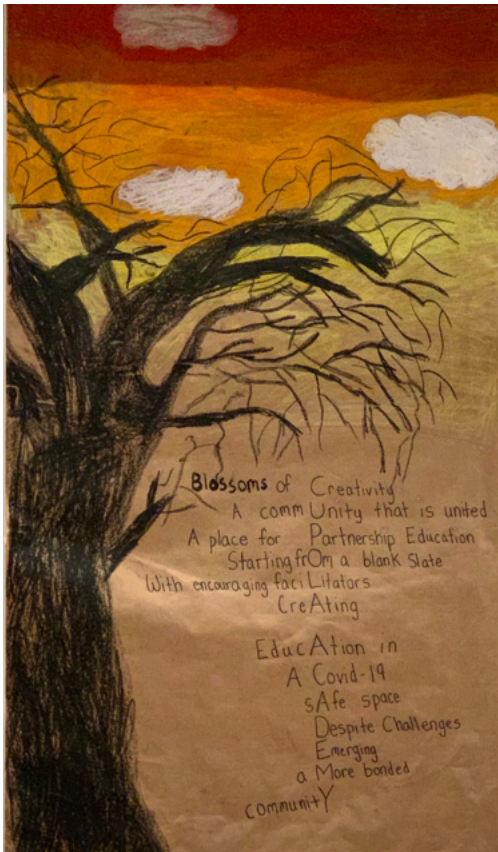
For the 2021-22 year, Cupola Academy programs are taking place at Riverbend Environmental Education Center in Gladwyne, PA while we continue our search for our permanent location for future years.

Our Values

This word cloud came out of an all-campus collaborative activity that was held this past fall at CA. In this activity, small groups came up with words that describe what the CA community means to us. The words below were common themes among the small groups.



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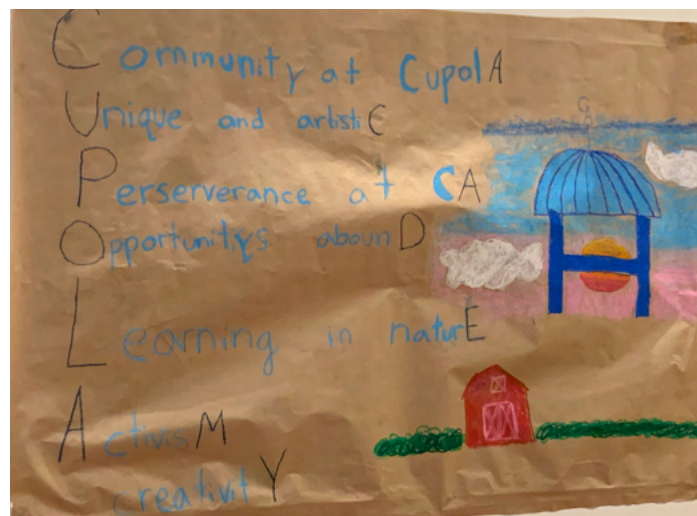
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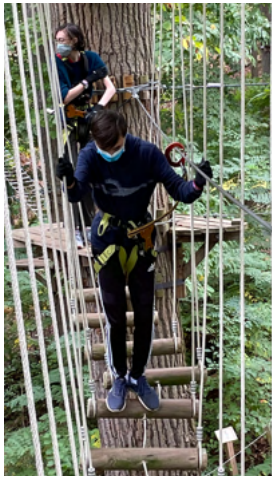
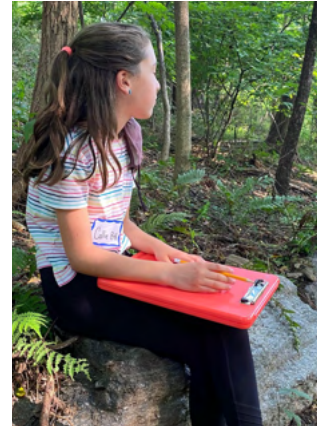
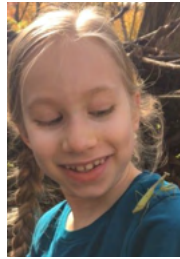
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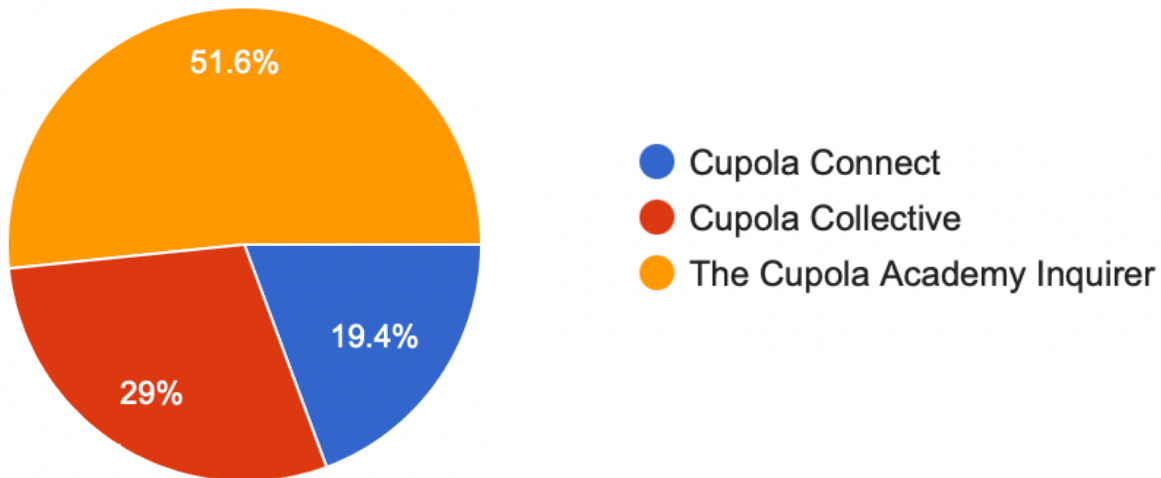
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CP2 Newspaper Name Vote

On January 13, 2022, everyone on the CA campus was given a ballot with the three possible newspaper names. People not on campus were emailed with the three options. After the community had voted, the name The Cupola Academy Inquirer was selected. The results of the poll are shown below.

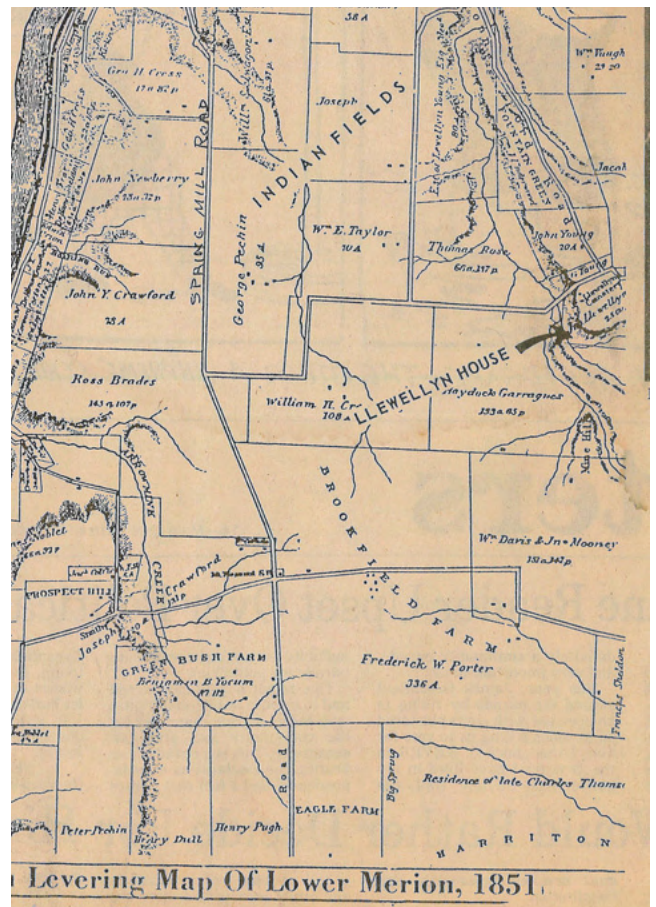


The History Of Riverbend

By: Connor B-C

In the 1500s and 1600s, Riverbend was the home to Lenape Native Americans. The Unami tribe used Riverbend as a place to spend the summer. In 1864, Riverbend was used as the location of Camp Discharge. Camp Discharge was a place for union soldiers fighting in the Civil War who were released from confederate prison camps. They stayed at Camp Discharge until they were able to go back to normal life. Currently, Riverbend is being used as a 30-acre environmental center.

Since 2008, Riverbend has planted 5,000 native plants. Riverbend has an aquaponics lab. The aquaponics lab uses 90% less water to grow plants when compared to traditional agriculture. Additionally, it does not use any pesticides or chemicals and does not need to use as much soil as normal agriculture because it grows plants in the fish waste.





Featured Hikes: The Bamboo Forest

By: Cali G.

Difficulty: 3 out of 5 - Steep climbs, rocky trails, and loose rock
Warning: Snakes have been sighted on this trail

Welcome to the Featured Hikes spotlight! Each issue will have a different hike featured. This issue's hike is to...The Bamboo Forest! Take a beautiful 10-15 min hike to the bamboo forest along the creek and up the hill overlooking the barn and farmhouse. The Sid Thayer's trail was originally used as a horse trail! The Bamboo Forest is a great place for imaginative play, building structures, and playing hide-n-seek. Please be respectful of the bamboo as we would like it to keep growing.

Follow the Sid Thayer trail to the Bamboo Forest.



Baking Challenge: Hot Chocolate Cupcakes

For this baking challenge, all you have to do is make the following recipe, take a picture and submit it to CP2youth@cupolaacademy.org to get your cupcake picture featured in the next issue.

Cupcakes:

2 cups sugar
1 - 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup cocoa powder
1 - 1/2 tsps baking powder
1 - 1/2 tsps baking soda
1 tsp salt
2 eggs
1 cup milk
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 tsps vanilla extract
1 cup boiling water

Buttercream (see note):

3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 (7 oz) container marshmallow creme
1 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Toppings and decor (optional):

mini candy canes, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, and/or crushed candy canes

NOTE: Alternate frosting recipe without marshmallow creme. This recipe makes enough to generously frost 24 cupcakes:

3 sticks unsalted butter, softened
Tiny pinch fine sea salt
1 1/2 pounds (3 cups) powdered sugar, sifted
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
2-3 tablespoons heavy cream or milk

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed for 6-7 minutes. With the mixer on low speed, slowly add in the salt and powdered sugar, and continue beating until the sugar is fully incorporated. Add in vanilla extract and cream or milk and mix on low speed until incorporated. Turn the mixer back up to medium-high speed and beat the buttercream for an additional 6-7 minutes. If the buttercream is too thick, add in a bit of milk, one teaspoon at a time until you reach the desired consistency.



Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Line two muffin tins with cupcake liners and set aside. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cocoa powder, salt, baking soda, and baking powder. Mix well.

Add in vanilla extract, eggs, milk, and vegetable oil, mixing until smooth. Pour in hot water and mix well. Batter will be very thin.

Pour batter into prepared cupcake liners, fill the liners about 2/3 full. Bake in preheated oven for 20-22 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool completely on a wire rack before eating.

To make the frosting, beat softened butter with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth and creamy. Add in marshmallow creme and beat until combined. Finally, add in the powdered sugar and vanilla, scraping down the sides of the bowl and mixing until smooth.

Top the cooled cupcakes with frosting, then sprinkle each one with mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, and crushed candy canes. Add a candy cane handle by inserting the hook end of the candy cane into the top-side of each cupcake. Enjoy soon after decorating.

Youth Interviews

By: Callie B-H

What is your name?

Henryk (5)

What program are you in?

Creative Choice

What has been your favorite activity this year?

I liked making pot holders with a loom. We used fabric bands to make it.



What is your name?

Cade (10)

What program are you in?

Collaborative Pod I

What has been your favorite activity this year?

I really enjoyed the Totem Pole designing and carving because I enjoyed the carving aspect of it.



What is your name?

Cali (13)

What program are you in?

Collaborative Pod II

What has been your favorite activity this year?

All activities that have included team building and creativity. For example, the Charles Hamilton art activity we are in the process of working on in CP2.



What is your name?

Ben (15)

What program are you in?

Constructing Your Path

What has been your favorite activity this year?

I really enjoyed aquaponics because it is a new topic for me, and I have learned a lot about it.



Activity Page

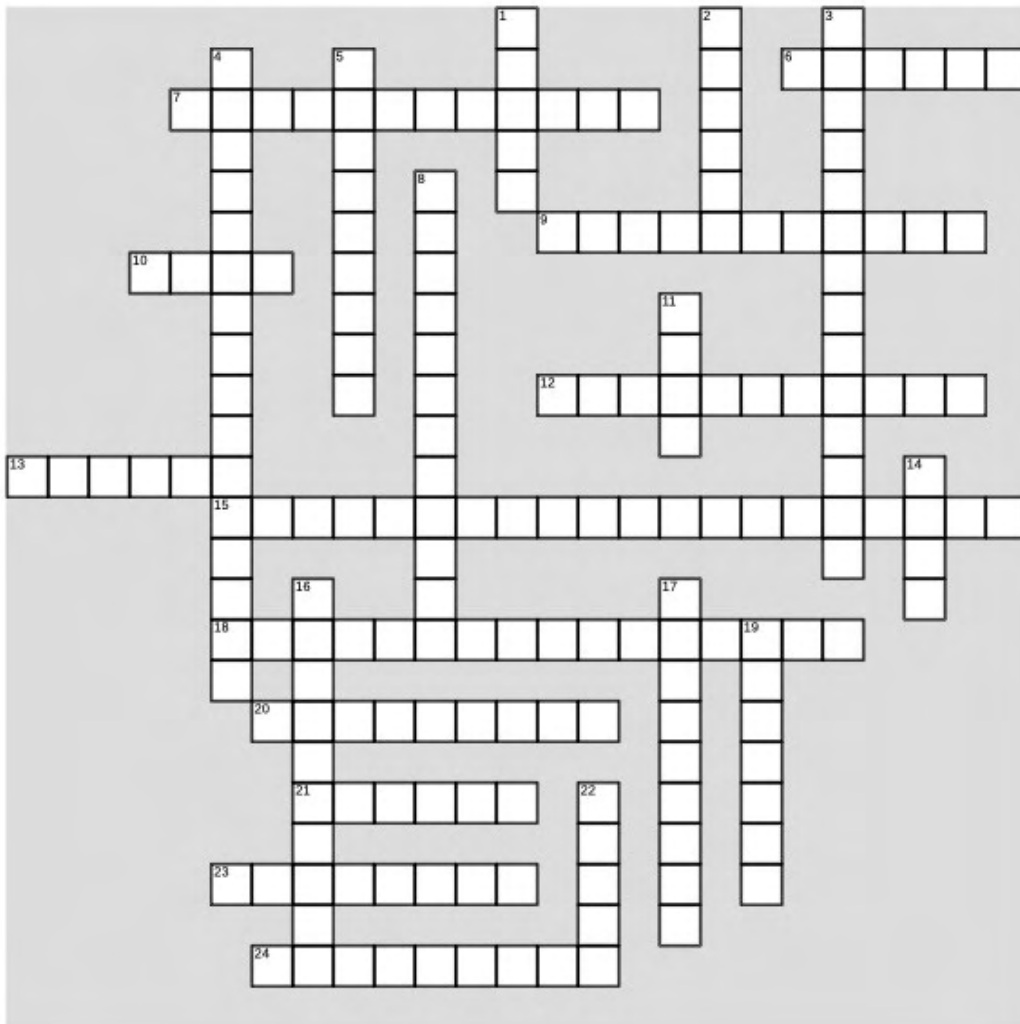
Create Your Own Jigsaw Puzzle

1. Scan this is the QR code with your photos app to access the puzzle template, and print it.
2. Draw your image on the template.
3. Cut out only the square, don't cut out the individual pieces.
4. Place it on a piece of cardboard (you can paint the cardboard a color if you want), then glue the paper on the cardboard and let it dry.
5. Carefully cut out all the pieces of the puzzle. Now you have a fun puzzle!



Cupola Crossword

Complete this crossword about everything CA! The answers will be in the next issue.



Across

- 6 This facilitator is an aquatics specialist at Petco
- 7 A popular spot to hike with lots of things to climb
- 9 To work together
- 10 This facilitator has a passion for Shakespeare
- 12 CP2 performed a play written by this famous English author
- 13 A classic fire-pit dessert
- 15 The hybrid educational model that Cupola provides
- 18 A circle of rocks surrounding a fire pit where we had the CA community event
- 20 The third word on the home page of the CA website
- 21 To design or build something
- 23 A favorite spot among CC and CP1 where you can get dirty and catch frogs
- 24 This facilitator recently took on a full-time job at CA

Down

- 1 This facilitator is a former middle school math teacher
- 2 A small dome, especially a small dome on a drum on top of a larger dome, adorning a roof or ceiling
- 3 A game traditionally played with flags that we play with dodgeballs and is a popular All Campus game
- 4 3 Pluses and a How To
- 5 Together we form a _____
- 8 A written appreciation to someone
- 11 At Riverbend there are many good trails to _____
- 14 This facilitator got their master's degree in Secondary Social Studies
- 16 To learn at home or in a non-traditional school environment
- 17 The campus name
- 19 This facilitator is also an art therapist
- 22 This facilitator is a graduate of Arcadia University

CC & CP1 Nextrex Recycling Project

By: Nolan O and Freya B

The Collaborative Pod 1 and Creative Choice group members are collecting certain plastics and saving them. By April 22, they need to get 500 pounds of plastic. This seems like a big challenge, but we can do it! NexTrex is trying to collect any plastics that they can turn into other items, which helps lower plastics in the ocean. They are accepting any plastic that is a #2 or a #4 and is flexible. They will also accept stretchy plastic. Visit recycle.trex.com for more details about what you can bring. It can NOT be hard or shiny. With 500 pounds, they will be able to build a bench. When you donate, you can drop the plastic off in the barn behind the trash and recycling bins in the white boxes labeled with a large, green recycling symbol, or (our preferred method) weigh it at home, email alexandra.barainyak@cupolaacademy.org, and drop it off at your grocery store plastic bag collection bin.





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