

CALYX

PLEASANT RIDGE
WALDORF SCHOOL

Waldorf Education since 1980

Volume 36, Issue 3
Summer 2015



Sunset painting by Julius Parrish, PRWS class of 2011, YIHS class of 2015


PLEASANT RIDGE
WALDORF SCHOOL
 431 East Court Street, Viroqua

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 22 All-School Work Day
- 22 New Family Orientation/
Moving Into the Grades
- 24-28 Faculty In-Service

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day and
All-School Picnic
- 9 Opening Day!
- 11 Faculty In-Service
No Classes
- 28 All School Meeting

OCTOBER

- 2 Michaelmas Festival
- 16 Grandparents &
Special Friends Day
- 21-23 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 30 Enchanted Forest



St. John's Tide

The radiant beauty of the world
 Impels me now from depths of soul
 To free my own life-powers divine
 For World-aspiring flight;
 To leave my self behind
 And simply trusting, seek my Self
 In cosmic light and cosmic warmth.

Calendar of the Soul

Rudolf Steiner (translation by John Gardner)

SCHOOL NEWS

Personnel Updates

Middle School Class Teacher

We are delighted to report that Jenny Allan has been selected to carry the rising sixth grade beginning next school year. Ronald Schirmer will carry the rising seventh grade. Both Ronald and Jenny have been dedicated to these students and we are pleased that during the reforming of this class from a combined group to two separate groups of students, they will each have a familiar and loving teacher to be with them. Jenny has become a valued colleague at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School over the last couple of years, first as a maternity substitute for Mrs. Hotchkiss in Grade 2, and then throughout this year with the combined fifth/sixth grade. She brings an incredible gift of artistic creativity and skill to share with the students, as well as a dedication to learn and create engaging lessons for the children in all the academic topics that are part of the curriculum. The love she has for her students is evident, and we look forward to a wonderful year with Miss Jenny as the class teacher for Grade 6.

Music Program

After an incredible string of years during which the music program continued to crescendo under Monika Sutherland's superb direction, she has been granted a one-year leave of absence to reflect and focus on the needs of her family. We are so grateful for all Monika has brought to our school with not only the strings program, but orchestral and choral music, festivals, assemblies, and wherever music wove through events. She has also served at times as Faculty Chair, on Faculty Council, and as Personnel Committee chair. She is a treasure and we look forward to her return after her yearlong leave.

The music program is therefore going to look somewhat different next year, but we are excited about how it is unfolding. There will be a team of part-time teachers who have demonstrated not only skill in their areas but also a dedication to co-carrying the program. Though we are still finalizing our plan, a number of pieces are firmly in place. Grades 1-3 will remain with Barbara Danner for flutes and singing. Grade 4 will

be introduced to stringed instruments. Grades 5-8 will continue to have instrumental music two periods per week. Choir and/or spoken word will also be scheduled for grades 5-8. Class teachers will continue weaving music and song into their lessons. Musical expression will continue to live and breathe throughout our school.

Eurythmy Teachers

As we say good-bye to Annette Conlon, we wish to share the decisions regarding how her rather large eurythmy slippers will be filled. We have completed our hiring process and have determined that the position at this time will best be filled with not one but two eurythmists working in collaboration. Davina Hemmer and Joshua Ecklund will be our eurythmy colleagues as we head into the new school year. We are very grateful that Joshua will be returning after having the opportunity to work with Annette during this past year while teaching grades 2 and 7. Both eurythmists come fully trained with strengths and skills. We are looking forward to seeing how our eurythmy program develops over the course of the year.

Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator

We are delighted to welcome Jordan Brudos as our new Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Though we will be sad to say good-bye to current coordinator Darla Barrows, her husband Adam, and son Elliot, we are excited to create a new administrative team with Jordan. She brings a number of strengths and capacities to this position including organization, creativity, and a passion for Waldorf education. She and her husband Mark have been parents in our school community since 2013; their children will be in grades 5, 3, and the Rosemary Kindergarten in the new school year.

—Marianne Fieber, Administrative Chair

Tributes

Barbara Danner, Faculty Chair, wrote the following limericks and presented them at the closing assembly to honor Pleasant Ridge colleagues who are leaving the school.

Darla Barrows

Enrollment Coordinator
 From up north, to enhance her career
 An Enrollment Director came here
 She worked with a will
 And such evident skill,
 Showing much can be done in one year!

Annette Conlon

Eurythmy Teacher
 She came quiet, with style and with grace,
 To show us and the whole human race:
 Gesture without fear
 Is so ringingly clear
 Its silence can fill the whole place!

Carrie Treviranus

Class Teacher, Class of 2015
 From Milwaukee came a teacher so neat,
 She seemed young and pretty and sweet.
 But we learned very soon
 For she showed the whole room
 Her sharp mind, her steel core,
 her Steam Heat!

Farewell to Families

While the focus during the last week of school is on the graduating eighth grade students and their teacher, Ms. Carrie, we want to acknowledge that there are a number of parents who also are in a sense "graduating" out of the school as their last child graduates. We will miss them and want to thank them for the innumerable ways they have made our school better by bringing their talents to their class community as well as to the greater school community through their service. We wish them blessings as they journey forward with their children: Michelle Drucker, Steven Williams, and Stephen Boisvert; Jenelle and David Boyer; Amy Morse and Andrew Dockry; Sara Freedman; Monica and Steve Goldberg; Paul and Paula Grenier; Julia Henderson and Joseph Fuentes; Michelle and Joe Pedretti; Monte McPheron and Teresa Bay.

—Mary Christenson, Development Director

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Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 corporation supported through tuition, gifts to the school, and fundraising events.

Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, economic ability, or sexual orientation.

In our efforts to reduce paper use, you may request an electronic copy by emailing cynthia@pleasantrydwaldorf.org.

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Flower Basket

Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School is taking a bold new step into our future by purchasing a local greenhouse and growing operation called The Flower Basket (www.flowersviroqua.com), just a block from the school. This business has been operating since the 1950s, and Al Petersen, the current owner, bought it 25 years ago. He and his wife, Kim, have served the area in many ways through this business, from growing geraniums for the Viroqua cemetery to providing the hanging baskets on Main Street, maintaining a floral shop year-round, and propagating and offering annual bedding plants and perennials. We will continue to run the business as-is, including the floral shop.

Al and Kim fully support PRWS's purchase of the business—we have been discussing it with them for over a year. Our school's relationship with Al and Kim began about eight years ago when a school parent with strong gardening knowledge and vision, Arwyn Wildingway, approached the Petersens and asked if she could begin to establish a school garden on an unused part of the property. Arwyn has also worked with our teachers and the Youth Initiative High School to develop a sequence of garden activities for each class. Over the years our classes have spent many hours planting,

weeding, and harvesting vegetables for our hot lunch program. The Violet Kindergarten children have visited the greenhouses and walked and played on the property for years as well.

When the Petersens voiced their desire to retire in the fall of 2015, we didn't want to lose our connection to that land so we began to examine this opportunity with an eye toward creating a social enterprise for the school, enhancing our gardening and outdoor programs, and having a greater interface with more people in our surrounding communities. All of these objectives are in line with recommendations set forth in the accreditation report we received last April from the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA).

We have created a website where we will post updates during the summer, www.prwsflowerbasket.org. Employment opportunities have been defined and we are planning to hire this summer by July, so our staff will be in place to begin training. These job openings will be posted on the new



website as well as other prominent places. Al and Kim will be working with us on a daily basis for at least the first full year to assure a smooth transition in services to their customers.

We are very grateful to have this opportunity. It seems that all the thought and work that went into other ideas around creating a business for the school (Grateful Grains, One Sun Pizza, gluten-free crackers, and food preserves) have found life in this enterprise. We thank all the parents and staff on the Board and on the Long Range Planning, Faculty, and Finance Committees for their extra work this year to get us to this place.

—Mary Christenson, Development Director

Parent-Child Program

Ten children and their families participated in our pilot Friday kindergarten program this spring. We couldn't have asked for a dearer group of children with which to spend our Fridays playing, baking, crafting and singing. We welcomed the children with both half and full day options. The daily rhythm of the nine-week program grew organically around bread baking. Every week, each child kneaded their own ball of warm dough into several small loaves of bread, often taking the shape of a snail or fat worm. The children became quite skilled at kneading, and the predictable routine gave shape to the weekly class. We told the puppet story of the baker throughout the program just before our work, offering further continuity for the children. Thank you to everyone who helped with this pilot program and especially to our dedicated and caring assistant Jordan Brudos. May everyone's summer be filled with an abundance of meaningful work and play.

—Darla Barrows,
Friday Kindergarten teacher

Library

Our Library Committee deserves a huge round of applause! Chris Leinberger, who took on stewardship of the library this year, has done an incredible job recruiting a stellar group of volunteer library staff to support our students and teachers throughout the course of the year. Ken Tucker weeded out obsolete materials and reorganized the nonfiction section completely. Gary Leinberger created new bookshelves. Kathleen Kroska has kept our books in good repair and processed new ones. There were readers to students, catalog support, shelf building, research support and other special projects. We are so very grateful that this team has been consistent and professional year-round. If you haven't had a chance to express your gratitude, please do so. The members of the Library Team are Chris Leinberger, Kathleen Kroska, Ken Tucker, Carole Moon, Nancy Kosiak, Diane Banner, Adam Barrows, Amber Knutson, Ellen Arndorfer, Carol Nordgren, and Cele Wolf.

May Day

Our May Day celebration, honoring the return of light and warmth to our part of the world, was held on Friday, May 1. Students and teachers sang their way onto the playground to meet family and friends 'round the Maypole. Along with much dancing, singing, and crown making, a king and queen were crowned, games were played, trees were planted, and chalk drawings were beautifully placed on the playground asphalt. Thank you to everyone who joined our celebration.



SCHOOL NEWS

Pentathlon

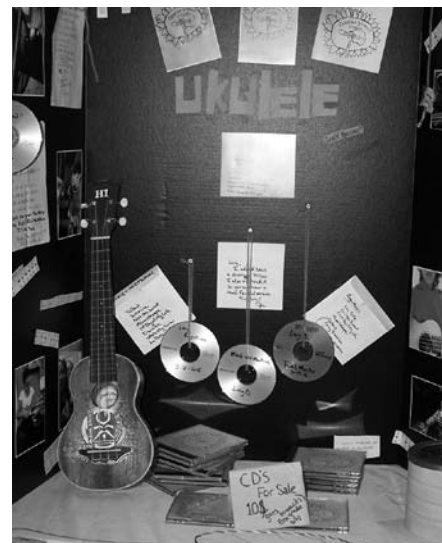
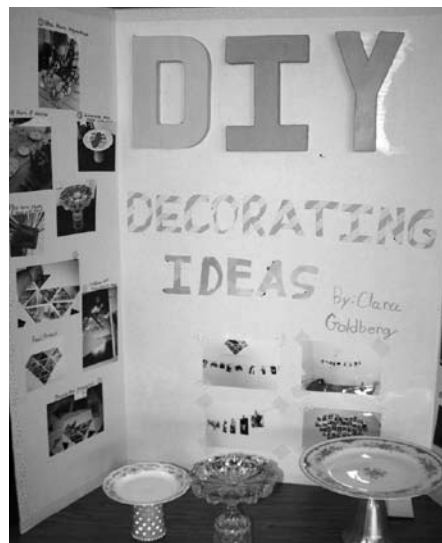
Please join me in giving heartfelt gratitude to all those who gave of their time and energy to this year's 2015 Pentathlon. Much gratitude to Geri Shonka, Lauren Hunt, and Janice Zimmermann as class parent coordinators with all the details this requires. Thanks to the setup and takedown crews for their labor of love. Thanks also to Ximena Puig, Noah Engel, and their son Yasmani, Drew Shonka, Paula Grenier, and Jess Leinberger for serving as City State Leaders; to Laurel and Youth Initiative High School students for volunteering to be helpers and judges in witnessing the students' efforts in all the events; to Zeus (Justys Grenier) and Athena (Cecilia Kouba) for gracing us all with their regal presence; and to Corina Bergan and Sherry Knapp for creating the beautiful togas and capes. Thank you to the fifth-grade class parents for preparing the nourishing breakfast and lunch, and to Kickapoo Coffee for donating coffee to the event. Thank you to the sixth-grade class and parents for the delicious Greek Feast and to the City State Leaders guiding these pentathletes through the events; and thank you to Ronald Schirmer and Jenny Allan, co-class teachers of the fifth and sixth grades, for allowing extra time for the fifth graders to practice throughout the year. Thanks in particular to the fifth grade class for their beauty, truth, and integrity in training for this day. A special thank you to Sugar Creek Bible Camp for providing a beautiful environment and facilities for this Pentathlon as well as many past Pentathlons. And last, but certainly not least—thanks to Mother Nature and the Goddesses/Gods for blessing us with such beautiful weather. Sincerely, thank you all!

—Lerie Alstad van Ells, Movement Teacher



Eighth Grade Projects

The eighth graders presented the results of their yearlong projects on the nights of March 30 and 31 and April 1. The projects were as varied and marvelous as the students themselves.



Class Plays

Grade One

The last week of school was a time of many activities, not the least of which was the first grade play. *The Nixie of the Mill Pond* was joyfully performed for a packed audience in the enchanted space of the first grade classroom.

Grade Two

During the week of March 30, the second grade performed the story of Saint Odelia. This tale of a girl who was born blind but gained her sight through her own perseverance and love was beautifully portrayed by the second grade class.

Grade Three

The third graders performed an inspiring version of the biblical story of Joseph and his brothers during the week of February 16.



Grade Four

The fourth grade performed *Thor's Three Trials* during the week of April 20. It was based on one of the tales of the Icelandic Eddas, an expansive source of Norse mythology, written down in the thirteenth century. Through the main characters of the gods, especially the trickster god Loki, as well as the characters of Jotun giants, played magnificently by two different groups of fourth graders, audiences were given a rousing look at the mischief and revelry of the Norse gods.



Grades Five and Six

On March 19 and 20, the combined fifth and sixth grade class offered classically sublime performances of their class play, *Beware the Ides of March*, based on the life of Julius Caesar.



Grade Seven

On February 18 and 19, the seventh grade students merrily performed an enchanted evening of commedia dell'arte as they proudly presented *The King Stag* by Carlo Gozzi, adapted by Carl Wildman. In this play, the audience was invited to take a journey to the delightfully magical, once-upon-a-time Kingdom of Serendip, where they were royally entertained by palace intrigue and were privy to the secret of the king's courting success.



Grade Eight

Beginning on May Day, the eighth grade provided the school community with several outstanding performances of a musical version of *The Secret Garden*, based on the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett.



ALUMNI NEWS

Artwork by Fran Knapp Class of 2003



Class of 1997

Timothy Hastings and Kelsey (Thorsen) were married in Maui, Hawaii on February 27, 2015. Timothy is a pilot for Skywest and Kelsey is a nanny. They live in Minneapolis with a Newfoundland puppy.

Class of 2000

Hannah Park was married to Christopher Goldman on July 4.

Feliciana Puig is engaged to be married to Dave Hibbard-Rode in August.

Maia McDonald Smith reports on her new business: "I'm starting a new business with my mom, called Bitte, inspired by my daughter Ingrid and perfect for modern moms. Our vision is to create a unique new shopping experience for parents where we focus on creating and selling products that are beautifully designed and sustainably produced in partnership with some of our favorite artisans and toy makers."

Class of 2002

Cole Agar and his wife Dina Agar became the proud parents of a baby girl named Amina Mona Agar, who was born on March 8, 2015.

Peter Doval married Deanne Crivolio in Madison in May 2015. The couple now lives in Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

John Gambrell graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Environmental Studies. He is engaged to be married to Allison Thaiss in August.

Class of 2003

Aleata Calkins has been awarded a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Roehampton. Her research investigated the post-assault services for victims of rape and sexual violence in England. She is currently the Head of Well-being at the University of Roehampton.

Erin Kidulson graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Somatic Psychology. She and Joseph Ecklund (class of 2000) are engaged to be married in August.

Fran Knapp was the guest artist for the month of May at VIVA Gallery in Viroqua. She completed her BA in Art at the University of Southern Oregon in Ashland. Her emphasis was on printmaking. After graduation, Fran moved to Portland, Oregon, where she worked as an art instructor for adults with developmental disabilities. She returned to the Driftless Area in 2014. Her return inspired the series of prints on exhibit at VIVA in May, homage to her childhood wanderings and observations. The collection, says Fran, "breaks down the separation between humans and other creatures of nature in a dreamlike narrative, and encourages us to recognize the positive characteristics of the animal world in our own beings."

Class of 2004

Kaitlan Troy graduated from Prescott College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Arts & Letters and Human Development.

Class of 2005

Dallas Rhodes Seevers graduated from UW-Platteville with a degree in Engineering.

Class of 2007

Forrest Humphrey graduated from Antioch College with a degree in Visual Arts.

Class of 2011

Eleanor Staffanson won Best in Show at the annual UW-Richland High School Art Exhibit. Her painting Best Friends was on display at the Red Door Gallery in Richland Center from April 29 to May 9 with all six Best of Show winners.

Class of 2013

Naomi Sutherland performed Handel's Harp Concerto with the La Crosse Symphony Chamber Orchestra (LSO) in La Crosse on June 25 and in Viroqua on June 26. In February, Alexander Platt, conductor of the LSO, invited Naomi to solo with the orchestra after hearing her performance in the Rising Stars Competition.

High School Graduations

Class of 2011, led by class teachers Dorte Oxenvad (first and second grade) and Steve Lawless (third through eighth grade) graduated from high school this spring. Here is a list of where they have graduated from, to the best of our knowledge. Congratulations to all!

WISCONSIN

Youth Initiative High School (Viroqua)

Jack Corbin
Justys Grenier
Cecilia Kouba
Jaali Parrish
Julius Parrish
Eva Rising
Leo Shonka
Eleanore Staffanson
Althea Stinson
Charlie Townsley

Viroqua High School

Avery Babb Schaller
Noah Carlson
Anders Frost
Hugh Hofmann
Chloe Horan
Hannah Huh
Gideon Schmidt

Laurel High School (Viroqua)

Micah Nordgren

Better Futures High School (Viroqua)

Byron Fanning
Noah Gullion
Derek (Ista) Tromp-Viña

Westby High School

Maya Crockett

Homeschooling

Regina Carey

Madison

Will Beatty (2014)

Middleton

Kali Jahns-Connell

CALIFORNIA

Hannah Dawber
Nico Errigo
Elijah Kolenko
Neona Welch

COLORADO

Joshua Hirsch

MICHIGAN

Noah Kozminski

NORTH CAROLINA

Aidan Farrell

UNKNOWN LOCATION

Esther Buechele
Layla Hall

To Carrie Treviranus, Eighth Grade Teacher, Class of 2015

It is with a mixture of sadness and happiness that we bid you farewell this summer. The sadness, of course, is a measure of how much your company has been appreciated over the course of your time here. You have become a sturdy presence to your colleagues here at Pleasant Ridge. As a friend, I know I can look to you for a listening ear, insightful feedback, and some good old-fashioned sympathy when it's needed. As a colleague, what you have shared from your work in the classroom, music, art, and all of the remarkable and unique offerings you have brought to assembly has served as an ongoing inspiration to everyone. As a fellow human being, one sees in you a striving soul, finding her way through this world, doing her best in any given situation.

The happiness is felt because we understand that you have seen this vast task through to its end and now stand on the doorway to a new chapter of your life, completely open and waiting to be realized. It is very exciting and we wish you happiness, strength and grace in whatever your next undertaking may be. Thank you for all that you have contributed to the children of Pleasant Ridge, the parents, the faculty and the greater community. You have left a great deal of love and goodness in your wake.

—Ronald Schirmer, Fellow Class Teacher



DEVELOPMENT

We have had a busy anniversary year, and as we move into summer we are grateful to all of you who have supported our events and responded to our appeals. During the spring semester we opened a natural toy store inside Ewetopia on Main Street, held our annual Raffle, hosted a very special 35th anniversary dinner, and recently mailed our last appeal of the school year. If you received it please consider helping us meet our goal. Most of the financial gifts that we receive support our efforts to keep the school within financial reach for most people.

It was wonderful to have so many of you join us at the anniversary dinner as we paused to celebrate the long road that has brought us to this place of strength and vibrancy. The elegant evening was filled with good conversation, connection, and inspiration from our alumni speakers. The retrospective videos brought smiles, laughter, memories, and perspective about what it has taken to build Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School. Videos from that night are posted on our website under 35th Anniversary. A special thanks to parent and chef Luke Zahm for the wonderful meal, and to alumni parent Liz Franklin for her organizational skills.

This year restricted gifts secured a new refrigerator for the Violet Kindergarten and a new stove and sink for the Rosemary Kindergarten. We were also able to purchase chairs for the music department. We received a grant last fall to support The Flower Basket development and recently we have received several new gifts in support of this new business enterprise (see article in this issue).

Last week's Board retreat began with a walk of the Flower Basket property. It is a beautiful resource to add to our campus! We will be reaching out to donors this summer to partner with us, as well as writing grants to secure the operating funds of \$160,000. Accomplishing this goal will greatly strengthen our efforts for success in that first transitional year. If you wish to be a part of this venture, please contact our Development Office.

Thank you for gifts given since the previous issue of the Calyx. We try to acknowledge each gift, so if you notice omissions or mistakes please contact us so we can make corrections. Thank you.

—Mary Christenson, Development Director
mary@pleasantrywaldorf.org, (608) 637-8504



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Call Bill first when you are looking at real estate, whether you are buying or selling. Mention the school and we will earn a donation. To look at properties visit:

www.BillBrookeRealty.com

SCRIP News

Akashic Wellness Joins Scrip Program

Welcome to our newest Scrip business: Akashic Wellness LLC Field Control Therapy, owned by PRWS parent Mike Bieser. Field Control Therapy (FCT) is a form of bio-energetic vibrational healing which utilizes ultra-dilutions of form in water to balance blockages in the human energy field. Its intent is to help contextualize stresses in modern life from chemicals, radiation, traumas, and much more, thus creating an individualized self-healing path.

Akashic Wellness LLC is located at 222 N. Main Street. Mike can be reached at (608) 638-3855. Check out his Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Akashic-Wellness-LLC/500640673397220?ref=ts>. Mike will accept Scrip cash or gift certificates for his services.



Thanks, Mike, for joining the program and helping benefit our school and programs!

Bramble Bookstore Adds Section for Pleasant Ridge

Bramble Bookstore owner Cheryl Allen has added an entire bookcase dedicated to children's age-appropriate books selected from a list put together by two Waldorf practitioners. The books are arranged by grade (K-8) to make it easier for parents to select developmentally appropriate books for their children and to include much-loved and hard to find titles such as *The Adventures of Nils* and *Walking the World in Wonder*. Books for parents with an interest in Waldorf topics can also be found throughout the store, as well as family-friendly magazines such as *Taproot*. Cheryl is also willing to order specific books for workshops, adult education, and author events related to our school.

Please remember to use your Scrip dollars or purchase Scrip at Bramble for buying books at the store. Marketing Committee staff members Cynthia Olmstead and Darla Barrows have been working with Cheryl on this new project and will be organizing a "grand opening" of the section with children's activities later this spring; look for an announcement in the Lunchbox Express, on Facebook, and in the eNews. A big thank you to Cheryl for working with us on this. Remember to shop local for your books!

—Cynthia Olmstead, Development Office

DONORS

Many thanks to those who have supported our school
January 28 – June 4, 2015

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Driftless Café
The Flower Basket
Kwik Trip
Nelson Agri-Center
Paper, Scissors, Stone
Parrish Music
Quality of Life Chiropractic
Read's Creek Nursery
Ridgeland Harvest
Rising Sun Animal
Wellness Center
Rockweiler Appliance & TV
Schlicht Auto Repair
Matt Shorridge:
Music Lessons & Carpentry
Sime Furniture
Sing Your Heart Out Studio:
Dodie Whitaker
Tapestry Yoga
Viroqua Public Market
Viroqua Village Market

2015 Annual Raffle Winners

Grand Prize: Trip for two
to Alaska or \$4000 cash
Jennifer Eissfeldt

Second Prize: Handmade
table by Adrian Ugo
Racheal Butenhoff

Third Prize: Nick
Wroblewski print
Eddy Nix

Fourth Prize: Handmade
wooden bowl by Tom Wheeler
Ruthie Zahm

Fifth Prize: Handmade
spoons by Terry Beck
Jennifer Eissfeldt

35th Anniversary Dinner

Sponsorships
Citizens First Bank
Driftless Café
Organic Valley
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Anita Lang & Alison Banner
David & Diane Banner

Barbara Von Nostitz Peterson
Ben Agar & Julee Caspers Agar

In Honor of
Mary Christenson
The Hughes Family

Grade Three Visits St. Brigid's Meadows



Graduating Class of 2015



Photograph by PRWS parent, Drew Shonka

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