

Calendar

Thu Oct 6 School Picture Day – **Kindergarten Photos will be taken before school starting at 7:30 a.m.** in the school library

Wed Oct 12 WOW!: Waldorf Open Wednesday – 8:10 a.m.

Wed Oct 12 2nd Grade Field Trip

Fri Oct 14 Grandparents and Special Friends Day – begins at 8:20 a.m.

Thu Oct 20 7th Grade Field Trip

Fri Oct 21 Craft Night – 7:00 p.m. – 10 p.m. – see inside for details

Sat Oct 22 Waldorf Education Event

Tue Oct 25 4th Grade Parent Meeting – 4:00 p.m. – in the 4th Grade classroom

Wed Oct 26 5th Grade Field Trip

Thu & Fri 27 & 28 Parent/Teacher Conferences –
No School

Fall Concert Date Change!!

The Fall Concert will now be Thursday, November 17th, in the school gym.

What's Cooking!

School Photo Day is Thursday, October 6th

School photo day is this Thursday, October 6th. Extra registration forms are available in the office if you need them. The forms should be turned in to your child's teacher. Photo retakes will follow three to four weeks later (date TBD), and you should have your photos well in time for the holidays.

KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES – Please note:

In order to minimize the disturbance to the daily rhythm that the kindergarten children are just getting used to, we are asking that you bring your children to the school library before the start of the kindergarten morning. Mr. Shonka, will be available to take **kindergarten children photos** from **7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** that morning. If you have any questions, please call the office.

- Nan Marshall, Office Manager

October Aftercare – Sign Up Now!

Aftercare is available for your children every school day from Monday – Friday from 2:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. with variable pick-up times based on your needs. Full-month registrations are eligible for a 5% discount. Call 608-637-7828 for more information or review information on our website. The new October Aftercare Registration form is available in the office. Stop by if you have questions. Please turn the completed forms in to Nan. Thank you!

- Nan Marshall, Office Manager

Friday Assembly

Assembly begins at 8:20 AM

Oct 7—Even Grades

Oct 14 – Grandparents and Special
Friends Day – Classes TBD

Oct 21 – No Assembly – Adult Painting
Class with Maureen Karlstad

SCHOOL EVENTS

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

Friday, October 14, 2016

We are looking for a few people to help out on Grandparents and Special Friends Day with the reception, set up for lunch, serving, and cleanup after lunch. Please contact Mary or Cynthia in the Development Office at 637-8504 if you are able to assist us.

The schedule for the event is located below:

- 8:20 a.m. Student assembly in gym
9:00 a.m. Visit your grandchild's grade classroom **OR**
Program for all kindergarteners –
Cherry Blossom Kindergarten
10:00 a.m. Reception in the gym with an alumni speaker
11:00 a.m. Visit subject classes **OR** tour Greenspace & school garden
Noon Luncheon in the gym

**Please R.S.V.P. to Mary or Cynthia at
(608) 637-8504 or email:**

**mary@pleasantridgewaldorf.org or
cynthia@pleasantridgewaldorf.org**

WHAT'S NEW

Raffle Update

We are excited about a new raffle year, and we look forward to working with all of you to make this year's raffle the best one yet. Our theme is "One of a Kind"—reflecting the unique beauty of our rural Waldorf school and the community that we are. We hope to collect several completely original prizes—if you have something that you think would fit the bill, let us know! Thanks.

- Hallie Ashley, Lars Bergan, Shelly Brennenman, Erica Gerrity, and Mary Christenson, The Raffle Committee

Holiday Faire 2016!

Well, believe it or not, the snow is right around the corner, and we are well underway to planning our Holiday Faire! Last year, we asked for feedback from faculty and parents, in particular from those who have spent time coordinating the different areas of the Faire. We really appreciate the responses that we received and are excited to share some of the changes that will result based on that feedback.

We heard a wish to simplify the event and to have it feel less harried, but to keep the tradition and celebration of the event.

Therefore, Friday night will still offer a warm meal, but it will be simplified to stew or soup with bread. Fancy desserts will be available from the bake sale table. The coffee cafe will be combined with the bake sale in the gym. The traditional tree lighting ceremony and music will be a focal point; however, there will be no full Ridgetones concert this year. Instead, there will be more intimate soloists or ensembles placed throughout the school. There will still be an After Party on Friday night, with performances by local bands/talents. The silent auction will return with in-person bidding only (no online auction) Friday and Saturday, with the auction closing at the end of the Faire.

The children's activities will continue to be the focus on Saturday, with some new crafts, storytelling/puppetry, the children's castle and raffle, and the crystal boat experience.

Upper-grade after-school crafting groups will be offered starting in November to allow the older children to help support the Faire while having fun socializing. Adult crafting evenings will also be offered for parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and alumni to enjoy each other's company while supporting the school and creating this magical experience for the children. Our goal this year is to net \$20,000! With these changes, we hope to simplify many aspects of the Faire and to lighten the workload so that everyone can have a great time! More details to come. If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer for

the Holiday Faire, feel free to contact one of us on the Committee.

- Holiday Faire Captains, Margret Lenarz, margretlenarz@yahoo.com; Angie Lemar, angielemar@gmail.com; and Janice Zimmermann, latravia2968@att.net

ENROLLMENT

Outreach

Coffee at the Farmer's Market

Volunteers are needed to sell coffee on **October 8th** at the Farmer's Market. This is a great way to be in our local community, provide that fresh, hot cup of joe, and make a little bit of money for the school. There are two shifts per day: 7:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This is easy and fun! If you are interested, contact Jordan at 637-7828.

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment & Outreach Coordinator

Fall Parent-Child Classes

Parent-Child classes have begun, and we still have room for a few families to join us on **from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Please contact Jordan at 637-7828 or enrollment@pleasantridgewaldorf.org for more information or to register.

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment & Outreach Coordinator

Harvest Parade

We are looking for PRWS families to participate in this year's Harvest Parade on **October 8th at 2:00 p.m.** There are plenty of kid- and adult-sized costumes ready to roll. Come to The Ark on Jefferson St. this Thursday between 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. to sign up for a costume for this year's parade. Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School will be vegetable and farmers in this year's parade. If you and your family would be interested in participating in the parade, please contact Jordan at 637-7828 or enrollment@pleasantridgewaldorf.org.

Lineup for the parade will start at 1:00 p.m. in the school playground

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment & Outreach Coordinator

ADMIN NEWS

Parent/Teacher Conferences

This year's Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 27 and 28. The signup forms should appear on the bulletin board across from the office shortly. This is also the time of year that we seek feedback about our faculty. Faculty and subject teacher feedback forms are attached to the back of this Lunchbox Express. They will also be available in the office. **Please return forms to the box in the office by November 18th.**

- Marianne Fieber-Dhara,
Administrative Chair

COMMUNITY NEWS

Viroqua Comic Con is back this year on Saturday, October 22, at the McIntosh Memorial Library from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. with a new name:

VGC:Viroqua Geek Con. The new name celebrates the breadth of this event. This year we have games; Magic the Gathering and Pokemon tournaments; a fantasy author, Anthony Wedgeworth, talking about character development and the publishing industry; a Walking Dead forum; a geek trivia contest; pizza; lots of prizes; and a whole lot more. We also have an Art Show and a Cosplay (costume contest). Registration forms are available in the PRWS office and at the library circulation desk.

Parent Education Opportunity: Spacial Dynamics

Class. Wednesday mornings after drop-off from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. in the Old Main Building at 321 E. Decker St. AnnaJo Doerr is a Movement Teacher and Therapist certified in Spacial Dynamics. She has been a dancer, physical theatre artist, performer, and a teacher, among a few other roles in life. She lives locally, is an alumni of PRWS, and is

the mother of two children. This ongoing course in Spatial Dynamics on Wednesday mornings at the Old Main Building will be custom-crafted for those who attend. We will explore movement principles that can enhance our everyday living, do meditative quiet movements, play with posture and possible enhancements, practice Bothmer gymnastics, engage in Movement games, and possibly discuss pedagogy and child development on occasion. Suggested donation of \$10 per class. Please plan to attend a minimum of 3 classes.

Harvest Parade...Picture this! Giant puppets marching down Main Street, unicycles, stilt walkers, music and food in the park, jugglers, and fire dancing at dusk! **Saturday, October 8, 2:00 p.m.** Parade Route: Leaves the The Ark on Jefferson St. at 2:00 p.m., heads south on Washington, west on Terhune, north on Main Street, west on Court Street, and ends at Ekhardt Park. After the parade, the fun continues with food vendors and live music at the park: Music with Ryan Kids Hour Neil Knutson and Matt Shortridge Mark Katz Noble Surfers Lotus Head And ends at dusk with a fire dancing performance by the Driftless Fire Tribe!

Viroqua Harvest Parade Costume Sign-up! We have plenty of kid- and adult-sized costumes ready to roll. Come to The Ark this Thursday between 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. to sign up for a costume for this year's parade. **Those that are in the parade should be at line-up at 1:00 p.m. in the playground area of Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School (across the street from the Ark).**

Artist Julius Trees Parrish Hosts an Open House. Julius is a 21-year-old autistic artist based in Viroqua. He is a PRWS alumnus. Julius will be holding an open house on Sunday, October 9th, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Viroqua Healing Arts Center. The Center is located at 224 E. Court St. For more information about the Center and best times to view Julius's artwork, call 637-7600.

Etheric Geography: What Lives in the Land - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 9:00 a.m. - noon, Mount Mary University This is an interactive workshop focused on deepening our understanding and relationship to the earth and her diverse regions, landscapes, and communities. Drawing from the insights of Rudolf Steiner

and other students of etheric geography, we will seek in practical ways to find a connection between our own genius and the genius of place.

Alex Boshell is a Spatial Dynamics graduate, practitioner and teacher who mentors movement educators nationally and is coming to us from Chicago, IL. Robert Karp serves as co-director of the Biodynamic Association and is a long-time social entrepreneur in the sustainable food and farming movement. He speaks locally and nationally on anthroposophical subjects, including Etheric Geography.
\$45 with registration by Oct. 7; \$50 after Oct. 7,
Mount Mary University Caroline Hall Student Lounge
2900 N Menomonee River Pkwy, Milwaukee, WI 53222
To Register, visit <http://greatlakeswaldorf.org/events-5/etheric-geography-what-lives-in-the-land/>

Folk Dancing for Waldorf Educators

Not only is Folk Dancing fun, but it is also a valuable part of a Waldorf education. Jutta and Terran Distler will give Waldorf teachers recommendations for what dances to bring when in the curriculum and how to instruct the students for a positive experience. See below to register.

Folk Dancing for the Rest of Us

Shall we dance? Of course! Come and learn international folk dances with others who don't know how. This hour and a half will go quickly with live music and instruction from Jutta and the Hi Dukes. See below to register.

Jutta and Terran Distler have been bringing the benefits of international folk dancing to numerous groups of children and adults, including Waldorf educators, for many years. <http://www.hidukes.com>

What: Folk Dancing for Waldorf Teachers & the Rest of Us

When: Friday, October 21, 2016

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for Waldorf Teachers; 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for Everyone!

Where: Mount Mary University, Caroline Hall Student Lounge, 2900 N Menomonee River Pkwy, Milwaukee, WI 53222

To register, visit <http://greatlakeswaldorf.org/events-5/folk-dancing-for-waldorf-teachers-the-rest-of-us/>

LUNCHBOX EXPRESS COMMUNITY NEWS POLICY

The Lunchbox Express Community News section is provided as a service to the school community. Printing of an ad does not imply endorsement by Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School.

How to Place an Ad:

1. Limit your ad to 70 words. We do not edit. We will not print ads over 70 words. If you must have a long ad, make a note & give it to the office staff to place on the bulletin board.
2. Ads will be printed only once.
3. Put your ad in the folder in the LBE's mailbox in the Office marked "Lunchbox Community News" OR e-mail ad to info@pleasantridgewaldorf.org with "Community News" in the subject line.
4. Deadline is Tuesdays at 8:30am. There may be occasions, due to unforeseen circumstances or space restrictions, that the Community section will not be printed. Thank you.

Inform

AWSNA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

DEAR WALDORF COMMUNITY

On September 28, I had the honor of addressing US Department of Education officers, state department representatives, and private school leaders at an annual meeting of the US Department of Education's Office for Non-Public Education in Washington, D.C. I joined other guest presenters to include Ryan Olson, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, from the University of Virginia; Nadya Dabby, Assistant Deputy Secretary from the Office of Innovation and Improvement; Carol Bower from the National Assessment for Educational Progress, Phil Rosfelt from the Office of General Council; and Jan Cuny from the National Science Foundation.

The powerful opening session challenged the US Department of Education's mission of education in the United States 'to compete in a global economy' by choosing to focus on character, moral, and citizen formation. Waldorf Education was a relevant and natural successor to this conversation. I was pleased to share our history, our philosophical foundation, and our educational aims and graduate successes. This session was met with great enthusiasm and tremendous feedback from influential individuals in the world of education. Other sessions addressed computer science, emergency management, Supreme Court cases relevant to the educational community, and national assessment, aka our 'nation's report card.'

Warmly,

Beverly



AVALON INITIATIVE

Teachers, Parents, Students: Share Your Stories! The Avalon Initiative is seeking stories for its "[Hearts Speak](#)" online platform. The story theme is "transformations in children's lives that can only happen when there is a heart connection between teachers and students." A qualitative research study will use the stories to help demonstrate the importance of heart-felt relations between teachers and students. Submission deadline is November 30.

The [Avalon Initiative](#) is sponsored by the Research Institute for Waldorf Education and the Hawthorne Valley Center for Social Research. It supports educational freedom and opposes undue influences in education by commercial and political interests.

WALDORF IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to our schools for gaining increased acknowledgement in their communities. The **Waldorf School of Baltimore** was recently featured in [Green Teacher](#), which describes their Forest Aftercare program in an in-depth article called "Rolling Stones and Catching Beetles."



An article in the [Register-Star](#) explores **Eugene Waldorf School's** 'no homework' policy in the early grades. "Students in kindergarten through fourth grade, for the most part, go home without any homework assignments. And that helps them retain what they've heard. They've absorbed so much after a full day of learning, and we need to give them time to digest that," said Erika Finstad, a fourth-grade teacher at the school.

ESSENTIALS IN EDUCATION BLOG

Our latest blog post is on "[The Powerful Force of Curiosity](#)." Does curiosity really matter? Does an educational approach that values curiosity advance learning and academic success? The answer most certainly is yes. Science is beginning to uncover the important link between curiosity and learning, and research tells us that we're right to place high value on this trait.

If you haven't already done so, please visit our education blog, called "Essentials In Education." In it we explore topics that matter to educators, researchers, policy experts, and thought leaders - from a Waldorf Education perspective. Previous topics include [Happiness in the Classroom](#), [Be Worthy of Imitation: Why Modeling Matters at Home and in Class](#), [Fostering Lifelong Learning](#), [The Importance of Productive Solitude](#).

We welcome comments and feedback. We also welcome guest posts. Please contact Beverly Amico at bamico@awsna.org for details.



CONGRATULATIONS

And congratulations to the 50th anniversary of the [Detroit Waldorf School](#)! The 92-year-old founder, Ameila Wilhelm, was present to



celebrate the school's 50th anniversary by dedicating a historic marker at the Albert Kahn-designed building in Detroit's historic Indian Village neighborhood. It was housed at Central United Methodist Church on Woodward until 1966, when the couple purchased the stucco and brick structure on Burns Avenue.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to **Mercurius USA** and to **TADs** and to **Big Sis**



for supporting AWSNA as members of our partners' circle.

Please join us on social media:



COMMUNITY WEB RESOURCES

WALDORFEDUCATION.ORG

FORMS

Templates you can use to create your own forms can be found on the "Affiliated School Resources" page of our website.

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for our newsletter on our website and like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

You can also support us on our website.
Thank you for your commitment to Waldorf Education!

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Parent Feedback for Class Teachers

Parent Feedback for Subject Teachers

Teacher's Name _____ Subject _____

The feedback you give here is part of the evaluation process for teachers. The completed form will go to a Personnel Committee member for collating. These forms are to be signed. All information is confidential and the themes will be presented to the teacher at his/her evaluation conversation. Teacher evaluations include a classroom observation visit, review of students' work, a self-evaluation, feedback from parents and feedback from colleagues.

Thank you for your participation.

1. Do you think your child is having a positive experience in this class? Please elaborate if you wish.

2. Good communication is one aspect of a healthy relationship between parent(s) and teachers. Do you have a good relationship with this teacher? Please elaborate if you wish.

3. What do you appreciate about your child's experience in this specialty class?

4. What strengths have you observed in this teacher?

5. Do you have any ideas and suggestions for this teacher?

6. Any other questions, concerns, comments?

Signature

Date