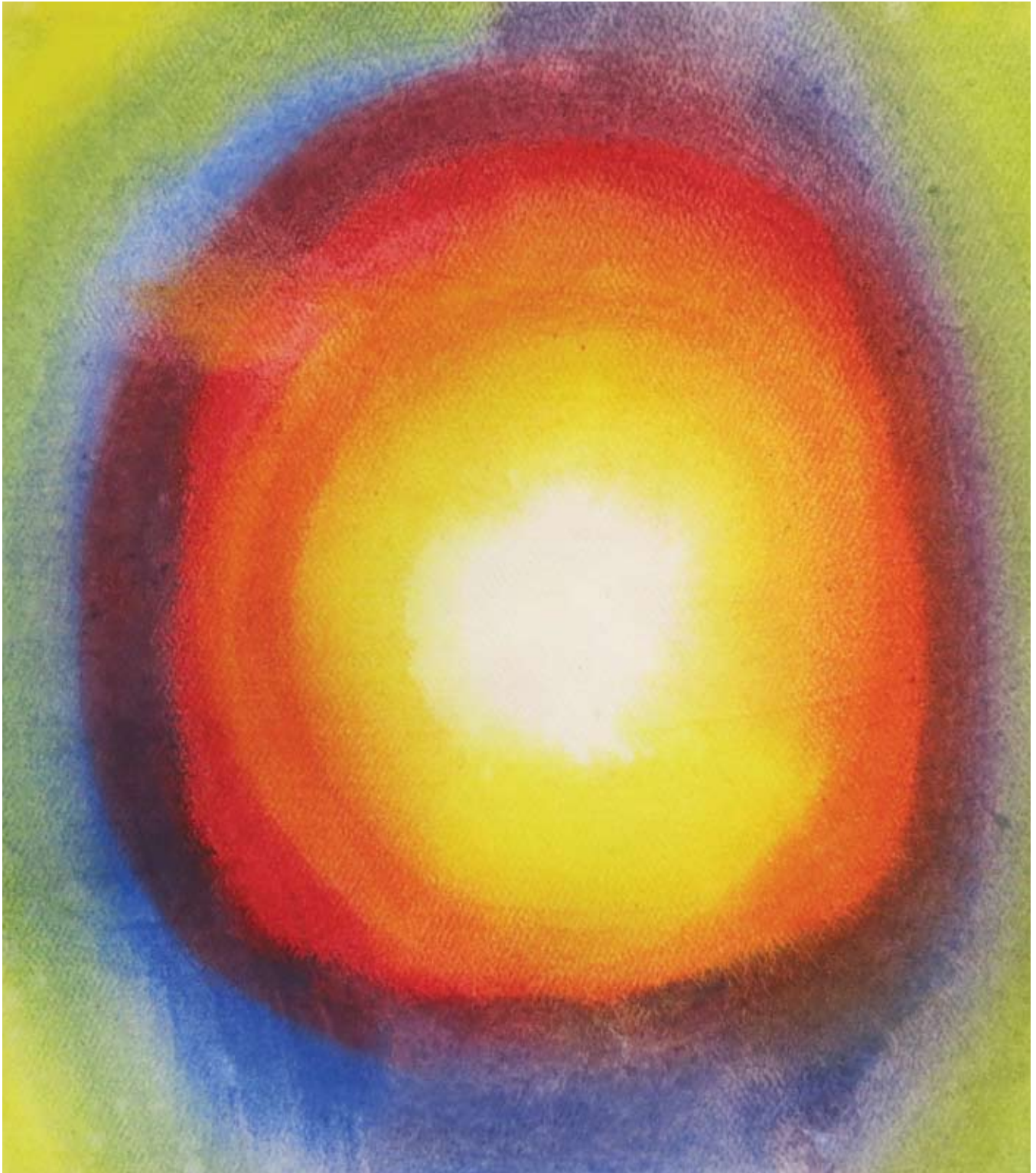


# CALYX

PLEASANT RIDGE  
WALDORF SCHOOL

Waldorf Education since 1980

Volume 35, Issue 1  
Fall 2013



*Andrew Fassbinder, Grade 2*

  
**PLEASANT RIDGE**  
**WALDORF SCHOOL**  
 431 East Court Street, Viroqua

## COMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

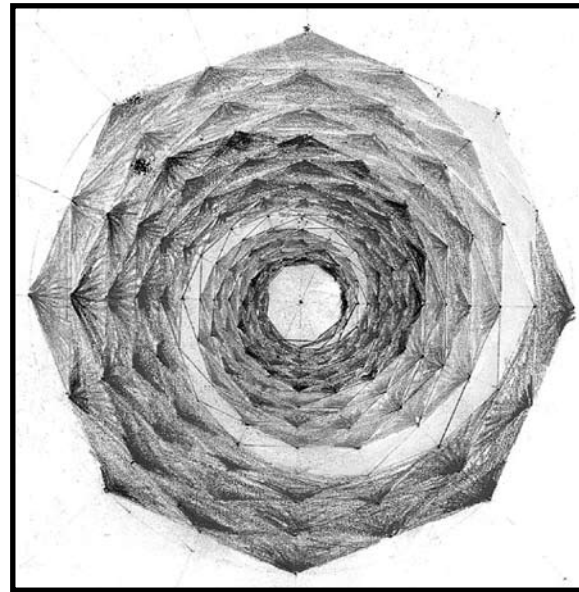
- 19 Fall Music Concert—upper grades
- 25 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Eurythmy Performance
- 27–29 Thanksgiving Break—no classes

### DECEMBER

- 6 Holiday Faire—noon dismissal
- 7 Holiday Faire
- 9–10 Advent Spiral
- 13 Feast of Santa Lucia
- 20 Festival of Light—noon dismissal
- 22 Alumni Reunion
- 23 Holiday Break

### JANUARY

- 6 School Resumes
- 17 Epiphany/MLK Celebration



## Calendar of the Soul

I can, in newly quickened inner life,  
 Sense wide horizons in myself.  
 The force and radiance of my thought—  
 Coming from soul's sun power—  
 Can solve the mysteries of life,  
 And grant fulfillment now to wishes  
 Whose wings have long been lamed by hope.

—Rudolf Steiner

# WELCOME

Another year begins and we have been blessed with a wonderful group of new families and new students. Nine new families have enrolled their 13 children in our school; the kindergartens have received 8 new siblings of older students; and we have welcomed back 3 students who are returning after some time away, for a total of 24 new faces in our classrooms. Many of our new families have been involved in other Waldorf schools before moving to our area. Below is a list of the new families, with some information about the parents, so you can begin to know them and help them feel welcomed into our school. We are very happy they are here!

—Maureen Karlstad, Enrollment Coordinator

### NEW FAMILIES

**Tanja Birke & Evan Blattner**, Viroqua  
**Dylan Katieb**—Grade 6

The Birke-Blattner-Katieb family moved here from the Twin Cities. Tanja worked as an RN clinical manager for At Home Solutions. Now she is the Thursday-Friday secretary in the school office. She enjoys cooking, gardening, and writing. Evan is a self-employed handyman. He enjoys music, motorcycles, and carpentry. Their older daughter, Olivia, is a freshman at Youth Initiative High School.

**Steven Boisvert**, Viroqua  
**Lucy Boisvert**—Grade 7

Steve lives in Viroqua but travels extensively as the director of Community Collaborations International, an organization that offers volunteer groups the opportunity to provide disaster relief and to complete environmental and human service projects both nationally and internationally. He enjoys volunteering, art, and politics.

**Michelle Drucker & Steve Williams**,  
 Soldiers Grove  
**Lucy Boisvert**—Grade 7

Michelle works as a physical therapist for the Comprehensive Educational Service Agency (CESA) #4 in West Salem, Wisconsin. She enjoys skate skiing, biking, and Special Olympics. Steve is a freelance field interviewer and data collector for a handful of companies around the country who conduct health studies, energy audits, and program inspections. Currently he is doing energy use audits of commercial buildings up and down the east coast of Iowa, and insurance inspections of homes all around southwest Wisconsin. His interests include athletics, home projects, gardening, music, cooking—as he puts it, typical 58-year-old guy stuff.

**Jordan & Mark Brudos**, Viroqua  
**Charlotte**—Rosemary Kindergarten  
**Emma**—Grade 1  
**Adyn**—Grade 3

Jordan is an RN with the Mayo Clinic Health Systems in La Crosse. Her interests include knitting, spinning, gardening, fishing, and crafting. Mark is a computer programmer at Organic Valley. He enjoys gardening, canning, disc golf, and farming.

**Mark Dubey & Marinella Pro**, Viroqua  
**Sophia**—Grade 2  
**Elise**—Grade 6

Mark is self-employed. His interests include woodworking, hiking, and reading. Marinella was a kindergarten teacher at Three Rivers Waldorf School in La Crosse. Her interests include puppetry, walking, and reading.

**Jessica & Jeremiah Fitzer**, Viroqua  
**Finn**—Violet Kindergarten

Jessica and Jeremiah run their own business, J. Fitzer Electric. Jessica enjoys crafting, music, cooking, and hiking. Jeremiah's interests include hiking, biking, and cooking.

**Nicole Penick**, Viroqua  
**Cosmo Crockett**—Rosemary Kindergarten

Nicole works as a coordinator at Organic Valley. Her interests include gardening, teaching, and eco-literacy.

**Amber Biver & Tracy Turben**, Soldiers Grove  
**Olivia**—Violet Kindergarten

Amber is a retail wireless consultant at US Cellular. You may have seen her at the Viroqua store next to Village Market. She likes to read, be outside, learn new things, and cook. Tracy is a self-employed construction worker. His interests include computers and fixing things.

**Amy Morse**, La Crosse  
**Cecilia Dockry**—Grade 7

Amy taught at Three Rivers Waldorf School in La Crosse for 5 years. She has been involved in Waldorf education for many years, since her oldest son started kindergarten. Amy's interests include spending time in nature, singing, knitting, gardening and cooking.

**Andrew (Drew) Dockry**, Holmen  
**Cecilia Dockry**—Grade 7

Drew is a mail clerk in the Gunderson-Lutheran Health System. Drew's passion is music. He has been a musician for 25 years, playing in a local band called Flibbertijibbet and in solo shows as a songwriter, singer and guitarist. He is also a writer and is looking to publish his first book of short stories. Originally from Green Bay, Drew moved to La Crosse for college. He fell in love with the area and stayed.

**Janice & Michael Zimmermann**, Westby  
**Ethan**—Grade 4  
**Emma**—Grade 6

The Zimmermann family has moved here from Milwaukee. They looked at houses for a long time before recently buying a farm near Westby. Janice is a stay-at-home mom. She likes art, crafts, gardening, and volunteer work. Mike is a detective with the city of Milwaukee. He enjoys biking and history.

### NEW SIBLINGS

**Huxley Brown**, son of Stephanie & Dan Brown  
**Rosemary Kindergarten**

**Asher Elfrink**, son of Teri & Steve Elfrink  
**Rosemary Kindergarten**

**Cyrus Hundt**, son of Sofya & Jacob Hundt  
**Violet Kindergarten**

**Lucia Hood Nicholes**, daughter of Emma & Caleb Nicholes  
**Rosemary Kindergarten**

**Amelia Olson**, daughter of Tammy & Jim Olson  
**Rosemary Kindergarten**

**Cassidy Ramsay**, son of Vicki Ramsay  
**Violet Kindergarten**

**Iyla Schirmer**, daughter of Amy Petrozzini & Ron Schirmer  
**Violet Kindergarten**

**Amara Semanchin**, daughter of Denise & TJ Semanchin  
**Rosemary Kindergarten**

### RETURNING STUDENTS

**Maia Barendregt**, daughter of Susan & Tomas Barendregt  
**Grade 7**

**Sam Hart**, son of Anne O'Connor; son of Joe Hart  
**Grade 7**

**Huckleberry Hopkins**, son of Erin Wajer-Lang;  
 son of Mitch Hopkins  
**Grade 1**

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**Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School**  
 431 E. Court Street, Viroqua, WI 54665  
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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](mailto:cynthia@pleasantrydwaldorf.org).*

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# NEW FACULTY & STAFF

## Amanda Rubasch, Assistant Teacher, Rosemary Kindergarten

We are pleased to welcome Amanda Rubasch as the assistant teacher to the Rosemary Kindergarten. Amanda is an alumna of Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School. She attended kindergarten and 8 years in the grades in Maureen Karlstad's class which graduated in 2001, and from there went on to explore the world.

Amanda has a major in Studio Arts and minors in Women's Studies and Environmental Studies. She comes with a wide range of experiences in community development, food processing, gardening, and farm education.

Like many of our alumni, Amanda worked abroad to gain appreciation of other people in the world. She went as far as Ecuador and Bangladesh, learning about new cultures, food processing, and agriculture. Amanda says that her love for traveling exists because of her father's encouragement since she was a young girl. While in college, she traveled to numerous places and worked on an organic farm in Germany, walked around the Roman Coliseum, hiked through the Amazon rain forest, visited the Statue of Liberty, and learned about the challenges of micro finance firsthand. What stands out most through all her travels, she says, is the beauty and destitution that exists in all the different cultures and landscapes.

Combining her love of the arts, agriculture, children, and foods, Amanda finds that teaching our young children is helping to build the foundation for their future; just as growing and cooking food is the foundation of our health. Then, she continues, "I see creativity as the foundation for teaching, gardening, and cooking. Often people in our culture see these jobs as insignificant, but they really are the hidden roots to our life existence. What joy there is in planting a tiny seed, watching it grow, caring for it, harvesting its fruit, cooking it, and serving it to a hungry child. As challenging as teaching can be, there is nothing more rewarding than watching a child learn and grow."

Amanda lives with her partner, Reed, on a farm in Crawford County. She not only works with joy and dedication in the kindergarten, she also helps at Driftless Organics. In her spare time Amanda milks her goats and makes lots of goat cheese.

In just the few weeks we have been working with Amanda in the Rosemary Kindergarten, it is evident that Amanda is a wonderful and natural Waldorf teacher. She is remarkably responsible, enthusiastic, and committed to the Waldorf pedagogy. We are very happy to have Amanda join our team, and we look forward to her assistance in developing our garden area in the Rosemary Kindergarten, as well as her delicious lunches.

—Anne-Marie Fryer, Kindergarten and Class Teacher



## Tanja Birke, Office Secretary

We are excited to welcome Tanja Birke, who joins us at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School on Thursdays and Fridays in the office. Tanja and her family come from the Twin Cities area, where she lived for many years. She has two daughters: Olivia, who is a freshman at YIHS, and Dylan, who is in 6th grade at PRWS. Both girls attended City of Lakes Waldorf School in Minneapolis as well as Spring Hill Waldorf School in Excelsior, MN. Tanja's partner Evan Blattner is a handyman/do-it-all kind of gentleman with a quick wit and a warm-hearted smile.

Tanja has always been a wonderful part of any community she's lived in. Her warmth, generosity, and "can do" attitude have a great cohesive effect in any group she is in. She is equally comfortable enjoying the fruits of a beautiful life or getting down to work on challenges and conflict. She is not shy about hard work and loves to offer help wherever it is needed.

Tanja is also a writer who has published poetry and done spoken word poetry performance in Minneapolis. She is a registered nurse and has worked largely in the care-giving field of elder home health care. She was an excellent trainer and teacher of nursing staff at her last job, and was also extremely warm and generous with children of all ages when she worked in after-care through the Waldorf schools her girls attended, providing fun activities and handwork for the children under her care.

We are very lucky to have Tanja in our community here in Viroqua. Join me in welcoming her if you stop by the office sometime!

—Angela Rennilson, parent

## Amy Petrozzini, Co-Chef, Hot Lunch

It's not always easy to share. Even for an adult and even for a hot lunch cook. After stewarding all the meals made in the school kitchen for the organic hot lunch program for quite a few years, I learned that offering someone the opportunity to help with the daily meal preparation could actually enhance our service to the school community.

Last year Julie Turino was my co-chef and did a splendid job. Unfortunately she and her family moved away. For me to offer this position again, I hoped and prayed that just the right person would come forth. My prayers were answered and my hope has been renewed.



Meet Amy Petrozzini. Two years ago, Amy moved to Viroqua from Chicago with her children and her husband, Ron Schirmer, who was about to become a teacher at Pleasant Ridge. Their children had attended the Chicago Waldorf School. Now three of them attend Pleasant Ridge and one daughter attends Youth Initiative High School. Amy's interest and appreciation for Waldorf education is based in its teaching methods which emphasize the arts and creativity. She also values the close personal relationships between the students and their class teacher throughout their school years together.

Amy brings a depth of knowledge for cooking from scratch (a highly valued skill when cooking over 100 meals a day!). Amy is a longtime vegetarian, and this perspective adds a lot to the cuisine we have established in our lunch program. She is an adventurous cook and is willing to try new meals which will certainly promote expanding our lunch menu a bit. And being Italian, she brings a real flair for fennel-accented red sauce!

Amy is also an artist on many levels. She volunteers her sewing and clothes-making skill to many a school play and within the Viroqua theater community.

Amy has already proven her kitchen skills, but another important aspect of helping to manage the hot lunch program is being patient and helpful with volunteers and with our kitchen staff. Amy approaches both of these areas with warmth, humor, and mutual support. She has a keen sense for what we call "flow" in the kitchen, and this has been a real blessing.

Besides all of these grand merits, I am especially grateful to Amy for her spirit. Keeping a sense of responsibility mixed with grace and gratitude has served the hot lunch program quite well since she has joined us. To see others with whom we share the kitchen begin to understand how our work together supports the whole school community truly creates a sense that we are striving towards something very meaningful in our daily work.

So thank you, Amy. Thank you for sharing yourself with all of us.

—Jim "The Cook" Hallberg,  
Organic Hot Lunch Coordinator

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Summer Work

During the summer the gym, entry ways, hallways and bathrooms had a facelift. Thanks to a special gift from an alumni family, a crew of painters worked during July to transform these public spaces. The colors harmonize with the flooring and tiles on the walls. We hired a nice mix of alumni and current parents to work on the project, guided by a former parent, Lloyd Keesler. We especially thank Amy Petrozzini and



Paul Viña who donated many hours of service. Amy also donated paint and lovely plants and plant stands for the bathrooms.



## Timpani Donation

The Marvin G. & Barbara J. McNeal Foundation provided the school with funds to purchase two new timpani for the percussion section of the school orchestra. Ephraim Sutherland, who plays timpani in the Viroqua High School orchestra, gave a demonstration to the seventh and eighth graders when the instruments first arrived. Students were eager to try them out! Thanks to Barb and Marv, these quality timpani will allow the students to have a rich and authentic orchestral experience.



## Waldorf Wednesdays

Our new Administrative Chair, Marianne Fieber, has set aside time on Wednesday afternoons to meet with people who are interested in conversation and study on the general topic of Waldorf Education. Right now the group is beginning a study of Rudolf Steiner's *The Kingdom of Childhood*, a series of lectures given to a small group of pioneering Waldorf teachers in England. These lectures are considered one of Steiner's best introductions to Waldorf education. The group is meeting from 2:00 to 2:45 pm each Wednesday in Room 202 of the Landmark Center. All are welcome!

## Parent Council

The Parent Council has organized a number of social events for this school year. One event was the Mothers Night Out that happened on Wednesday, October 9, at the Driftless Café. It was a good time to visit with other mothers and support a local establishment! The other event is ongoing. Members of Parent Council will be hosting Parent Teas after some of the Friday morning assemblies. These teas will offer tea, coffee and baked goods for parents and community members who wish to stay after the assembly and visit. The next tea is on Friday, November 15.

## SCHOOL NEWS

## Grandparents and Special Friends Day

At Grandparents and Special Friends Day on October 18, guest speaker and PRWS alumni Jacob Hundt shared the fascinating story of his years as a student at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School and the impact it had on his expectations for education. His experiences at Pleasant Ridge led him to be a founding student of Youth Initiative High School and influenced his choices in higher education. He now has two children at Pleasant Ridge and he is the Program Administrator and teacher extraordinaire at Youth Initiative High School. The 80 grandparents and special friends in attendance appreciated his warmth, candor, and obvious dedication to Waldorf education.



Grandparents and Special Friends toured the school's outdoor spaces with Greenspace coordinator Cynthia Olmstead and School Garden Coordinator Arwyn Wildingway.

## CURRICULUM

## Parent-Child Program

The fall session of the Parent-Child program began on September 20 under the skillful guidance of early childhood educator Martha Buche. Currently there are eight families who have signed up for the Friday classes. Plans are under way to add an additional day if there is more interest. Parents who are interested in joining Martha and other families with young children for a two-hour morning session filled with open-ended activities for children, seasonal crafts for parents, and good conversation for all, can call the school office to sign up for the rest of the fall session as well as the winter and spring sessions.

## American Players Theater

Going to see a Shakespeare play at the American Players Theater in Spring Green has become something of a tradition in our school. This year the seventh and eighth graders drove an hour to the theater to see a rousing outdoor performance of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The day was warm and sunny and the group had a fantastic time. The students were able to experience the genius of Shakespeare in a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable way.

## Sixth Grade Geology Field Trip

In September, the sixth grade went on a wonderful field trip as part of their Geology block of study. Under the expert guidance of Bill Humphrey, outdoor educator and owner/operator of Essential Skills Outdoor School, the students experienced rock climbing and spelunking (otherwise known as cave exploration). It is difficult to imagine a better way to learn about the durability of the mineral kingdom than by rappelling off an 80-foot cliff!

## Seventh Grade Chemistry

Students are excitedly exploring the various flame colors that common metals exhibit when burning.



## What Is Michaelmas?

St. Michael is the guiding Archangel of our times. His name's Hebrew origin is a question: Who is like God? His festival comes quickly on the heels of the autumnal equinox as the light of day grows shorter and shorter.

We are coming out of the shining, scintillating time of summer when the world seems simple and easy, even a little boring. We are looking ahead to an unknown time of cold and darkness. We can be filled with questions and fear. In times past, the questions were more directly connected with personal survival in terms of food, shelter, and warmth. This might still be the case for some. For most of us, however, it is more a question of how we will inwardly survive.

Whether our fears relate to the economy, the state of the political world, the oppression of big business, or the proliferation of violence in the world, there is much to worry about. Worrying isn't helping, though, and what are we to do?

Michaelmas is the autumn festival that reminds us we are not alone. When we turn humbly to the spiritual world, to God, however we understand that term, there is abundant help not only to face every situation but to face it with interest and joy.

The real work is that humble turning. Who has not yielded to the temptation to sink into our own mired thoughts, to despair over the state of the world, our lives, our relationships, our work? It is a

discipline to turn our lives over to our Higher Power, not once or twice or three times but every day, if not every hour or moment.

Therein lies strength, joy, interest in others, movement away from selfishness, and courage to take up our lives. There is Michael waiting for us, his sword of heavenly light raised and ready for our use. His question "Who is like God?" can be answered: WE ARE.

Winter can then be experienced not as darkness and cold but as breathtaking crystalline clarity. In Michael's name we are ready.

—Barbara Danner, Grade 6 Class Teacher



## Third Grade Celebrates Sukkot

In the third grade, Waldorf students hear stories from the Hebrew Scriptures and often celebrate Jewish holidays in conjunction with their studies. This makes for a very rich year, filled with Hebrew songs, dances, verses, and writing—and beautiful, meaningful celebrations.

This year, in a delightful congruence, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, fell on September 4, the first day of our school year. We celebrated by sharing apples and honey with the staff and faculty, representing our wishes for a sweet year to come. Over the next few days, as we approached the holiday of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, we naturally discussed the code of conduct for the school and our class. Yom Kippur is a time for one to make amends for past transgressions and make plans and resolutions for doing better in the coming year.

Since Waldorf third-graders study both Hebrew literature and shelter building, we combined the two subjects and built a sukkah, meaning "booth" or "tabernacle," in celebration of Sukkot, the Jewish harvest festival, which this year began at sundown on September 18 and continued through September 25. Traditionally, the sukkah is a temporary structure built during the autumn as a remembrance of ancient Israel. During the busy harvest time, Jewish people would construct these huts near the edges of their fields to provide needed shade and shelter for villagers so they wouldn't waste daylight hours walking to and from the village.

The sukkah is also reminiscent of the type of dwelling used by the Israelites during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness after the Exodus. The Torah instructs that one should invite guests in to eat, and that one should be able to see the stars through the schach, or roof, of the sukkah. This year, the third grade fulfilled both of these instructions. First, we hosted each grade during a snack or recess, singing our blessing of the bread in Hebrew.

The culmination of our experience of Sukkot was also our first sleepover as a class. We came to the school yard in our pajamas just before bedtime and laid out our sleeping bags within the four hay-bale-lined walls we had constructed. It was a cozy fit for the 21 third-graders and their teacher. Stargazing and storytelling made for a very solid night's sleep for all (except the teacher, of course). Our dear parent guardians sleeping outside were disappointed not to be called on as escorts even once in the night.

We were greeted in the morning with a hearty breakfast of baked oatmeal, muffins, and hot apple cider that we had pressed ourselves, prepared for us by four parent elves. The children had survived their first sleepover in a warm, safe, and familiar environment while acting out a centuries-old tradition. There were definitely stars in their eyes!

—Betty Link, Grade 3 Class Teacher

# Helping Children to Develop Wonder and Respect

By Henry Barnes (first published in the Fall/Winter 1999 issue of *Renewal* magazine)

*Henry Barnes was the first American to be trained (in Stuttgart, in 1934) as a Waldorf teacher. Henry served Waldorf Education—as a teacher and administrator at the Rudolf Steiner School of New York and a leader of the Waldorf movement in North America.*

Respect is an attitude of honoring, of seeing the value of, even being in awe of something or someone. It expresses itself in various forms, from simple politeness and civility to deep, heartfelt reverence. A child helping an old person across the street and that same old person kneeling before an altar in a church are both expressing respect.

One may argue that, in our modern Western society, respect is steadily disappearing. Our material prosperity, our materialistic worldview, our obsession with egalitarianism all tend to erode our respect for the simple things of life, for nature, for other human beings, and—perhaps most insidiously and dangerously—for ourselves.

One can see this erosion among people of all ages but especially among the young. Children are trained implicitly and explicitly to take the world, its beauty and its wonders, for granted. The innate sense of respect, reverence and wonder that people had in earlier times is hard to find today.

Yet, the current situation is also an opportunity to regain in freedom and with consciousness what we had in the past as a gift. To regain for ourselves the attitude of sincere respect and to help our children develop it is an important challenge for adults today. Respect—in its broadest and deepest sense—is fundamental to all true knowledge. We can never truly know and understand something or someone unless we respect that thing or person. Furthermore, respect is necessary to self-development. In his basic work *How to Know Higher Worlds*, Rudolf Steiner writes:

If we do not develop within ourselves this deeply rooted feeling that there is something higher than ourselves, we shall never find the strength to evolve to something higher.... You can only acquire right knowledge when you have learned to esteem it.

Steiner then describes how important it is for a child or young person to have someone whom they deeply respect and admire. He cautions:

It must not be thought that this disposition leads to submission and slavery. What was once veneration for persons becomes, later, veneration for truth and knowledge.

And although he was writing one hundred years ago, Steiner then observes that

Our civilization tends more towards critical judgment and condemnation than towards devotion and selfless veneration. Our children already criticize more than they revere.

Waldorf education in a conscious and intended way provides the child with opportunities all through the grades to develop an attitude of respect and wonder toward the world. These are an intrinsic part of the Waldorf curriculum.

To help the child develop respect we must provide an environment of respect. The ground from which later, more conscious respect will grow is comprised of experiences of respect that we have in childhood. If a small child is privileged to imitate, to “drink in” an environment in which people meet, work and live together in an atmosphere of respect, this experience will be digested and transformed into a body of attitudes and habits from which he or she will draw, more and more consciously, for the whole of life.

The Waldorf curriculum in its entirety aims to instill a sense of respect in the child, but there are certain moments when there is a special opportunity. In the fourth grade, for example, the children study the animal kingdom. The block of study in itself reveals to the child the wonderful variety of different creatures in the world. But presenting the human being in relation to the animal kingdom can do much to engender respect and wonder at one’s own identity as a human being. It can help the fourth grader to discover what it means to be a human being.

Through all of their studies, students gain a deep respect for the things they study and for their own ability to learn, to do, and to create. Rudolf Steiner said, “You can only gain right knowledge when you have learned to esteem it.” It is crucial for young people to respect and esteem the things they strive to know, as well as the process through which they come to know them.

We need to find new ways to nurture respect at every level of experience and at every step on the path leading from childhood to adulthood. This sense of respect and wonder must arise first in the human heart and then inform how we think about the world and about ourselves. Then it can move into the will and influence all our human activities.

**PRWS Annual Raffle**

**GRAND PRIZE**  
Trip for two to Cape Cod, MA or \$4,000

**SECOND PRIZE**  
Two plane tickets within continental U.S. or \$1000

**THIRD PRIZE**  
Nick Wroblewski signed original woodcut print

**FOURTH PRIZE**  
Dinner for two at the Driftless Café

**FIFTH PRIZE**  
An array of handmade candles

**\$20 per ticket**

Raffle drawing will be held at the Rooted Spoon Culinary on March 1, 2014, 7:30 pm  
219 S. Main St., Viroqua, WI 54665  
*Need not be present to win. Winnings are subject to state/federal tax.*



# ALUMNI

## Sofia Arnold

Sofia Arnold, PRWS class of 2000, was commissioned to design a large painting for the new wing of the Madison Public Library. She attended the opening, where many viewed her imagery extending across the entire far-back walls on both the first and second floors. Congratulations, Sofie!



From Sofie: The art coordinator for the Madison Public Library was familiar with my work and included me on a list of possible artists to commission for a permanent mural in the new downtown public Library. I was contacted back in March of 2012 to begin work on a concept. My challenge was to create a design that would cover over 5000 square feet of solid wall and glass on the first and second floor, that would be seen from across the library in some places, but also up close as visitors moved between the stacks. The walls I was designing for wouldn’t even exist for another year! I created a series of hand-drawn objects, inspired by my memory and imagination of things that would get swept up in the muddy, flooded west fork of the Kickapoo River in spring, and scanned them into my computer. I then used my computer to duplicate, flip, and rotate the objects and create a final composition to mimic the energy and movement of a river along the two walls. My piece is just a small part of a new type of library that is choosing to embrace art. Along with many other permanent pieces, there is also a dedicated gallery. I don’t have anything that talks really specifically about my piece, but here is a piece about art in the library: <http://www.madisonmagazine.com/Blogs/Artscape/September-2013/The-New-Central-Library-is-a-Creativity-Hub/>

## Forrest Humphrey

Forrest Humphrey, PRWS class of 2007, is also a graduate of Youth Initiative High School. He is currently studying Art History at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Forrest has secured a part-time internship this fall at CircEsteem in Chicago. CircEsteem’s mission is to unite youth from diverse racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds and help them build self-esteem and mu-

tual respect through the practice of circus arts. The professional circus staff fosters confidence and cooperation among student participants while teaching a variety of skills such as clowning, juggling, stilt walking, ball walking, unicycling, gym wheel, and acrobatics. Students progress at their own pace while working hands-on with instructors in a safe and supportive environment. We wish Forrest a rousing good time at the circus!

## David Paull

David Paull, PRWS class of 2005, now living in Atlanta, Georgia, is the founder and CEO of Compostwheels. Leo Cox, PRWS class of 2006, recently moved to Atlanta to work with David as the Development Coordinator for the company. The idea for Compostwheels came from a five-month-long commercial, urban agriculture training course David attended at Growing Power of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a nonprofit group leading the way in urban agriculture education. Compostwheels is a compost pick-up service that makes it easy to compost in the city. Each week food scraps are collected from the homes and businesses of the customers and then taken to nearby urban farms, schools, or community gardens where the material is composted into rich soil. The soil is returned to the customer or donated to the composting site. Compostwheels was featured on CNN’s Headline News. We are happy to report that David’s business is doing well! You can find out more about Compostwheels at their website, <http://www.compostwheels.com>, or on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Compostwheels>.



This year we've all enjoyed seeing the Permaculture Greenspace and Outdoor Classroom bloom and buzz with Nature's activity throughout the spring and summer. In addition, the Greenspace was made more beautiful and functional with the installation of new fencing and signage in September, funded through the Paul E. Stry Foundation. Parents, alumni parents and a few PRWS graduates from YIHS, Laurel and VHS joined together to help build the fence. Thank you to the Facilities Committee, Greenspace Committee and alumni parents Bill Townsley and Elliot Medow who helped with planning. On the workday, Bill, Elliot, Jerry McIntire, and Matt Shortridge worked tirelessly to help Cynthia coordinate and troubleshoot constructing fence on an old road bed! Thank you to Stephanie Brown for helping coordinate volunteers and Mary Christenson for all her support including lunch for the workday. A heartfelt thank you to the other volunteers: Neil Knutson, Curtis Peterson, Richard Bock, Con Blake, Gabriel Daniels, Arwyn Wildingway, Byron Fanning, Jeshua Breitbart, Eli Perry, Will Blake, and Shannon Landis.



Elliot Medow painted the new signs at either end of the Greenspace with help from Geri Shonka's design.

It's been wonderful to see the classes from both PRWS and YIHS already using the space this fall and we thoroughly enjoyed giving tours of the space during Grandparents and Special Friends Day on October 18th.

—Cynthia Olmstead, Greenspace Coordinator, PRWS Development Office

Phase II of Greenspace finished with new fencing and signage

# DONORS

Many thanks to those who have supported our school June 12 – October 2, 2013

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Music Lessons & Carpentry  
Sime Furniture  
Sing Your Heart Out Studio:  
Dodie Whitaker  
Tapestry Yoga  
Tulips  
Viroqua Public Market  
Viroqua Village Market

# DEVELOPMENT

The sun with loving light makes bright for me each day,  
The soul with spirit power gives strength unto my limbs.

(from the daily morning verse, grades 1-4)

We are back into the full swing of school, and the children are eager to receive the wonderful gifts of Waldorf education. In August we began to hear from parents that their children were starting to say that they couldn't wait to get back to school. These words were music to our ears for those of us who spent a good portion of our summer preparing the buildings and grounds, curriculum offerings, directories and handbooks, the budget, and training new staff. All of this, though, is made possible through the generosity of all of you—the parents, donors, and businesses that support our programming. For this we are most humbly grateful.

We are also buoyed by the mission of Waldorf education: to make a positive difference in the world through our work with the children and with the adults who collaborate to build and steward the school. It is a community-building process that is never-ending. Each year new students join classes and go through a process of fitting in and bringing new life. The same is true for the families who have decided to make the commitment to this community of teachers and parents.

And how are we doing in reaching this lofty mission? As we begin our 34th year, we can now look to our alumni to hear from them on this question. At Grandparents and Special Friends Day in October we provide an opportunity for one, sometimes two, alums to speak to the guests. It is fascinating to hear their personal stories of how their years at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School made a difference in their lives.

In each issue of the Calyx we also strive to include Alumni News. We ask that alumni parents help us connect with your children so we can include their stories. What I see is that our students are doing creative, inspiring, good work in their professions, families, and communities. They live in a variety of places and they carry a spark of love in their hearts from this place where they experienced the joy of learning, singing, moving, working in service and celebration of community.

Please join us in supporting yet another class of graduates into the world by responding to our Annual Giving Campaign. Donations to this appeal support teacher salaries, the programs, the very core needs that we have each year. If you wish, you may give right now, through our website: <http://www.pleasantridgewaldorf.org/page/support/>. Last year we had a successful year in Development and Fund Raising and we are looking forward to another stellar year.

We are most grateful for all contributions. Look for our Annual Report in the next issue of the Calyx. The Calyx is also on our website, so you can pass it on to others who may be interested, and to our alumni who may have moved away.

—Mary Christenson, Development Director

[mary@pleasantridgewaldorf.org](mailto:mary@pleasantridgewaldorf.org)  
(608) 637-8504

HOLIDAY FAIRE

**FRIDAY December 6**  
*An Elegant Evening for Adults*  
6:30 – 10 pm  
Live music, exquisite holiday shopping, and gourmet edibles  
10 pm – 1 am  
VO5 dance party at the Viking Inn

HOLIDAY FAIRE

**SATURDAY December 7**  
*A Festive Day for the Entire Family*  
9:30 am – 3 pm  
Children's crafts & gift making, holiday shopping, organic lunch, fantastic children's raffle, and live entertainment

HOLIDAY FAIRE

*We are now accepting vendor applications for handmade arts & crafts.*

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All former parents and students are warmly invited to the

# Annual Alumni Reunion Sunday, December 22, 6-9 pm.

Light refreshments provided – Bring a food item if you wish

Please join us and meet up with your friends!



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[pleasantridgewaldorf.org](http://pleasantridgewaldorf.org)

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