

CALYX

PLEASANT RIDGE
WALDORF SCHOOL
Waldorf Education since 1980
Volume 39, Issue 1
Fall 2017



Emma Krings, Grade 8

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 21 Waldorf Education Series
- 27 Faculty In-Service, *No Classes*
- 30-31 Parent/Teacher Conferences, *No Classes*
- 31 Halloween/Enchanted Forest

NOVEMBER

- 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences, *No Classes*
- 8 Monthly Open House
- 10 Martinmas Lantern Walk
- 11 All-School Work Day
- 16 Fall Music Concert (Upper Grades)
- 18 Waldorf Education Series
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 1 Holiday Faire Set Up, *Noon Dismissal*
- 1-2 Holiday Faire
- 4-5 Advent Spiral
- 13 Santa Lucia
- 15 Festival of Light, *Noon Dismissal*
- 18 Alumni Reunion



The music of love
Rings in our ears
As fate's blanket
Settles upon our lives.

A poem for Kay by Frances Levin, Grade 3

Kay Fandel

With great sadness, we mourn the passing of longtime PRWS mother, Kay Fandel and send love to husband Joe and daughters Sylvie, Class of 2008, Eva, Class of 2011, and Freya, seventh grade. Kay was such a light in our community and had such grace and courage during her long illness. She volunteered in so many ways, including helping with the outdoor class field trips with her girls' classes (her degree and early work were in Wildlife Biology) and helping coordinate PRWS activities at Organic Valley where she worked for many years in the Farmers and Marketing Department. She was a bright and smiling face at all of our events, fundraisers and volunteer days throughout the many years at our school. We will miss you Kay.



GRADUATION

Reflections on the Class of 2017

by Lars Bergan, Class Parent

On a day like this, there is so much to be grateful for. We can be grateful that these children have made it to the edge of adulthood, healthy, strong, and happy. We can be grateful that they had such wonderful teachers, youthful, upright, and honorable, full of joy, able to inspire trust and reverence. Thank you Ximena, Ronald, and Jenny.

We can be grateful that 37 years ago, a few families had the love and courage to start this school.

From the beginning, with Miss Ximena and eleven students, there has been balance, acceptance, trust in each other and in their teachers. When the class was combined in second grade, they accepted their new classmates with kindness and good grace. Then Ronald came, and a few years later the class was separated again, after sixth grade, but peace continued to reign.

These two leaders, Ximena and Ronald, were the first among equals, young and energetic, delighting in the children as the children delighted in them. They set an example of kindness, good humor, excellence, and the students picked it right up.

There has always been a real joy and pleasure to this class. When I made the rounds of the teachers and staff at the school all of the stories and descriptions were spoken with a smile. Joyful. Grateful. Fun. Kind. Fast. Up for anything. An indomitable spirit.

When you would divide them in pairs to do a project, or practice passing, or Spanish verbs or whatever, I never once saw someone complain about their partner. Amazing.

Almost all of the students have played on the Driftless United Soccer team. Our sixth grade season, we lost every game, but nobody gave up and everyone still wanted to play. They next year, we won all our games. Win, lose, or draw, this class has learned to pursue excellence for its own sake, without concern for the reward.

Most of us saw the eighth grade play, right? For those of us who missed it, the theme was time as the ultimate human resource—how the most important thing we can offer each other is time, and attention. These students have been given that time by their parents and teachers, and they in turn have freely shared it with each other.

This class has taken great joy in movement. They have spent so many hours at soccer, basketball, and any other occasion to jump, run, climb, or throw. To watch them on the soccer field or during one of their plays was to see trust in action, love made visible. They had good teachers, and they listened, and they learned.



This class has drawn and painted beautifully, following the example of all three teachers. Being able to see and represent beauty is a life long skill that will go with you wherever you go.

Eighth graders, you have had good run, and there is so much more to do. You know many of the most important secrets of the universe already. You know how the many become one. You know that the Golden Rule really works. In learning to know and love each other so well, you have asserted the highest of human ideals.

You grow up into a world crying out for social connection, for hope in something beyond machines. Each one of you knows how to reach other people, how to be with them and love them. Wherever your journey may take you, each of you will always have this gift within you.

We have all learned from you. Your patience and optimism, your ability to find joy in whatever you are doing, to listen to each other, to laugh, a lot.

You have learned from each other, and will do so for the rest of your lives. I have watched many Pleasant Ridge classes graduate and head out into the world, and wherever they go, they never seem to lose track of each other.

We live in a time where it is not that cool to speak of virtue. But you young people have learned and demonstrated virtue, in how you have walked and talked and worked here at Pleasant Ridge. You have truly been a credit to your teachers, and your parents.

Eighth graders, may you always be kind, courageous, and determined. It has been a delight to be part of your quest these eight years.

“And a youth said, Speak to us of Friendship. And he answered, saying: Your friends are your needs answered. They are your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving...when you part from your friends, you grieve not; For that which you love most in them may be clearer in their absence, as the mountain to climber is clearer from the plain.” – Kahlil Gibran

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Welcome to Amy Hazell,
Our New Administrative Chair



We are happy to welcome Amy Hazell as the new administrative chair of Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School.

Amy has a wealth of experiences that lend themselves well to her new position as a school administrator. She discovered Waldorf education relatively recently. While looking for a preschool for her younger children, she found Singing Cedars, a Waldorf-inspired program in Fairfield, Iowa. She quickly

became an enthusiastic student and proponent of Waldorf education—serving on the Board at Singing Cedars, touring Waldorf schools in the midwest, and beginning Waldorf education studies through the Great Lakes Teacher Training Institute.

Amy received her B.A. in Art Education and Studio Art from Iowa Wesleyan College. Previous work experiences include art educator, preschool director and teacher at the Children’s Christian Academy Preschool in Burlington, IA, freelance graphic designer, teacher associate, and reading program and library assistant.

Amy moved to Viroqua from Wever, Iowa with her husband Jon and three of their five children—Cayleigh (16), Livi (4), and Jon-Luc (2). Their two oldest children, Cameron and Charissa, are attending college. Since arriving in early August, she has taken on her role with dedication, an open heart, resilience, and reverence. Her wide range of skills and experiences, woven with her warmth and love for building community, are gladly received at our school.

Welcome Amy!

—Joe Lenarz, PRWS Board President

Farewell to Marianne Fieber,
Our Former Administrative Chair

Marianne Fieber began her work as PRWS administrative chair in March 2013. Under her adept leadership Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School successfully accomplished the accreditation process of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. The process provided a self-study document and resulted in a detailed plan for improvement of the whole school. During the past four years Marianne has assured that the short-term objectives were met and implemented while the long-range plan reflects our larger goals. For that, we are forever grateful!

—Mary Christenson, Development Director

Davina Hemmer, First Grade Teacher

With grace and poise, Davina Hemmer joined the faculty in the fall of 2015 to share the eurythmy program. For the past two years Davina’s skills and strengths as a teacher have become apparent as well as her dedication to teaching and to our school. Last spring when she applied for our first grade teaching position we were pleasantly surprised. She had become a valued colleague with a particular life biography that made her an excellent candidate for this class.

Davina grew up as a student in Waldorf education and both of her parents worked at the Waldorf school in Germany that she attended for 14 years as well as kindergarten. Her family included four brothers. She is not only fully trained in eurythmy with a master’s degree, but is also comfortable and knowledgeable about the healing aspect of outdoor education and movement for child development, the social realm of the school, anthroposophy, and is eager to challenge herself to keep developing.

Her own words demonstrate the depth she will bring to bear on the students, adults and entire school community: “How does one digest what one has learned and from that create an environment for one’s students in which they can meet life and in that process meet themselves and grow?”

—Mary Christenson, Development Director

Farewell to Jenny Allan

(Ed. Note: Ron Schirmer graduated last year’s class and is now returning to the new eighth grade. Ron worked with this class when the students were combined with the class of 2017. Jenny Allan, who took over as the class teacher of this group, has stepped down.)

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Ms. Jenny Allan quite well over the past three years. When Ms. Ximena took leave to have her first baby, Jenny stepped in to help co-teach the combined fifth/sixth grade class with me in the fall of 2015. For both of us this was a new and challenging adventure, and from the get-go we found ourselves greatly appreciating the inspiration and moral support we were able to share with one another.

Ms. Jenny is renowned for her warmth of heart and earnest character. She was quick to fall in love with her students, see them for who they are, and strive to find ways to meet them in all spheres: academic, social, emotional.

After our year of co-teaching, the combined class re-formed into two classes, the younger half taken by Ms. Jenny. Her high level of artistic talent and fervor for seeking out new adventures and novel ways to bring the curriculum to her students continued to inspire me in the years beyond sharing a class. The bond she formed and maintained over the next two years with this group was palpable when seeing them work together with her. Their love for her was evident in their farewell offerings to her at the end of last year.

Her desire to seek the optimistic vantage point, to listen deeply to others’ needs, and her characteristic laughter which comes easily

to her, have been a source of joy here at the school.

Jenny—while I am saddened by your need to step down from full time teaching, I am happy to be working again with this fine group of students and I am grateful we will still get to see you around the school this year. I wish you well in this upcoming new chapter of your life.

—Mr. Ronald Schirmer, Class Teacher

Kindergarten Space



Thanks to Facilities Chairperson Jon Dehlin for constructing this gate to our new expanded Kindergarten space for the Violet and Cherry Blossom Kindergarten classes. We were able

to make these improvements with gifts from the Paul E. Stry Foundation, Susan and Robert Holmes, and Randy and Janelle Peterson.

Lilly Cronin

Rozalyn Heidtke, who has done a wonderful job playing piano for the Eurythmy classes in addition to some events and concerts at PRWS,

recently had a baby girl, Lilly, with husband Will Cronin.

Congratulations, Roz and Will!



Driftless Area Art Festival

Many of PRWS students had artwork on display at the Driftless Area Art Festival’s KidsArt Gallery, Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17. The KidsArt Gallery celebrates students from around the Driftless Area. Congratulations to eighth grader Emma Krings, who was awarded First Place in the Upper Elementary Division of the show. Her artwork will be auctioned off at next year’s event and the money will be awarded to Pleasant Ridge for art materials.

ENROLLMENT

It has been a busy summer in the Enrollment Office! This year we welcome seventeen new students (fourteen new families) to the school, four returning students, and five new siblings – for a total of twenty-six new and returning students! We are so happy that you are here!

—Jordan Brudos, Enrollment & Outreach Coordinator

NEW FAMILIES

Berg & Jackie Redmer
Eliza – Kindergarten
Hazel – Kindergarten

Kelly & Aurora Boyd
Astrid - Kindergarten

Jon & Amy Hazell
Jon-Luc – Kindergarten
Livi – Kindergarten

Simon Stumpf & Ashely Kiehnau
Oliver – Kindergarten

Shawn Lavoie & AnnaJo Doerr
Julian – Kindergarten

Xiaoting “Stella” Liu
Kobe – Kindergarten

AJ & Alyson Morgan
Magnolia – Kindergarten

Justen Stepka & Danielle Partyka
Grace – Kindergarten

Erik Randall & Kristin Pomykala
Sigrun – Kindergarten
Sofie – Grade 2

Chris & Susana Ruder
Artemis – Kindergarten

Frank & Hannah Webber
Mazi – Kindergarten

Gavain U’Prichard & Laila Johnson
Dayna McGuire
Tillwyn – Grade 1

Sam & Jasmine Hudnall
Emrys – Grade 5

Eli Gay & Allison Starn
Delphi – Grade 8

RETURNING STUDENTS

Colette Max-Funovits, Grade 2
Daughter of Franz Funovits & Cree Max

Bella Max-Funovits, Grade 4
Daughter of Franz Funovits & Cree Max

Leela Vina-Tromp, Grade 7
Daughter of Paul Vina & Joan Tromp

NEW SIBLINGS

Fern Ashley, Kindergarten
Daughter of Austin & Hallie Ashley

Oliver Hotchkiss, Kindergarten
Son of Nick & Christina Hotchkiss

Paloma Ugo, Kindergarten
Daughter of Adrian & Julia Ugo

Calliope Lemar, Kindergarten
Daughter of Ed & Angie Lemar

Mae Ashley-Wright, Grade 1
Daughter of Keith & Kathryn Ashley-Wright



CURRICULUM

Geography and History Through the Grades

(Ed. note: Last year, in fifth grade, Christina Hotchkiss's class studied the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance while learning about American history and geography. Here is a sample of their interpretations of what the pledge means, as well as alternative pledges that inspire us to give our allegiance to many wonderful things in this beautiful country of ours!)

The Geography curriculum in Waldorf schools begins with the students becoming acquainted with their surroundings. In Kindergarten, students take walks around the school neighborhood. As the students get older, these walks go further. In fourth grade, students begin to learn about geography in an academic way: first being introduced to local geography from their classroom to their neighborhood, city, county, and state. Cultural geography and history accompany the lessons on the physical geography. In fifth grade, the geography reaches even further, studying the North American continent and specifically the United States. To enrich the cultural and physical geography lessons last year's fifth grade learned the national anthems of Canada, Mexico, and even Greenland. Then, in focusing on the United States the students sang our national anthem as well as America the Beautiful. The students then learned about the Pledge of Allegiance, beginning with the original version from 1892, the second one in 1923, and finally the pledge as we know it now from 1958. The students found it interesting that this oath had changed over time. As a way to honor history and reflect upon our country today each student crafted a pledge of their own.

—Christina Hotchkiss, Class Teacher

Grade Five Pledges

I pledge allegiance to the freedom and the flag of the United States of America, to the mountains, and the trees, and the animals, one nation in liberty and justice for all.

—Josie Hundt



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, we are all beautiful, we are all special, and we are all loved.

—Wilma Taylor

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the U.S.A. and to the hope that one day we may be one nation, under the sky, with true liberty and justice for all and that we see that we are the same as all people, even the bears and bees.

—Dagny McGuire

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under the sky, indivisible, for true liberty and justice for each living thing that walks this nation, knowing that we live for the love of our neighbors.

—Kit Shortridge

I pledge allegiance to the freedom that our country allows, and hope that all may learn that freedom isn't given, it is earned. I pledge allegiance to our country, our nation, our home.

—Esther Crotser

ALUMNI

1999

Kathryn Ashley-Wright started a new addition to her downtown Viroqua business, Ewetopia Fiber Shop. The new enterprise, Ewetopia Fiber Mill, located in La Farge, Wisconsin, is up and running, processing wool, alpaca, llama and other fibers.

Corielle Gambrell and her husband Miguel Lopez, had a baby girl in July.

2000

Hannah (Hastings) and Frank Webber had a baby boy, Arlo, born on April 26.

2001

Zoe (Coleman) and husband, Joe Ellerbusch, had baby girl, Everly Cecelia, born on May 16. Zoe has moved back to the area and taken a position as guidance counselor with North Crawford School District.

2004

Ethan Wickert and his wife Kristen, had a baby boy, Finn, born on May 6.

2009

Genevieve Breitbach graduated Millikan University Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theater.

Misa Grenier graduated from Watson University, in Boulder, Colorado, in May.

Zoe Brooke-Zibton graduated from UW-Madison, with honors, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Studies.

ALUMNI REUNION

This year's ALUMNI REUNION will be on Monday, December 18, 2017.

See the Pleasant Ridge website for more information: <http://pleasantridgewaldorf.org/our-school/alumni/>



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:

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DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to a new school year! The summer at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School has been rich with diverse activities beyond the usual maintenance and reorganization of classrooms.

To name a few highlights, we:

- hosted a Waldorf Collaborative that provided professional development for faculty and staff in our Midwest region.
- established new play yard spaces for early childhood.
- welcomed Amy Hazell, our new administrative chair.
- rebranded our social enterprise from the Flower Basket to Growing For Good.
- held our second year of summer camps that served 58 area children.

This illustrates the spectrum of what is possible with your dedicated and sustaining support. Together we are building a vibrant cultural institution where deep learning can take place for people of all ages through all the seasons of the year and which in turn strengthens our relationships in our broader communities.

The adults in our community also have offered up hundreds of hours of their time in physical work, leadership on groups and committees, and in their children's classes. We extend a heartfelt thank you to those who volunteered over the summer. Our hope is that engagement of this sort helps build relationships, personal growth and development and pride in what we can do together.

The Opening Day assembly brought many to a reverent place of appreciation for the art of education that grounds our work. It is energizing see the children step back into their relationships with their teachers and fellow classmates, and to welcome new families and their children. Lifelong learning rests on curiosity, interest, dedication; and Waldorf education grounds us in a universal vision of human development, renewal and regeneration. The work is formidable, yet it inspires humility, perseverance and a measure of pride. After all, we are part of a vibrant and growing worldwide educational movement that was founded nearly 100 years ago in the aftermath of WWI as a practical approach to social renewal and fostering a world of peace.

Thank you for joining us in this endeavor! Your generosity helped us fulfill our fundraising goals for 2016-17, which allows us to offer tuition reduction for families in need. Most of our special projects are funded through restricted gifts. If you wish to learn more, please follow our blogs on our websites, pleasantridgewaldorf.org and growingforgood.org

—Mary Christenson, Development Director



A Special Thank You to These Ongoing Sponsors

DONORS

Many thanks to those who have supported our school February 17–September 17, 2017.

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In Memory of

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Jim "Chalkline" Smith
Maura Otis & Barry Jensen (Big Shirt Small Hat)
Karen A. Taylor
Paul Taylor

In Honor of

Kathryn & Keith Ashley-Wright
Marjorie Dick
The Balkowitsch Family
Neal Balkowitsch & Donald Nelson
Beautiful Children & Wonderful Teachers/Staff at PRWS
Pete & Alycann Taylor
Mary Christenson
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Marriage of Silas Hundt & Sue Khim
Mary & Steve Christenson
Marjorie Dick

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Amazon Smile & School Rewards
Organic Valley
PAXAM Foundation
Planet Green

In Kind & Restricted

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Loma Huh
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Cynthia Olmstead
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Nelson Agri-Center
Parrish Music & Gifts
Quality of Life Chiropractic
Rising Sun Animal Wellness Center
Rockweiler Appliance & TV
Viroqua Village Market

HOLIDAY FAIRE

2017

FRIDAY December 1

A Celebration of the Season for Adults

6:30–10:30 pm | Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School
Live music, tree lighting, singing, unique artisan vendors,
silent auction, raffle, nourishing foods and decadent desserts

SATURDAY December 2

A Festive Day for the Entire Family

9:30 am –3:00 pm | Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School
Beautiful craft making, marionette play, children's castle,
crystal boat, and raffle. Unique artisan vendors, silent auction,
hearty lunch, Old World Bakery, and live music



ALL WELCOME – CELEBRATE. SHOP. EAT. ENJOY.

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