

CALYX

PLEASANT RIDGE
WALDORF SCHOOL
Waldorf Education since 1980
Volume 34, Issue 4
Summer 2013

SUMMER

Captive to all the
pageantry of sense
I lost the heaviness of my
single being;
thoughts like to dreams



were spiring my self
away, it seems;
now—now in what the
senses make appear
the Thinking of the
World itself draws
near.

*Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul,
Translation by Owen Barfield
(The Year Participated)*

Artwork by Grade 5



PLEASANT RIDGE
WALDORF SCHOOL
431 East Court Street, Viroqua

COMING EVENTS

JULY

1-31 School building closed for cleaning and painting

AUGUST

19-21 Faculty In-Service Days
24 Facilities Work Day

SEPTEMBER

4 Opening Day!
6 Welcome Back Picnic
13 Faculty In-Service Day—
NO CLASSES
15 All School Meeting

OCTOBER

4 Michaelmas
18 Grandparents &
Special Friends Day
19 Open House and Conversation
Event: The Social Mission of
Waldorf Schools
23-25 Parent/Teacher Conferences

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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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Dear Pleasant Ridge Community:

My mother, Barbara Peterson, could not have had a more wonderful send-off than her memorial service at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School on April 27. I would like to thank everyone who had a part in making this wonderful event happen—and her beautiful vigil at the Banners' home the week before as well.

From the lovely string quartet of gifted students, the alumni tribute led by Julee Caspers Agar, the cello solo, the Appalachian music duet, the stirring "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and voices of the Chorus of Friends, to the photographic review of Mom's life, to the homily and loving testimonials, and the powerful Eurhythmy "Silent Halleluiaah," the memorial service was so richly embroidered with caring, appreciation and remembrance. And after all that, was the opportunity to share a little time with one another with thoughtfully chosen refreshments, in a space surrounded by fresh flowers and reminders of my mother.

I wish I could write thank you notes to each and every person who touched my mother during her life—and those who helped to make the service and vigil possible, those who made a gift to Pleasant Ridge in Mom's memory or sent flowers or cards, and all those who gave their time to attend the service or vigil. These events were profoundly moving and expressed love and support for Mom, our family, and all others touched by my mother and the event of her passing.

My mother loved Pleasant Ridge with all her heart. Being able to celebrate her life at the school, with the people she worked with and cared about, was the most wonderful experience. I can understand well why my mother never wanted to leave Viroqua and Pleasant Ridge. It is an extraordinary community. On behalf of my whole family, we thank you with all our hearts.

Carol Siyahi Hicks
June 6, 2013

Quotes from cards we received:

"Barbara was such a caring person. My two kids attended PRWS for preschool and kindergarten only, but years later, whenever we saw her in town, she would ask, with genuine interest, how they were doing."

Cathy and Denny Lund

"Barbara set the standard for graciousness in our time with the school. She is already missed."

Cindy Wiar



Speech given at the 8th Grade Graduation

By Jane Kouba, class parent

I learned this from a Waldorf teacher.
(*Jane lit a candle.*)

I light this candle in honor of all the teachers who have held this class over the past eight years: Philothea Bezin, the late Barbara Peterson, Doña Laura Negronida, Peggy Pearl, Kristina Gullion, Anne-Marie Fryer, Shannon Landis, Rosanne Morici, Betsy Farrell, Vicki Eiben, and Jackie Kolenko.

In honor of our current teachers of specialty classes: Lerie Alstad Van Ells, Annette Conlon, Monika Sutherland, Janie Tippins, Nannette Tuttle, Julee Agar, and Kate Bergan.

The specialty teachers have given our children the gift of art, movement, music, eurythmy, reading, handwork, and Spanish. We will always be grateful. How often I have sat on these very benches and felt a tear run down my cheek at the sound of the orchestra playing its very first note. Or been captured by the beauty of a eurythmy performance. Or watched our students demonstrate social dance with grace and ease. Enjoyed the feel of homemade knitted wool mittens.

I have some props here.

The journey we embark on as parents of Pleasant Ridge students means that as our children develop over the years, so we also develop and mellow through this unbelievable place known as Pleasant Ridge. With that in mind, I'd like to offer my humble understanding of the work done here at PRWS. This is not AWSNA-approved, nor do I have formal training in Waldorf education, which might mean I get a few things slightly off, or I am completely wrong. At some level it might be interesting from that point of view. But for the sake of showing how all-encompassing this school's work is, how it profoundly influences us all, I offer my understanding.

First, this rock, this ordinary piece of the Earth, also is extraordinary as it holds the secrets of the elemental life in our universe. It teaches strength. To honor our teachers and offer them the support they need from us at home. And to keep loading the dishwasher just one more time at Holiday Faire. Without complaining.

Jackie, you are like a rock. You lead by example, say what you mean, and follow through. You take a class of energetic teenagers on a weeklong cross-country class trip after presenting your fabulous adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. Which you spent the summer writing and adapting. Who says teachers only work nine months of the year? Thank you, Jackie.

I learned about candle flames from Reverend Richard Dancy, a Christian Community priest.

This candle flame is like the sun. It is transformative, like Waldorf education. The sun's energy is captured by a tree, which helps the tree to grow and live a full life until it is cut down for firewood; then the energy is released once again as a flame.

We parents have been transformed throughout the years by the work you do here. Jackie, thank you for awakening our children's



artistic abilities and helping to bring to light their strengths and challenges. For helping them develop into balanced and caring young people. And for having a great sense of humor along the way.

You and all of the teachers here have co-parented our children with us. What I have observed is that the faculty holds each student in his or her heart, especially during trying times, or "growth phases," no matter what class the student is in. This model of teaching allowed you to step into our class at year five and already know the students. It was an amazing gift you brought to our class.

This shell comes from the sea. As parents, we have learned to go with the flow, which at times has been more like a tsunami. The ebb and flow of water is much like the way you navigated the changes in students. How you rolled with the changes. How you often said, with a smile on your face, that you were "hanging in there." Jackie, you did more than just "hanging in there."

Which leaves me with earth—the very stuff of life. The fertile ground of imagination, music, expression, intellect. Jackie, and all of our students' specialty and kindergarten teachers, we all will reap the benefit from your labor helping to develop our students into feeling, caring, and smart people.

Jackie Kolenko, thank you. Thank you for taking thirteen teenagers on a train trip to Colorado and providing them with an awe-inspiring experience there. Thank you for twelve years of service to PRWS. Thank you for listening to the students and for encouraging them to think for themselves as they wrestled with moral dilemmas, ideas of fairness and justice, and respect at your class meetings. Thanks for the music, the laughter, and the fun.

Jackie, you've slain a few dragons over the years. Your sword has seen the light of day. Your scales of balance have been brought out many times. You embraced this class and set out on a quest to develop strong, free-thinking individuals. And Jackie, you have succeeded a hundred times over. Now off to your castle with your knight, Ray, who has supported our class behind the scenes by supporting you. With your son, Elijah, who had the double-edged sword of being a cool kid because his mom was a teacher here, and also having to wait on the playground through countless faculty meetings. We're grateful for his willingness to share his mother with our children, when really, she is his mother. Thanks, Elijah. Thanks, Ray. Thanks, Jackie.

SCHOOL NEWS

The “New” First Grade Teacher



The teacher hired for the 2013–2014 first grade class will be familiar to everyone in the community and to all of you who read the Calyx. It is none other than Jackie Kolenko, teacher of the graduating class of 2013. We are grateful and happy that Jackie will still be teaching at Pleasant Ridge. We look forward to her continued bright presence as a teacher and a colleague.

Celebration of the Arts

On April 19 the faculty and staff of Pleasant Ridge regaled the community with an arts-filled evening of entertainment. The range of artistic ability was breathtaking. Musical performances included opera, classical, folk music, and Broadway tunes. There were also Eurythmy performances and dance numbers, and the visual artwork on display was stunning. Mark your calendars for February 7, 2014—you don’t want to miss this wonderful event.

Highway Clean-up

The yearly retreat for the PRWS board of directors started with a highway clean-up. Our school has the responsibility to keep the first two miles of Highway 56 east of town free of trash and litter. So all of the board members donned bright orange vests and walked down the highway, beautifying our section of the roadside. Thank you, board members!

Barbara Peterson Celebration of Life and Memorial Service

Barbara Peterson, dear friend and colleague, passed away on April 17. Barbara had celebrated her 96th birthday on January 7 this year. A moving Celebration of Life and Memorial Service was held on Saturday, April 27, in the Pleasant Ridge gym. As requested by her family, memorial gifts may be made to the Barbara Peterson Children’s Scholarship Fund at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School.

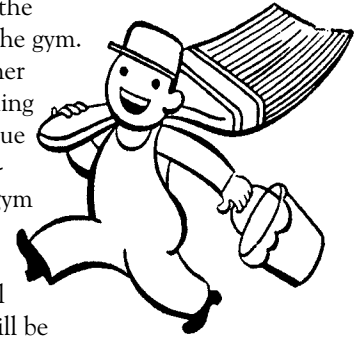
Farewell, Julie Turino and family

Julie Turino and her family have been enthusiastic members of our school community for seven years. Julie and Joel have volunteered countless hours in myriad ways to Pleasant Ridge. During the 2011–2012 school year Julie carried the Parent-Child program in a beautiful, heartfelt way. During the 2012–2013 school year, while Joel moved to California for a new job, Julie worked two days each week to help coordinate and implement the hot lunch program with co-chef Jim Hallberg. Now Julie and her daughters are moving to rejoin Joel in California. We will miss this family, and especially Julie’s warm and quietly efficient presence in the kitchen. We wish the Turino family well in their new adventure.



Painting Renovation

Two summers ago there was a big push, thanks to an alumni family donation, to replace the ceiling in the gym. This summer the upgrading will continue as the hallways and gym will be painted. The school building will be closed for most of July so that work can proceed. The new school year will open with brightly painted hallways and gym walls that will complement the new ceiling. We are fortunate to have generous benefactors who help us maintain and beautify our facility!



AWSNA Accreditation Process

We continue to take steps forward in our goal of accreditation. Pleasant Ridge received its full member-school status in 2005, and AWSNA requires schools to complete a new self study every seven years or so. In accordance with one of Waldorf Schools’ founding principles of self-administration, the faculty, staff, board and parent body will consider and report on a number of areas of our school programs and operations. The resulting self-study report will then be reviewed by a team of Waldorf teachers and administrators from different schools prior to an on-site visit next March. The visiting team will examine how well Pleasant Ridge is achieving the view of the school presented in the self-study document. Following the visit, the school will receive a list of commendations and recommendations that can be considered in strengthening our programs as well as a confirmation of our full-member status.

Class Plays

This has been another great year for class plays. Grade One performed a beautiful version of the Grimm's fairy tale Mother Holle. Grade Two gave a rousing performance of scenes from The King of Ireland's Son. The combined class of Grades Three and Four performed Sif's Golden Hair, a Norse myth featuring clever Loki, who was up to his usual tricks. Grade Five performed The Girl Who Would Be Pharaoh, the story of one of Egypt's female pharaohs. The sixth grade performed their play, The Bronze Bow, a story set in first-century Judea, on the stage of The Ark, a community arts center across the street from Pleasant Ridge. Seventh grade took on the musical Pirates of Penzance, much to the delight of students, parents, and community members! And the eighth grade performed Pride and Prejudice, from an original script written by their teacher, Jackie Kolenko.

Organic Valley at PRWS

After a devastating fire at the Organic Valley headquarters in La Farge last month, our school was approached as a possible site for temporary office space over the summer while repairs and renovations occur. We at the school are happy to help, and summer work schedules have been arranged to accommodate these "summer employees." On June 11 a lunch get-together was held so that Pleasant Ridge and Organic Valley personnel could get to know each other a little better.



Grade Three & Four: *Sif's Golden Hair*



Grade Seven: *Pirates of Penzance*



Grade Eight: *Pride and Prejudice*

DEVELOPMENT

We send heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School with your time, talent, or financial goals. Thanks to your generosity our spring appeal was very successful, pushing us over our annual financial goal for donations.

New, current, and returning donors honored Barbara Peterson, our beloved colleague, who passed away in April; the parents met the challenge of a \$2,000 matching gift given by a current family. Other restricted gifts have been given by the graduating eighth grade to provide new chairs for next year's eighth grade class; they will also paint the bathrooms this summer. As well, an alumni family's gift will make it possible for us to paint the hallways and gym!

Even though the children are home for the summer, and most people think the school shuts down and everyone goes on vacation, we will be busy here. Teachers continue writing reports, taking up summer training, and preparing for next year, which includes moving out of their previous classroom and into the one for the next grade. The administration team continues to work on incoming enrollments, completing tuition agreements, budgeting, facilities projects, end-of-year financial reports, editing and preparing the Parent Handbook and Directory, and so on.

This summer, in partnership with the parents who sit on various committees of the Board, we all are also busy writing reports for our self-study for the accreditation process we are in. We aim to have all the first drafts completed by September, so there is a lot of activity and meeting still going on. Parents who are not writing reports are asked to review drafts and provide feedback and suggestions.

DONORS

Many thanks to those who have supported our school April 1 – June 11, 2013

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Ann Hughes
Sylvia & Toby Hunt
Catherine Lang
Maureen Karlstad
Kelvin Rodolfo & Kathleen Crittenden

The Board had its annual retreat in early June. We said our heartfelt good-byes to Rob Hoversten (Finance Committee) and Julia Henderson (Parent Council) who are moving on to other commitments in their lives. In January Jenelle Boyer left her position as Board president, which she occupied for six years, to have a new baby. We thank her for her many years of service. We welcomed new Board members David Levin and Jennifer Wade, who were elected in May. The executive officers for the coming year are as follows: Tripp Hughes, president; Aaron Schmidt, vice president; Erika Hodapp, treasurer; Cori Skolaski, secretary. We are fortunate to have such a skilled and committed group who take their work of conducting the financial and legal work of the school very seriously, while having a great deal of fun with each other.

Have a wonderful summer!

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



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

A Word from Jim the Cook

Ah, me. Once again we have reached the end of the school year. With over 10,000 Organic Hot Lunch meals served (and a heck of a lot of dishes cleaned and put away!), I look back and realize a sense of collective accomplishment. The old kitchen is ready for a break, and so are all the rest of us.

I thank everyone who had a hand in helping us prepare and serve the midday meal. As always, I am grateful to be able to serve our learning community though providing healthy food for our students, teachers, staff, parent volunteers, and guests. The Organic Hot Lunch program is a very special part of what and who we are as a school.

Julie Turino joined us this year as a co-chef, splitting the week with me and cooking up some delicious meals, especially the cinnamon rolls that she is now famous for! Sadly, Julie and her family are moving to southern California by next school year. She met everyone with a big heart and friendly smile. Julie, you will be missed in many ways. Godspeed.

However, we will say hello to Amy Petrozzini next year to step into the co-chef role. Amy has volunteered throughout this year and brings a wealth of cooking experience to our kitchen. Being a vegetarian, Amy will bring some new ideas for creating tasty dishes, I'm sure.

Thanks to Sol and Trevor for their steadfast, behind-the-scenes support every day in the kitchen. These young men continue to give their best, and I am very grateful.

A special thanks to all of our parent volunteers who stepped up to assist the cooks and also to take

their place as a guiding hand in serving meals to the students and teachers. We tried to bring a bit more concentrated effort on efficient line service this year, and I believe this helped to create an even pace and a more enjoyable lunchtime atmosphere.

Thanks also to the upper grades for doing such an impressive job serving. You were courteous and respectful and very helpful.

The man behind all of the volunteer organization, Peter Daniels, gets a very well-deserved THANKS! Peter just seems to love coming in every day to help make sure things go right at lunch time and lines up with all the parents to help. You did well, my friend!

We say farewell to Miss Jackie and her 8th grade graduates, who now go on to the next chapter in their lives. This class has blossomed into ambitious and capable leaders this year. Your teacher has instilled in all of you her inner curiosity and excitement to experience the wider world—two good traits to carry with you always.

I am always humbled when I take this brief moment following my yearly work here at the school. We really hold our blessing as a Waldorf school community in so many ways. It is a school of many faces and one very big heart.

Enjoy your summer, everyone. Take time for family and friends. See new things; taste new flavors. Play, read, plant a garden, and just rest.

Until we meet again next September for our first slice of organic pizza, I bid all of you peace. Blessings on our school and our kitchen.

ALUMNI

For her senior project at Youth Initiative High School, Grace Hallberg-Cain created a video describing the hot lunch program at Pleasant Ridge. This wonderful video about our organic hot lunch program featuring our cook (and her dad!) Jim Hallberg can be viewed online at <http://vimeo.com/63130590>. It's a beautiful portrait of the hot lunch program, the exquisite and essential heart of our school. Thank you, Gracie!

Congratulations to our alumni and former students who have graduated from local high schools in 2013!



Youth Initiative High School (pictured left):

Genevieve Breitbach, Grace Hallberg-Cain, Corinne Horan, Katie-Mae Lamb, Chenoa Moore, Ayana Perry, Sam Varney, Christine Zinky

Laurel High School:

Grace Anders, Rowan Hemingway, Reese Westerhoff, Zoë Brooke Zibton

Viroqua High School:

Hanul Huh, Nadia McHenry, Lyssa Veres



WE REMEMBER

BARBARA VON NOSTITZ PETERSON


January 7, 1917 – April 17, 2013

In 1984, after retiring from the Waldorf School of Garden City, New York, Barbara Peterson moved to Viroqua, where she worked with Philothea Bezin to help grow the newly started Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School. There she served as secretary to the faculty, registrar, alumni liaison, and ultimately as librarian. It was at Pleasant Ridge that she found her life's work and her true calling. There she made many lasting friendships that she described as "very dear to her" and "learned many things about life, parenting, teaching and the workings of a school." She frequently expressed her deep belief in the mission of the school and her gratefulness to "all who carry the ideals of the school forward." In 2000, she was nominated for and received the statewide Ageless Heroes Award.

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