

# CALYX

PLEASANT RIDGE  
WALDORF SCHOOL  
Waldorf Education since 1980

Volume 35, Issue 2  
Winter 2014  
Annual Report



*Carrie Treviranus, Class Teacher*

  
PLEASANT RIDGE  
WALDORF SCHOOL  
431 East Court Street, Viroqua

## COMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

**17-21** Parent-Teacher Conferences  
& Winter Break

### MARCH

**1** Raffle Drawing Party  
**9-12** AWSNA Accreditation Visit  
**21** Celebration of the Arts  
**26-27** Grade 8 Presentations

### APRIL

**1-2** Grade 8 Presentations  
**4** Spring Concert  
**14-21** Spring Break  
**25** Kindergarten Morning

## Celebration of the Arts EVENT



**Friday, March 21, 7 PM**  
(doors open at 6:30)

Old Main Building

The PRWS faculty and staff showcase their many talents with musical, theatrical, and movement performances and a visual arts silent auction.

Proceeds from admission and the silent auction support the PRWS professional development fund.

*This adult only event promises to be entertaining and inspiring.*

**Suggested Donation: \$10**

## CALENDAR OF THE SOUL

### WINTER

To carry spirit light into world-winter-night  
My heart is ardently impelled,  
That shining seeds of soul  
Take root in grounds of worlds  
And Word Divine through senses' darkness  
Resounds, transfiguring all life.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Festival of Light

This year's Festival of Light was a magical presentation of music, movement, and verse. Arriving parents and community members were greeted in the lobby to the beautiful sounds of the sixth grade orchestra.



## Waldorf Wednesdays

This is a lively study and conversation group for parents and friends interested in deepening their understanding of Waldorf principles and intentions. The new year has brought a new time to this meeting: 8:15-8:45 a.m. every Wednesday in the Parent/Child room. The group will continue to work with the lecture series entitled *The Kingdom of Childhood*, given by Rudolf Steiner in Torquay, England, in 1924. Reading and discussion will happen at the meeting, so preparation ahead of time is not necessary. Marianne Fieber, administrative chair, guides the study. All are welcome!

## Feast of Santa Lucia

On Friday, December 13, Pleasant Ridge celebrated Santa Lucia Day. Lucia is the saint of vision, particularly inner vision. Her celebration comes at the time of Winter Solstice, honoring the change from increasing darkness to increasing daylight. Lucia represents hope and light in the time of darkness, and she brings warmth and sustenance in times of need. On the morning of Santa Lucia Day, the eighth grade students visited each classroom, bringing song and light and a small pastry. Their procession was led by the eighth grade girls, who each took a turn filling the role of Lucia, wearing a crown of lighted candles and bringing words of hope at the darkest time of the year.



## Shepherd's Play

Once again our troupe of players brought an inspired version of the Nativity to our community. This year's performance was quite wonderful. The young children seated on the floor gathered ever closer to the stage as they watched the story unfold. Thank you to all who brought the story to life so beautifully.

## Eurythmy

On Monday, November 25, the eighth grade class presented the beautiful fairy tale "Briar Rose" in eurythmy. This performance marked the end of their eurythmy classes at Pleasant Ridge and was performed as a gift to the whole school community. The class, along with their teacher, Annette Conlon, dedicated the performance to Diane Mamroe, former eurythmy teacher at PRWS, with gratitude and appreciation.

## Grade One



Amy Morse

Jackie Kolenko, much-loved teacher and colleague, has been called to a teaching position in California. Although we are sorry to see Ms. Jackie leave, we also support her and her family in this decision. We will miss her enthusiasm and her commitment to Waldorf education. Jackie has been a teacher in our school for twelve years and in that time has brought boundless energy and goodwill to all of her work. She will be dearly missed but we wish her well at her new school.

Many of you may have met or seen Amy Morse at school, and we are delighted that she has now joined our circle of colleagues, stepping in as the class teacher in grade one. Amy comes to Pleasant Ridge from Three Rivers Waldorf School in La Crosse, where she taught grades two through five. She brings with her years of experience in a Waldorf School as well many artistic gifts. Amy has been a parent in our community since September, when her daughter Cecilia joined the seventh grade class.

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**Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School**  
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(608) 637-7828  
FEIN 39-1357578

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](mailto:cynthia@pleasantrydwaldorf.org).*

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dairylandprint.com



### Farewell Sonnet for Diane Mamroe

Full many a glorious morning have I spent  
In your office giving weary vent  
To small vexations and to petty fears  
To which in sympathy thou lent an ear.  
Full many a pretty penny have I spent  
Nor keeping track of how or where it went  
All hope to know would come to ceaseless fail  
Then your sweet spreadsheet comes in my box of mail.  
What halls or rugs were cleaned and painted boards  
Are black through summer work of you and yours?  
Full many a deed through ages stretching back  
To times in this fair place my memories lack.  
But know forthwith in time my favored friend  
Thy memory lives in hearts and knows no end.

— Barbara Danner

### Accreditation Visit

The faculty and staff as well as parent volunteers have been very busy preparing a self-study report for the upcoming Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) accreditation visit that will happen March 9 through 12. Many hours of thoughtful reflection as well as planning for the future have gone into the report. The goal of the self-study is for all members of the school community to think about and evaluate all aspects of the school. At the end of the self-study process, a team of five colleagues who work on behalf of AWSNA visit the school. After their three-day visit, they will offer both commendations and recommendations for how we as a school embody the shared principles of Waldorf Schools throughout the nation. This is an exciting milestone in the development of the school. In 2005 Pleasant Ridge became a Full Member School of AWSNA, and this is the first time for the school to be accredited.

### Grade Two



Jenny Allan

Congratulations to Christina Hotchkiss on the birth of her son, Oliver. Early, but healthy, Oliver Russell Hotchkiss, brother to Clara in the Violet Kindergarten, was born on December 13. Jenny Allan, “Miss Jenny,” has joined the faculty as the maternity substitute for Christina Hotchkiss in grade two. She has nearly completed her

teacher training at the Great Lakes Institute, and was able to step in immediately due to the baby’s early arrival. Jenny comes with a wealth of experiences in both the inner city and out in the world. Her dedication to Waldorf education and honoring the gifts that each child brings with them was obvious during our hiring process, and we are indeed blessed that she has found her way to our school. Jenny has a strong artistic background and a love of learning. Please join us in welcoming Jenny to our school.

### Front Office



Erika Broser

Erika Broser has taken over the bookkeeping position made vacant by Diane Mamroe’s retirement. Erika is well qualified to step in as bookkeeper, having served the school for many years as a board member and most recently as the board treasurer.

Diane’s bookkeeping and business manager role developed out of her earlier work as administrator. Now the Finance Committee, the administrative team, and the board of directors are evaluating what kind of position is needed in the financial realm to complete our administrative holding of the school. Once the position is fully clarified, we will articulate a job description, post the position, and the Personnel Committee will follow their hiring protocols to fill the position by the end of the school year. It may also be determined, once the process is complete, that Erika will continue in the position. In the meantime, she is a wonderful addition to the front office.

## CURRICULUM

### Sixth Grade Trip: Rock Climbing and Caving

Our first day we went to Pop’s Cave off of Highway 14 in the Driftless Area. It was a warm hike up the hill on a hot, 90 degree day in September. We were grateful for our jackets, though, when we crawled down into the damp, cold, wet cave.

Bill Humphrey led us down through a very small opening called the birth canal. We had to crawl through on our bellies for a short way into the deeper, larger tunnels. We explored various rooms of the cave, noticing the rock formations: small stalactites dripping down from the ceiling, rolling waves of so-called “bacon,” large slabs that had fallen from above, and so on. Finally we all gathered in one room, turned off all our flashlights and headlamps, and sat silently in complete darkness for several minutes. Then we made lots of noise of varying sorts, but ended it all with Mozart’s “Alleluia” that we had been learning in class. We crawled out of the cave into the hot sunshine, then traveled to Devil’s Lake and set up camp.

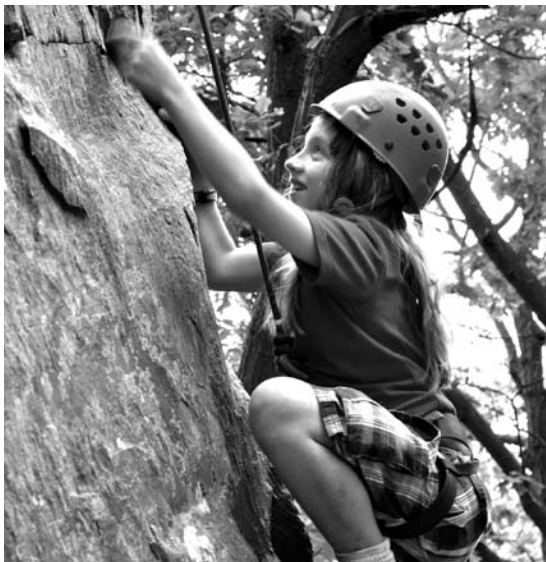
The next morning started out foggy and rainy, but by the time we had gotten up, made breakfast, and packed our lunches for our climb up the cliffs and a day of rock climbing, the sun was shining and the sky was clearing. Before we left the campsite Bill, with a couple of assistants, worked with the students, practicing belaying and rappelling off the picnic tables, just to get used to the equipment and procedures. When we reached the top of the cliffs it was snack time, but after a quick snack we got right to work.

Bill and his assistants had set up the belaying ropes ahead of time so we were all set to start climbing. A girl new to the class had been rock climbing before so she jumped at the chance to go first. Once she’d showed us how it was done, we had a long line of eager climbers waiting their turn. Bill had set up a second belaying station on a smaller, easier cliff for beginner climbers who wanted to get some practice in before doing the harder cliff. Then when many were looking for a new challenge, he took them to a rappelling station over an 80-foot cliff. Stepping backwards off the cliff was a great challenge, but Bill’s steady voice and calm presence helped more than three-quarters of the class take up the challenge; about a third of the class rappelled twice. After about five hours up on the cliffs we went for a quick swim in the lake, then dinner, a campfire, and a good sleep.

The last morning was cool, in the high fifties. We had breakfast and packed up our camp, then drove to Pewit’s Nest, a Wisconsin nature preserve just outside of Baraboo. This is a natural canyon formed by Skillet Creek, a tributary of the Baraboo River. There are high sandstone cliffs and narrow openings for the stream to run through. Rapids, small waterfalls, and whirlpools surrounded by lush moss and over-hanging foliage create a pleasing ambiance. You can walk the canyon from beginning to end, but you have to swim through some deep water and slide down a slippery, steep waterfall at the end. All but two of the students walked the canyon to the end despite the cool weather (it had warmed up to the mid-sixties by the time we got to the canyon).

We warmed up in the sun, ate our lunch, and headed back to school. Every student was aglow with their adventures, and their parents heard nothing but raves from them all. One student, who rarely even mentions school without prompting, plopped himself into his parents’ car and exclaimed, “Best. Field. Trip. Ever!”

—Barbara Danner, Grade Six Teacher





CALYX

ANNUAL REPORT

Stronger in Community

While last school year brought many transitions in administration, the flow of generosity to the school through the Development Office and fundraisers remained steady. The volunteer leaders of each committee and fundraising event or activity demonstrated their commitment as each financial goal was met throughout the year. This capable leadership is a great support for the Development Office staff, allowing us to keep our rhythm with annual giving, grant writing, and carrying our specific responsibilities.

Attendance for Grandparents Day was close to eighty guests, so we moved the event to the gym and had many more volunteers helping with the reception and lunch. Paula Grenier announced that it was her last year as one of the Holiday Faire coordinators (thank you for ten years of leadership!), but fortunately Missy Hughes remained another year to cultivate new coordinators and to allow for continuity in 2013. Cathy Brummer joined Beth Blake in the School Store, and more beautiful handmade items were available.

We are so grateful for the parents supporting their commitment to the annual raffle, which is our largest fundraising activity of the year. Steve Walker continued to be our “man on the street,” representing our Scrip program and visiting the businesses to purchase back Scrip currency and certificates. Parents and staff widely supported local businesses through the Scrip program to earn \$11,000, which reflects an amazing amount of purchasing power in our community. These are just the highlights of a very vigorous fundraising program.

An unplanned for, but very helpful, stream of gifts came at the time that our dear Barbara Peterson passed away and we held her memorial at the school. This coincided with our spring appeal and, thanks to her family, gifts in her memory could be designated to Pleasant Ridge. We are grateful to all of you who participated in this way, helping us to surpass our annual fund goal.

There were also some very important gifts that do not show up in a monetary way. These are in-kind gifts of musical instruments, books to the library, flowers for all occasions and festivals, food items for events, computers, printers, office supplies and more. The largest donor in this way was Three Rivers Waldorf School in La Crosse, which closed its doors in June. We were sad to see a sister school make this decision, and grateful to them for their generosity in giving our school so much!

I hope that you read the *Calyx* regularly and see how very much your contributions do make a difference! Thank you all for all for locking arms with us as we create Waldorf education in our community.

—Mary Christenson, Development Director



FINANCIAL REVIEW

2012-13\*

2011-12\*

Revenue

Pledged Tuition & Fees	\$583,694	\$557,752
Hot Lunch Program	\$32,725	\$33,707
Contributions	\$88,654	\$78,858
Fundraising Events	\$105,849	\$107,002
School Store	\$10,632	\$10,602
Investment Income	\$5,902	\$3,582
Other	\$2,904	\$4,127

TOTAL

\$830,360

\$795,630

Expenses

Educational Faculty Salaries & Aides	\$485,609	\$453,272
Classroom Instructional Costs	\$26,481	\$26, 775
Administrative & Development Salaries	\$149,682	\$140,695
Administrative Expenses	\$23,847	\$21,015
Development Expenses	\$11,745	\$10,909
Fundraising Expenses	\$11,046	\$13,999
Building & Capital Expenses	\$68,631	\$82,166
Hot Lunch Program Salaries & Expenses	\$38,088	\$34,700
Professional Fees/Misc	\$12,918	\$7,827

TOTAL

\$828,047

\$791,358

\*\* financial figures based on a certified audit review from Franke & Turnbull, CPAs.

GIFTS FROM JULY 1, 2012– JUNE 30, 2013

Operations

Lerie Alstad Van Ells  
Anonymous  
Daniel Arnold & Susan Johnson  
Robert & Dorothy Arnold  
David & Diane Banner  
Mary & Neil Bard  
M. Kate Barnhart & William Knox  
Emily Beck  
Terry & Jean Beck  
Hal & Sue Bergan  
Susan and Brock Bigelow  
Bill Brooke Realty  
Con & Beth Blake  
Bramble Books  
Joseph & Judy Brummer  
Bruce Carlson & Annette Thiede  
Cashton Farm Supply  
Mary Lynn & Burley Channer  
Steve & Mary Christenson  
Alexandra & William Cole  
Peter & Gabrielle Daniels  
Barbara Danner  
Roberta Day & George Idzorek  
Fred Dick  
David & Marta Engel  
Lisa Fanning  
Fast Enterprises, LLC  
Diana & Larry Forkash  
George Franklin  
Wil & Anne-Marie Fryer  
Adrian & Kathleen Hendrickson

Norma Herz  
Michael & Diana Horan  
Daniel and Lauren Hunt  
Geraldine & Raymond Jessmon  
Dr. Mark & Kathleen Kamsler  
Steve & Barbara Kolenko  
Jesda Kosol  
Jean & Dan Krings  
Dr. Philip Larkin  
Chris & Gary Leinberger  
Bud & Katie Lemley  
Joe Lenarz & Janna Kottke  
David Levin & Margret Lenarz  
Michael & Bernadette Link  
Richard & Mary Lofton  
Dennis & Cathy Lund  
Jerry McGeorge & Susan Nesbit  
Roger & Pat Martin  
Ron & Patty Moilien  
Phillip & Penny Molina  
Kathy Molitor  
Beth Moore  
Barbara & Thomas Muth  
Fred Nelson  
Eric Newman  
Sue & Gary Noble  
Organic Valley  
Emily Pfitsch  
Robertson Ryan & Assoc., Inc.  
Allison Sandbeck  
John & June Schutz  
Mark & Jen Shepard  
John & Sheila Sherwin  
Mary Helen Shortridge

Donald and Adele Skolaski  
Eric & Kris Snowdeal  
Joyce Sorensen  
Merrilee Stahler  
Madelyn Townsley  
Tulips  
Thomas & Connie Vanderhyden  
David & Elizabeth Van Dyke  
Vernon County Fair  
Village Market  
Christine Violet & Hilda Richey  
Viroqua Food Cooperative  
Alexander & Jennifer Wade  
Tom & Danelle Weston  
Patricia & Brian Wickert  
John Zehrer

In Memory of

*Barbara Peterson for the Barbara Peterson Children's Fund*  
Miscellaneous cash gifts  
Philip & Kathleen Aaker  
Ben Agar & Julee Caspers Agar  
David & Diane Banner  
M. Kate Barnhart & William Knox  
Emily Beck  
Terry & Jean Beck  
Paul Bergquist & Carole Austin  
Hugh Binley  
Bruce Bland  
Jeff Clifton & Rebecca Lewis-Clifton  
Dan & Sally Colacino  
Lynn & Royce Curtis  
Stephen & Lisa Darnell  
Marjorie Dick  
Kathy Doerfer  
Roberta Ducharme  
Pierre Du Prey  
Charlene Elderkin  
David & Marta Engel  
Paul & Kathy Fairchild  
Wil & Anne-Marie Fryer  
Linda & John Gambrell  
Dan & Dianne Hendricks  
Norma Herz  
Kathleen Hofmann  
Marjorie Koons  
Peg La Martina  
Dennis & Cathy Lund  
Kathy Neidert  
JoAn O'Connor  
Anna & Kevin O'Donnell  
Walter Ohlmann  
Charles Rodriguez  
Gina Sandoval  
Marty Sellers & Nancy Hartje  
Donna Simmons  
Cliff & Marie Smith  
Molly Symons  
John & Anne Tedeschi  
Janie Tippins  
David White  
Cindi Wiar  
Michael Wright & Kate Walter

via the Dayton Foundation  
Board & Staff of the Dayton Foundation  
Regina Dixon  
Mrs. Alma J. Matthews  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Timmons  
  
*Jonathan R. Balkowitsch*  
Nancy & John Balkowitsch  
  
*Jeanette C. Baty*  
Dr. Jackson Baty

*Grandpa Brown & Grandma Jan*  
Stephanie & Dan Brown

*Kim Channer*  
Mary Lynn & Burley Channer

*Dennis Coleman*  
Cele Wolf

*Mary Crotser*  
Michael Crotser & Jennifer Eissfeldt

*Tom Dolan*  
Doris Dolan

*Wilbert Hartje*  
Marty Sellers & Nancy Hartje

*Paul & Irene Irsfeld*  
Jerry & Nancy Irsfeld

*Rob Krause*  
Gary & Dian Krause

*Kenneth Leaf*  
Roy & Mary Lou Terwilliger

*Everett & Helen McCollum*  
Dr. Robert & Janet Starr

*Larry Necker*  
Ben Agar and Julee Caspars Agar

*Gisela Nocker & Shizuko Sutherland*  
Monika & Wyatt Sutherland

*Richard Pfeiffer*  
WECC

*John Shortridge*  
Mary Helen Shortridge  
Matt Shortridge & Kathy O'Rourke

*Delores Smith*  
Kathleen & Quentin Ingerson

*Betty & Art Van Aman*  
Gil & Julie Hoel

*Ellen Wilbur*  
Katie Fasbinder Getz & Jerrod Getz

In Honor of

*The Balkowitsch Family*  
Neal Balkowitsch & Donald Nelson

*Lars & Corina Bergan*  
Kate Bergan

*Kalerei & Vedarose Bernstein*  
Roy & Mary Lou Terwilliger

*Paul Bergquist*  
Kathy Neidert

*Philothea Bezin & Julee Agar*  
Linda Mathes & Robert Cwierniak

*Luca Carns-Hilliker*  
Gary & Dianne Krueger

*Odin Cheesebro-Rodriguez*  
Linda & Clark Beier

*Katrina Christenson*  
Mary & Steve Christenson

*Mary Christenson*  
The Getman Family Fund  
Kathleen Hofmann  
Sue & Gary Noble  
Cynthia Olmstead

*Alex & Andra Curtis*  
Lynn & Royce Curtis

*Ethan, Mike & Lucy Danforth*  
Roberta Ducharme

*Soren & Miles Daniels*  
Gail & Bob Toerpe

*Annabella Dlugi*  
Geraldine & Raymond Jessmon

*Ewetopia Shop*  
Richard Goodhart

*Schuyler & Cameron Hawklove*  
Blanche & Thane Hawkins

*William & Rowan Heath*  
Donald and Adele Skolaski

*Emma, Harry & Tucker Hughes*  
Ann Hughes  
Aimee D. Larkin, M.D.

*Sylvia & Toby Hunt*  
Catherine Lang

*Maureen Karlstad*  
Kelvin Rodolfo & Kathleen Crittenden

*Maiela & Zirelia Leinberger & Lucia Nannini*  
Chris & Gary Leinberger

*PRWS Class of 2012*  
Anonymous

*PRWS Teachers*  
Philip & Kathleen Aaker

*Wynne Roberts*  
David & Jenny Fritz

*Sheila Sherwin*  
Chris & Toddie Getman

*The Sherwin Family*  
Chris & Toddie Getman

*Truman & Kit Shortridge*  
Paul & Pam O'Rourke

*Heron Splinter*  
Russ & Arlene Maxwell

*Monika Sutherland*  
Richard Bock & Valorie Schaefer

*The Townsley Family*  
Anonymous

*Gibson, Margo & Noelle Wade*  
Roberta Day & George Idzorek

*The Wade Family*  
Donald & Sandra Dalton

*Isabella Sage Walker*  
Thomas & Ellyn Walker

*Jaia Wilbour*  
Jim and Sally Wilbour

Endowment

Vicky Eiben & Randall Kahn  
Meg & Robert Hoversten  
Bill Humphrey & Ellen Arndorfer  
Vincent & Dawn Hundt  
John & Sheila Sherwin  
Susan & William Townsley

Grants & Foundations

Amazon School Rewards  
E3/Focus on Energy  
Federal Title Grant Funding  
Goodsearch  
Planet Green  
Paul E. Stry Foundation  
Target  
Vernon Memorial Healthcare  
Walmart Foundation

Building & Grounds

Steve & Mary Christenson  
Monica DeClercq & Jason Cole  
E3 Coalition LLC  
Teri & Steve Elfrink  
PAXAM Foundation  
PRWS Class of 2012  
PRWS Class of 2013  
Dodie & Gino Whitaker

InKind & Restricted

Miscellaneous cash gifts  
(Music Program)  
Cathy & Lyle Brummer  
Gabrielle & Peter Daniels  
Steve & Mary Christenson  
Liz Cifani  
Dairyland Printing  
David & Marta Engel  
The Flower Basket  
Carol Hemingway  
Loma Huh  
Daniel & Lauren Hunt  
Maureen Karlstad  
Barbara & Marvin McNeal  
Midwest Organic Services Organization  
Margaret O'Rourke  
Nancy Rhodes

Rockweiler TV & Appliance  
Shining Hills Farm  
Geri Shonka  
Diane & Gregory Splinter  
Alexander and Jennifer Wade  
John Zehrer

Scrip

All Creatures Animal Care  
Bill Brooke Realty  
Bramble Books  
Bright Life Center Chiropractic  
Burke's Tire & Auto Repair  
DeLap Tire & Service Center  
DiSciascio's Restaurant  
Driftless Books & Music  
Driftless Café  
Driftless Fair Traders  
The Flower Basket  
Holistic Health Center:  
Susan Barendregt,NT  
Kwik Trip  
Nelson Agri-Center  
Paper, Scissors, Stone  
Parrish Music  
Pomegranate  
Quality of Life Chiropractic  
Read's Creek Nursery  
Rising Sun Animal Wellness Center  
Rockweiler Appliance & TV  
Schlicht Auto Repair  
Matt Shortridge: Music Lessons & Carpentry  
Sime Furniture  
Sing Your Heart Out Studio:  
Dodie Whitaker  
Tapestry Yoga  
Tulips  
Viroqua Public Market  
Viroqua Village Market

*We had several large projects supported by in-kind gifts and volunteer labor in 2012–13 that were covered in past issues of the Calyx. We again thank all volunteers and donors for the Greenspace project, playground equipment, and Old Main painting and construction.*

*We also thank all of the volunteers and donors for the 2012–13 Holiday Faire and Annual Raffle.*



magnanimous in her work with others on behalf of the school. Her deep commitment to the school was exemplified by the long hours she loving committed in ensuring Pleasant Ridge students, families, faculty, and staff were looked after.

With the threads of her day-to-day work, Diane knitted together the fabric of years of love for the school. Her love of the children and the community was ever present in all that she brought to the school. Those of us who got to work with Diane on the faculty and staff or in committees are ever thankful for her sharp wit and good sense of humor that she brought to her work. We thank you, Diane, and know that Pleasant Ridge and its community today flourish in large part due to what you have given to us of yourself over the years.

*In cooperation on behalf of the Board and Finance, Tripp Hughes, Board President*

Collaborating with McIntosh Library

The McIntosh Library capital campaign group has asked if there is a way for the Pleasant Ridge community, past and present, to support the building of the new Viroqua library. The PRWS board discussed the idea of seeing if our community can reach a goal that would give us naming rights for the Youth Program Area. The donation would be named “In honor of the Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School Librarians: Barbara Peterson, Janie Tippins and Anne Tedeschi.”

Our families use the library, and it would be great if our Waldorf school communities could show our support and demonstrate our partnership with the larger Viroqua community. PRWS and Youth Initiative High School are promoting the opportunity to our alumni families both near and far. The families of Barbara, Janie, and Anne also support the idea and will spread the word among their families and friends.

School families are receiving a brochure with pledge card in their mailboxes. Anyone living out of the area can email mary@pleasantridgewaldorf.org and ask for one to be sent to you. All donations go through the Viroqua Area Foundation and are tax-deductible. The campaign also accepts five-year pledges. The school will collect these commitments and submit them as a group. We hope to have the responses back as early as possible. The Library needs to know by February 15 whether they have raised ninety percent of the funding needed in order to send out bids to begin building this year.

If you wish to speak with someone further about the campaign you may call Mary Christenson at (608) 637-8504. For more information about the new library and to view the plans for the new building, you can visit their website at <http://www.wrslweb.org/viroqua/library-construction>.





# DEVELOPMENT

## Holiday Faire

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the Holiday Faire such a festive and enjoyable event! Kudos especially to Missy Hughes, Alicia Leinberger, and Margret Lenarz for all their leadership and planning efforts. This coordinating team is an essential aspect to the Faire's success. On Friday night, I found myself remembering how Anita Zibton came to me after the Faire in 2000 and asked to form a leadership group for the next year, noticing that the event had more potential to grow than the staff was able to organize. Ever since then, this form has kept the event strong, fresh, consistent, and manageable.

On Saturday, in conversations with current parents, I realized that many do not know the extent to which alumni parents continue to be involved in the Faire and that you might find that interesting. The alumni parents continue to be strong donors of items to the Children's Raffle and Silent Auction. They are strong bidders in the silent auction as well! Julee Caspers Agar has officiated the lighting of the candles on the tree each year since 1993, my first Holiday Faire! This year the tree was actually one that Barbara Peterson planted in her yard, but too close to the neighbor's storage shed, so it needed to be removed. Her neighbors graciously offered to cut and deliver the tree to us on the day of the Faire—so it was wonderful to contemplate our friends here and beyond during the lighting this year.

Philothea Bezin (founding teacher), Paul and Kathy Fairchild, and the Ridgetones (including several alumni parents and alumni students) have provided entertainment for all those years as well. Mark and Jen Shepard continue to sell chestnuts and donate the proceeds to the PRWS endowment even after their two sons graduated. John Zehrer (Star Valley Flowers) continues to donate much of the plant materials for decorations. And many alumni families come to the event—even from Madison.

A snapshot of what the Holiday Faire looked like in 1993: the Old Main Building housed the coffee house on Friday night. On Saturday, it turned to Children's Activities and entertainment. Two doors away, Brian Wickert's garage was the School Store, and its first floor housed the vendors. The Cricket House (now Rising Sun Clinic) held an abundant book store. Lasagna lunch was served in the basement of the Old Main. Many elements have stayed the same, but the flavor changes with the parent community, and that's a wonderful process to witness.

## Annual Giving

On the heels of the Holiday Faire we sent out our first appeal for the Annual Fund Campaign. We thank all who have donated so far and will continue to post names as gifts come in throughout the year. Gifts represent a substantial portion of our annual budget as you can see in the financial chart of the Annual Report pages. Without you we just would not be able to provide the excellent teachers and programs and prepare our youth for their future.

## Alumni Reunion

December 22 is the date that we've used for our Alumni Reunion for the past eight years. It seems to be a time when alumni are visiting. This year the weather was threatening and may have kept some away, but in spite of that, about fifteen guests attended from as far away as Boston, Atlanta, Memphis, and Louisiana. Please note this date for next year if you plan to be in town and want to meet up with some of your friends. We also have a Pleasant Ridge Alumni Facebook page where you can find out when events are happening and where you can tell us about what you're up to.

—Mary Christenson, *Development*

## Helping Lerie Alstad Van Ells

On December 22 Sheila Sherwin and Mary Christenson set up an online site at [YouCaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/help-miss-lerie-pay-her-medical-expenses/119368) to solicit financial support for our Movement and Games teacher, Lerie Alstad Van Ells, to help cover the medical bills she's incurred due to an auto accident in December 2012. Last year no one knew that the insurance coverage was not sufficient. This is the text of Sheila and Mary's invitation—feel free to share the link with other friends via email or Facebook:

"In December 2012 Ms. Lerie was in a severe auto collision and as a result, has escalating, costly, medical expenses. Let's gather together to help her get them under control."

<http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/help-miss-lerie-pay-her-medical-expenses/119368>

For those who wish to participate without going to the website, we have also set up a savings account at Citizen's First Bank named Lerie Alstad Van Ells Medical Fund. You may send checks to the school or drop cash or checks in the box in the school office, and we will deposit them into the bank account.

Thanks to everyone who has given so far in appreciation for Lerie's many years of giving of herself. The giving period lasts until March 31. All levels of giving will help us reach our goal!



# DONORS

Many thanks to those who have Supported of our School  
October 3, 2013 – January 9, 2014

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**In Honor of**  
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Dodie Whitaker  
Tapestry Yoga  
Viroqua Public Market  
Viroqua Village Market

*We also thank all of the volunteers and donors for the 2013 Holiday Faire, including the many generous donors to our silent auction and children's raffle.*

# ALUMNI

## Christine Zinky

Congratulations to Christine Zinky, PRWS class of 2009 (and YIHS class of 2013), for winning the 2013 Young Artist Award from the Wisconsin Regional Artists Association and annual WRAA State Conference in September in Madison. The Young Artist Award is a statewide prize established in 2007 by C. K. Chang and Jean Lang to recognize outstanding work by artists under twenty-five.

## Rowanna Herndon



Rowanna Herndon, PRWS class of 2006, has been working as a deck hand on a tall ship, the privateer Lynx. Her sister, Brownwyn Herndon, PRWS class of 2010, has also worked as an intern on this ship. You can find out more about Rowanna's adventures through the following links:

<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2013/08/08/behind-scenes-tall-ship>

<http://www.privateerlynx.com/index.html>



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# Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School **Annual Raffle** 2013/2014

**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



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**\$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.*

Visit us online at  
[pleasantridgewaldorf.org](http://pleasantridgewaldorf.org)

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