

## Calendar

### **Important Lunch Menu Change!!**

Due to an oversight on my part, I neglected to include our traditional Baked Squash and Wild Rice meal on the day before our Thanksgiving Break. I would like to do that as usual. **So, if you've already turned in your lunch form and you'd like add or delete that meal for your child(ren) on Tuesday, November 20th, please let Nan in the office know as soon as possible.** If you haven't turned your form in yet, just make the change on there and turn it in as soon as you can. Sorry for the confusion.

- Julie Turino, Cook

**Fri Nov 9** Martinmas Lantern Walk – see right side for details

**Sat Nov 10** All-School Work Day

**Mon Nov 12** Crafting Night at Ewetopia – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – see inside for details

**Tue Nov 13** Scrip Night Out at the Driftless Café – 7:00 p.m. – see inside for details – NEW DATE AND TIME

**Wed Nov 14** Fall Concert – 6:30 p.m. – see inside for details

**Mon Nov 19** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent Meeting – 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom

## Friday Assembly

Assembly begins at 8:20 AM

Nov 9—Martinmas – Open Assembly

Nov 16—Odd Assembly

Nov 23—Thanksgiving Break – **No School**

## What's Cooking!

### **Lunchbox Express Deadline Reminder**

**The deadline for submissions to the Lunchbox Express is Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. Thank you!**

### **Martinmas Lantern Walk – Friday, November 9th, at 4:30 p.m.**

At 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 9th, families and children in Kindergarten through 4th grade will **gather in the Main Shelter at Sidie Hollow Park**. Please keep the children off of the playground equipment before and after the walk to protect the reverence for the occasion. Children will have their lanterns lit by their parents or teacher and will stay with their class. Parents who have children in multiple grades can choose with which class the whole family walks or may set up care from a fellow class parent for the unaccompanied student. Older siblings are invited to walk as well but are asked to remain with their parent/s. At 4:45 p.m., the 4th grade will call us to the lake with song. We will listen to them and then proceed on our walk. Once our lanterns are lit, we will walk to our respective stopping places adjacent to the middle of the lake. The 4th grade will lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade across the bridge on the left-hand side. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will lead the 1<sup>st</sup> grade on the right side of the lake followed by the kindergartens. Then we'll each take turns singing to each other across the lake 5 times. Please save conversation for when we have returned from our walk. Our final song, "Oh How Lovely Is the Evening," we will sing on the walk back to the shelter, the former end of the line now taking over as leader. (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4th grade classes can collect the luminaries on the return. There will be a bin for them at the head of the path).

Following our reverent walk, please join the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at the shelter for apple cider and a small, joyous fire. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will serve you cider and you may accompany your child around the fire. Please check the weather and dress warmly if it may be windy and cold. We hope you will find this time peaceful and reverent - carrying forth your light into the darkness that winter brings. Please reach out to any new class families regarding what to expect during this festival. In the event of rain, the walk will be canceled. Thank you.

- Martinmas Planners

## EVENTS

### Martinmas

On November 10<sup>th</sup> Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School will be celebrating the feast of St. Martin, or Martinmas, with a lantern walk. November 11<sup>th</sup> is the actual feast day commemorating St. Martin's death, which has also been designated as Veteran's Day. Martin (c. 317-397) was a Roman soldier before he was named Bishop of Tours. As a young soldier, he passed under an archway in the French city of Amiens and discovered a poor beggar huddled there. The man was nearly naked, shivering with cold, and had received no alms to assist him. On seeing him, the young Martin took his own cape from his shoulders, tore the garment in half, and covered the poor man to warm him.

Traditionally, this festival also celebrates the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It is a time when the poor enjoyed a bountiful harvest and children processed with candle-lit lanterns in the darkened night. When we make a lantern, we, too, may feel that we are giving protection to our own little "flame" that began to shine at Michaelmas, so that we may carry it safely through the dark world. It may only be a small and fragile light – but every light brings relief to the darkness.

During this time we might experience a mist veiling the dying natural world and our gaze being drawn inward. We turn our thoughts toward loved ones who have crossed the threshold. Other feast days at this time, All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day, are also festivals that honor those who have died.

The feast of St. Martin falls between Michaelmas and the Holy Nights and carries us along on a journey of the soul that begins with our human will being awakened through the inner experience of Michaelmas. At Martinmas, the soul qualities of love and compassion manifest in active deeds and until at last spirit light is enkindled at Christmas Eve.

- Martinmas Planners

### Organic Hot Dog Lunch Fridays - November 9 and 16

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be serving organic hot dogs for lunch on Fridays November 9 and 16 as a fundraiser for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Gluten-free buns and veggie dogs are available by preorder.

**Please sign up and pay for the hot dogs in the office in advance.** The cost is \$2 in advance and **\$3 when purchased on the hot dog Friday.** You will still need to send sides to accompany the hot dogs. Thank you!

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

### All-School Work Day Saturday, November 10

Please plan to join us for some satisfying work, social time, and another wood-fired pizza lunch (!) during our upcoming All-School Work Day this **Saturday, November 10**. We have a few important indoor and outdoor tasks to tackle before the onset of winter and are hoping for about 35-40 volunteers to get everything in tip-top shape. A couple of hours of your time within the **9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** window would go a long way toward this goal. Children are welcome! This is a great opportunity for a tangible way to pitch in while visiting with other families. Please bring yard and garden rakes if you have them.

- Facilities Committee

### Scrip Night Out at the Driftless Café, Tuesday, November 13

(Please note the date change!)

The Parent Association invites all PRWS parents to join us for great food and lively conversation on **Tuesday, November 13, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** at the Driftless Cafe. Come for amazing food, connect with other parents, and support the school and one of our biggest SCRIP supporters. Stop in the office to purchase your SCRIP dollars before the evening (or purchase them at the event). Please RSVP to Jordan in the office or at [enrollment@pleasantrydorgewaldorf.org](mailto:enrollment@pleasantrydorgewaldorf.org) so that we may make reservations.

- PRWS Parent Association

## Fall Concert - Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the PRWS Gym

Join us for a concert of choral and instrumental offerings by students in grades 5-8. The performance will be in the PRWS gym and will feature 5<sup>th</sup> grade strings and recorder, 5/6 and 7/8 choruses, the 6/7/8 recorder ensemble, and the 6/7/8 string orchestra. All are welcome!

Children who are performing should arrive by 6:15 p.m.

**Concert attire** is required for all performers at the Wednesday evening performance. All concert clothes must follow the PRWS dress code.

**Girls:** White, long-sleeved top which covers the shoulders. Black dress pants (no yoga pants) or skirt (mid-thigh or longer). Black shoes with a flat bottom or very conservative heel. Black tights if wearing a skirt. No jeans.

**Boys:** White long-sleeved shirt with collar, tucked in, black pants, black shoes. No jeans. Concert clothes that have been donated over the years are available for borrowing from the front office. **Additional donations are welcome!** Please call the office if you have any further questions.

- Stephanie Pedretti and Melissa Madura,  
Music Teachers

## Topics in Waldorf Education - Discussion Series

We are beginning a series of monthly discussions on different topics in which parents have expressed interest. Our first discussion will be on **November 20, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Mary Christenson will be facilitating this first discussion, and she has provided a description of the topic below.

The Waldorf School movement began in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1919 and has since spread across the world. What were the founders of Pleasant Ridge wishing for when they adopted this philosophy and curriculum as their guide? What makes Waldorf unique? How it can be a reflection of our community and at the same time be true to its

philosophical foundations? After a short presentation we can discuss your observations, questions, and what more you might want to learn. I will bring many easy-to-read articles that can help you gain a deeper understanding of the roots of Waldorf and of Rudolf Steiner's role as its founder, as well as resources that report on how the curriculum manifests in schools today. If you haven't listened to the 3 short videos that were produced for our 25th anniversary in 2005, you might want to do so before this conversation. You can find them [here](#) on our website.

Childcare will be provided by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class for donations towards their class trip in May. Please RSVP for the discussion and childcare (if needed) by contacting Jordan at [enrollment@pleasantridgewaldorf.org](mailto:enrollment@pleasantridgewaldorf.org).

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment and  
Outreach Coordinator

# HOLIDAY FAIRE

## Holiday Faire Class Assignments

The Holiday Faire is a much-anticipated, all-school event that requires the participation of each PRWS family. Each grade is assigned an area of the Faire to support through setup, staffing, cleanup, etc. Below are the parent assignments by grade. Signup sheets will be posted outside the front office this week. Let's fill those shifts! Thank you in advance for your support, and making the magic happen. We couldn't do it without you!

### **GRADE ASSIGNMENTS FOR PARENTS:**

- Kindergarten—Crystal Boat and Children's Crafts
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bake Sale/Café (Friday and Saturday shifts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday Night Food Serving and Cleanup
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Faire Cleanup (Saturday)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – School Store
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Service and Cleanup
  - Students help with Ice Skating Friday afternoon

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday Afternoon Decorating
  - Students help with setup for children's areas on Friday and assist with Children's Crafts on Saturday
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Children's Castle - Students help with setup for children's areas on Friday and Children's Castle on Saturday
  - Holiday Faire Committee

**Holiday Faire Adult Evening Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.-Midnight**  
**Online Tickets Now Available for the Holiday Faire Friday Evening Celebration!**

New this year: online advance ticket sales! Advance tickets are strongly encouraged and can be purchased at [www.pleasantridgewaldorf.org](http://www.pleasantridgewaldorf.org). No convenience fee, only convenience! Advance tickets may also be purchased at the Viroqua Food Co-op and the school's front office.

Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. - Midnight  
Joyful Wassail for Adults: A magical evening with artisan vendors, a beautiful meal, decadent desserts and libations, silent auction, live music featuring the Ridgetones, tree lighting, raffle, and dance party featuring DJ Chris Dunn.

Admission: \$8 advance/\$10 door (includes entry and entertainment)

Golden Wassail Pass: \$25 advance/\$30 door (includes entry, entertainment, festive meal, decadent dessert, and one Holiday Faire raffle ticket).

Childcare will be available by YIHS students next door at the Landmark Center. Pre-registration is requested and may be accessed via our website. Get your tickets today!

- Holiday Faire Committee

**Last Call for Artisans and Vendors for the Holiday Faire**

Last Call for Holiday Faire Artisans and Vendors! There's still time to apply to be a vendor at this year's faire scheduled for Friday, November 30 - Saturday, December 1st. Vendor applications are now available online at:

<https://pleasantrydgewaldorf.org/our-school/holiday-faire/>. Please see the webpage for contact and application information or contact Robin Kottke at [holidayfairevending@gmail.com](mailto:holidayfairevending@gmail.com).

- Holiday Faire Committee

**Adult Crafting Night for the Holiday Faire**

Join us at Margret Lenarz's house **Friday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m.** at 510 S. Rusk for an evening of simple crafting, snacks, and beverages. We will be making a few different things to stock the Children's Castle for the Holiday Faire.

- Margret Lenarz, Holiday Faire Coordinator

**Let the Holiday Faire Bake Sale Baking Begin!!**

Dear friends, it is that time of year to buy some butter and start your holiday baking. The days are shorter and the nights are colder, so give in to the urge to warm your house via oven.

Helping us create a rich spread of special delights can be a full-family event - dust off your grandmother's recipe collection and make a mess in that kitchen! Bake and freeze now - thaw and cook the day before the Faire.

There will be a large sign-up sheet available outside the main office by the end of the week. Please sign up early for a slot that inspires you. Prefer to bake savory items or special candies? Even better! Looking forward to seeing your new ideas. Please contact Julia Ugo (606-9125 and [juliahundt@gmail.com](mailto:juliahundt@gmail.com)) if you have questions.

- Julia Ugo, Bake Sale Coordinator

**Pocket Person Trinkets Needed**

Looking for sweet little items for the Pocket Person to give out at the Holiday Faire. Simple, natural items appreciated: jewelry you no longer wear, wooden or stone trinkets, anything tiny (kids love tiny stuff!). Please drop

off any donation you have in the office.  
Thanks!

- Margret Lenarz, Holiday  
Faire Coordinator

## ADMIN

### When School is Closed due to Inclement Weather

It's that time of year! Here's the scoop on winter-weather closings. PRWS (and YIHS) follow the Viroqua School District when it comes to closing for inclement weather. We would only deviate in the case of a closing that is not weather-related or if the VAS school schedule is different than ours (for instance, when they may have a half day already scheduled). We rely on the bus garages, who have their eye on all the roads, to make the safest decision, and - no matter what - if it doesn't feel safe to drive, don't! Though only a few PRWS students take the bus, many families, faculty and staff drive in, and safety comes first.

### How do we account for snow days in our calendar?

Each year the faculty and administration carefully make the yearly schedule, including multiple drafts and much forethought and intention for the health of the children and their families. When the ideal schedule is found, the administration carefully counts up the hours (not days) of the school year with plenty of cushion for those inevitable snow days. When the public school "makes up" hours for snow days at the end of the year, this is actually because of their funding structure.

### There are many ways to find out if school will be closed or delayed.

1. Text message and/or email: Sign up ahead of time by going to [www.news8000.com](http://www.news8000.com). Under the weather tab, find email/text alerts. Sign up for your county. The message will come out as soon as the decision is made.
2. Online: [www.news8000.com](http://www.news8000.com). Click on School Closings, located under the Weather tab.

3. Call the school at 608-637-7828. **A message will be on the machine by 6:50 a.m.** in the case of a closing or delay. In the case of a delay, it's a good idea to check back before the 10:10 a.m. start time in case the weather has turned.

4. School Facebook page, TV/Radio: WDRT, WVRQ, WKBT, WTCO

Do you have other questions? Ask a faculty, staff, administration, or board member or a veteran PRWS family. We will find the answer.

- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair

### Position Open

#### Afternoon Kindergarten Assistant

We have an opening for an Afternoon Kindergarten Assistant. The hours are Monday-Wednesday (with potential to become 5 days a week) from 11:20 a.m. - 3:20p.m.

Applications can be found on school website or in the office. Submit application and direct questions to Amy Hazell at [admin@pleasantridgewaldorf.org](mailto:admin@pleasantridgewaldorf.org).

- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair

### Parent Feedback – Reminder

If you have been a Waldorf parent for any length of time, you know that growing into the depths of what this education has to offer humanity requires that we intentionally engage with our inner life as well as with those who are walking this journey with us: our children, fellow parents, and, above all, the teachers.

The Waldorf Teacher continually challenges his or her capacities of thinking, feeling, and willing. They stretch to "connect from the depths of matter to the heights of spirit. This connection is Waldorf Education" (Lisa Meisinger, visiting Eurhythmist and Movement Educator).

One way for teachers to deepen their capacities is through a yearly evaluation process. The evaluation process includes the completion of a self-evaluation, classroom observation by another faculty member, and colleague feedback shared through a face-to-face conversation. The full evaluation process is completed every other year. During

the alternate year, the evaluation consists of colleague and parent feedback delivered through a face-to-face conversation with a member of the faculty. As parents, you are annually called upon to provide this essential feedback to our faculty.

*Parent Feedback Forms are in the office.*

*Please take the time to thoughtfully provide your comments and suggestions to your all of children's teachers. We ask that these forms be returned to the Administrative Chair's mailbox before the Thanksgiving break.*

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, we are grateful to the parent body for providing your valuable insights to our faculty and for your active participation in Waldorf Education at PRWS!

- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair

### **Building Community: An Internal Exercise**

We all experience times of discord with the people in our lives. That is part of being human. But we should never choose to remain disconnected. Instead, practice holding positive thoughts and good energy for that person with whom you don't see eye-to-eye. Repeat this internal exercise daily and take note of the peace of mind that begins growing from the inside out!

- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair



The First Waldorf School was opened in Stuttgart, Germany on September 19, 1919. On the 100-year anniversary of this day in history, a World Festival will take place in Berlin and will be attended by colleagues, graduates, and friends of Waldorf education from around the world.

Here in North America, schools will celebrate this momentous day by hosting community

gatherings, honoring their school founders, and by ringing in the future of Waldorf education with 100,000 points of light. And throughout the year, celebrations will take place around North America--within classrooms, during seasonal festivals, and at regional alumni gatherings.

Be on the watch for ways that PRWS will be celebrating 100 Year of Waldorf Education! THANK YOU!

## IN GRATITUDE

- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair

### **Many Thanks!**

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Fall Clothing Swap – it was a great success! It's a big job, but it's so rewarding to see everyone leaving with a smile and an armful of "new" clothes for their families. Special thanks to Nan Marshall, Dodie Whitaker, Colleen Canavan, Susana Ruder, Robin Kottke, Jennifer Wade, Jillian Davis, Mandy Herrick, and Kate Holmes for their hours of work to help pull this event off. Watch for another swap in the spring!

- Jordan Brudos, Parent Association

### **7th Grade Thanks!**

The 7th grade would like to thank everyone who ordered a pizza during our sale! We had a very successful sale and we'd like to thank everyone for their support. There were a few orders that have not been picked up yet. All orders are in the freezer with your name on it. Please see me, Christina Hotchkiss, or Nan to retrieve your order.

- Christina Hotchkiss, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

## IN OTHER NEWS

### Growing For Good (GFG) Holiday Store - Opens November 23rd

Pre-order your trees, wreaths, garland, and poinsettia through November 10<sup>th</sup> for a 10% discount. Call 608-637-8200 or email [info@growingforgood](mailto:info@growingforgood) to pre-order. A pre-order signup sheet is also available in the PRWS lobby. See additional details on our website at [www.growingforgood.org](http://www.growingforgood.org).

We also have Chestnuts for sale - grown at New Forest Farm and harvested and prepared by our staff. \$8/pound. Full and half pounds are available at GFG or PRWS office.

Questions? Call Amber at Growing For Good at 608-637-8200.

- Stephanie Brown, Growing For Good

### Eurythmy Class for Adults

Ever wanted to learn eurythmy? If you can come Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. you have a chance! Joshua Ecklund will be leading a class at that time in Ye Auld Maine Building (southwest corner of Washington and Decker). We shall be learning the fundamentals, practicing them, and working on W.B. Yeats' 'The Isle of Innisfree.' Cost is from \$5 to \$10. **Classes are underway.** Just show up.

- Joshua Ecklund, Eurythmy Teacher

### Group Anthroposophic Book Study

Those interested in studying Rudolf Steiner's 'Occult Science' in a social setting are welcome to come to Ye Auld Maine Building (southwest corner of Washington and Decker) at 9:10 a.m. Fridays where we shall study it for an hour. Joshua Ecklund shall host. First session was October 19; however, all are welcome. No cost but your focus.

- Joshua Ecklund, Eurythmy Teacher

### In Our Thoughts

Our beloved Marv McNeal (husband of Barb) had a small heart attack over a week ago. He is home now and doing well. Please keep him in your thoughts as he continues to heal. He and Barb would welcome short visits after drop-off in the morning or after school. They have declined an official meal wheel but they do love soup and any that is dropped off at their home (518 S. Rusk Ave) would be very much enjoyed! Please feel free to call Margret Lenarz with any questions at 637-7880.

- Margret Lenarz, Parent

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**POTLUCK OF IDEAS:** Please join us at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, for a look at the current work going on at Youth Initiative High School. We will be showcasing work in each of the classes from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., followed by live performances in the auditorium from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. As always, there will be food! If you are curious, we encourage you to stop over and check it out!

**The Viroqua affiliate of the Christian Community invites all to a talk:** "Reincarnation—A Christian Idea?" given by Reverend Paul Newton. This will be on Thursday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Main Building at 321 E. Decker in Viroqua. All are welcome! For more information, contact Donna at [morningglory62@zoho.com](mailto:morningglory62@zoho.com).

### **LUNCHBOX EXPRESS COMMUNITY NEWS POLICY**

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

How to Place an Ad:

1. Limit your ad to 70 words. We do not edit. We will not print ads over 70 words. If you must have a long ad, make a note & give it to the office staff to place on the bulletin board.
2. Ads will be printed only once.
3. Put your ad in the folder in the LBE's mailbox in the Office marked "Lunchbox Community News" OR e-mail ad to [info@pleasantrydwaldorf.org](mailto:info@pleasantrydwaldorf.org) with "Community News" in the subject line.
4. Deadline is Tuesdays at 8:00am. There may be occasions, due to unforeseen circumstances or space restrictions, that the Community section will not be printed. Thank you.



Your neighborhood greenhouse in Viroqua

# TIS' THE SEASON!

**Holiday Store**

**OPEN November 23 - December 24**

**Wed-Sat 10-6 & Sun 12-4**

---

## CHRISTMAS TREES

LIVE BLACK HILL, NORWAY &

COLORADO SPRUCE

\*2-3' tall 5 yr old potted trees - can be planted outside zones 2-7

CUT TREES - BALSAM & FRASER FIR 5-9'

---

WREATHS 16", 24", 36" & 48"  
decorated and plain

POINSETTIAS 4" & 6"  
assorted colors

GARLAND - 25'

CHRISTMAS CACTUS

NORFOLK PINES

LAVENDER TREES

DECORATIVE BRANCHES AND MORE!

---

**\*\*\*PREORDER TREES, WREATHS, GARLAND AND POINSETTIAS  
THROUGH NOVEMBER 10TH FOR A 10% DISCOUNT\*\*\*  
call 608.637.8200 or email [info@growingforgood.org](mailto:info@growingforgood.org)**

520 E Terhune in Viroqua

608-637-8200

pricing available online @ [www.growingforgood.org](http://www.growingforgood.org)