



## Calendar

**Thu Dec 13** Santa Lucia

**Fri Dec 14** Game Night – Lasagna dinner 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; games 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Mon Dec 17** Upper Grades Parent Evening – 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom

**Thu Dec 20** Shepherd’s Play - 6:30 p.m. – in the school gym

**Fri Dec 21** Festival of Light – 10:45 a.m. - in the school gym

**Fri Dec 21** Noon Dismissal for the grades; 10:30 a.m. dismissal for the kindergartens

**Mon Dec 24 – Sun Jan 6** Holiday Break

**Mon Jan 7** School Resumes

## **January Hot Lunch Forms**

Please turn your January Hot Lunch forms in as soon as possible. Due to the upcoming break, there is only a limited time available for processing the forms before the new year. Thank you for your assistance!

- Nan Marshall, Office Manager

## Friday Assembly

Dec 14 —No Assembly

Dec 21- No Assembly – **Festival of Light at 10:45 a.m.**

## **What’s Cooking!**

### Lucia Celebration

On **Thursday, December 13th**, Pleasant Ridge will celebrate St. 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 Lucia Day, the 8th grade students, dressed all in white, will visit each classroom, bringing song and light. Their procession is led by *Lucia*, who wears a crown of light. We welcome you to see what the St. Lucia procession is like. **You can find us in the hallways on Wednesday morning between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

- Catherine Young and Julee Caspers Agar

### PRWS Game Night

The 8th grade and the PRWS Parent Association will be hosting a dinner and game night on **Friday, December 14**. Come learn to play a new game or have fun with an old one. There will even be a room set up for fun math games for ages 10 and up! A lasagna and salad dinner will offered from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Games will be played from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the 8th grade class trip.

- 8th Grade Class and Parent Association

### Short Holiday Music Performance

**At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19, in the gym**, the grade 6-7-8 string orchestra and recorder ensemble will present a very short, informal performance of holiday music that we have been learning this month during class. All are welcome to attend! Students will wear their regular school clothes - no concert dress required.

- Stephanie Pedretti and Melissa Madura,  
Music Teachers

## ADMIN

*Upward Gravity weekly thoughts from the  
Administrative Chair, Amy Hazell*

Many of us celebrate the new winter season by hosting special family meals, attending parties, and honoring cultural traditions that help us count down the days until we exchange gifts. When that time finally arrives, you won't have to ask a child twice if she wants to open a package. The answer is *always YES!*

Of course, as adults we learn to value the gifts that cannot be wrapped in pretty packages. These are the gifts of lasting value, more precious than gold, like kindness, peace, love, and joy. Gifts of this kind require us to make space in our hearts to truly receive the person who offers such a treasure to us.

My hope for all of us this winter holiday is that we each receive the gifts of the season with the same exuberance as a child, bubbling over with delight to open her gift.

## EVENTS

### A Note from Our Traveling Troupe of Players

Dear Friends,

Once again, we gather as a troupe to bring you *The Shepherd's Play*. This is our Annual Holiday Greeting Card to the community. We bring it humbly and with joy.

This year, we will have two performances on **Thursday, December 20**, in the school gym – one during the school day for students and a second performance in the evening at 6:30 p.m. The evening performance is a free gift to all the community, so feel welcome to invite family, friends, and neighbors.

Many blessings.

- The Traveling Troupe of Players

### Festival of Light – Friday, December 21

**10:45 a.m. in the PRWS Gym**

To honor the season, we will celebrate the Festival of Light with all students in grades 1-8 performing. Please join us for this reverent, joyful, and candle-lit festival. Please have **students in grades 5-8 dress in concert attire** (white tops, black bottoms) and **students in grades 1-4 dress in festive attire**. Performers will have time to change before the festival if they would like.

**Girls:** White top which covers the shoulders, preferably long-sleeved. Black dress 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 shirt with collar, tucked in, dark pants, dark shoes. No jeans. All concert clothes must follow the PRWS dress code. Concert clothes that have been donated over the years are available for borrowing from the front office. Please call the office if you have any further questions.

- Stephanie Pedretti and Geri Shonka,  
Festival of Light Coordinators

### PRWS Alumni Reunion

**Thursday, December 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at The Rooted Spoon Culinary Kitchen**

Please plan to stop in at the Rooted Spoon, 219 S Main Street, Viroqua, and catch up with past teachers, students, and friends of PRWS. Weigh-in on plans for Alumni events and initiatives as we gear up for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Waldorf 100, the worldwide centennial anniversary celebration of Waldorf education. Food and drink will be served, and the bar will be open for drink purchases. A \$10 donation is requested. Thank you for helping spread the word to your old PRWS pals!

RSVP: Contact Robin in the Development Office: [robin@pleasantridgewaldorf.org](mailto:robin@pleasantridgewaldorf.org) or 608.637.8504.

- Robin Kottke, Development Director

**PRWS Ski Day at Mt. La Crosse**

There will be a ski day for PRWS at Mt. La Crosse on **January 3, 2019**, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lessons will begin at 9:30 a.m. and lifts will open at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in taking part of this day, please pick up a form in the office. Prices are:

**Lift Only: \$16**

**Lift & Ski Rental: \$21**

**Lift & Snowboard Rental: \$31**

If your child is a newer skier/snowboarder, a lesson is recommended, and they will have them available that day. A beginner lesson (for ages 10+) is included FREE of charge. Beginner lessons for younger children are: 6-9 years = \$10 and 5 years and under = \$18. Forms and payment (checks written to PRWS or cash) are **due by December 21**. Please see Jordan or Nan in the office if you have any questions.

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment and Outreach Coordinator

**SAVE THE DATE – January 11th**  
**Special Friday Assembly**

Welcome to our Visitors from South Korea



- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair

**IN OTHER NEWS**

**Ice Skating this Year**

Each winter, the students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades have an opportunity to ice skate at the Park Bowl during their movement class, weather and ice permitting. First through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades will only go once/week. To make this possible, we will need parent support on those days to help tie skates. For 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, we will

need parents to meet us at the Park Bowl at 12:55 p.m. on Tuesdays. For 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, we will need parents to meet us at 12:55 p.m. on Mondays. **Please sign up with Nan in the office if you are able to help tie skates. Be sure to check in during the morning to make sure skating is happening each day.**

We hope the weather favors a nice stretch of ice skating this January and February. **Lerie hopes all students will have skates within the first two weeks of school in January, if possible.**

There will need to be a minimum of ¼ of the student body per class with skates to make ice skating possible.

Skates will not be available for rent from the Park Bowl. However, the school does have some skates that can be borrowed. **You may stop by the office to try on and sign up to borrow the skates during the first two weeks of school in January.** You can also find used skates at Play it Again Sports in La Crosse, and they also can sharpen them. You can also get skates sharpened at the Viroqua Arena.

Anyone with skates to sell, please notify the Lunchbox Express, and we will put an ad for you in the Community News.

It is important for all students to have good laces, blade guards, and sharpened skate blades. This makes the skates safer to skate on than those with dull blades. We recommend hockey skates for structural support and for keeping the children's feet warm. Skate guards or tote bags are essential for safety while sharp skates are being carried.

- Lerie Alstad van Ells,  
Movement Teacher

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to PRWS students who were part of the Polar Express event at the McIntosh Memorial Library on Friday, December 7! Ivan Messier participated in the readers theater presentation of the Polar Express story. Fischer Olson taught origami to children and adults. Ethan Kangas and Nanuka Schirmer performed holiday music on recorder.

- Stephanie Pedretti, Music Teacher

## **Annual Fund: 100% Participation in 100 Days Update**

### **Only nine (!) days remaining to reach 100% participation in our Annual Fund!**

Wow – way to go! Our ‘community tree’ is really blooming! If you haven’t stopped by the lobby recently, please do so, it’s really beautiful to behold. The tree will continue to bloom and leaf out across the lobby windows, made more beautiful with every contribution. Here’s where we’re at as of December 12:

**Board: 100% participation**

**Staff: 100% participation**

**Faculty: 95% participation**

**Parent Body: 45% participation**

A letter with an invitation to participate was sent out to fellow parents a few weeks ago. Thank you to those of you who have already sent or pledged your gift.

We simply ask that your gift comes from the heart in an amount that makes sense for your family. Whether that’s \$10 or \$1,000, all gifts count and go a long way to ensure this beautiful education is accessible to all families. We appreciate that this may require further conversation, and, to that end, members of the board of directors will be reaching out to individual families over the next week to ensure we reach the 100% participation goal we have set for ourselves.

**Please return your envelope indicating your gift or pledge by December 21, 2018 (pledged gifts can be paid through June 30th, 2019).**

**You may also pick up a remittance envelope in the office.**

Thank you for your support! Together we can do so much!

In partnership, Robin Kottke, Development Director, and Joe Lenarz, PRWS Board President

## **Growing For Good (GFG) Is Open for the Holidays!**

Growing For Good has a beautiful assortment of sustainably-grown trees, wreaths, garlands, poinsettias, decorative woody stems, tabletop plants (lavender, Norway pine, Christmas cactus, rosemary), and succulents for sale! Stop by this week for your holiday greenery and fresh chestnuts. GFG will be open for sales **Wednesday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., through December 24th.** See [growingforgood.org](http://growingforgood.org) or call 637-8200.

- Amber Knutson,  
Growing For Good Manager

## **Renewal Magazine Available**

We have recently received the fall issue of *Renewal*, a bi-annual publication of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). It features an article about Growing For Good, our greenhouse business. Extra copies are available in the office at a discounted price of \$5/issue. If you want to inform yourself more about Waldorf education, *Renewal* is a great way to learn about the Waldorf curriculum, about association news, Alumni news, and Waldorf schools across the continent. Enjoy!

## **Waldorf 100 Video: “Encounter, Engagement, Inclusion”**

A second international Waldorf100 video was launched this week. The theme of the new film is “Encounter, Engagement, Inclusion,” and it features schools from around the globe. The particular emphasis of the film is on schools that are working in very important ways to advance the social mission of Waldorf education, such as the Community School for Creative Education in Oakland, schools in Jaffe Israel that serve both Arab and Israeli students, and the Parzival-Zentrum school in Germany which serves a high population of refugee students.

Please share this video on social media  
[https://youtu.be/vDFmUwA3\\_jE](https://youtu.be/vDFmUwA3_jE).



- Mary Christenson, Development

## **January Aftercare Form is Now Available!**

December is a short month! Be sure to sign up for your January aftercare now. The January form is located at the end of this Lunchbox Express.

- Jordan Brudos, Aftercare Coordinator

## **Shop Local this Holiday Season**

Be sure to check out the **Natural Toy Shop**, located inside **Ewetopia Fiber Shop** in downtown Viroqua, as you do your holiday shopping this season. There you will find: cooperative games, art supplies, baby items, books, silks, handmade dolls, wooden toys, stocking stuffers, and much more! Sales support Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School and your local community.

- Jordan Brudos and Kathryn Ashley-Wright, School Store Coordinators

## **Host a Student from South Korea**

On January 2, PRWS will be welcoming 7 visiting students from South Korea, and we are still looking for a few more homes for them to stay at during the four weeks that they are here. This is an amazing cultural opportunity for both the students and the host families alike! These students are coming to experience what the typical American life is like, and they look forward to being immersed into your family life – from meals to family outings! As a host family you will also be compensated. Please see Jordan if you are interested in hosting or would like more information.

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment and Outreach Coordinator

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## **An Introduction to Math and Science at Youth Initiative High School**

Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.,  
3rd Floor YIHS

*Comprehensive Curriculum Overview/Meet the Faculty/Class Demonstrations* - **FREE & OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS & PARENTS**

**Theatrical Expression and Mask-Making** - Youth Initiative seniors Veda Bernstein and Isa J. Álvarez are teaching a children's mask-making and theater program starting in January. Throughout the course children will be instructed through the process of mask-making with various materials, character creation, theater exercises and games, storytelling through theater, and will showcase their work in a collaborative performance open to the community! Ages: 8-12 Saturdays from 1:00pm - 2:30pm, January 5th through February 9th Cost: \$60 The cost covers 6 weeks of materials, instruction, and fundraising for The Ark and Youth Initiative High School. We ask that you register your child as soon as possible as we have limited availability. If you are unable to pay for the course, but your child is interested and excited to participate in it, please contact us. For more information and registration contact:

### **Isa J. Álvarez**

Email: [honeydingus@gmail.com](mailto:honeydingus@gmail.com)

Cell: 608-632-7599

### **Veda Bernstein**

Email: [vedarosebernstein@gmail.com](mailto:vedarosebernstein@gmail.com)

Cell: 715-308-3156

### **YELLOWCELLO Youth Orchestra**

Auditioning String Players for 2019 Winter/Spring Term. Rehearsals will run January 30 through May 1, 2019, on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Viroqua. Cost is \$100 per member. For audition requirements and to set up an audition, contact Monika Sutherland, [monika@yellowcello.com](mailto:monika@yellowcello.com), (920) 421-2075.

### **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@pleasantridgewaldorf.org](mailto:info@pleasantridgewaldorf.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.