

Calendar

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

Mon Jan 11 Korean Student Welcome Assembly

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

What's Cooking!

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.

Concert Attire for 5-8 grades:

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

Annual Fund 100% in 100 Days Update

Dear PRWS Community,

If you haven't stopped by the lobby recently, please do so. It's really beautiful to behold. The tree gracing the lobby windows, a visual representation of the 100 in 100 challenge, continues to bloom and leaf out across the lobby, made more beautiful with every contribution. We kicked off the 100% participation in 100 days annual fund campaign at the All-School Meeting this fall, followed by a letter with information and an invitation to participate. The concept is simple: 100% participation from all whose lives have been enriched by PRWS. **Whether \$5 or \$500, all gifts (and pledged gifts, payable through June 30th, 2019) count and go a long way to ensure this beautiful education is accessible to all families. We simply ask that your contribution comes from the heart in an amount that makes sense for your family. Again, no amount is too small (really)!**

For some this has required further conversation, and, to that end, members of the Board of Directors have been reaching out to individual families to ensure we get as close to the 100% participation goal we have set for ourselves. Bountiful thanks to you who have already indicated your participation via a pledge or gift. Here's where we're at with three days remaining:

Board: 100% participation
Staff: 100% participation
Faculty: 95% participation
Parent Body: 79% participation

Wow! Way to go!!! The last day of the campaign is Friday, December 21st. If you haven't yet indicated your participation, here are a few ways you may do so:

- A) You may reply to this email with your intention/pledge or discuss your thoughts directly with Robin, Joe, or any PRWS board member

OR

- B) You may fill out a remittance envelope - available in the front office - with your contribution or pledge by Friday,

December 21, 2018 (pledged contributions may be paid through June 30th, 2019). We can do this!!! Thanks so much for your participation!

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

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 40th 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 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

ADMIN

Welcome to a New Faculty Member

Please join me in welcoming Sequoyah Dockry as our new Cherry Blossom kindergarten afternoon assistant. Sequoyah began her own journey into Waldorf education when she was just two years old and continued until she graduated from Youth Initiative High School several years ago. Many of you may already know Sequoyah as our Enrichment Days caregiver for the past two years. She brings a warm enthusiasm for guiding young children with her gifts for song and play and a deep appreciation for Waldorf education. Welcome to the Cherry Blossoms, Sequoyah!

As is often the case, when we say hello to someone new, we must say goodbye to a dear friend and caregiver. Cathy Brummer has lovingly cared for and guided the kindergarten children since the 2016-2017 school year. She is a beloved member of the staff whose joy for working with young children as well as her colleagues will truly be missed. Thank you, Cathy, for the energy and joy you shared with the entire kindergarten family!

- Amy Hazell, Administrative Chair

Upward Gravity weekly thoughts from the
Administrative Chair, Amy Hazell

Taking our cue from the natural world, we can view winter as a time to rest and store up our energy so that we might come bursting forth in spring with vibrant freshness that fill the earth with life. But for now, we rest. We reflect. We quiet our minds and listen.

May your Holiday Season be filled with peace, joy, and quiet rest shared with your loved ones.

IN OTHER NEWS

Ice Skating this Year

Each winter, the students in 1st through 8th grades have an opportunity to ice skate at the Park Bowl during their movement class, weather and ice permitting. First through 3rd grades will only go once/week. To make this possible, we will need parent support on those days to help tie skates. For 2nd graders, we will need parents to meet us at the Park Bowl at 12:55 p.m. on Tuesdays. For 3rd 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

Winter/Spring Session of Parent-Child Classes at PRWS

Parents and their young children (ages 1-4) can join Ms. Martha once a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings from 8:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Classes begin the week of January 29. Cost is \$135 for the 9-week session. Click [here](#) for more information and registration form. Contact Jordan at 637-7828 or enrollment@pleasantrydrewaldorf.org with questions or to register. Gift certificates are also available.

- Jordan Brudos, Enrollment and Outreach Coordinator

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

Solstice Sale at Growing For Good

The Solstice Sale at Growing For Good starts **Wednesday and runs through Sunday**. 50% off on all cut trees, wreaths, decorative sticks, poinsettias, and garlands!

- Mary Christenson, Growing For Good

COMMUNITY NEWS

Operating Theatre at The Ark is debuting the all-ages play "The Thirteen Clocks" January 12,13,18, and 19. Based on James Thurber's strange and wonderful children's story, our 75-minute adaptation is filled with wonder, mysteries, secret agents and secret passages, castles, minstrels, and 13 frozen clocks. The story takes a wise look at the fear of change, the workings of luck and logic, sadness and laughter, and the mystery of unprompted joy. Tickets on sale now at www.thearkviroqua.org.

Heirloom Ostheimer Nativity and Shepard Caravan for sale. Crèche, Joseph, Mary, Jesus, 3 Kings, Mary on a donkey, pregnant Mary, bowing donkey, angel Choir, star, peace dove. Shepard caravan includes wagon, two Shepard people, angel, sheep dog, and 3 sheep. These sets are so beautiful and fun to use to tell the Christmas story over the season. I got these when my kids were older so they never became a part of our Christmas tradition. The nativity was \$525, not including the extra pieces. The Caravan was in the 300 range. Our price, \$220



nativity set- \$150 wagon set. What a deal! Email me or call for pictures. amy@aakso.com, 634-6974.

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

Cell: 608-632-7599

Veda Bernstein

Email: 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, (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 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.