

# Weekly Update



Prairie Hill Waldorf School ■ Pewaukee, Wisconsin

March 5, 2010

## WHAT'S GOING ON...

### March 2010

- 5-6 - Great Lakes Conference with Nancy Mellon; Mt. Mary College
- 7 - Basketball Ceremony 1 p.m.
- 7 - Parent discussion group 7 p.m.
- 9 - All School Meeting 7 p.m. Important, please attend
- 10 - Half Day of School  
12:15 p.m. dismissal.  
No Care Programs
- 10 - Special Board Meeting 5 p.m.
- 10 - Board Committees 6 p.m.
- 11-12 - No School - Parent Teacher Conferences
- 15 - Re-enrollment Support Day  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 17 - Tuition Contracts & Tuition Support Forms Due
- 20 - Open House 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 20 - Family Fun Night 5:30 p.m.
- 22 - Alumni Panel 6:30 p.m.
- 22 - High School Fair 7:15 p.m.
- 23 - Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 26 - Grade 8 Play 7 p.m.  
All welcome
- 27 - Grade 8 Play 7 p.m.  
All welcome

### April 2010

- 2-11 - No School - Spring Break
- 12 - School resumes. Care programs resume
- 17 - Open House 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 17 - Family Fun Night 5:30 p.m.
- 22 - Spring Concert 6 p.m.
- 24 - Spring Auction 5 p.m.
- 27 - Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 30 - Grade 7 Play 7 p.m.  
All welcome

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Celebration of New Beginnings

Every spring the Human Resources Committee identifies which employees intend to return to Prairie Hill in the fall. This year we have learned that two teachers will not be returning.

**Katie Bedor**, Grade 5 teacher, will be moving out of state. Katie led this group of dynamic, cohesive, caring, and self-motivated children since Grade 1. A salient characteristic of this group is their warm, family-like relationships. Katie has also been a servant leader among the faculty. We have appreciated her intelligence, wisdom, and clarity. Her gifts to the children, parents, and faculty alike have been a blessing to us all.

**Peggy Lippe** will be stepping down from her formal roles at Prairie Hill. For 16 years we have known Peggy in various roles, Wonder Garden Teacher, Grades Teacher, Playgroup Coordinator and Teacher, Before Caregiver, Green Team, Tobias Group, Learning Support, and Festival Planner extraordinaire. Peggy brings warmth, wisdom, and generosity of spirit to all her endeavors. All she has touched have nourished by her tremendous example. We wish them the very best on their journey and know they will be dear friends and Prairie Hill godmothers for a long time to come.

### All School Meeting – Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m.

You are invited to the All School Meeting where we will have an opportunity to update you on the plans for the 2010-2011 School Year. We have attached a copy of the Power Point that was presented at the last All School Meeting in preparation for this upcoming meeting. Please plan to join us!

### Soul Food

We will be providing light fare on Wednesday and meals for breakfast and lunch on both Thursday and Friday. We are asking the parent body to assist us by providing other needed items or a cash donation in which the soup and other food items will be purchased. Please contact Julie Szyba for details. 262-646-9397 or [juleszyba@aol.com](mailto:juleszyba@aol.com). If you were asked, please be sure to return your white bags no later than next week Monday. Thank you for your help.

### Library Book Fair - Volunteers Also Needed

The Prairie Hill library will be holding a Book Fair during Parent-Teacher conferences to benefit the library. Consider filling Easter Baskets with a book! Purchase a title to occupy your child while traveling over Spring Break or to surprise them with during the summer. Books are always a good purchase! If you would be able to help support the library by working an hour or two at the sale, please contact **Hilarie Kane** by leaving a note in the Kane family mailbox or by calling 414-453-2581.

### **Alumni Panel and High School Fair - Mon, March 22**

We are excited to offer a new opportunity to the community! We will have an evening in which local public and private high schools will be coming to bring their curriculum materials and their enrollment timelines. The evening will begin with a panel of alumni students and parents who can answer questions about how children transition into other schools and into the world. Join us!

6:30 p.m. Alumni Panel  
In the Community Hall  
Open to all PHWS and inquiring parents

7:15 – 8 p.m. High School Fair  
In the grades classrooms

Committed thus far:

Arrowhead, Catholic Memorial, Kettle Moraine High School, Lake Country Lutheran, Pewaukee High School, Pius XI High School, St. John's Military Academy, University Lake School, Waukesha Christian Academy, Waukesha West

Please email your questions for the alumni panel to **Karen Hartz** at [khartz@phws.org](mailto:khartz@phws.org) by March 15.

### **Fifth Grade Pentathlon Judges Needed**

We are looking for individuals who are not parents of this year's Grade 5 to witness and judge the fifth graders from PH and surrounding regional Waldorf Schools as they compete in the Greek Pentathlon. Please let **Ms. Bedor** know ASAP if you are interested (or know anyone who may be) in judging the 2010 Pentathlon, May 12 - 14, 2010, at Camp Whitcomb Mason in Hartland, WI

### **Welcome Baby Johnson**

**Daniel & Marcia Johnson** welcomed **Luke Daniel Johnson** into their world on February 11. He weighs 8 lbs 5 oz and is 19 inches long. Big sister **Alyssa**, is in our Grade 1 class. **Marcia** has been gifting many of her talents to the Enrollment Committee. We send our loving wishes to their whole family and look forward to meeting **Luke**. **Mrs. Earle** has a meal sign-up posted on the Grade 1 classroom door if you wish to participate.

### **Parent Discussion Group, Sunday, March 7**

A Parent Discussion Group will be held the first and third Sundays of March, April and May (excluding Easter Sunday) at 7:00 p.m. at **Desiree Mies** house! (W269 N2779 Lelah Ave. Pewaukee) She has enlisted the help of some Early Childhood Colleagues to share their wisdom and experience as it relates to some of the topics. There will be a short presentation at each meeting then the group will have a discussion on the material presented and contribute their own knowledge as well! This week's topic will be "Over the Counter Medications and Alternatives To Them." Please bring with you any home remedies you use! Also, please do invite a friend or neighbor to join us! Hope to see you all there!  
**Desiree Mies** [desireerose07@hotmail.com](mailto:desireerose07@hotmail.com)  
262-993-5085

### **Thank You From the Horner Family**

Dear Prairie Hill Families and Staff,

There are times in life when the meaning of being a part of a caring and giving community comes home. **Scarlett's** recent illness was one of those times for our family. It was the scariest and most troubling period of our lives, and so many of you rose up to offer your support.

From the home cooked meals to the hugs, from the play dates for Will to the cards and hand drawn pictures, from the impromptu visits to the hospital with gifts in hand to the prayers and good intentions sent right to our hearts, the acts of kindness just kept pouring in.

You truly sustained us. You gave us hope when we had doubt, and you planted the ground firmly under our feet when we felt like we were falling. Your grace in our time of darkness will remain with us forever. Never have we been prouder or more humbled to be a part of such an incredible and rare community of individuals.

With Our Deepest Gratitude, **The Horner Family (Chris, Liz, Will and Scarlett)**

### **Why I Am a Fan of Prairie Hill Waldorf School**

Random thoughts by **Paul Marren**, father of **David** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and **Claire** (graduate, class of 2006)

Childhood is for children. They are not miniature adults. Waldorf education honors this truth by working with children in a stage-appropriate manner. I am impressed by the respect with which Waldorf teachers address even the youngest of our children, and that it is the child's developmental needs that drive the curriculum, rather than arbitrary standards decided upon and driven by the anxieties of adults.

The well-realized Waldorf education recognizes the existence of the soul of the child and cares for the soul as well as for the intellect. It supports the development of the independent, strong, confident human, one who is curious about knowledge and questions assumptions and embraces life whole.

Whole-brain education! Brains are not machines. They are not easily divided into parts, all of which may be addressed separately without harm to the whole. Rather, the brain functions as a whole and all its aspects—creative, analytical, reflective, decisive—are engaged to varying degrees in every act and thought each person has. What a blessing for a system of education designed to work gracefully and harmoniously with that reality!

Prairie Hill Waldorf School exists as the result of the efforts of a community of people who desire that their children experience an education as full and rich as possible, child-centered and appropriate to the true needs of children. Every person's gifts contribute to the richness of the gift of Waldorf education, a gift our children will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

**See Prairie Hill at the Lake Country Community Fest, Saturday, March 27, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Free Family Fun at Kettle Moraine High School, 311 Oak Crest Drive, Wales. [Lakecountrycommunityfest.com](http://Lakecountrycommunityfest.com)

Come support Prairie Hill Waldorf School at our booth. If interested in helping please contact **Jeanne Ring** at [enrollment@PHWS.org](mailto:enrollment@PHWS.org)

**IN REVIEW (WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IN LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER) ...**

**A Warm Welcome**

We want to welcome our early childhood colleague, **Karen Tuescher**, as she is expanding her duties in Playgroup and in our extended care programs (TLC and Aftercare), to become the Kindergarten Assistant in the Linden Tree Kindergarten. Karen is a familiar face to many as she is a parent of two alumni, Sadie and Tyler, is a jewelry maker who traditionally hosts a booth at our Yuletide and May Faire, and continues to volunteer her time and talents in the school--along with her husband, Ted. While Karen's background includes over twenty years of working as a nurse and nutritionist, she has found her passion in Waldorf Education. Karen will continue her role in Playgroup (on Thursday mornings) and in TLC/Aftercare as she takes on the Kindergarten assistant position on Monday through Wednesdays in the Linden Tree.

**Parent Teacher Conference And Childcare Information**

Parent Teacher Conference Childcare will be offered as follows:

- On Wednesday, March 10 school dismisses at 12:15 p.m. and there will be no TLC, Aftercare or Childcare offered.
- Thursday, March 11 we will offer Parent Teacher Conference childcare from 8:00 a.m. - 3:50 p.m. Childcare during conferences will be available but there will be no all day care.
- Friday, March 12 there will be no childcare offered

Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board next to the conference sign-up sheets. Please be sure to sign up all children that will be needing childcare (including younger siblings). **Pre-registration is required.** The cost is \$1.25 per child. Child care fees will be billed out the week following conferences. Please contact Desiree Borth at [desireerose07@hotmail.com](mailto:desireerose07@hotmail.com) if you have any questions. Sign up sheets are also available if you would like to meet with **Anita Rodriguez** or **Karen Hartz**.

**Pancake Dinner Thank You**

All the maple syrup has been wiped up and the dishes have been cleaned. The Parent Appreciation Pancake Dinner and Middle School Exploritorium was a huge success. Thank you to all our Faculty who worked so hard to provide us with such a yummy breakfast and a thank you to all the parents who joined us. As a special surprise gift, here is the recipe for the pancakes that were made last night.

**O.J. Pancakes:** 10 eggs, 2 1/2 quarts orange juice, 2 1/2 cups oil, 10 cups flour, 1/2 cup sugar, 3 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon baking powder, 2 tablespoons soda, 2 tablespoons salt. Mix together and enjoy!

**Lights!Camera!Auction! 23rd Annual Spring Auction, April 24**

Clear your calendars and prepare to attend the 23rd annual auction on April 24!

*"The PHWS auction is a great way to relax with your partner and talk to other parents--without interruptions! It is like date night, but you get to go out with a lot of couples you have something in common with!"* **Melissa Marban**

If you would like to get involved or have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to seeing you at the auction!

**Kathleen Hafner** 646-5658, [clash66@centurytel.net](mailto:clash66@centurytel.net)  
**Sue Krantz** 408-9809, [srkrantz@wi.rr.com](mailto:srkrantz@wi.rr.com)  
**Kathleen Traudt** 367-3325, [kstraudt@wi.rr.com](mailto:kstraudt@wi.rr.com)  
**Janice Zimmerman**  
414-543-8867, [latravia2968@att.net](mailto:latravia2968@att.net)

**Alumni Update**

Pius XI High School is pleased to announce their 2009-2010 First Semester Honor Roll. The following students from Prairie Hill Waldorf School earned academic honors at Pius XI High School during the first semester of the current academic year. High Honors indicates a grade point average of 3.7 or better.

**High Honors**

**Evan Ricketts**, PHWS Class of 2006  
**Claire Marren**, PHWS Class of 2006  
**Kevin Clark**, PHWS Class of 2008

Pius XI Staff, Ms. Kurudza said *"You can be proud of the role Prairie Hill played in preparing these students for academic success in high school. Please join us in congratulating these students on their outstanding achievement."*

**Sadie Abler** was selected to be receive the La Casa Young Artist Scholarship Program. Her painting entitled "Veigigante" (picutred here) is the result of her in-depth research into the Puerto Rican culture.

**Mary Thienes Schunemann Award**

Some of you may remember our dear music teacher, **Mary Thienes Schunemann**, author of the Songbook Series "Naturally You Can Sing", along with a number of CDs; teacher and mentor to many and mother of 2 beautiful girls who attended PHWS. Although she passed away at an early age (1960-2007) she has been remembered, through the Artist Series of Sarasota Scholarship Program (Florida).

It is both joyful and appropriate that Mary Thienes Schunemann's life be remembered annually with the giving of a gift that will assist a musically talented young person in his or her discovery of what is "...continuous, unified, and evocative" – to explore that which we call music. Initiated in 2007 by Mary's father, **Dr. Lawrence Thienes**, the Scholarship fund continues to receive gifts from those whose life Mary touched. With each award the Artist Series is pleased to provide a brief history of Mary's life in music in the hope that it will serve as inspiration for the recipient.

It is wonderful to know that Mary is being remembered in this way.

## **IN THE COMMUNITY BEYOND PRAIRIE HILL**

### **Waukesha County Community Presentation**

On Thursday, March 18 at 6:15 p.m., Waukesha County Drug Free Communities will be hosting the presentation "The Teen Years: A Time-Limited Brain Disorder" by **Dr. Ken Winters**.

The seminar, designed especially for parents, will be held at the Steinhafel's Furniture Community Room located at W23 N1013 County Road F in Waukesha. Registration and hospitality will begin at 6:15 p.m. with the formal presentation beginning at 6:45 p.m. The program will provide a holistic view of teenage brain development: the emerging science around brain development, the impact of drugs and alcohol on the brain and the important role of parents on supporting healthy brain development.

Reservations are not necessary, but appreciated to help with planning. You can RSVP by Emailing **Tracy Mitchell** at [tmitchel@waukesha.k12.wi.us](mailto:tmitchel@waukesha.k12.wi.us) or calling her at 262-524-8677.

**PHWS  
Board of Trustees Meeting**

5:00 - 6:00 Tuesday, March 10, 2010

**AGENDA**

Call to order

- I. Opening Verse:
- II. Agenda confirmation
- III. Administrator Update
- IV. Faculty Chair Update
- V. Parent Council status
- VI. Board Organization.
  - a. Board Membership Update
  - b. Nominating committee - discussion
  - c. Board selection policy - discussion
  - d. Committee meetings effectiveness - discussion
- VII. Action items - prioritize.
- VIII. Closing Verse.

Adjournment

**2009-2010  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEMBERS**

<b>President</b>	Jewell Riano
<b>Vice President</b>	Open
<b>Treasurer</b>	Open
<b>Secretary</b>	Laurie Rhody
Pam Harsch	Community Representative
Karen Hartz	Faculty Representative
Phil Kasun	Parent Representative
Ted Tuescher	Community Representative

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS**

**Finance:**

Open

**Fund Development:**

Phil Kasun/Janice Zimmermann

**Enrollment/Marketing:**

Pam Harsh/Jeanne Ring

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Ted Tuescher/Steve Traudt

**Capital Improvement and Visioning:**

Open

**Parent Council:**

Laurie Rhody/Stanlee Maliszewski

**Yuletide Co-Chairs:**

Barb Johnson, Laurie Rhody & Janice Zimmermann

**Auction Co-Chairs:**

Kathleen Hafner, Sue Krantz, Kathleen Traudt & Janice Zimmermann