



PIONEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY

Volume 17 Issue 3

Newsletter

Spring 2012

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PWA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 5

A Toast to Spring
Pierce House

May 10

Mom's Network
Thorncreek Winery

May 19–24

Exam Week Coffee House
the WRAP

May 24

Prom
Manakiki Ballroom

August 12

Back-to School BBQ
WRA Hockey Pond

September 3

31st Antiques Festival

Greetings from the PWA President

This is it! My fond farewell as PWA President to you and to the 2011-12 school year! As usual the year has been filled with things that have changed and things that have stayed the same, hellos and goodbyes . . . and through it all PWA has been there with a smile, a fresh-baked treat, and the amazing ability to turn a stark gym into – well, pretty much whatever they want it to be!



We kicked off the year with the new – our first-ever Brick Row Ball – then segued into our most venerable tradition by celebrating the 30th Anniversary of our Antiques Festival. We will close the year in similar fashion, hosting our popular annual *Toast to Spring* cocktail party on May 5 at Pierce House to welcome incoming parents, and also adding a new tradition of honoring WRA families who are leaving the Hudson area. To the Curtiss, Hylant, Richardson and Rydell families – thank you for your time, your dedication, your laughter and your love! You will be missed and thought of often, but your legacy of selfless giving will remain right here at WRA. The year was filled with activity as PWA volunteers tirelessly and cheerfully carried out our mission – to enhance the quality of student life at WRA and facilitate communication with parents. Student Parties, Spirit Activities, Dorm Feeds, Mom's Network Events, the Newsletter and Parent Dialogues, Exam Week Coffee House, Allocations, Merchandise Sales, Blazer/Kilt Sales, Concessions – the list goes on and on. All the things you do that make WRA a better place!

I was nervous about taking on the role of President of PWA. My family was new to WRA and this community, and there was just so much I didn't know about the school and PWA and how they worked together. The surprising thing I quickly learned is that my job is pretty much the *least* important one. When you have a group of volunteers as committed and talented as our PWA members are, everything gets done seamlessly. Thanks to all of you for making this year so easy and so much fun!

As I shade my eyes to gaze through the summer sunshine into the new school year, I see new faces, a new schedule and the Saturday Academy (still a little fuzzy, but getting clearer!) As usual there will be things that change and things that stay the same, hellos and goodbyes. And as usual the PWA will be there . . . with a smile, a fresh-baked treat, and the unflagging devotion and love of Moms everywhere.

YOU ARE THE VERY BEST!

XO Carolyn

Carolyn Bialosky, PWA President
(Elisabeth '11, Lindsey '12 & Davis '14)



Pioneer Women's Association
of Western Reserve Academy
and Dads Club
Request the pleasure of your company at

A TOAST TO SPRING

Saturday, May 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Pierce House - 223 College Street - Hudson, Ohio

Please respond to accept at
pioneerwomen@wra.net
Cocktail Attire

Toast to Spring Party



The Pioneer Women's Association and Dads Club are jointly holding our annual *A Toast to Spring* party at Pierce House, the home of Head of School Christopher D. Burner '80 and Alison Burner, on May 5, 2012, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thank you once again to the Burners for graciously opening their lovely home as the venue for our event. Join us as we take this wonderful opportunity to welcome the parents of the incoming class, reconnect with current parents, and visit with various members of WRA's faculty and staff while enjoying delicious appetizers and a glass of wine.

An invitation has already been sent via WRA e-mail. Please R.S.V.P. to accept at pioneerwomen@wra.net and come join us for what has traditionally been a lovely evening of great company. We look forward to seeing you on May 5!

Jennifer Cartellone (Rebecca '13) and Kathy Schiciano (Anne '11 & Julia '13)



From the Desk of Head of School Christopher D. Burner '80



Dear Pioneer Women,

After many years in northern Ohio, I cannot remember a spring this dry and warm. Our teams are playing games on green, dry fields and our students are gathering outdoors in the Adirondack chairs provided by you. Now we also must keep the students focused throughout the spring! From my perspective, it has been an enjoyable spring and I look forward to a rewarding conclusion to the school year.

One of the most enjoyable tasks I have each year is preparing for and presiding over graduation. It is a joyous and emotional time for the seniors and their families. In order to prepare for this event, Mrs. McHugh and I spend a great deal of time in the Head of School's Office sending out notices, preparing speakers and making other preparations. I have also begun to work with the senior class for this event. Our graduation speaker will be John Hewko '75 who currently serves as the CEO of Rotary International. We will also celebrate and acknowledge long-serving faculty and, of course, the seniors. I look forward to seeing many of you at graduation.

Finally, if you were not able to join us for the dedication, I hope you will have an opportunity to see the plaques in the south end of Ellsworth Hall acknowledging the leadership of the Pioneer Women. As you look at the long list of names over the years, the deep care and time given to this school on behalf of student life becomes clear. I am pleased we now can publically acknowledge their contributions.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of the school. I hope you enjoy the spring term and I look forward to seeing you throughout the spring or at graduation.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Burner
Head of School

PWA Leadership At Its Finest!



From L-R: Mary Walker Sprunt (2012-13 Vice President), Carolyn Bialosky (2011-12 President), and Karin Stifler (2012-13 President)

Photo courtesy of Nancy Forhan

Volunteers Needed for the 2012 WRA Antiques Festival

This coming Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3, we are celebrating our 31st Anniversary of the Antiques Festival. Many volunteers are needed to help with the Antiques Festival. We will be asking for more than 100 adult volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the WRA Antiques Festival co-chairs:

Ana Silva at 330.247.8840 or anaalvarez.19@gmail.com

Kris Fellows at 330.418.4483 or lulujanedesign@aol.com

Mindy Covington at 330.571.0337 or mindy@mindycovington.com

Also look for an upcoming e-mail with volunteer sign-up opportunities using the Eventbrite system. Plan on helping us make the 31st Anniversary of the Antiques Festival a huge success. Money raised from the Festival is used to enhance the quality of student life at WRA. Thank you in advance for your help and we look forward to seeing you on Sept. 3!

By Ana Silva (Rene '09 & Federico '13), Kris Fellows (Alex '14) and Mindy Covington (Kristina '11 & Alexandria '15)

CCIS Update

The final CCIS meeting for the 2012 school year will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., at Andrews Osborne Academy in Willoughby, Ohio. The topic of this meeting is "Resilient Kids/Resilient Parenting." Guest panelists include Clinical Child Psychologists Ethan Schafer, Ph.D., and Lisa Damour, Ph.D., and Learning Specialist Vonceil Strobel. The meeting is open for parents from the school that belong to the Cleveland Council of Independent Schools (CCIS), which includes WRA. Please register for this program by May 11, 2012, to Amy Foti, CCIS Program Co-Chair, at Afoti123@aol.com.

For more information, please visit www.ccis-ohio.org.

By Mary Walker Sprunt (Joseph '13)

A Conversation with Matt Peterson, WRA English Teacher An "Intentional" Life



As PWA President, it is my privilege to attend WRA Board of Trustee meetings. After hearing Matt Peterson give a presentation on sustainability to the Trustees in March, I thought he would be a fascinating person to interview for our PWA

newsletter. Matt kindly agreed to sit down and chat in a very quiet dining hall at 8 a.m.

Tell me about yourself. Where are you from, and where did you go to school?

MP: I grew up in Red Wing, Minn., a beautiful small town in southeastern Minnesota on the banks of the Mississippi. I attended public high school and was inspired by two wonderful teachers—one of whom became my mentor and dear friend. I was a serious student who also enjoyed choir (1st tenor), among other things. Knowing my passions for ideas and music, my mentor suggested his alma mater, St. Olaf, a small liberal arts college known for both.

Did you know you wanted to become a teacher?

MP: I thought I was going to be a pastor! And then I got inspired by the library and books and professors and decided on academics. I wasn't sure, however, whether I wanted to become a college professor or a high school teacher. More interested in teaching, I was wary of the academe's soul-sapping "publish or perish" culture.

Did you enjoy St. Olaf?

MP: St. Olaf was terrific. True to its liberal arts mission, it fostered my diverse interests and piqued new ones. It's where I learned how to learn—and to take seriously living a life of worth and service. It's where I became interested in and committed to sustainability. It's also where I met my wife, Monte!

I'm looking forward to meeting Monte.

MP: She's great—principled and can-do, she keeps me grounded. Though a professional chef and baker by trade, Monte is full-on with our two children, Finn, age 4, and Willa, 18 months. Willa has offered the perfect, if at times challenging, opportunity to integrate parenting and culinary training: she can't currently have gluten, dairy, soy, baker's yeast, peanuts or eggs.

If she would like to pursue catering, please let us know! Among your many other talents, I understand you and Monte know how to build a boat! Where did you learn that?

MP: She makes a mean cake with buttercream! After college and after Monte finished culinary school in Pittsburgh, we had to figure out what was next for me—a Ph.D. program or a teaching license. So we took "a year of discernment" and headed for the Maine coast to become boat-building apprentices at the Carpenter's Boat Shop: we made no money, were paid no money, lived in community with 15 other apprentices, followed Benedictine principles (of work, prayer, study, worship, recreation, hospitality and service) and worked with our hands. The experience remains a touchstone for Monte and me—an intentional decision that was at once prudent and unconventional. Following that, we moved to Vermont. I got my teaching license, and then started my MA in English at Middlebury.

And then went to Hong Kong, where you taught English at the Chinese International School! You have certainly not followed a conventional path!

MP: We have tried to "craft" our life, rather than just live it! Monte was pregnant with Finn when we decided to head abroad; going overseas would only get harder as our parents aged. So with our parents' first grandchild in tow, we were off. It was a transformative three years.

Continued on Page 6

A Conversation with Matt Peterson continued

In what way?

MP: Myriad ways, but in particular we learned both that we are quintessentially American—optimistic, frontier people—and that people are people no matter the language, culture, education, or income. My colleagues and friends were Americans, Canadians, English, Irish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Singaporeans, Kiwis and Koreans.

What made you decide to come back, and how did you hear about WRA?

MP: Our experience in Hong Kong transformed us, but the winter air quality is terrible, even if comparably better than Beijing or Shanghai—and our food supply chain was absurdly unsustainable. Little was local; our refrigerator had labels from Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, Korea and California. After Willa was born, we decided to come back. My search agency referred me to WRA; I knew Nick Lewis, former chair of WRA's English Department, from Bread Loaf; and one of our HK friends is a longtime friend of Russ Morrison's. So here we are.

I'm sure you had many opportunities. What made you choose WRA?

MP: A number of things. The school's commitment to academics and its faculty. WRA being *in* Hudson—a walk from The Learned Owl, the library, Flipside, grocery stores, parks, etc. A New

England village in a Midwestern context. A culture of respect similar to that found in schools in Asia. Local farms. Beautiful green spaces!

You teach 9th and 10th grade English. What are your goals as a teacher?

MP: Beyond writing, reading and speaking well, my challenge is to inspire my students to move beyond “niceness”—to live intentionally, in accordance with well-considered values. I want them to think and live into lives of integrity and compassion—not some hollow allegiance to “success.” The rich global diversity at WRA—which day schools cannot offer provides an ideal launching pad for these discussions.

Finally, a really difficult question . . . can you name a favorite text?

MP: I most enjoy teaching poetry—its pressure per square inch makes it the fullest experience and expression of language. But if you're pinning me down, I most love Robert Frost—especially *Birches*—and I love Shakespeare's *Othello*. *Othello* has all the usual great stuff you find in Shakespeare, like appearance versus reality and language's instability, along with added concerns with the Other, be that rooted in race, gender, or culture. Though a tragedy, it is nonetheless a pivotal text to leverage, explore and take seriously a school community's diversity.

*Matt, thank you so much for your time.
We are glad you and your family are here!
~ Interview and article by Carolyn Bialosky*

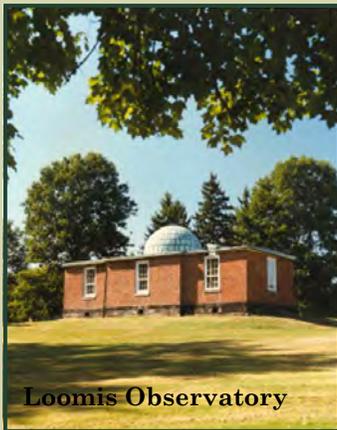
Visit the following on the WRA website to obtain information regarding the new Saturday Academy:
<http://www.wra.net/page.cfm?p=1688>
which also provide FAQ page: <http://www.wra.net/page.cfm?p=1689>.

PWA Allocations

This spring the PWA approved four grant requests made by students and faculty. The PWA will partner with Dads Club for the purchase of a cider press, film equipment and video editing equipment. The cider press will be used by students to make cider for the student body during cider season. The film club will receive 12 pieces of equipment including a tripod, jib crane, rig and green screen. In conjunction with the film equipment, video editing software and special effects software will also be purchased and used with a new designated computer for a video editing class. By providing this new video software and equipment, students will have the ability to participate in video competitions. In addition, the PWA will solely fund the purchase of 12 new high powered compound telescopes for the biology department. In all, the PWA allocated \$9,150 this spring for items that will directly benefit WRA students.

By Cindy Curtin (Lauren '11 & Michael '14)

Inside WRA's Most Historic Buildings



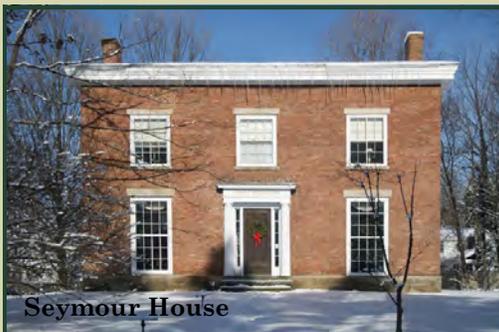
Loomis Observatory

Members of the PWA, along with members of the Dads Club, and local PWA alumni were able to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to see some of WRA's buildings that are not often open for public viewing. The tour was scheduled for Saturday morning, April 21, 2012, and by the time you read this newsletter, some of you may have participated in this much asked-for tour.

WRA Archivist Tom Vince led the group on a guided tour that was to include the David Hudson House (1806), oldest house in the 14-county area of the Old Western Reserve; the Nathan Seymour House (1843), the handsomely restored guest house for the school; and Pierce House (1855), originally built for George E. Pierce of the old college, and home to WRA's Headmaster, for the last 80 years. If time permitted, there was a chance to visit Loomis Observatory (1838), second oldest observatory in the United States, with all of its original telescopes, and Hayden Hall.

The PWA gives its sincere thanks to Mr. Tom Vince, who graciously accepted our request to offer the historic tour to us. We also thank the Burner family, the Bugg family, and the WRA administration for permitting us entrance to these lovely homes and buildings. Our school resides on a very special spot. If you wish to read more about our interesting history, please visit the WRA website, and click on history. Then, click on the link to Mr. Vince's blog. Happy reading!

Kathy Kramer (Brandon '13 & Brett '15)



Seymour House



Pierce House



Hayden Hall

Exam Survival Kits

Spring fever is here in Hudson, and the students have just a few more short weeks to have to concentrate. Help your student get ready for the final push—EXAMS—by ordering them an *Exam Survival Kit*. The kit will be filled with assorted snacks, a drink and fun surprises—all in a spring theme!

The kits are available in two different groups of delivery. With AP exams coming up, I will deliver the first group of kits on Monday, May 7, for anyone who wants to order for AP exams (please order by May 4 for this delivery). The second group of kits will be delivered on May 18 in conjunction with the final exams schedule (please order by May 11 for this delivery). Look for a special e-mail with all the information, or contact Jenny Graham at 234.380.1550 or jgraham10@roadrunner.com.

Also, please remember cakes, cookies and balloon bouquets are also available for any occasion through the PWA's Celebration Cakes. Contact Jenny at the address above if you would like to place an order.

By Jenny Graham (Kristina '12)

Final Exam Week Coffee House

Now that the odds of everyone having kept their New Year's Resolution of losing weight have slowed, or like me have long since been broken, it is time to think about DONUTS!

The Pioneer Women will once again be providing students and faculty with a much-needed refreshment break during exam week. The Exam Week Coffee House will be held in the WRAP (student lounge in the basement level of Seymour Hall) each morning during final exam week. The Coffee House will be open May 19-24 from 7:30 to 10:30 every morning in the WRAP. Juice, coffee or tea, fresh fruit, donuts and bagels will be available for your students to fuel up for the day of exams and studying!

We will need help running the Coffee House, so please consider signing up. You may sign up online via Eventbrite which will be available for you through the school e-mail, or you may contact me at hallerm@roadrunner.com if you wish. The joy of seeing the faces of both students and faculty should be rewarding enough, but if not, you too can have a cup of coffee and a donut.

By Margaret Haller (Kurt '15)

Save the Date . . .

for the Parents' Back-to-School Barbecue sponsored by PWA and Dads Club of Western Reserve Academy. This annual old-fashioned barbecue with picnic fare will take place on Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hockey Pond.

Fun, Friendship and Fitness

If any of you enjoy cycling and would like to join up with other ladies to do some non-competitive, fun biking on our beautiful local trails, please e-mail Carolyn Bialosky at cmchristian4@gmail.com

Student Activities



Feb. 23 was an exciting night as students gathered in the MAC for the annual (and long anticipated) Bicknell Bonanza. This year's theme, *Midway Carnival*, contained the usual blow ups, midway games, a DJ for dancing, Mr. Doe's ever-popular photo booth, a "guess the jelly bean" jar, and some psychics to tell the kids' fortunes. Prizes were drawn every half hour with a big prize for the jelly bean jar winner. It was a very fun event and a good time for all.

The following weekend, students had some fun again with a formal *Black & White Winter Dance* in Ellsworth Hall. While dancing the night away, students munched at the chocolate fountain table with tons of dipping pieces accompanied by sherbet punch.

The PWA Student Activities Committee is currently working with the school and the Student Prom Committee to fine tune the *Prom* and *After Prom* details. The date is set for Thursday, May 24, at the Manakiki Ballroom in Willoughby Hills. Manakiki is a beautiful manor house set on a golf course. After the prom, students will gather in the lower level to try their luck at a *Monte Carlo Casino Hall* complete with food and more dancing. Winners will have the opportunity to bid on some exciting prizes at the end of the evening. Volunteers will be needed for various prom details. Stay tuned for an upcoming e-mail, or contact Chris Hulseley at 330.650.6522 or cafvue2@windstream.net if you're interested in helping.

By Chris Hulseley (Nathan '12)

PWA Moms' Network



Nearly 30 Pioneer Women gathered for a festive Mom's Network lunch at Marcelita's on Feb. 28, where a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Mom's Network Co-Chairs Anne Cutchin and Brenda Depew who organized this wonderful event for all of us!



Photos courtesy of Chris Hulseley

Join the PWA Mom's Network for one last call...
Where: Thorncreek Winery (155 Treat Road, Aurora)
Date: Thursday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.

\$5 per person will be collected at the door. Please R.S.V.P by May 3 to Brenda Depew at bkd2610@roadrunner.com or Anne Cutchin at annec@albrightim.com. See you on May 10!

By Brenda Depew (Nathaniel '08, Emily '10, Caroline '12 & Jonathan '14) and Anne Cutchin (Max '05, Quinn '10 & Ellie '12)

New Plaques Hang in Ellsworth Hall to Recognize PWA Leadership

Current and past leaders of the Pioneer Women's Association were treated to a "sit-down" lunch in Ellsworth Hall on Feb. 16 followed by an informal unveiling and dedication of three beautiful new plaques. The three large plaques were first created for the Brickrow Ball, Sept. 3, 2011, to recognize the original founders of the antiques festival as well as other leaders of the PWA. One plaque lists all presidents of the PWA, since its inception in 1977. Another recognizes all past chairs of the Antiques Festival, the primary fundraising event of the PWA and a longtime tradition in Hudson and at WRA. And the final plaque is devoted solely to the 14 founders of the original Antiques Festival in 1982.



The plaques were carefully hidden under a red drape that was removed after Head of School Christopher Burner praised the work of the PWA. Remembering that the primary mission of the PWA is to enhance the student experience at WRA, it was fitting that the dedication took place with the entire student body at sit-down lunch. An "applause" competition quickly ensued, in which the south and north sides of Ellsworth Hall competed for applause volume. It was a delight for the PWA members to be the focus of this sit-down lunch tradition and an even greater thrill to know that the three plaques will hang permanently and prominently on the north side of Ellsworth Hall as a reminder and affirmation of the hard work of our leaders.

Pictured in front of the plaques are current and past members of the PWA, all of whom played significant roles either in orchestrating past antiques festivals or leading the PWA.

PWA Donates Original Watercolor to WRA



I had the pleasure of presenting Head of School Christopher Burner with a beautiful watercolor painting entitled *Antiques Festival*. The painting was originally commissioned by the PWA to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Western Reserve Academy Antiques Festival, Sept. 5, 2011. Framed copies of the original were given to the 14 original founders of the festival at the Brickrow Ball, two nights before the festival. It seemed fitting that the original should hang on campus so it was presented to Chris after the plaque dedication on Feb. 16. It is truly a special painting that captures the very essence of the festival as it unfolds in exciting chaos in the foreground of the historic Chapel. The painting is available for all to see in its permanent home on the first floor of the Ong Library.

By Nancy Forhan, Past President
Chris '08, Annie '10, Allison '12, Sarah '15

Pioneer Women's Association

2012-2013 Executive Board Slate

President	Karin Stifler
Vice President/President Elect	Mary Walker Sprunt
2nd Vice President	Jennifer Cartellone
3rd Vice President	Barb Cassell
Treasurer	Bonnie Carter
Assistant Treasurer	Kathy Kramer
Recording Secretary	Susan Andersson
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Forhan
Past President/Advisor	Carolyn Bialosky

2012-2013 General Board Slate

Allocations	Cindy Curtin		
Alumni Parent	Anne Cutchin	Chris Hulse	Roberta Suwondo
Antiques Festival	Ana Silva	Kris Fellows	Mindy Covington
Blazer/Kilt Sale	Kara Skora	Jeannine Mylott	
CCIS	Mary Walker Sprunt	Jackie Osborne-Fisher	Margaret Haller
Celebration Cakes	Jill McLaughlin	Ginny Bitler	
Community of Concern	Nicole McCormick	Susan Murray	Barbara Van Blarcum
Concessions	Daniel Rand		
Dorm Feeds	Melinda Alali	Renee Campana	Liz Winson
Exam Week Coffee House	Jackie Paparella	Kathleen Heydorn	
Hospitality/Events	Kathy Johnson	Julie Stacy	
Merchandise	Dianne Squire		
Mom's Network	Brenda Depew	Carol Morgan	
Newsletter	Polly Wise	Elizabeth Culotta	
Parent Dialogue	Marsha McGill	Camille Kuri	Rosie Wenstrup
Spirit	Joan Clark	Deb Nelson	
Student Activities	Mary Kay Chlebina	Laura Ennis-Lehner	

Special Committee

Teacher/ Staff Appreciation	Shelley Sutton	Carrie Wagstaff
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From the Editors

With the end of the 2011-12 school year drawing closer, we would like to thank all those who contributed in making the PWA newsletter possible this past year. The newsletter is the venue in which we can share the events that are happening around the WRA campus with members of the WRA family near and far. Roberta will be joining the ranks of the alumni parents after Peter's graduation in May. Polly will be joined by Elizabeth Culotta next year to bring you the news and happenings of another fun, action-packed year at WRA. We wish each of you a wonderful summer.