



PIONEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY

Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 1

Fall 2017

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(Megan '13, Colin '15, Brooke '19)

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Dear Current and Alumni Moms!

The Pioneer Women's Association has been busy so far this year and as you read through this newsletter, you will see all of the fantastic events and opportunities PWA is a part of here at Western Reserve Academy.

We have brought back two of my favorite columns this year - *Ties to Traditions* and *Diary of a Boarding Parent*, so make yourself a cup of something good, sit-back, relax, and enjoy PWA's first newsletter of 2017-18!

PWA's mission and purpose is to enhance the quality of student life at WRA and to facilitate communication between WRA and the parents. All women associated with WRA are a part of our membership, and as such, we have plenty of opportunities for parents to volunteer and get involved - whether you live in Hudson or around the world. We had our first two PWA General Membership Meetings on Sept. 6 and Oct. 7. Thank you to all of the moms who attended either in person and via teleconference! We plan to offer all meetings via teleconference, so if you can't join us in person, then we would love to have you join us remotely. See the calendar of events in this newsletter for dates and times. Please email pioneerwomen@wra.net a couple of days prior to each meeting in order to get the instructions to join the group.

In addition to our meetings, you can learn about volunteer opportunities and PWA-sponsored events on the parent portal as well as in the Parents Organization section of the Parent Connections email sent every Monday. The Connections lists the most current PWA items. I encourage you to get involved in as little or as much as you would like! One of the bonuses to volunteering your time for student activities and supporting WRA's faculty and staff is meeting other parents and making life-long friendships. Speaking of life-long friendships, we are planning an Alumni Moms get-together in November. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of us who have students who have graduated from WRA to re-connect and catch up with one another.

Finally, PWA would not exist without the help of all of our Committee Chairwomen and Volunteers. I am always so amazed by the talent and hard-work each of you brings to our group in order to make WRA such a special place for our children and their friends! I look forward to a fantastic 2017-18 school year!

Warmest Regards,
Kim Barsella
PWA President
(Megan '13, Colin '15, Brooke '19)

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Upcoming PWA General Membership Meetings

November 11
January 13
8:30 - 10 am

See Page 2 for all upcoming PWA events!

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Pioneer Women,

We are at the point of the school year where our students need your support. The excitement of the beginning of the school year has worn off. Now they encounter events such as: grades, musical practices, multiple athletic events and all the other activities that make this an exciting school. They are certainly busy students.

Throughout all of these events your care adds to their experiences and enjoyment. Thank you for all you do to enhance the student experience at Western Reserve Academy.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Burner '80
Head of School



Important Dates

October 21	<i>Homecoming</i> ; 8 pm, Ellsworth
November 11	PWA General Membership Meeting; 8:30 - 10 am, Wilson Reading Room
November 29	<i>Toys for Tots Cookie Day</i> ; Cookie Drop-off in morning, MAC Concessions
December 11-15	<i>Exam Week Coffee House</i> ; 7:30 - 10:30 am, TBA
January 13	PWA General Membership Meeting; 8:30 - 10 am, Morgan Board Room
February 21	<i>Bicknell Bonanza for Students</i> ; TBA
March 1	PWA General Membership Meeting; 7:30 - 9 pm, Morgan Board Room
March 3	<i>Sadie Hawkins Dance</i> ; TBA
March/April	<i>Staff Appreciation Breakfast</i> ; TBA
April 27	<i>Grandparents' Day</i> ; TBA
May 4	Spring Soiree for Parents; TBA
May 5	PWA General Membership Meeting; 8:30 - 10 am, Morgan Board Room
May 20	<i>Send-Off to Summer for Students</i> ; noon - 2 pm, TBA
May 21-24	<i>Exam Week Coffee House</i> ; 7:30 - 10:30 am, TBA
May 24	WRA Prom (Juniors and Seniors and their guests); TBA
May 26	Senior Celebration Dinner (organized by the Sr. Activities Committee); TBA

Events in italics will require parent volunteers. Look in the weekly Connections for volunteer sign-ups.

If you are interested in joining the PWA General Membership Meetings via teleconferencing, email pioneerwomen@wra.net at least two days prior to the general meeting. We will email you the instructions to join the meeting. If you plan to come in person, no need to RSVP.



Diary of a Boarding Parent

Due to a series of family schedule conflicts, Fall 2017 will be remembered as the school year I got to move two of our kids into two different schools, in two different states, two weeks apart – solo. By myself.

My son, Jake, is a junior this year at WRA, and a prefect in Wood House, which is where he lived previously, so everything was familiar. After a full weekend of unpacking, visiting with local WRA friends, running last minute errands, and attending the PWA-Dads Club Parent BBQ, I said goodbye and started my eight-hour drive home, tired, but feeling comfortable with everything. Mission accomplished.

I watched Jake seamlessly reconnect with friends and faculty and welcome new students. I thought about how different it was moving him in this year, as opposed to when he was a new boarder at WRA. I don't think I could have done this by myself then. But now we were on familiar turf and knew the drill. It was a much more relaxed transition.

Still, it's hard to leave your child. I thought about Jake constantly that week, wondering how football practice was going, how everyone was acclimating to Wood House, or what he was eating for dinner. On Saturday night, we texted Jake to see what he was doing. The reply was a photo of Jake and his roommate, Evan, holding two humongous bullfrogs.

I immediately thought of Jake as a fat, little baby in frog jammies grasping a toy frog that croaked when he squeezed it. I recall we had a stash of several of these toys as replacements for missing frogs or when the "croaker" would give out. I thought of Jake in later years catching pollywogs at our summer home or chasing his younger sister Marji, screaming, through the house with a toad he found in the backyard. Now, at 16, Jake was hunting bullfrogs at the Hockey Pond. Some things never change.



Although there are many exciting changes this year at WRA, from building improvements to class schedules and course offerings, some things remain consistent and steeped in tradition. Traditions like Friday nights in the Green Key, Vespers before winter break, sit down lunches, ringing the victory bell after winning a game, bagpipes at Commencement, are some of the special things that have made Reserve, well, Dear Old Reserve. Some things never change.

*Fair halls amid a lawn's wide sweep, a tower rising o'er the trees.
Long walks green aisles whose shadows deep scarce flicker in the summer breeze.
O long may time these things preserve, around thy walls, dear old Reserve.
The Chapel bells recurring song, the noisy ballfields eager throng.
O long may time these things preserve, around thy walls, dear old Reserve.
O long may time these things preserve, around thy walls, dear old Reserve.*

Consistencies and traditions make us feel part of something, maybe something much bigger than we are. They make us feel comfortable and at home, although the leaves fall and seasons change. While the students at WRA are growing and evolving into whatever it is that will make a mark on this world, hopefully, for each of them, there will be some unique and wonderful things in their lives that will never change.

As a Mom, I loved and took great comfort receiving the frog photo; however, with the devious look on Jake's face, I wondered if those frogs might be paying a visit to Wood House, or heaven forbid, a girls' dorm. As I said, some things never change.

Danielle Dobiecki
(Jake Pendergraft '19)





Parents grill and chill at Back-to-School BBQ

PWA, the Dads Club, and the Advancement Office were thrilled to welcome over 200 parents on Sunday, Aug. 13, to this year's Parents' Back-to-School BBQ. We could not have asked for a better night for weather and it was great to see so many new and returning parents there. Prior to dinner Head of School Chris Burner welcomed everyone as well as PWA President, Kim Barsella, and Dads Club President, Jason Kerins, who encouraged all parents to get involved in the myriad parent volunteer opportunities available at WRA. A big thank you to Eddie Mundy and the FLIK dining hall staff for providing the food for this year's event. The Dads Club did a great job tending bar and manning the grill and we also could not have put on such a wonderful event without the help of many volunteers with the set-up and clean-up as well as stocking the food and manning the welcome table. Thank you to everyone who attended and made our 10th annual Parents' Back-to-School BBQ such a success!



Kim Barsella (*Megan '13, Colin '15, Brooke '19*)
Karla Corl (*Maggie '19*)

PWA AROUND CAMPUS

Back-to-School Bash is a smash hit

After just one week of classes, the WRA community was in high gear setting the stage for a great year at the annual Back-to-School Bash. On Saturday, Aug. 26, students gathered on the Ellsworth patio and lawn for four hours of fresh squeezed lemonade, flavored shaved ice, hot cooked kettle corn, lawn games, pickleball, an inflatable bungee run and rides in an actual ROCKETCAR! Student DJ Peter Campanelli provided tunes and student-designed t-shirts were given out to everyone.



A BIG THANK YOU to over 15 parents who came early and stayed late to make the night a success, manning the RocketCar and bungee-run and getting super sticky with over 300 shaken lemonades and sugary snow cones. We also appreciated help from a number of faculty and staff to help set up and oversee activities (shout out to Becky Williams in her new role as Assistant Dean of Students).



Kathryn Wiggam (*George '18 and Calvin '19*)
Kelly Williams (*Cassidy '20*)
Kimberly Smith (*Sarah '17 and Hannah '20*)

Over \$1,000 raised at Used Kilt & Blazer Sale

The PWA Used Kilt and Blazer Sale, held on Registration Day at the Murdough Athletic Center (MAC), was a great success, generating over \$1,000 for PWA. Thank you to everyone who donated the gently used clothing, which ranged from Reserve Green blazers and kilts, to other items of apparel such as ties, blouses, dress shirts, pants, and even shoes and belts.

PWA's Kim Barsella (*Megan '13, Colin '15, Brooke '19*), Karla Corl (*Maggie '19*), Val Moffa (*Charlie '20*) and Jen Radel (*Graicen '19*), organized and staffed the sale. All items of clothing donated for the sale were washed or dry cleaned before they were sold. A huge thank you to Martinizing Dry Cleaning of Hudson, located in the Acme Plaza, who generously donated their dry cleaning services for this worthwhile cause.

Parents of graduating seniors: Please remember to donate any gently used items to the Campus Store at the end of this school year. Future Pioneers will appreciate it!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOMECOMING

We're looking forward to Homecoming, October 21. Please mark your calendars and volunteer! A sign-up link will appear in Parent Connections.

CCIS

The Cleveland Council of Independent Schools' (CCIS) Parent Group (of which WRA is a member school) is hosting an event on Wednesday, October 11, at 7 p.m. at Hawken School on "Kids, Coding, and The Digital Future." CCIS events are free and open to all parents and guests of CCIS schools. Questions, contact Alison McCloskey at alison@ccisohio.org

TOYS FOR TOTS COOKIE DRIVE

Members of PWA will be asked to donate cookies for the Toys for Tots Cookie reception on Wednesday, November 29. Look for a SignUpGenius in early November in the weekly Connections.

CONCESSIONS

The Concessions Committee has been hard at work so far this year and we have opened our concessions stand(s) up at several football games, the field hockey play day, and a volleyball tournament to name a few. We are always looking for volunteers to help the committee run the stand. Contact Christina Morello alert.christina@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out. We have also put a SignUpGenius link in the weekly Connections and on the Parent Portal.

DORM FEEDS

Throughout the year PWA and our Dorm Feed Committee provides late-night dorm snacks to our boarders. Our first dorm feed was held on Tuesday, September 26 and the students were treated to pizza and drinks!

A big thanks to our committee of Kate Zampelli, Pam Blossom, Angelica Kidd-Brewer, and Gretchen Swasey for staying up past their bed-times to feed our boarding students!

EXAM SURVIVAL KITS

You will be able to order Exam Week Survival Kits to help your hard-working student get through those long study sessions. Look for ordering and delivery information in the Connections in November/December! Don't miss out on this awesome service. Questions in the meantime, contact Melinda Kerins at kerinsfamily@gmail.com

EXAM WEEK COFFEE HOUSE

During both the December and May exam weeks, PWA hosts an Exam Week Coffee House for our students each day from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.. Drinks and snacks are provided by PWA, but we will be reaching out for volunteers to help staff the Coffee House. Please contact Candy Howard rbhcmh@roadrunner.com if you are interested in helping out. There will also be a SignUpGenius posted in Connections closer to the date.

ALUMNI PARENTS NETWORK

The Alumni Parents committee will be hosting several events this year and we encourage all Alumni moms (and even dads at one of our events) to attend. Our first event will be held in November. We will be sending out invitation emails prior to each event!

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, August 20, the Senior Activities Committee provided treats for the Class of 2018 as they took "Last First Day of School" photos of many of the seniors. Senior parents, please be sure to visit the 2017-18 Photo Gallery on the Parent Portal - they can be found under "Fall Activities" - simply click on the link "Check out the photos".

CELEBRATION CAKES

Does your student have a special occasion coming up? A birthday? A performance? A tough exam or sporting event? Send them something to celebrate the day, achievement or victory! The PWA Celebration Team offers cakes, cookie cakes, cupcakes and donuts delivered to the WRA Campus Store for your student. Sign-in to the Parent Portal on the WRA site, find the order form (under 'Forms' at the bottom of the page - Parent Organizations section), explore the options and place your order. Give us one week from order to delivery, and we will surprise your student with a sweet treat from you. It takes five minutes - and means so much! Questions, contact 'the Cake Lady' directly, aka Melinda Kerins, at kerinsfamily@gmail.com

MOM'S NETWORK

The Mom's Network committee will be organizing two events this year for all moms who are available to attend. This is a great way to meet other moms and have a fun night out. Look for more information in the weekly Connections for event dates and times.

Ties to Tradition

FRANKS FAMILY ADMISSION OFFICE AT PRESIDENT'S HOUSE STARTS A NEW CHAPTER

Back in 2013, Reserve mom Nancy Forhan started the clever and informative column in this newsletter entitled *Ties to Tradition*. *Ties to Tradition* looked at many little-known facts about campus, campus life, and the many WRA traditions that exist. Many of you might recall “Big Bells, Little Bells. No Bells”, about the Chapel bell or, “Brick Row is Not a Sidewalk” (do you know what it is?), or even “Green and White” about the tradition of Reserve Green. With the debut of the newly restored and renovated *Franks Family Admission Office at President's House*, we thought this would be a great time to bring back Nancy's *Ties to Tradition* and feature the oldest building on the WRA campus.



Lemuel Porter landed in the Western Reserve area around 1818, accompanied by his young family. Right away, Lemuel became very well known as a successful and prominent builder/architect in the area. Because of his reputation and work in the area, the Trustees of the newly founded Western Reserve College hired him to construct the buildings on what is now known as “Brick Row” (there is the answer, by the way). He was able to complete Middle College which was demolished in 1912, and South College, which was demolished in 1884.

Construction began on President's House in 1829 to house the President of the old Western Reserve College, which moved to Cleveland in 1882. Lemuel Porter died very suddenly in 1829 at the age of 49 in the middle of the project. Because of Porter's work and reputation, the college Trustees allowed his apprentice son, Simeon Porter (only 22 years old at the time), to finish the construction of Presidents House.

Completed in 1830, Presidents House had two separate sides to it, otherwise known as the “North” side and the “South” side. The first President to live in the house was Charles Backus Storrs, who lived in the home until his sudden death in 1833. After President Storrs, the very well-known name of George E. Pierce came to WRA in 1834, where he remained President until his retirement in 1855. Subsequently, he moved to what is now known as “Pierce House”, or today's Head of School's home.



After the third President, Henry Hitchcock, and fourth President, Carroll Cutler, the home transitioned into faculty housing. Long time Dean, Harlan Nims Wood, became its North side tenant for probably the longest period of time, from 1916 to 1945.

The newly renovated *Franks Family Admission Office at President's House* is now the Admission headquarters for the school. The North side and the South side are joined, but the two staircases to the upstairs still remain. The renovation, decorating and beautiful antique furnishings are truly stunning. Stop in for a tour!

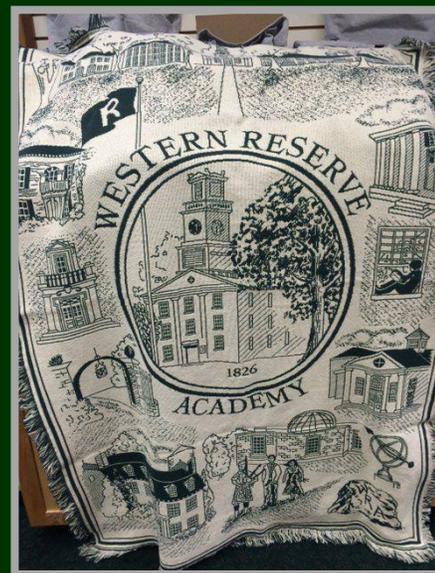
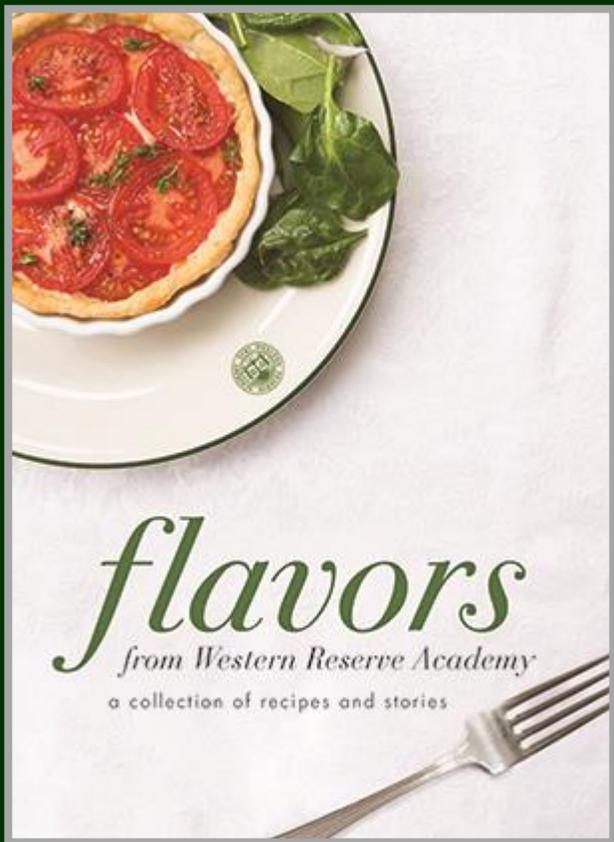
Katie Kagler
(George '21)



PWA Gifts

Looking for a fun holiday gift for that someone special? Check out PWA merchandise at the www.wra.net/store.

There are fabulous WRA charms, afghans, Tervis tumblers, and do not forget the new cookbook, *Flavors*!



The money we raise from sales helps support our mission of enhancing the quality of student life at WRA through events like the Back-to-School Bash, Homecoming, Dorm Feeds, and Exam Week Coffee House, to name a few.

PWA General Board Roster 2017-18

President	Kim Barsella
1st Vice President	Mary Lohman
2nd Vice President	Angela Kawaguchi
3rd Vice President	Karla Corl
Treasurer	Deb Hopkins
Assistant Treasurer	Nidaa Darwiche
Recording Secretary	Nancy Barnes
Communications	Lauren King
Past President/Advisor	Megan Valentine
Alumni Parent	Chris Hulse, Jackie Paparella, Mary Walker Sprunt
Blazer/Kilt Sale	Karla Corl, Val Moffa, Jennifer Radel
CCIS	Heather Goldberg, Brooke Rhea, Helen Rhynard
Celebration Cakes/Exam Survival	Martha Bayliss, Melinda Kerins
Concessions	Christy Barnes, Christina Morello, Melissa Polak
Dorm Feeds	Pam Blossom, Angelica Brewer, Gretchen Swasey, Katie Zampelli
Exam Week Coffee	Katarina Dempsey, Candy Howard, Jen Radel, Michelle Reef, Michelle Smith
Hospitality/Events	Martha Bayliss, Paula Campanelli
Merchandise	Camille Kuri
Mom's Network	Tina Beskid, Julia Landry, Kim Wepler
Newsletter	Danielle Dobecki, Sucharita Ghosh-Basu, Katie Kagler, Tracy Schooner
Senior Activities	Laura Boniface, Joni Chapas, Tamera Procop, Sailaja Reddy
Staff Appreciation	Michelle Kramer, Stephanie Zampelli
Student Activities	Kim Smith, Kathryn Wiggam, Kelly Williams

Contact information is available on the parent portal under Parent Organizations - PWA - General Information Tab - Board & Committee Members link.