



# PIONEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY

## Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 1

Fall 2019

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(Julia '19, David '22)

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Dear Current and Alumni Parents:

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2019 - 2020 year!

By now, WRA's new Head of School Suzanne Walker Buck has settled into Pierce House and has wholeheartedly begun her quest to infuse JOY, energy and enthusiasm into WRA. This sentiment is quite contagious and brings with it a sense of wonder and awe. From the classrooms, dorms, playing fields and the greater Hudson community, WRA students are immersed in their individual and collective WRA journeys strengthened by this strong continuum in leadership built on a solid foundation.

So far in the 2019-2020 school year, we have had several wonderful touch points between parents and the larger Reserve community beginning with the back to school barbecue in August, the hoedown at parents weekend and an extra special evening for the installation of Suzanne Walker Buck as the new head of school. It has been wonderful to meet many new parents and hear their thoughts and hopes for their students time at this remarkable school.

Enjoy the next pumpkin-spiced filled few months... and thank you to all of our amazing committee chairs who have contributed to this edition by adding useful content to remind you of various PWA events, meetings and other exciting happenings

Sincerely,

Lauren King  
PWA President  
(Julia '19, David '22)

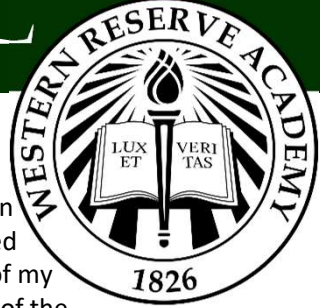
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Upcoming  
PWA General Membership Meetings  
November 21st  
January 25th

See Page 2 for all upcoming PWA events!

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Fellow Women of Reserve!

The other day, while hurriedly driving to a speaking engagement near campus, I felt exasperated as I approached slow traffic and a construction zone. My exasperation turned into happiness, however, when I noticed that the construction workers were women. I rolled down the window of my car, high-fived my fellow women workers, and enjoyed the solidarity of the moment, even at 5 miles per hour. And, as luck would have it, I actually made it to the luncheon with a few extra seconds to practice my talk.

Women wear so many hats – literally (like the road crew) and figuratively, in our lives, spanning many roles. That’s why your involvement with our parent organizations is especially meaningful. A boarding school is a complex ecosystem – one where support comes in every form and fashion, from a dorm feed, to a shoulder to lean on, to a party where our kids can dance, talk and relax. As moms, we understand the importance of it all, and I know you work tirelessly to create a loving environment and memories for our children that will last a lifetime.

I can’t wait to get to know you more as the year continues. I know we have much to accomplish, but I know there are many experts in the collective room, and that when women join forces we can do anything. Here’s to a wonderful year, the health and happiness of our students, and constructing the very best Western Reserve Academy, together.

Hooray For Life!

## Important Dates

October 21	Alumni Mom’s Network – 7:00 pm, Lager & Vine, private room
November 21	PWA General meeting, 6:00 pm, location TBD
December 4	<i>Toys for Tots Cookie Day, Wilson Reading Room</i>
January 25	PWA General meeting, 9:00 am, MAC Classroom
February 18	<i>Bicknell Bonanza for Students</i>
March 7	<i>Sadie Hawkins Dance</i>
March 12	<i>Staff Appreciation Breakfast</i>
April 18	PWA General meeting, 9:00 am MAC Classroom
April 24	<i>Grandparents Day</i>
May 1	Spring Soiree
May 14	PWA General Membership Meeting; 6:00 pm, location TBD
May 20	<i>Send-Off to Summer for Students</i>
May 21	WRA Prom (Juniors and Seniors and their guests)
May 23	Senior Celebration

*Note that Exam Week Coffee Houses will take place during exam week of each semester*

*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](mailto: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.



## Parent BBQ ushers in new school year

PWA began the 2019-2020 year with the annual Back to School BBQ on August 11<sup>th</sup>, co-hosted by the WRA Advancement Office. Perfect weather prevailed as approximately 200 parents gathered outside of the Murdough Athletic Center (MAC) for an end-of-summer casual buffet dinner and drinks. Head of School Suzanne Walker Buck enthusiastically greeted both new and returning parents with her rendition of "If You're Happy & You Know It Clap Your Hands", and non-musical remarks were also given by PWA President Lauren King and Dads Club President Mark Slotnik. This year for the first time, a well-attended student and sibling pizza party was simultaneously held at Pierce House. Again, students were greeted by Suzanne, and healthy teenage appetites kept local pizza delivery service very busy.

Maura Siegenthaler (*Ella '20, Tommy '22*)



## PWA AROUND campus



## Fly Me to the Moon Homecoming

The "Fly Me to the Moon" Homecoming for 2019 was a fun and successful event, albeit a bit steamy for a September evening in Ohio. No one seemed to mind the heat on the dance floor! Thank you to the student leadership, that chose the creative theme to honor of the 50th Anniversary of the landing on the moon, and all the students who chose songs for the DJ to play. Having input was critical for planning and to allow a variety of genres to be represented during the evening. It takes many hands to make light work. Without the PWA volunteers, WRA teachers and staff, we would have never been able to create an amazing experience for the students. Thank you all for helping to make this event a success.

Lynda Gallagher (*Brendan '23*)



## Back-to-School Bash fall fun

The PWA helped WRA's students celebrate being back on campus on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> with our now annual Back to School Bash. The students were treated to popcorn, snow-cones, and cotton candy, as well as lawn games, a fabulous DJ, and the ever popular Rocket Car! They danced on the patio, played pickle-ball and frisbee, ate way too much sugar, and joined in the frenzy of being whisked around the neighborhood in the Rocket Cars. A huge thanks to our PWA committee chaired by Martha Ziga Bayliss '88, Joli Oliver, and Lynda Gallagher. We are deeply grateful too, to our parent volunteers who staffed the event, and made cleaning up after a record-setting breeze! We are still looking for volunteers to chair our Send Off to Summer in the Spring, so if you're interested, please contact the PWA.

Joli Oliver (*Peyton '22*)  
Martha Bayliss (*Alexandra '21*)



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EXAM WEEK COFFEE HOUSE

The PWA will again sponsor the now traditional Exam Week Coffee House for our intrepid students during both exam weeks, in the winter as well as before finals in the spring. The committee, headed by Kat Dempsey (Lauren, '21) and Martha Bayliss '88 (Alexandra, '21), and supported by a wonderful group of parent volunteers and the indispensable housekeeping staff, arrive bright and early each morning to offer donuts and bagels from Dunkin Donuts, as well as coffee, tea and hot chocolate (thanks to our amazing Dining Hall staff), to our sleepy and anxious exam-takers. The baked goods, as well as juice, fruit, protein bars, yogurts, etc., are always gladly received and help fuel the students successfully through their exams. Please consider volunteering an hour or two to help staff this well-received event. Keep an eye out in Parent Connections as we inch closer to exam season for a SignUp Genius link.

## USED BLAZERS & KILTS NEEDED

Every year, PWA sells gently used WRA green blazers and plaid kilts at orientation. This year, due to limited supply, all were sold out within 15 minutes of opening. What does that mean for next year? We need to collect more gently used "Reserve Green" wear. There is a collection bin located at the Campus Bookstore, so as your student grows (as teenagers naturally do), please consider donating your to blazers and kilts to next year's sale. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

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

## TOYS FOR TOTS COOKIE DRIVE

Mark the date for December 4<sup>th</sup> for the kick off of the Toys for Tots campaign. The campaign kicks off with a cookie drive in the Wilson Reading Room. Please watch for cookie donation sign up! Questions about the cookie donations? Contact Michelle Stefan [mbstefan@mac.com](mailto:mbstefan@mac.com)

## DORM FEEDS

We kicked off the first of many dorm feeds on Monday night, September 16<sup>th</sup>, with pizza for all. The pizza was met with excitement and cheers from the boarding students. Thank you to Lauren King, Brett Swasey, and Jolena Windsor for helping and a special shout out to the ladies of Cutler for your enthusiastic greeting. You made my day! Would you like to volunteer for future dorm feeds?

Please contact Gretchen Swasey at [gswasey@hotmail.com](mailto:gswasey@hotmail.com)

## ALUMNI MOMS

Greetings WRA Alumni Moms! No matter what year your child graduated, please mark your calendar for Monday, October 21 at 7pm in the Lager & Vine private room for a fun gathering! Come share our common WRA experience and make new friends and reconnect with old friends – look for a time and place soon. Questions, contact either Kim Barsella [kbarsella@gmail.com](mailto:kbarsella@gmail.com) or Megan Valentine [megmvalentine@gmail.com](mailto:megmvalentine@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING PWA EVENTS

Bicknell Bonanza  
Mom's Network Winter Gathering  
Sadie Hawken's

Look for more information in the next newsletter!

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the Senior Activities Committee is to host senior only events throughout the year. We have already had two events and by the time you read this will have hosted our third event, Senior S'mores Night on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>! Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Stay tuned for the next even, and if you are able to help, please email Michelle Stefan [mbstefan@mac.com](mailto:mbstefan@mac.com) or Tina Beskid at [tinabeskid@gmail.com](mailto:tinabeskid@gmail.com)

## CONCESSIONS

It's been a GREAT Fall of Concessions volunteering!! Thank you new and returning families for picking up Chick-fil-A, working games in the WRA Stadium trailer and in the MAC Concessions area. It's been a wonderful way to connect as parents and with students. Keep signing up, we cannot do this without you!!! Your help is deeply appreciated and needed. Shout out to Suzanne and Johnny Buck.... thank you for stopping by multiple Saturdays to say hello to parents. GO RESERVE athletics, Kathryn Wiggam and Joni Chapas



# 2018-19 Year-End Events



## From the Senior Activities Committee

WRA Prom is largely driven by PromCom (the student Prom Committee) picking theme, color, and vision and PWA Senior Activities Committee stands at the ready to help execute their ideas. Thursday May 23, 2019 PWA volunteers transformed Lake Forest Country Club into The Starry Night painting for the evening. Following prom, which is open to Juniors and Seniors and their guests, the kids headed to After-Prom at Fun 'N' Stuff for some late-night fun!

The annual Senior Family Dinner was held the night after Prom at the Country Club of Hudson for Senior, Post-Grads and their guests. The evening included dining, dancing, and the much-loved lantern lighting ceremony. It was a great send-off for the Class of 2019 and their families!

Senior events are a fun weekend affair! There is Senior Family Dinner, Senior Celebration, the Alumni Induction Brunch and finally the Commencement Ceremony. Thank you for all who engaged with the Senior Activities Committee!

Congratulations Class of 2019!

Megan McArn Valentine '85 (*Marin '16, Spenser '19*)  
Sucharita Ghosh-Basu (*Rahul '15, Romir '19*)  
Kathryn Wiggam (*George '18, Cal '19, Lauren '21*)  
Kim Wepler (*Camille '19, Clayton '19, Clairra '21*)



# Ties to Tradition

## The "1<sup>st</sup>" Women of WRA

I must admit, as I was trying to bounce ideas around in my head for topics for this Fall 2019 Ties article, I was coming up blank. I still had the summer cobwebs and really was not yet back in the writing or creative mode! Never fail, I reached out to Tom Vince who e-mailed me right back and said in light of Suzanne Walker Buck being installed as the first female Head of School, how about an article talking about other "first" and great women of WRA! What a great idea! So, here goes!

### Helen Kitzmiller

The first woman of great note to come to Reserve in 1925 was Helen Kitzmiller, the same year the school changed to an all male school (it had been coed before). Mrs. Kitzmiller was hired at WRA as staff to Headmaster Ralph B. Boothby (1925 - 1929) (most of the women at WRA at the time were nurses or secretaries, not positions of this level). Helen was a highly creative woman who has been given credit for many of the school's traditions, such as the graduation ceremony, school dress, Chapel decorations, and influence into the design of the school seal. She was also instrumental in having Ralph E. Clewell write the school's alma mater. Among all of those other accomplishments, she established the Spring Garden show in Hudson, which has since become the Hudson Garden Club, and she was a founder of the Hudson League of Women Voters. She was very well known for her Wester Souburgh project. Wester Souburgh was a town in Holland that was damaged during WWII. She was decorated by the Dutch government in 1955 for her work on this project, and the award is housed in the WRA archives. Helen retired in 1954 from WRA after her almost thirty year of tenure at the school. She passed away on a trip to Spain in 1956.



Helen Kitzmiller

### Mary B. Eilbeck

In 1925, Mary B. Eilbeck was the first professional female librarian to be hired at the school. She earned her library degree at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She would stay at WRA until her retirement in 1946.

### Eleanor N. Roundy

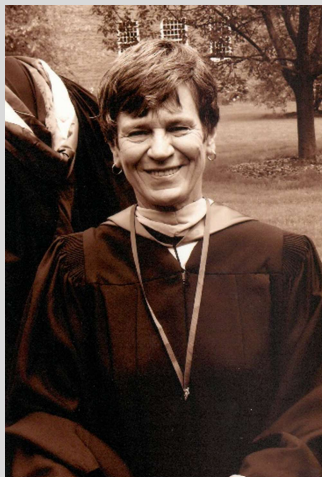
Eleanor N. Roundy was the first female teacher to be hired at WRA in 1949. She taught English at Reserve for twenty years. Her husband was also a teacher at the school. The headmaster at the time was John W. Hallowell, who commented that the time had come to hire a female teacher.



Eleanor Roundy

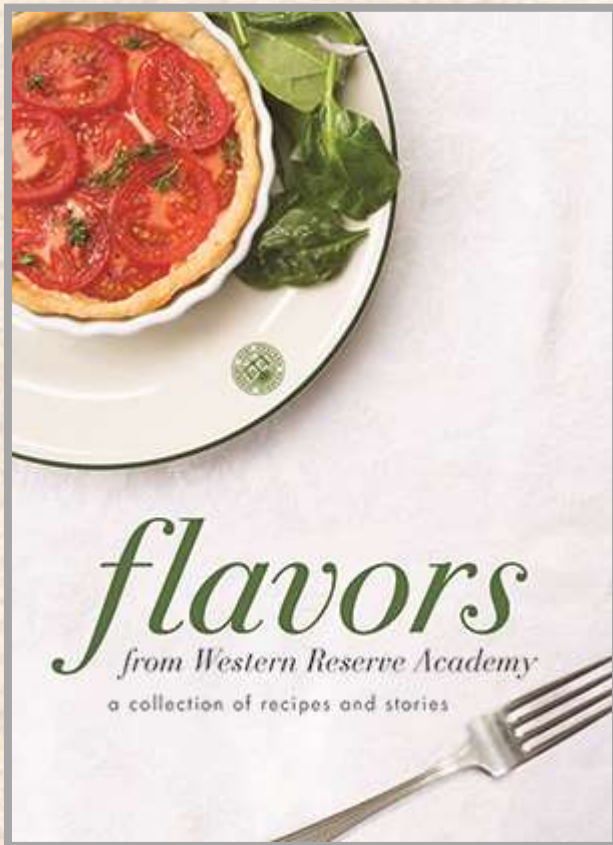
### Marie Fiedler

In 1972, as Headmaster Briggs was moving the school to a co-educational boarding school, Marie Fiedler was hired as the first female chemistry teacher. Through her forty-year career at Reserve, she was also a spectacular field hockey coach and elevated the program to be one of the finest in the State of Ohio. As the school was transitioning to co-ed, the David Hudson house was deemed the women's dorm, and Marie was the dorm master there. In 1972, forty-five girls enrolled at WRA throughout all four grades. The first group of girls to graduate from WRA did so in 1973, because they were admitted their senior year of school. The 1973 graduating class included approximately 6 girls.



Marie Fiedler

With all of these notable firsts at WRA, we now look with great anticipation to the first female Head of School in 2019, Suzanne Walker Buck!



# The WRA PWA Cookbook flavors

Available at the Campus Store, this wonderful cookbook represents the recipes of student families, alumni, teachers, staff, board members and friends of WRA and offers over 200 recipes that are great go to every day meals for family or company.

Purchase one today!  
Here is a sample recipe:

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## Lime and Honey Glazed Salmon with Basmati Rice

Wendy Barnett, PWA President 2015-16, mother of Cristen '16

This dish is a very easy way to make a simple healthy dinner in one skillet, first cooking the rice then adding salmon filets to cook for a bit longer. They will both share the flavors of the lime, honey, and soy sauce glaze. Serves 4.

- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 2 tablespoons finely grated lime zest
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro  
(plus additional for garnish)
- 4 teaspoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3/4 cup chopped shallots
- 1 1/2 cups basmati rice
- 3 1/4 cups chicken broth
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 4 5 to 6-ounce skinless salmon filets

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Whisk lime juice, zest, honey, 2 tablespoons cilantro, and soy sauce in small bowl; set aside.

Heat oil in large, deep ovenproof skillet or casserole, with lid, over medium-high heat. Add shallots and sauté until beginning to soften and brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in rice, then broth, and bring to boil. Cover tightly with lid, place in oven and bake 10 minutes. (Rice will be almost cooked through and most of the broth will be absorbed; mix more broth by quarter cupful if dry.)

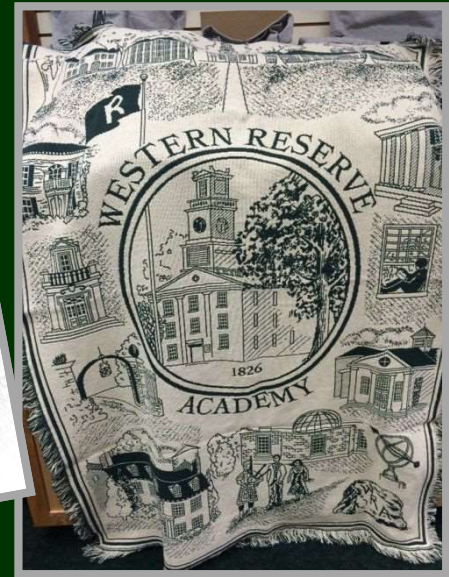
Remove skillet from oven. Sprinkle rice lightly with salt. Sprinkle salmon with salt and pepper and arrange on rice, pressing lightly. Spoon 1 tablespoon lime mixture over each salmon filet. Cover skillet tightly and return to oven; bake until salmon is just opaque in center, 8 to 10 minutes. Drizzle remaining lime mixture over fish and rice; sprinkle with additional chopped cilantro and serve.

# PWA Gifts

Looking for a fun holiday gift for that someone special? Check out PWA merchandise at the [www.wra.net/store](http://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 2019-20

<b>President</b>	<b>Lauren King</b>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Martha Bayliss</b>
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	<b>Maura Siegenthaler</b>
<b>3rd Vice President</b>	<b>Jen Turk</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lynn Krapf</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Nidaa Darwiche</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Nancy Barnes</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Shachi Mody</b>
<b>Past President/Advisor</b>	<b>Mary Lohman</b>
<b>Alumni Parent</b>	<b>Megan Valentine, Kim Barsella</b>
<b>Blazer/Kilt Sale</b>	<b>Jennifer Radel, Laura Richarson</b>
<b>CCIS</b>	<b>Brooke Rhea, Helen Rhynard</b>
<b>Concessions</b>	<b>Joni Chapas, Kathryn Wiggam</b>
<b>Dorm Feeds</b>	<b>Gretchen Swasey</b>
<b>Exam Week Coffee</b>	<b>Martha Bayliss, Kat Dempsey</b>
<b>Hospitality/Events</b>	<b>Michelle Stefan</b>
<b>Mom's Network</b>	<b>Julia Landry, Anne Gentile</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Katie Kagler, Alison McKenna</b>
<b>Senior Activities</b>	<b>Tina Beskid, Michelle Stefan</b>
<b>Staff Appreciation</b>	<b>Chalmette Audia</b>
<b>Student Activities</b>	<b>Joli Oliver, Martha Bayliss, Larissa Marmmerstein,</b>
	<b>Inga Walker, Shachi Mody, Kelly Williams</b>
<b>Merchandise</b>	<b>Jen Turk</b>

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