



PIONEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY

WINTER 2020



MESSAGE FROM PWA PRESIDENT, LAUREN KING

In this winter edition, my focus is on conduits for communication at WRA, and how best to utilize them. Sometimes, we simply need more information about what is transpiring at school beyond what we can wrestle out of our exceedingly busy kiddos!

1) First, Ask Your Teen: Ask open ended questions directly to your student rather than ones that garner one-word responses. Gauging their mood and schedule can be a good indicator of when the best time is to have meaningful conversations.

2) Monday Connections Email: Read (twice!) every week to get the most complete overview of what is happening around campus. Please consider the volunteer opportunities when listed and click the link to sign up.

3) Athletics: Subscribe to your teen's sports schedule and sign up for alerts (directions in "Did You Know?"), attend and cheer on your student and their team!

4) Parent Portal: Check the portal often, as there are frequent updates.
(<https://www.wra.net/parent>).

5) Advisor: Probably the most useful contact to discuss your student's academic progress, as well as to voice any concerns. Establishing a positive relationship with the advisor is exceedingly helpful and this is often times the most appropriate person to contact first.

6) Dr. Nicholas Kent's Parent Coffees: Dr. Kent has held two very informative parent coffees so far this year. If you cannot attend in person, they are taped and available for viewing on the portal.

Of course there are other key adults on campus with whom you may need to communicate on an "as needed" basis - for example coaches, the health center, college counseling, deans, etc. These key adults are vital to the entire WRA experience, and when you have an issue that cannot be addressed by your student or advisor, you should feel free to reach out.

Please stay safe and healthy through the winter!

Sincerely,

Lauren King
PWA President

Important Dates

February 18: Bicknell Bonanza

March 7: Sadie Hawkins Dance

March 10: Alumni/Current Mom's
Lager & Vine at 6:30 p.m.

**March 12: Staff Appreciation
Breakfast**

April 18: PWA General Meeting,
at 9 a.m. in the MAC Classroom

April 24: Grandparents Day

May 14: PWA General
Membership Meeting at 6 p.m.,
location TBD

**May 20: Send-Off to Summer for
Students**

May 21: WRA Prom

May 23: Senior Celebration

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

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

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MESSAGE FROM WRA HEAD OF SCHOOL



"We work in service to your children, and not just because it is our mission, but because they continually delight us."

JOY & OPTIMISM

by Suzanne Walker Buck, Head of School

Dear PWA Friends,

I hope my note finds you well and that 2020 is off to a wonderful beginning. As we move into the second half of the year, I feel joy and optimism. Much of this comes from watching your children grow, learn and lead.

One of the best things about our school tradition of Morning Meeting is that the meeting is run by the students. The luxury of sitting back and listening to the students is not lost on me and I often feel, well, like a proud mother.

My pride is derived from witnessing their thoughts, talents and diversity. A recent meeting included a flute solo, a group of student actors, athletics updates, an announcement about Culture Night, an explanation of the Lunar New Year and more. It was punctuated by a Senior Speech, another Reserve tradition, during which an accomplished student candidly shared the highlights and surprises from her time in high school and admitted she still has much to learn. Don't we all?

I look forward to learning from you about both your practical needs and lofty dreams for your children, at Reserve and beyond. And, I hope those of you who live locally have been attending the parent coffees with Associate Head of School Dr. Nicholas Kent. At WRA, we work in service to your children, and not just because it is our mission, but because they continually delight us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne". The script is elegant and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

PWA AT WORK

DORM FEEDS

BY GRETCHEN SWASEY

Greetings fellow WRA parents. Since our last newsletter, the boarding students have been enjoying the winter surprise dorm feeds. On Dec. 10 hot, fresh pizzas were delivered to the hungry students bringing excitement to the evening study hours. In January, bagels and yogurts arrived bringing smiles in the cold, frosty evening. We have four more dorm feeds to go until the end of the year! If you live nearby and would like to help deliver food to the dorms in the evening, please email the committee chair, Gretchen Swasey at gswasey@hotmail.com Thank you to all the volunteers for helping bring smiles and joy to the boarding students!



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

BY TINA BESKID & MICHELLE STEFAN

The Senior Activities Committee has been busy; they have held a Senior Game Night at the Green Key, S'mores night by the Hockey Pond, Treat Bags after morning meeting, and a cookie break during exams. We are looking forward to surprising the seniors with more activities in the coming months!



Mrs. Buck & her daughter, Halsey, take a moment to help at concessions!

CONCESSIONS

BY KATHRYN WIGGAM & JONI CHAPAS

Joni and I are so grateful for the unbelievable support by the parent community with concessions. We invite even more volunteers to sign up for future events...It takes a team!

PWA AT WORK, continued

EXAM WEEK COFFEE HOUSE

BY MARTHA ZIGA BAYLISS &
KAT DEMPSEY

The PWA once again sponsored the now traditional Exam Week Coffee House for our intrepid students during winter exams. Despite the unusual schedule, parents came out in force to help support our students through the stress! The committee is supported by a wonderful group of parent volunteers (and the indispensable housekeeping staff) who arrived bright and early each morning to offer donuts and bagels from Dunkin Donuts to our sleepy and anxious exam takers. Thanks to our amazing Dining Hall staff for providing coffee, tea and hot chocolate. The baked goods, as well as juice, fruit, protein bars, yogurts, etc., were gratefully welcomed and helped fuel the students successfully through their exams. Please consider volunteering an hour or two to help staff this well-received event during our spring exams. Keep an eye out in Parent Connections as we inch closer to the next exam season for a SignUp Genius link.

**“ THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE
HELP WITH THESE
GREAT EVENTS!**

BLAZERS & KILTS NEEDED!

BY JENNIFER RADEL &
LAURA RICHARSON

As the end of the year is fast approaching, please keep in mind that every fall PWA sells gently used WRA green blazers and plaid kilts at orientation. There is a collection bin located at the Campus Bookstore, so as your student grows (as teenagers naturally do), please consider donating your 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. Thank you!



**“ WATCH PARENT
CONNECTIONS FOR YOUR
OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP
AND VOLUNTEER!**

TOYS FOR TOTS COOKIE DRIVE

BY MICHELLE STEFAN

The cookie drive that corresponded with the Toys for Tots campaign was a huge hit again this year! We had well over 70 dozen cookies that faculty, staff and students enjoyed for a few days. Thank you to all of the parents for donating such delicious baked goods!

PWA NIGHT OUT

BY JULIA LANDRY & ANNE GENTILE

In November, the PWA and Dads Club had a joint social at the Rosewood Grill right before the Thanksgiving break. We had over 30 people, and a good time was had by all! We look forward to reconnecting again in the coming months. We will communicate future dates in WRA Connections.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the newsletter committee and PWA President Lauren King met on an unusually warm Fall day in Hudson to discuss newsletter topics, we came to the conclusion that there was a gap of knowledge in what is available to all of us to better navigate WRA and stay in touch with our kids every day life on campus *plus* opportunities for parents to get involved. Whether you are new to the WRA Community or someone that has been around for several years, we hope these tips on communication, technology and keeping and staying in touch with campus life will help you stay informed all year long!

To access specific photo albums, use the links provided below. These albums are only available to the WRA community.

Sports Photo Galleries

Log in to the parent portal and scroll down to "News & Activities" then the "Photo Gallery" to see pictures of all of the wonderful sporting events and activities happening on campus each season. There is the opportunity to purchase the photos as well.



2019-20 Photo Galleries

+ FALL ACTIVITIES

PWA Social Events

If you are local, take advantage of the social gatherings hosted by the Parents Associations as well as the school whenever possible. It's a wonderful way to meet other parents and an opportunity to chat with faculty and administration in a more informal setting.

Student Trips

Be sure to check the parent portal under "Student Trips" to see upcoming opportunities for student travel, as well as the permission forms, behavior agreements and any other information relevant to the various trips during breaks. Annual trips to New York City, the service trip to Pine Ridge Reservation and Study Abroad applications are just a sampling of what is available.

Team Schedules

Subscribe to your child's team schedules! 1) On your laptop or desktop computer (mobile version will not work), go to: <https://www.wra.net/athletics/athletic-schedule>
2) On far right corner above green banner you will see a grey box (see picture below). Click on this to see various teams. You then have 2 options: A) Click on the team you would like to which you would like to subscribe, then click on corresponding green iCAL button. Then choose which type of calendar you have, then copy/paste link given and follow directions for your preferred calendar app to add new calendar (This is a good option for relatives as it does not require you to login to portal)
B) Click on blue alerts button and log into parent portal. Follow directions for adding a calendar to your personal WRA subscriptions. (This is a good option for parents to add in addition to subscribed calendar because you can control access to "alerts" about team schedules.

Our Teams

Schedule and Scores

Directions

Athletic News

Facilities

Recruit Me

Western Reserve Academy partners with Relovate to make your trip planning and booking easy

Schedule and Scores

View the full upcoming athletic events schedule or choose a varsity sport below.

UPCOMING GAMES

RECENT RESULTS

Select Team...

Team	Opponent	Date	Time	Location	Details	Status
Varsity Swimming & Diving - Boys	vs. Padua Franciscan High School	Jan 28 2020	4:30 PM	WRA Natatorium	Details	

TIES TO TRADITION

Hayden Hall, home to the music department at WRA, was built in 1870 as a cheese warehouse for Straight and Son, owners of cheese factories, but has gone through many different reincarnations throughout its deep history. When the cheese factory began operations, it brought many much-needed jobs to an area that was severely depressed at the time. The cheese factory eventually closed, and it was then purchased by Samuel Rideout who operated it as a feed mill from 1889 until 1905.



Once again, James W. Ellsworth would put his impact on the town of Hudson when he purchased the building in 1907. In 1909 he started a project to essentially change the entire College St./Aurora Street corner where Hayden Hall stands. He purchased the building (called The Pentagon building) just south of Hayden Hall (which had operated as the offices for Straight and Son) on Aurora Street and raised it and built a parsonage for the the First Congregational Church. He then hired J.W.C. Corbusier, a very prominent Hudson architect (also architect for Seymour Hall), to turn the old cheese warehouse into a community center. At this point in time, the beautiful Greek Revival columns were added, the front entrance recessed, and the exterior was restored. Mr. Ellsworth also saw to it that Hayden Hall had the red Italian tile which can be seen on old housetops throughout Hudson. The Hudson Club opened in 1910 and became a very popular place to socialize. Unfortunately, Mr. Corbusier died in 1928 at a dinner party in the very building that he had restored.

After the Hudson Club closed Hayden Hall became the Academy Bell Restaurant. When Western Reserve Academy finally acquired the building in the 1930's to house its music program it was renamed Hayden Hall after Headmaster Joel Hayden. Hayden was Headmaster from 1931-1946 and was very influential to the music program at WRA.

When WRA undertook a massive renovation of Hayden Hall in 1980, a tunnel running from Hayden all the way to Streetsboro Street was discovered. It ended where the Straight Company also had a box factory. This fascinating discovery is believed to have been cooling tunnels for the cheese rather than a way to transport the cheese. Historians have noted the large ducts in the building and the cupola that contribute to this theory.

Among the major restorations in the 1980's, WRA removed and rebuilt the chimney, restored all of the historic windows, replaced almost half of the tiles on the roof, stripping paint from woodwork and repainting, and many other renovations that make it the historical beautiful building that it is today.

Katie Kagler (George '21)

SHOP PWA TODAY!

The money PWA raises 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.

WRA.net/store

Visit Today!



Victory Bell
\$55-\$64



Sherpa Blanket \$42



Insulated
Travel Mug
\$12



Knit Cap
\$30



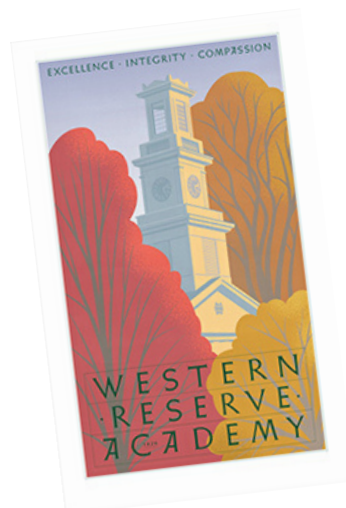
Spirit Bracelet
\$45.95



Keychain \$8

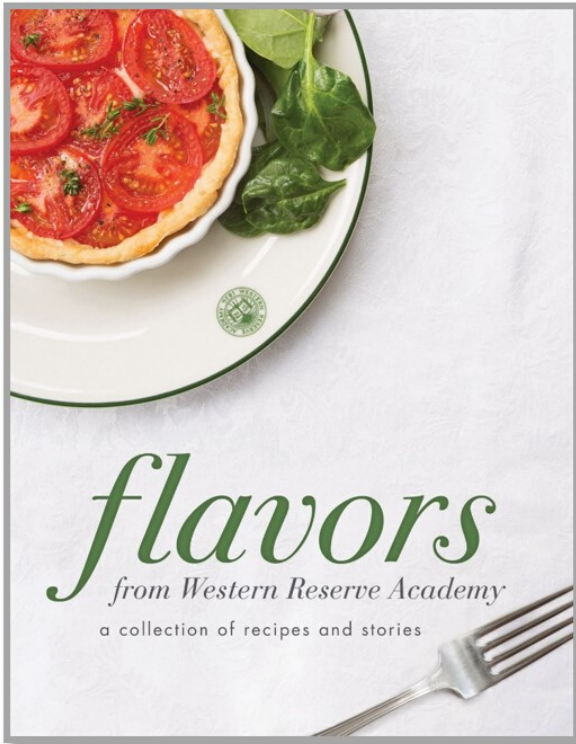


Vineyard Vines
Chapel Tie \$55



Limited Edition
Chapel Print
\$100

COOK WITH PWA TONIGHT



The PWA Cookbook, *flavors* is available at the Campus Store or on-line at www.wra.net/store. It is a compilation of recipes of student families, alumni, teachers, staff, board members and friends of WRA and offers over 200 recipes that are a great go to for every day cooking or company.

Crock Pot White Chicken Chili

Healthy! A versatile recipe with great balance and flavors. Adjust the amount of cumin and oregano to suit your taste. Amp up the heat by adding minced jalapeno, cayenne pepper, or red pepper flakes.

Lovely and delicious topped with fresh cilantro.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 and 1/2 pounds ground chicken
- 2 4-ounce cans chopped green
 chile peppers
- 1 15-ounce cans great
 Northern beans

- 1 14.5-ounce can chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- Salt, to taste
- Ground white pepper, to taste
- Tabasco green pepper sauce, to taste
- Monterey Jack cheese

In a large skillet heat olive oil and cook onion, garlic, and chicken until chicken is no longer pink. Transfer to a crock pot. Add chile peppers, beans, chicken broth, cumin, oregano, salt, pepper, and Tabasco to crock pot. Set the crock pot to low and let simmer for 2 to 4 hours. Top with Monterey Jack cheese.

Serves 6

Patricia King, mother of Alana '16

PWA Board & Committees 2019/2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Lauren King
(Julia '19, David '22)

1st Vice President

Martha Bayliss
(Alexandra '21)

2nd Vice President

Maura Siegenthaler
(Ella '20, Tommy '22)

3rd Vice President

Jen Turk
(Olivia '21)

Treasurer

Lynn Kraph
(Elizabeth '21)

Assistant Treasurer

Nidaa Darwiche
(Leila '19, Jad '20)

Recording Secretary

Nancy Barnes
(Jack '19, Noah '22)

Communications

Shachi Mody
(Keshav '22, Ela '23)

Past President/Advisor

Mary Lohman
(Jack '20)

PWA BOARD ROSTER

Alumni Parent: Megan Valentine, Kim Barsella

Blazer/Kilt Sales: Jennifer Radel, Laura Richarson

CCIS: Brooke Rhea, Helen Rhynard

Concessions: Joni Chapas, Kathryn Wiggam

Dorm Feeds: Gretchen Swasey

Exam Week Coffee House: Martha Bayliss, Kat Dempsey

Hospitality/Events: Michelle Stefan

Mom's Network: Julia Landry, Anne Gentile

Newsletter: Katie Kagler, Alison McKenna

Senior Activities: Tina Beskid, Michelle Stefan

Staff Appreciation: Chalmette Audia

Student Activities: Joli Oliver, Martha Bayliss, Larissa Marmerstein,

Inga Walker, Shachi Mody, Kelly Williams

Merchandise: Jen Turk