



PIONEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY

Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 2

Winter 2019

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(Jack '20)

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Dear Current and Alumni Parents!

Happy New Year! On behalf of the entire PWA Executive Board, we wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful 2019.

Speaking of blessings, it has been a privilege to serve in my role of PWA President this year and observe, first hand, the hard work and dedication of the wonderful women and men who work so hard to enrich the lives of our students.

The Dorm Feeds team has surprised our boarding students three times already this school year with such crowd pleasers as pizza and bagels as the students are hard at work studying in their dorms at night. The Exam Week Coffee House Committee was up bright and early every day of exam week, serving our kids coffee, hot chocolate, doughnuts and other goodies, as well as providing kind and encouraging words, during a stressful time.

The Celebration Cakes and Exam Week Survival Kit Committees have ensured our students can enjoy a special treat on their birthdays or in the midst of exams. Our Concessions team works tirelessly to provide much appreciated refreshments during athletic events. The Student Activities Committee has organized and executed two major social events for the students this year and currently is busy planning for the largest PWA event of the year, the Bicknell Bonanza.

Of course, this list is far from exhaustive. There are many other PWA committees working thoughtfully and diligently to brighten our kids' lives and to enhance the parent experience at WRA as well. I encourage you to set a few minutes aside and read the newsletter fully to learn more.

Other not-to-be-missed newsletter articles include Danielle Dobiecki's touching and poignant "Diary of a Boarding Parent" and Katie Kagler's wonderfully informative article on WRA's Loomis Observatory. Who knew it was world famous?

I also urge you to consider participating in a committee activity if you haven't been active in PWA. We welcome the help of all WRA parents—moms and dads---so that we can continue to provide enriching, quality events for all our students.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support for PWA.

Warmest regards,
Mary Lohman (Jack '20)
PWA President

In this Issue...

Message from Head of School, page 2
Diary of a Boarding Parent: Landslide, page 3
PWA Around Campus, page 4
Committee Reports & Activity Information, page 5
Ties to Tradition: Littlest Building, Biggest History, page 6
Flavors Cookbook & Recipe, page 7

Upcoming

PWA General Membership Meetings

March 2nd 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

May 16th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

See Page 2 for all upcoming PWA events!

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Pioneer Women,

Happy New Year! I hope you had time with family and friends over the holidays. I find that once we begin the New Year in a school year, events move very fast. Before you know it, we will be preparing for graduation. In fact, Tracy began preparing the

diplomas for graduation yesterday. So, we are preparing for the end of the school year in Morgan Hall.

At this time of the school year, the efforts of everyone on this campus are evident as we create a strong and healthy community; we each do our part. Yesterday a student at seated lunch called out to Kevin in the Dining Hall and said, "best sit-down lunch ever!" I guess he likes pasta! Of course, the maintenance crew has been busy since the middle of the night (I heard them outside of Pierce House) clearing snow and we are issuing grades and comments to students and many other duties and activities are underway that make this community special. I know the Pioneer Women are preparing to add to the winter months with the annual Bicknell Bonanza! The sum of all of our efforts creates this vibrant educational community. Thank you.

Snow storms at this time of year, in my view, are enjoyable and beautiful. I am sure I will have a different view when we have a snow storm in March.

Once again, Happy New Year.

Christopher D. Burner '80
Head of School



Important Dates

February 19	<i>Bicknell Bonanza for Students</i> ; TBA
March 2	PWA General Membership Meeting; 8:30 – 10:30 am, Morgan Boardroom
March 7	<i>Staff Appreciation Breakfast</i> ; TBA
April 26	<i>Grandparents Day</i> ; TBA
May 16	PWA General Membership Meeting; 6:30 – 8:30 pm, combined social event location TBD
May 22	<i>Send-Off to Summer for Students</i> ; TBA
May 21-24	<i>Exam Week Coffee House</i> ; 7:30 - 10:30 am, TBA
May 23	WRA Prom (Juniors and Seniors and their guests); TBA
May 24	Senior Class Family Party; 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



It was 1973 in Aspen, Colorado and a faltering young woman stared out the window at the crisp, white snow of the Rocky Mountains. Discouraged and indecisive about what direction she wanted to take in life, she began writing down her feelings of the confusion and uncertainty of growing up. Whether it be the hesitation of letting go of a familiar past, the loss of youthful innocence, a feeling that time is eroding away, or the longing for a lost sense of childlike wonder, Stevie Nicks' song

Landslide circles around the theme of change. The serene image of the snow covered hills is contrasted with a landslide coming down and destroying the current peaceful atmosphere. The landslide is a metaphor for the passage of time. Nicks sees herself in the tranquility of the snow until the chaos of change comes. Little did she know at the time this song and Fleetwood Mac would become iconic.

Just as trees have to die before winter in order for new life to be reborn, people go through seasons of their lives where old things wither away to make room for the new. Just like the avalanche, we must come to terms with the inevitable changes that we cannot control. I awoke on January 1, 2019 to a landslide of emotion as I realized in just five months life will change as Jake graduates from WRA and heads to The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. We have been enjoying our "season" at Reserve, our routine of life in this community, going back and forth 8 hours between our home in North Carolina and Ohio, the annual campus events, and familiar people whom we love. Jake was a child. Now he is 18 years old, a young man, who will begin his life with this incredible school experience in the mountains 8 hours west of our home instead of to the north. I can't stop these changes any more than I could stop a landslide, but nor would I wish to.

Sending Jake off to college should be easy for us because he's already away at boarding school, right? Yes logistically, but no emotionally. This is different. Where do I fit into this? Will he still need me? Will I be as involved in his life at Sewanee as I was in his life at WRA? What will I do with myself then? How will I deal with the overwhelming changes in the years to come? As Stevie Nicks sings:

*Well, I've been afraid of changing 'cause I've built my life around you
But time makes you bolder, children get older, and I'm getting older, too...*

Not only are our sons and daughters at a crossroads in their lives, but we parents are, too. Like me, most of you are probably children of the 70s and 80s, so perhaps you recall listening to Fleetwood Mac and this song. Maybe you are a bit nostalgic about your senior year of high school and the excitement you felt as you were about to embark on life. I find that I am. The filmstrip of my life is fast forwarding way too fast.

Some of you may not be leaving the WRA community quite yet or still have younger school-aged children. Our nest is far from empty as we have a sophomore and a fifth grader. However, when I reflect on where I was 18 years ago when Jake was born, it was an entirely different world, an entirely different perspective. I was a new mother heading into some of the most amazing years of my life. The next 18 years will be very different from the past 18. I can so easily see all three of my babies' newborn faces, recall their sweet early years, but I can't begin to imagine myself as a 67 year-old woman. I've realized now more than ever that these years cannot be wasted or taken for granted. I can't honestly see the road ahead, but as scary as that may be, it is also freeing. When Jake walks across that stage and steps off into his future, he will begin some of the most amazing years of his life. And in many ways when he graduates in May, so will I.

Click to have a [listen here](#).

Danielle Dobiecki
(Jake Pendergraft '19)





Dorm Feeds bring treats and smiles

Throughout the year the PWA Dorm Feed Committee provides late-night dorm snacks to our boarders. Boarding students enjoyed three dorm feed meals during the fall 2018. We kicked off the year with Papa John's pizza in September, pizza and Halloween treats in October, and bagels and yogurts in December. As always, the surprise food was met with smiles and cheers providing a welcome evening snack break.

Gretchen Swasey (*Sarah '20*)



Exam Week Coffee House

The PWA once again sponsored the now traditional Exam Week Coffee House for our intrepid students.

The committee supported by a wonderful group of parent volunteers and the indispensable Heidi, arrived 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., were gladly received and helped fuel the students successfully through their exams.

We would like to thank every parent who was able to offer their time and support, and look forward to another successful Coffee House in the spring!

Katarina Dempsey (*Lauren '21*)

Martha Bayliss '88 (*Alexandra '21*)

PWA AROUND CAMPUS

Toys for Tots Cookie Reception

Thank you to all of the families who volunteered their time and confections for the 2018 Toys for Tots Cookie Reception! We even had cookies from from as far away as Massachusetts! The Wilson Hall Reading Room was decorated for the holidays and bustling with activity on November 28th! The Dining Hall provided hot chocolate to go along with over 80 dozen cookies for the students, faculty and staff to enjoy as they stopped in to purchase candy canes or mingle with friends.

Michelle Stefan (*Matthew '20*)

PWA Meeting & Network Event

On November 15th, we kicked off the first PWA Network Event at One Red Door in Hudson. Despite a blustery evening, nearly 20 moms joined for good food and cheer. The enthusiasm in the room for WRA and our kids was contagious. We look forward to getting the group together again in May!

Kim Wepler (*Camille '19, Clayton '19, Clairra '21*)

Julia Landry (*Lauren '20*)



WRA
winter
wonderland



COMMITTEE REPORTS

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The annual Bicknell Bonanza will be held Tuesday, February 19, 6-10 p.m. This year is a carnival theme with inflatables and carnival games! This volunteer opportunity is a ton of fun! Please watch for a volunteer sign-up in Connections.

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 Lynn Krapf at lkrapf@me.com

STAFF APPRECIATION

Breakfast for faculty and staff will be provided by PWA on Thursday, March 7. Please watch for details in Connections. The faculty and staff truly appreciate this!

DORM FEEDS

We have 4 more dorm feeds planned for the second half of the year. The next one is January 22 (Shhh! They're always a surprise!) If you would like to join in on the fun, please email Gretchen Swasey at gswasey@hotmail.com. We meet around 9:00 p.m. to pick up the food then deliver to the dorms. It is a quick, easy and fun task with smiles that will make your day!

CONCESSIONS

The Concessions Committee has been hard at work so far this year! We are always looking for volunteers to help the committee run the stand. GREAT, CASUAL opportunity to enjoy other WRA parents. Help PWA, greet campus visitors and enjoy all things RESERVE! Contact Kathryn Wiggam kathrynwiggam@gmail.com or Joni Chappas jeni.chappas@windstream.com or Sailaja Reddy sailajareddy@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

ALUMNI PARENTS NETWORK

PWA Moms plan on cheering together at Sarah's Vineyard on January 24 for happy hour.. Please join us!

CCIS

The next Cleveland Council of Independent Schools (CCIS) meeting will be held at WRA following our March 2 PWA Meeting. Speaker will be Lisa M. Borchet, MA Ed, LPPC, Owner of Avenues of Counseling and Mediation on "Stress and the Teenage Brain".

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Senior families mark your calendars!

Senior Brunch will be held at 11:30 a.m. February 9 in the MAC.

Want to be involved in memorable year-end festivities like Prom and Senior Class Family Party?

Senior Parent Planning Meetings will be held in the MAC Concessions Area on January 17 at 7:00 p.m. and January 26 at Noon.

See you there!

COMPASS PROJECTS

Please consider volunteering your background and expertise to our students during Compass Project Pitch Nights on March 4 and 5. Dads Club President Mark Slotnik will be sending out a letter soon to all parents requesting volunteers.

MERCHANDISE CHAIR NEEDED

We need a Chairperson to promote our wonderful PWA merchandise! Money raised from items like the PWA cookbook, charms, tumblers, and blankets helps support our mission of enhancing student life at WRA through events like the Back-to-School Bash, Homecoming, Dorm Feeds, and Exam Week Coffee House, to name a few.

Please contact

Mary Lohman

mglohman@gmail.com

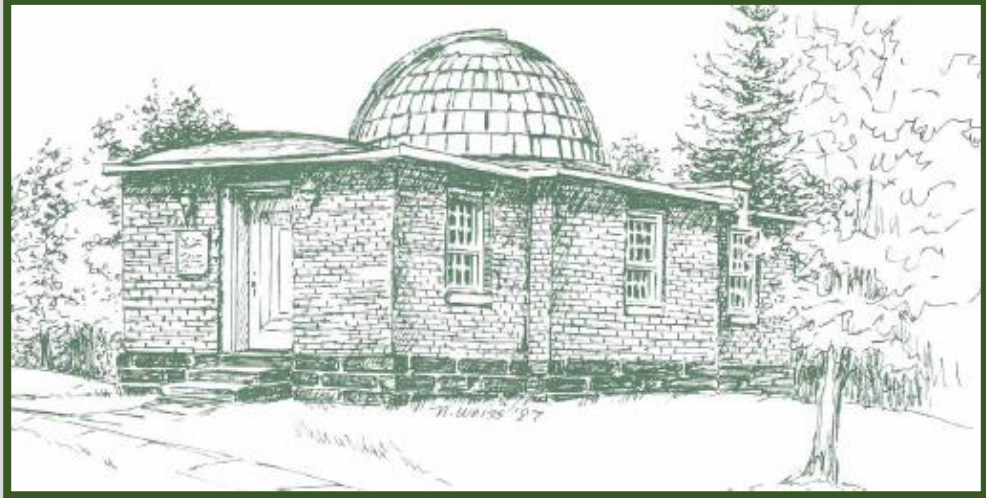
if interested.

Ties to Tradition

LITTLEST BUILDING, BIGGEST HISTORY

How many times have you driven by the Loomis Observatory on campus? Growing up in Hudson I'm quite certain I've passed it thousands of times, so many, in fact, that it becomes mundane, as if you no longer see it. However, packed into this tiny little building is a history so deep and rich, you almost would not know that the Loomis Observatory is actually world-famous (yes, world). Throughout the years, it has even been a mecca for those deeply entrenched in the world of astronomy.

The Loomis Observatory is the second oldest observatory (by three months) in the United States, second only to the Hopkins Observatory at Williams College in Massachusetts.

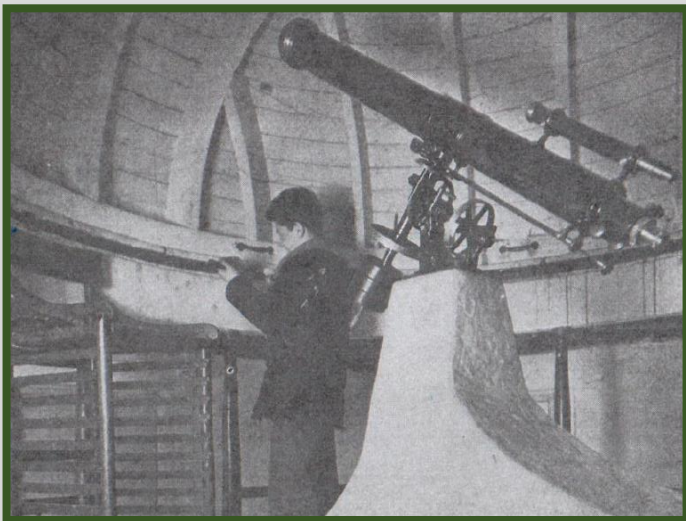


The old Western Reserve College hired Elias Loomis from Yale in 1836 to head up the Mathematics and Natural Science program. Already a very well-known astronomer throughout the world, the college was able to convince him to leave Yale by offering him the chance to build his own observatory on campus, which Yale did not have. He accepted the position and the college sent him to Europe for more than a year to research not only his course, but to also purchase all of the equipment that would be needed for the observatory. He returned in 1836 with all of the materials that still are in place in the building. Work began in 1837 and finished in 1838 with the building being constructed by Simeon Porter, the main builder of Brick Row.

The Observatory is broken into three rooms, including rooms housing a Fecker Telescope, a rotating Equatorial Telescope under the dome, and in the third room, a Sidereal Clock built in 1837 that is extremely rare and still keeps perfect time. The clock features three faces, including a 24-hour face, an hour face, and a minute face. For security purposes, the Sidereal clock is now in a special case in Wilson Hall where the physics teachers can also keep it running. A replica is located in a case in Loomis Observatory.

Upon closure of the College, the equipment was removed and sent to the Cleveland campus. Loomis' successor, Charles A. Young, along with James Ellsworth and his purchase of the buildings and land of his beloved college, were instrumental in ensuring that the equipment was returned and reinstalled in the observatory.

During the days of the college, a full astronomy program was offered to students. During the days of WRA, an astronomy club was active on campus in the early days. In both cases, on clear nights, the students and teachers would gather at the observatory, open up the dome and view the sky to study the constellations, and on special nights such as an eclipse or other celestial events in the sky, they would study those as well. In 1965, as a long-time iconic structure on campus, an infamous plot by the students was discovered and (fortunately) stopped to paint the dome the color of an Easter egg!

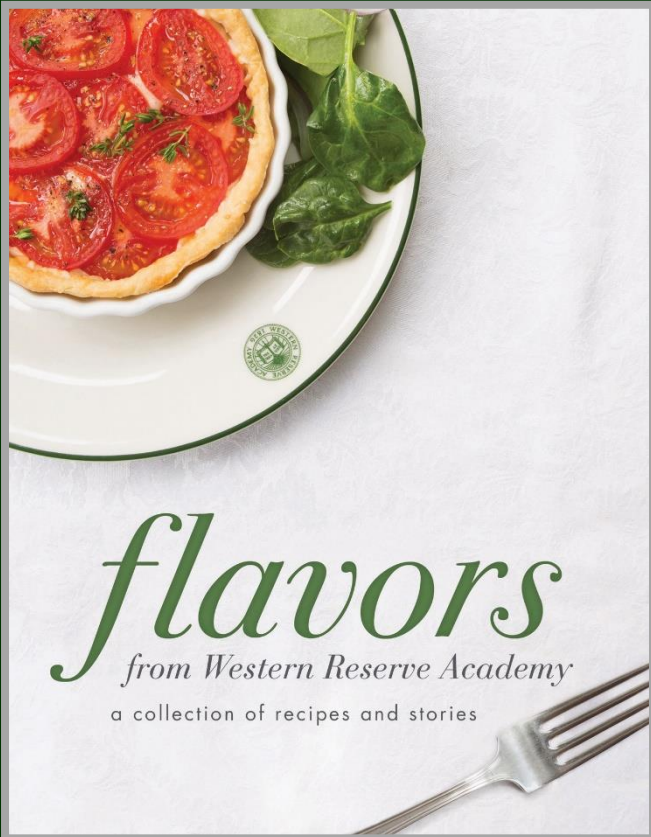


Members of the 1929 Astronomy Club use this four-inch refracting telescope to study the heavens.

While the beloved and world-famous observatory is not in use today, WRA historian and archivist Tom Vince, does offer special tours inside several times per year. In talking to Mr. Vince for this article, he recalled a time a few years ago where a national antique telescope club scheduled a tour of the Loomis Observatory. As they arrived and filed off of the bus, and Mr. Vince was standing to greet them, the two dozen or so travelers broke into a sprint towards the observatory motivated solely by their vast excitement to view such a famous and iconic structure.

Truly, what a treasure WRA and Hudson have in this structure, thanks to the College, WRA, James Ellsworth, and professors Loomis and Young. Each time you pass the Observatory, be sure to not make it a mundane drive by, but one where thoughts of star gazing into the vastness of space for 181 years captures your full attention.

Katie Kagler (*George '21*)



Flavors from Western Reserve Academy is a collection of recipes and stories that capture the essence of the WRA community. You'll find 192 kitchen-tested recipes from 117 contributors, including WRA families, alumni, teachers, staff and board members, as well as area chefs. *Flavors* is the third PWA cookbook; the previous two were *Miles From Home* (2003) and *WRA - Pioneer Women Cookbook* (1996).



PWA testing recipes at the home of Linda Morris, Cookbook Committee chairperson and mother of Rachel '16

You can purchase the book at the Campus Store or order online at WRA.net/store.

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.

Scaloppini in Lemon Caper Sauce

Dana Richards, mother of Charlie Kolodziej '18

Scaloppini, an Italian dish, consists of thinly sliced meat that is dredged in flour, sautéed, then heated in a piccata or caper and lemon sauce. Serves 4.

4 6-ounce boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
2 lemons
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Flour
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
2 garlic cloves, peeled and smashed
¼ cup small capers in brine, drained
½ cup dry white wine
1 cup chicken stock
2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley

Cut each chicken breast crosswise into two or three equal slices. Place the pieces between plastic wrap and pound them to a thickness of about ¼ inch.

Squeeze the lemon juice from one and a half lemons and reserve. Lay the remaining half lemon flat side down and cut into very thin slices. Remove pits and set aside.

Season the scaloppini with salt and pepper. Lightly dredge in flour. Heat 3 tablespoons oil and 2 tablespoons butter in wide, heavy skillet over medium heat until the butter is foaming. Add as many scaloppini as will fit without touching and cook until golden brown (about 3 minutes). Flip and cook on second side about 2 minutes. Remove from skillet and drain on paper towel. Repeat with remaining scaloppini.

Remove all scaloppini from the pan. Pour off fat and carefully wipe out pan with paper towels. Heat remaining 3 tablespoons oil and 4 tablespoons butter; add garlic and lemon slices. Cook until garlic is brown. Scoop out the garlic and lemon slices and set aside. Scatter the caper into the skillet and cook until they begin to sizzle. Pour in the wine, bring to a vigorous boil and cook until wine is reduced in volume by half. Pour in chicken stock, bring to a boil, and cook until slightly syrupy (about 4 minutes). Add the lemon juice, to taste. Return the scaloppini to the skillet, turning in the sauce until they are warmed through and coated with sauce. Remove garlic, swirl in the parsley and divide among warm plates.