



The Open Monthly: November 2019

Dedicated to keeping families informed about Open World Learning Community events & volunteer opportunities

OWL Upcoming Events



OWL Community Group monthly meeting Thursday, November 21st, 5-6 PM

This month's **OWL Community Group** meeting is Thurs., Nov. 21 from 5-6 PM in the health classroom on the first floor. Asian Culture Night will follow. Parents/guardians, students, and staff are all welcome and encouraged to come!

Join us for Asian Culture Night



Mark your calendar for OWL's annual Asian Culture Night on **Thursday, November 21 at 6 PM**. We welcome your ideas for this annual event, which includes dinner, student performances, activities, and more. Parents who want to help with planning can contact Jolene Yang at 651-744-1430 or Jolene.Yang@spps.org. Seniors Kou

Vang & Jedi Casas are collaborating to organize this fun family event. *Note: This is the same night as Humboldt's FAFSA help event, so families can go there at 4 PM and come here afterward to celebrate with us.*

Don't Miss Our Fall Musical: **The Addams Family**

Acclaimed TV show *The Addams Family* is now a musical — and it's coming to OWL. The show is a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family! Wednesday has a new boyfriend, but her parents haven't met him yet. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they when they host a dinner for her boyfriend and his parents. Hilarity ensues! **Performances take place at 7 PM on December 5, 6, 12, & 13 in the OWL auditorium.** Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. **Come see it!**



November Calendar

- Fri., Nov. 1:** **OWL Middle School Fall Dance**, 6-8 PM, OWL cafeteria.
- Fri., Nov. 8:** End of 1st quarter. Finish strong: Do your E-work!
- Fri.-Sun., Nov. 8-10:** **In-store book fair** at the Red Balloon Bookshop. *More info on page 5.*
- Thurs., Nov. 14:** Picture retake day.
- Thurs., Nov. 14:** **Give to the Max Day!!!** Donate online to support OWL today! *More info on page 2.*
- Fri., Nov. 15:** **No school for students**, staff development for teachers.
- Tues., Nov. 19:** Prospective Family Open House, 6:30-8 PM, auditorium. *More info on page 2.*
- Thurs., Nov. 21:** FAFSA Night, 4-7 PM, Humboldt. *More info on page 3.*
- Thurs., Nov. 21:** OWL Community Group meeting, 5-6 PM, health classroom.
- Thurs., Nov. 21:** **OWL Asian Culture Night**, 6 PM in the OWL cafeteria. *More info at left.*



Dancers share their talent at Latinx Family Night.

OWL Upcoming Events continued

College March: Celebrate Our Seniors!

On **December 13 at 10 AM** the entire OWL community will gather to celebrate an important milestone: the completion of college applications by all seniors. The event begins with an assembly in the auditorium, followed by seniors marching to the mailbox. **Families are invited to the assembly, and can join students for the march and a potluck meal following the march.**

LET'S DO THIS!

Give to the Max Day is Nov. 14th



Support OWL on Thursday, Nov. 14th for Give to the Max Day, a massive 24-hour push for online giving to non-profits. Funds raised for OWL PTO support experiential learning opportunities like Fall Retreats and Spring Interim – transformative experiential learning that today's school budgets do not cover.

This year's goal is our BIGGEST yet: \$22,000! Meaningful fieldwork experiences are vital to EL Education, but they are not cheap. Help us reach our ambitious goal to guarantee that fieldwork experiences stay robust, and that EVERY OWL student can participate. Your tax-deductible donation will help us reach our goal!

To date, we do not have a matching grant, so we need **many more donors** to reach our goal. It will take all of us to get there. Please encourage supportive friends and family to make a donation to OWL.

Schedule your donation!

Donate online on Nov. 14th or **schedule a donation beginning Nov. 1st that will be credited to OWL on Nov. 14th.** Donate at <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Open-World-Learning-Community-Pto> or use the "donate" link in the top right corner of our website.

Our first Prospective Family Showcase is Tuesday, November 19 from 6:30-8 PM. If you have another student interested in joining OWL next year or have any relatives, friends or neighbors looking for a secondary school, please help spread the word. Tours and shadowing during the school day will start in late November. Go to the OWL website (spps.org/open) to sign up for a day to visit. Questions--contact Tim at timothy.leone-getten@spps.org

Calendar continued...

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday & Friday Nov. 23-24: Thanksgiving Holiday, no school for students and staff.

Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 5, 6, 12, & 13: OWL's theatre & music program will present **The Addams Family Musical** at 7 PM in the auditorium. *More info on page 1.*

Tues., Dec. 10: Conferences, 3:30-7:30 PM, OWL cafeteria & auditorium.

Fri., Dec. 13: College March, 10 AM in the auditorium. *More info at left.*

Tues., Dec. 17: OWL Community Group meeting, 6-8 PM, OWL cafeteria.

Fall Family Gathering – Thanks!

Thank you to all who attended and/or volunteered at our Fall Family Gathering! It was a great night of community building with students, families, and staff on lovely Harriet Island. The Outward Bound Service Auction raised \$3000 toward our Outward Bound Service Adventures next spring. THANK YOU!



Photos by Kari & Bill Leifheit

OWL Community News

Teacher Feature: Meet Katerina

Katerina Youngberg is the newest member of OWL's counseling team. Below, she shares both her professional journey and some personal stories.

I grew up in western Wisconsin with my mother and father. My early life consisted of spending time with my family, playing outside, and family trips to Door County. I graduated high school in 2006 and went on to college, majoring in Elementary Education and English. Right after graduation, I left for Europe, spending the next few years traveling, learning new cultures, languages, and gaining a strong appreciation for the diverse history we all carry with us.

When I returned home from my travels, I started graduate school at UW-River Falls, earning my masters in School Counseling. While I was in grad school, I studied abroad for a summer in Scotland, living in a castle with other grad students. It was such a fun experience living in a castle just outside of Edinburgh!



When I am not working as a school counselor, you can find me spending time with my family and friends. I love being near water. I bought a paddle board and I'm learning to use it, but I'm still falling off a lot! It is such a joy to live somewhere that has all the seasons. I enjoy hiking, gardening, reading, shopping at Target, and drinking good coffee. If I was not working as a school counselor, I would probably be doing something with writing and traveling.

I absolutely love working as a school counselor. It took me a while to find what I wanted to do, but when this profession came into view, it felt like a natural fit. I strive every day to support students and their families, making sure all students feel seen and their voices heard. I am so happy to be working here at OWL!

Support OWL Community Program Grants through AmazonSmile

Do you shop Amazon? If so, you can support OWL there. Through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases are donated to our OWL PTO. To designate OWL as your donation option, go to smile.amazon.com, open your account, and navigate to **Your AmazonSmile**. There you can search for **St. Paul Open School PTO/OWL PTO**. Eligible products are marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail pages. Proceeds will support the OWL Community Program Grants. **Thank you!**



Counseling News

FAFSA Night

Humboldt High School has graciously invited OWL families to attend a FAFSA support night on Thursday, November 21 from 4-7 PM at Humboldt. *The following documents will be needed to complete the FAFSA: social security numbers for both parents and students, W-2 forms and last year's tax returns, current bank statements (parent & student accounts), and information about family assets.* All senior families who have not yet completed the FAFSA are invited to attend. **Please RSVP to Jolene by November 18 if you plan to attend.**

Free ACT Test Prep for Juniors

Learning test taking strategies and content will help juniors get a better score. Test prep classes will be held only at Central High School this year. Online registration will be open by November 1 and closes November 15. To register, visit <https://www.spps.org/occrtestprep>

Post-Secondary Enrollment Opportunities (PSEO)

It's time to apply for spring PSEO classes. PSEO offers students an opportunity to take free college courses as a high school student, beginning in 10th grade.

Eligibility criteria: 10th grade admission for PSEO is based on passing scores on students' 8th grade MCA reading tests. 11th graders must be in top 33 % of graduation class, seniors must be in top 50%. Some colleges require candidates to pass the Accuplacer test in the content area for the class.

Considerations: Grades from PSEO are real and appear on your transcript. Successful PSEO students are self-directed learners who seek help when needed and understand that colleges do not have standards-based grading, so deadlines are firm. PSEO class demands must be balanced with your course load at OWL.

Colleges have their own deadlines for receipt of applications, but **Jolene's deadline is November 14** in order to allow time to gather information she needs to prepare for submission. Talk to Jolene soon for more information.

OWL Community News continued

Dia de los Muertos

Thanks to all parents, students and staff who supported OWL's Dia de los Muertos Latinx Family Night event, which was also seniors Annet Chautla and Stephanie Orellana's senior project. Special thanks to the PTO for their support in funding this event and to the dancers of Kalpulli Yaocenxtli for joining us to share their Mexica indigenous dance. From the community ofrenda to the student performances and delicious food, our community came together to honor those we have lost and to celebrate Latinx culture.

Engage! at OWL

Thanks so much to all who came out to the OWL Engage event on Thursday, October 24! We ate, had fun and enjoyed authentic conversations around issues important to our OWL community. It was awesome to get to know our OWL adults and adolescents on a deeper level. Stay tuned for details about the next event. We want YOU to be a part of planning and participating!



Photos by Tom Hobday

Scenes from OWL's Dia de los Muertos Latinx Family Night



We had a great turn-out and a wonderful meal together. Thanks to all who participated!



Seniors Annet & Stephanie introduced the evening's activities.



We created an OWL Community ofrenda, honoring and celebrating loved ones who have passed away.

OWL Community News continued

OWL/Humboldt Volleyball team is making history!

Volleyball has gone deeper in Section 1A playoffs than they have in recent history. They defeated their second opponent in a row, Avail Academy. The team is now heading into the quarterfinals. They faced off against the #2 team, New Life Academy, on Tuesday, October 29th.



The OWL/Humboldt Volleyball team smiles for a group shot with coaches Damon and Kelcie.



7th Grade Fieldwork: OWL students tagged baby trees to note their survival rates, entering data into iPods for the National Park Service. Last year, OWL 8th graders planted 300 trees for this project. The NPS is working to replace the ash trees lost to emerald ash borers. (Photo by Oakley Biasanz)

Visit OWL's in-store Book Fair!



Red Balloon Bookshop
891 Grand Avenue, St. Paul
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday,
November 8-10

Do your holiday shopping early at the Red Balloon Bookshop during the weekend of November 8-10 and support the OWL Library at the same time! If OWL supporters spend more than \$500, Red Balloon will donate 20 percent of our sales to the OWL Library. Online orders made during Nov. 8-10 count too – just be sure to put “Open World Book Fair” in the comment field. Spread the word! Tell your friends and family to mention the OWL book fair when making their purchase.

Red Balloon is an independent, woman-owned children's bookstore with a wide selection of books, toys, and gifts for all ages, from infants to adults.

Special event at Red Balloon:

On Friday, November 8 at 6:30 PM, Debbie Reese (Nambé Owingeh), educator and advocate for Native representation, will be at the Red Balloon for a talk, Q&A, and book signing for **An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People**. Dr. Reese is the founder of American Indians in Children's Literature ([AICL](http://AICL.org)) where she shares her expertise. For more information about the event, visit redballoonbookshop.com.



Keep up with the latest news at OWL, share information, connect with other parents and support our school! Join the **Open World Learning Community Group** on Facebook.

You can also follow us on Twitter
@StPaulOpen!



The OWL newsletter is published semi-monthly. If you have ideas of something you'd like to see in the newsletter, contact David Gundale at dave.gundale@spps.org.