



## The Open Monthly: February 2020

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



OWL choirs shared beautiful music with us at the concert on January 16th! Pictured above is choir director Alex with the Concert Choir.

### OWL Upcoming Events

#### Join us for OWL's National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) on Monday, February 10th!

All school families are invited to visit OWL at any time during the school day for: classroom visits, a Learning Walk led by Principal Dave or Assistant Principal Elba, and other activities. Continental breakfast will be available for parents and you are welcome to have lunch with your child. Come when you can and stay as long as you'd like. All school families are welcome to visit school on this day.



#### African American Culture Night

**NOTE DATE CHANGE:** Wednesday, February 12, 6-8 PM.



This gathering will include delicious food, student and community member performances, an art gallery, community partners, and more. All school families are encouraged to attend this fun family event!

### February Calendar

**Mon., Feb. 3:** OWL High School Information Night, 6-7 PM, OWL auditorium. *More info on page 3.*

**Wed.-Sun, Feb. 5-9:** Student-Led Conferences at home. *See page 3.*

#### Mon.-Fri., Feb. 10-14: Spirit Week!

- Monday: Pajama Day
- Tuesday: Duo Day
- Wednesday: Flannel vs. Denim Day
- Thursday: Jersey Day
- Friday: Pink Out Day

**Mon., Feb. 10: National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID).** *More info at left.*

**Wed., Feb. 12: African American Culture Night,** 6-8 PM in the OWL cafeteria. *Note date change; more info at left.*

**Fri., Feb. 14: Winter Dance** in OWL cafeteria. *More info on page 2.*



Long Crew Day is about being of service, building community, and having fun!

## OWL Upcoming Events continued...



### Put on your dancing shoes!

The **OWL Winter Dance** will be **Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** in the OWL cafeteria. The middle school dance is from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and the high school dance is from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Tickets are \$2 and will be sold at lunch the week of the dance. Refreshments will be sold at the dance.

### OWL History Day Exhibition: Wednesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>

Learn about important historical events through the eyes of our students at the OWL History Day Exhibition on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

- **5:30-6PM: Exhibition open for viewing**
  - **6-8PM: Project judging takes place**
- Students are expected to stay for their judging time but may leave when they are done.**

**Food and merchandise will be available for purchase during the event.**

The event will showcase projects created by 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, and students doing independent projects around this year's National History Day theme, **Breaking Barriers in History**. Topics cover government, civil rights, labor, environment, science, politics, the arts, and more.

**Although History Day is a competition, OWL's primary emphasis is on students learning to conduct deep research on an intriguing topic, and to synthesize what they've learned into a compelling paper, website, documentary, exhibit, or performance.**

Past History Day documentaries and performances will be shown in the Auditorium, and snacks and t-shirts will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Please note: Students may stay at OWL after school only if going home and getting back to school on time doesn't work for them. They must be in the cafeteria working on homework or their History Day projects during this time.

The day after the exhibition, OWL staff will post a list of projects that will advance to Regional History Day at Johnson High School on Sat., March 14<sup>th</sup>. Those projects will be revised by students for the next level of competition.



## February Calendar continued

**Mon., Feb. 17:** President's Day, no school for students or staff.

**Wed., Feb. 19: OWL History Day Exhibition,** 5:30 to 8 PM at OWL. *More information at left.*

**Sat., Feb. 22:** OWL Archery Tournament at Johnson High School. *More info on page 4.*

**Tues., Feb 25:** ACT Test for OWL Juniors, during school. Don't be late!! *More info on page 3.*

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**Thurs., Mar. 5: OWL IZI Family Event** (page 3).

**Fri., Mar. 6: No school for students,** staff development for teachers.

**Thurs., Mar. 12: Read Brave author visit:** Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves*.

**Sat., Mar. 14: SPPS Regional History Day.**

**Mon., Mar. 23: OWL Community Group meeting,** 6-8 PM, OWL cafeteria.



There is no **OWL Community Group** meeting in February, but we encourage all OWL families to join us at school on **National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)** as well as for **African American Culture Night**. You can read more about these events on page 1.



### '90s Parent Prom Dance Party!

#### Save the Date:

Friday, April 17, 7 to 11 PM

Mark your calendars! This year's Parent Prom will be a salute to the '90s. Dust off your dancing shoes, grab your mixtapes, and dare to dress in your '90s best!

**Location:** Czech & Slovak Sokol Hall  
383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN

More information coming soon!

## OWL Upcoming Events continued...

### OWL High School Information Night: February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Eighth grade students and families are invited to our OWL High School Information Night on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM in the auditorium. Come learn about all the great things in store during high school at OWL. For more information, contact Tim at [timothy.leone-getten@spps.org](mailto:timothy.leone-getten@spps.org).

### Student-Led Conferences at Home: February 5-9

Our Student-Led Conferences encourage students to reflect on the first half of the school year and develop their skills as "leaders of their own learning." Students will be sharing examples of high-quality work, review their goals and experiences from first semester, share their grades from Quarters 1 and 2, and reflect on their habits of work and learning.

As a result of adding the two parent/teacher conference nights this fall, Student-Led Conferences will be presented twice:

1. In Crew with the Crew Leader during the school day
2. At home with families in the evening or over the weekend from Wednesday, February 5 - Sunday, February 9.

After the conference at home, students will ask their families a series of four questions (see below) that will be submitted on Schoology, as proof of completion. This conference is an expectation for all students at OWL, and a requirement for passing Crew in Quarter 3.

1. What did you learn about me and my first semester?
2. How have you seen me grow this semester?
3. What do you think would be a good goal for me to help me improve next semester?
4. Do you have any questions or concerns to share with my Crew Leader?

### OWL IZI Family Event:

#### March 5<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendar for OWL's next IZI event, "Everybody Belongs," on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 PM. IZI stands for "intentional social interaction." Join us for soup and salad and a conversation with other OWL families.



## COUNSELING CORNER

### Personal Learning Plans (PLPs)

We are a pilot site with four other schools. This year, the focus is on middle schools and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. More information regarding this initiative can be found in the flyer attached to this newsletter.

### Testing Update

#### All OWL juniors will take the ACT plus writing test at school on Tues., Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

The test is free of charge. Please encourage your junior to get enough sleep the night before and to be at school on time. There will be no late admittance for the ACT. Students may bring approved calculators – see the ACT website for more information. Contact Mary with any questions about testing at 651-744-2950 or [mary.sellers@spps.org](mailto:mary.sellers@spps.org).

**ACCESS testing for English Language Learners will take place March 3-13.** If you have any questions, contact Bridget at [marybridget.leba@spps.org](mailto:marybridget.leba@spps.org).

Saint Paul Public Schools will give the **Bilingual Seal test to students fluent and literate in another language on March 11<sup>th</sup>**. The test will be given at Humboldt. Those who achieve a proficient score can earn credit toward their college language requirements. This test recognizes the value of students' fluency in a second language, including their home language, as well as those who have formally studied a second language. **Students wishing to take the test must register by Feb. 15.** For more information, contact Tim at [timothy.leone-getten@spps.org](mailto:timothy.leone-getten@spps.org).

**MCA testing will take place March 23-26 and April 21 & 22.** We encourage all students to take the test as it provides teachers with useful data. In addition, results of the MCA reading test are used to determine eligibility for Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) as 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

## OWL Community News

### OWL Archery News – From Coach Tom

We had our first tournament of the year and we are off to a great start. Jack Goodrich (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Krista Hines (5<sup>th</sup>) medaled in their respective divisions and our team score was quite strong. We look forward to having another great year!



On Saturday, Feb. 22, OWL Archery will host a tournament at Johnson High School in Saint Paul. We are always looking for support through either time or money. If you are interested in volunteering in one of the many ways we offer, please email [Cat.Rohde@gmail.com](mailto:Cat.Rohde@gmail.com). If you are interested in supporting the team financially, or know a business who might sponsor us, visit <https://sites.google.com/prod/view/owlarcheryteam/sponsor> or email us at [OpenWorldArchery@gmail.com](mailto:OpenWorldArchery@gmail.com). We offer many levels of sponsorship, beginning at the Friendship Level of \$30, which covers bow maintenance for a year. We appreciate your support!

### Spring is Near! Support the OWL Plant Sale

Winter months are the perfect time to begin garden dreams. Support OWL's Outward Bound Service Adventure by ordering plants! We have great tomatoes, veggies, herbs, native plants, and flowers including wild strawberries, black dragon coleus, fuzzy wuzzy, and pink cat. Plants are neonicotinoid-free and 100% bee-friendly. Visit [www.glacialridgegrowers.com](http://www.glacialridgegrowers.com) to see photos.

**To order:** Complete the order form (attached) and send it to school with payment (checks payable to OWL) by **Feb. 28** to Tim Leone-Getten. Orders will arrive at school in early May.



The plant sale helps fund the Outward Bound Service Learning trip. This May, we'll serve California, Colorado Outward Bound Schools, and Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Northern Minnesota. Thanks for supporting this more than 25-year tradition and making an empowering adventure possible for our students!

### One-Act Play Competition

by Noah Morris

This year, the one-act play group represented OWL at the sectional theater competition with a work of our own making. Entitled "How to Hate," it is a play about three people trapped in hell for all eternity who must reckon with their own ideas and flaws to achieve some measure of peace. We took home 3rd place, one point behind second, with only a month to prepare (and zero budget!). More importantly, it was a good time that taught everyone involved a lot about theater. We hope to continue this program and keep representing OWL!



The one-act competition cast celebrates their performance on their recap day with timed photos and vibrant discussion. Clockwise from bottom-right: Noah Morris (actor), Maggie Morris (actor), Karina Bary (lights tech), Nora Verner (actor), and Lou Garnaas (sound tech). Not pictured but always present: Rebekah Rentzel (director).

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You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop at Amazon, consider using their charity site [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and selecting "OWL PTO" as your charity, or visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4180176>. The prices and shopping carts are identical and a small but mighty portion of your total supports our school's Community Group PTO. (Note that if you check out on their mobile app or regular website no donations will be made to our PTO--you have to remember to check out using the AmazonSmile website!) Thank you!

## OWL Community News continued...



### FIRST LEGO League Teams Celebrate Success!

OWL's two FIRST LEGO League teams, the N.E.R.D. Squad and the Brick Birds, celebrated a season of hard fun at the Regional LEGO League Tournament on January 18. Both teams brought home the Programming Award for outstanding robot codes. The Brick Birds, who researched rooftop gardens as tools for mitigating climate change impact on future cities, are advancing to the State Tournament and will compete on February 22.

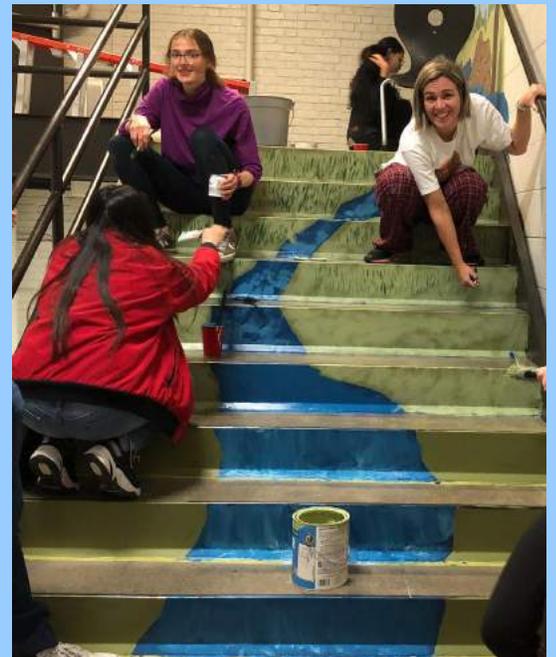
### OWL Program Grants Enhance Student Experiences

Every year, the OWL Community Group (PTO) reviews grant project requests from our OWL community. The purpose of the grants is to create learning opportunities for students that the school cannot fund through the regular budget. These projects and programs enhance curriculum and provide our students with a more well-rounded education.

This year, we were fortunate to fund all six grant requests:

- Mary Sellers, family engagement coordinator, received funding for **three well-attended cultural events** at OWL: Dia de los Muertos, Asian Culture night & National African American Parent Involvement Day.
- Tom Totushek, math teacher, received funds to start a **brand-new OWL Mock Trial team**. Students interested in joining the team should contact Tom.
- Tim Leone-Getten, program coordinator and Spanish teacher, will use grant money for students to **cook and enjoy foods common to various Spanish-speaking countries**.
- Katie Craven, social studies teacher, will use the funds to pay the student **registration fees for State History Day**.
- Alex Ferderer, music teacher, will use the grant funding to support the **honor choir auditions and participation**.
- Caryl Mousseaux, library media specialist, will receive funding to **bring a new author to OWL** for a special student event.

## Scenes from Long Crew Day December 20, 2019



## Teacher Feature: Meet Kristin

*Kristin joined the OWL staff last year as the art teacher. She came from Minnesota Math and Science Academy, a charter school. This will be her sixth year as an art teacher.*

I grew up with my parents and four brothers in St. Paul and have lived here (for the most part) all my life. My parents both taught me the importance of a good education. It will give you choices. I have a son Matthew who is engaged to Amber and together they have a 19-month-old son, Adonis. To my joy, they are moving here from Eau Claire, WI. He is a manager at an exercise



fitness company and has attained his pro status as a (steroid free) Strongman, holding several titles. My daughter Keelia is presently getting her doctorate in English at the U of M. She works full time as the managing editor at IBM Systems Corp Magazine. She and her husband live near me in St. Paul.

My path to becoming an art teacher was a spiral. Majoring in Geology at Carleton College, I went to work as a cartographer for two years, then as a hydrogeologist for eight. As I succeeded, my role changed and I was able to do less of the outdoor activities. However, I no longer loved my job as I spent more time at the desk. So I went back to school at Hennepin Technical College. After four years of evening classes, I had my floral design certification and went to work for several companies along with having my own. At one point, someone mentioned I would be good at being a Teaching Assistant so I changed careers yet again to do that. I was a Special Education Teaching Assistant for ten years before coming to the conclusion that I wanted my own classroom and I wanted to teach art. After four years of evening classes, while raising two teenagers and working full time, I attained my teaching license from Concordia College and became an art teacher.

I love spending time with my family, traveling, gardening, biking, reading, walking, downhill skiing, and art (especially painting).



**Do you have friends or relatives that want to come to OWL next year? Application deadline is Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.** Siblings of current OWL students have priority in admissions, but applications must be received by the deadline to get that benefit. Current students DO NOT need to reapply. Apply online at <https://apply.spps.org/>.



### Follow OWL on Facebook/Twitter

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!**



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*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](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org).*