



The Open Monthly: March 2020

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

OWL Upcoming Events

Join Us for **We All Count!** - OWL's Second IZI Thursday, March 5th, 5:30-8:30 PM

Please join us for an opportunity to connect across difference with other OWL families and community members through **Intentional Social Interaction ("IZI")!**

- o The evening is free!
- o Dinner will be served!
- o All family members welcome! Childcare is provided!
- o Feel free to come and go as needed!

At the second IZI, *We All Count!*, we will learn more about who is in our OWL community and discuss how we can improve representation and make sure that all voices are heard. Gather with fellow OWL students, parents, and teachers to participate in an open, honest discussion and share a meal. A dinner of soup, salad, and dessert for folks with all dietary needs will be provided.

If you have any questions, or to RSVP, please contact Mary Sellers at 651-744-2950 or mary.sellers@spps.org. (Registration is helpful but not required.)

For more information, and to learn a bit about our OWL IZI history, see the attachment with this newsletter.



OWL Community Group monthly meeting Mon., March 23rd, 6-8 PM

The March **OWL Community Group** meeting is Monday, March 23, 6-8 PM in the cafeteria.

Parents/guardians, students, and staff are all welcome and encouraged to come!

March Calendar

Tues.-Fri., March 3-13: ACCESS testing for ELL students.

Thurs., March 5: OWL IZI Family Event, 5:30-8:30 PM. *More info at left.*

Fri., March 6: No school for students, staff development day for teachers.

Wed., March 11: Bilingual Seal test for students fluent/literate in another language.

Thurs., March 12: Read Brave author visit: Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves*. *More info on page 3.*

Sat., March 14: Regional History Day, Johnson High School, all day. *More info on pages 2 & 3.*

Mon., March 16: High school outdoor Ultimate Frisbee practice begins.

Wed., March 18: PSEO Info Night, 6 PM. *More info on page 4.*

Mon., March 23: OWL Community Group meeting, 6-8 PM. *More info at left.*



The **MathCounts competition** was held on February 6th at Inver Hills Community College. OWL had nine mathletes competing (pictured above). Twenty-one schools participated and OWL finished in 14th place. We're proud of our mathletes!

OWL Community News

Students Prepare for Regional History Day

The OWL History Day showcase was held February 19 where projects were exhibited, evaluated, and selected to advance to the Regional History Day competition. The OWL staff wants to congratulate **all students**, whether their project was selected to advance or not. We're proud of our students and the academic skills they used to create these projects: deep research, analysis of their topic's importance in history, presentation skills, perseverance and hard work. Regional History Day is Sat., March 14th at Johnson High School. Support our OWL contingent!

Junior Individual Exhibit

Marjorie Borer-Seabloom - Chuck Yeager
Nina Laferla - Americans with Disabilities Act
Paige Rohde - Keating-Owen Child Labor Act
Amaya Sanders - Raven Wilkinson

Junior Group Exhibit

Gwen Stender & Mylie Petersen Antin - Frances Perkins
Silas Kolb & Caitlyn Christensen - Mill City Explosion
Antonio Cervantes & Mick Coenen - Martin Luther King Jr.
Emmy Ryan & Ani Moore - Florence Nightingale

Junior Individual Documentary

Zoe Patrick - Individuals with Disabilities Act
Aye Mon - Titanic
Pat Toohey - Battle of the Currents

Junior Group Documentary

Tess Campion & Willa Campion - Ethnic Studies Courses - Berkeley
Emilia Johnsen & Rachel Rafowicz - Gay Liberation Front
Kiara Steiner & Anna Carlson - Harvey Milk
Atticus Brooks-Babcock & Duncan Smith - Apollo Soyuz

Junior Individual Performance

Joe Lodahl - Transcontinental Railroad
Scarlett Longard - Debi Thomas
Shalimar Watkins - Loving v. Virginia

Junior Group Performance

Emma Miller & Birhane Nord - Sandra Day O'Connor
Elinor McAlpine, Kate Houle, Marge Moe - Flappers
Ian Oberheide & Henry Karre - Declaration of Independence
Arlo Northrop-Kiel, Wyatt Kessler, Wyatt Hanson, August Cheney - Apollo 13

Junior Individual Website

Kathryn Totushek - Yvette Fay Francis-McBarnette
Maria Solakhava - Valentina Tereshkova
Saffron Takle - Walt Disney

Junior Group Website

Danny Hobday & Noah Johnson - Stonewall
Hana Ninow & Galadrial Barrett - Berlin Wall
Nick Christopherson & Aanen Kulseth - Rosie the Riveter

Junior Papers

Seth Juvland - Great Depression
Noah Hayes - Loving v. Virginia
Rafael Ponce - Martin Luther King, Jr.

March Calendar continued

Mon.-Thurs., March 23-26: MCA testing, reading and math.

Fri., March 27: End of Quarter 3.

Fri.-Sat., March 27-28: State Archery Tournament, Foley.

Mon.-Thurs., March 30-April 9: Costa Rica & Nicaragua trip.

Spring Break is Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 3rd. Classes resume on Monday, April 6th. **Enjoy the break!**



LOOKING AHEAD:

Thurs., April 9: Middle School author visit.

Fri., April 10: No school for students/staff.

Fri., April 17: 90s Dance Party/Parent Prom, SOKOL Hall. See page 4.

Sat., April 18: Prom at SOKOL Hall, 5:30PM for middle school students, 7:30PM for high school students.

Tues., April 21: OWL Community Group meeting, 6-8 PM.

Tues.-Wed., April 21 & 22: MCA testing, science.

Wed., Thurs., & Fri., April 22, 23, and 24: Spring Play, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, 7 PM.

Fri., May 1: Better World Day and OWL Against Hunger event.



Students heading to Regional History Day had the opportunity to do research at the University of Minnesota's Wilson Library on Wednesday, February 26th.

History Day continued...

Senior Individual Exhibit

Desmond Haug - Miles Davis
Nora Leifheit - Tom Lehrer
Estrella Hernandez-Garcia - Cesar Chavez

Senior Group Exhibit

Lachlan Cotner, Cyrus Slinger, & Joe Deutch - Open Heart Surgery
Libby Nelson & Greta Kvale - Bad Brains
Sam Hayden & Jonah Engelking - Jackie Robinson

Senior Individual Documentary

Isabella Graziani - Media and Vietnam
Iris Carroll - Penumbra Theatre
Maxwell Juvland - Huey Long

Senior Group Documentary

Frankie Buettner & Madigan Lodahl - Pentagon Papers
Zoe Champion & Elsa Carlson - Shirley Chisholm
Dulce Chautla Suastegui & Yomaris Flores-Vasquez - Ted Bundy
Leo Dungan-Seaver, Miles Pretel, Haakon Neske - Prince

Senior Individual Performance

Treasure Hill - Rebecca Lee Crumpler

Senior Group Performance

Sam Kellar-Long, Helena Squires-Mosher, & Mae Wrigley - Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Senior Individual Website

Freya Ebbesen - Our Bodies Ourselves
Lili Hennessee - Lewis Hine
Micah Gebben-Green - John Wilkes Booth

Senior Group Website

Emma McCarthy & Aiko Mattie - Gloria Richardson
Carter Petersen Antin, Elijah Ojo, William Moberg - Internet

HONORABLE MENTION - Alternates for Regionals

Junior Individual Exhibit

Lucia Rossell
Helena Wright
Elzo Van Genderen
Grant Weyendt

Junior Group Exhibit

Maddie Linstad & Maren Sletten
Anson Lind & Niko Rossell

Junior Individual Documentary

Shadae Wilkins

Junior Group Documentary

Kyler Aldridge & Lillypa Xiong
Meara Gunderson & Ellie Patton

Junior Individual Website

Will Frisell

Senior Individual Exhibit

Lily Leroux

Senior Group Exhibit

Max Muench, Diego Kroonblawd,
& Henry Smith
Charlotte Marboe & Lily Deutsch

Senior Individual Documentary

Adaijah Torres McClain

Senior Individual Website

Tanushri Buck



LIBRARY NEWS

OWL is honored to host author Cherie Dimaline for a Read Brave event on Thursday, March 12, at 9:50 AM.

Our high school students and 8th graders were offered a personal copy of the author's young adult novel, **The Marrow Thieves**, to read before the event.



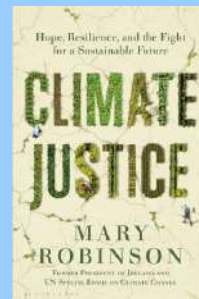
A 2018 Canada Reads finalist, the young-adult novel imagines a dystopian future where global warming has ravaged the earth and, with it, most people's ability to dream. Indigenous people, who can still dream,

are hunted for their marrow to create a serum for others. The story follows Frenchie, a teenager on the run. After his brother is captured, Frenchie must create an ad hoc family and fight to preserve his people.

Dimaline will discuss her novel and students can get their books signed.

Parents and community members are invited to join us!

This year, we are also offering students copies of the nonfiction pick, *Climate Justice*, and the middle grade featured title, *Bayou Magic*.



Would you like a copy of any of these Read Brave books? Email librarian Caryl at caryl.mousseaux@spps.org and she will set one aside for you.

Read Brave Saint Paul is an annual, citywide program that encourages youth and adults to read and discuss books set around a common theme relevant to our city. OWL has been fortunate to be a Read Brave host site and partner! For more information, visit the Read Brave website: <https://sppl.org/read-brave/>

OWL Upcoming Events – Save these dates!

Climate Change Awareness Night Thursday, April 16th, 6-9 PM

Please join us at OWL the evening of April 16th for a climate change awareness night in partnership with the Science Museum. The evening will include a meal, a climate change based-game, and a forum with local environmental activists. All are welcome at this free event led by students in OWL's Environmental Activism Club. More information coming soon!

PARENT PROM, Part 2 – Back to the 90s!

Friday, April 17th
7-11 PM
SOKOL Hall
383 Michigan Street
St. Paul



Dust off your bomber jackets, combat boots, animal print, over-sized denim & flannel shirts, pleather pants, or old prom dresses and join us for an awesome night going back to the 90s. The evening will include all your favorite 90s tunes, appetizers, desserts, sodas, beer & wine and games -- not to mention the incredible company of the OWL and St. Paul Community!

This is a ticketed event for adults 21+ so don't wait to get your tickets. Proceeds will support the OWL Concert Choir Tour 2021.

Tickets can be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets: <https://parentprom2020.brownpapertickets.com>

You can also go to Brownpapertickets.com and search: OWL PARENT PROM or email Kristin Peterson at kapeters500@gmail.com if you would rather purchase a ticket with cash or a check.

STUDENT PROM - Saturday, April 18 at the SOKOL Hall

Middle School Prom is 5:30-7:30 PM, and High School Prom is 7:30-10 PM. Tickets will be \$15 and for sale at lunch the two weeks prior to the dance. Delicious refreshments are included in the price of the ticket.

OWL's Spring Play: *The Phantom Tollbooth* Performances: April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th

A boy named Milo finds himself on an eventful and dangerous quest: He is tasked with rescuing the Princesses Rhyme and Reason, who, in the war between words and numbers, have been banished to the Castle in the Air. Join us for this fun-filled adventure! This is our first full length student-directed production, and we hope you'll join us to celebrate!

COUNSELING NEWS

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Info Night

Join us on **Wednesday, March 18 at 6 PM** for a PSEO information night for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade families. Jolene and area college representatives will present information about how to decide if PSEO is right for you, OWL requirements and deadlines, and deadlines of area colleges. This event will include an opportunity to hear from experts, OWL students who've attended PSEO classes. Please join us!

MCA state testing will take place March 23-26 and April 21 & 22. The tests are administered at OWL on the same day for each grade so as to have the least impact on instructional time. Please make sure your child brings their iPad to school fully charged and arrives at school on time each day. *Please note: Eligibility for enrollment in 10th grade PSEO classes is determined by the student's performance on the 8th grade MCA reading test.*

If you have any questions about this or any other test, contact Mary at mary.sellers@spps.org or 651-744-2950.

Important notice for Juniors & Seniors:

Please plan ahead! If you are applying to summer programs, colleges, scholarships, or requesting letters of recommendation, to ensure that all relevant materials are submitted on time, please submit requests to Jolene and/or staff recommenders **at least 2 weeks** before the school or program deadline. The OWL staff thanks you in advance for this consideration!



Middle schoolers smile for the camera at the winter dance on Friday, February 14th.

OWL Community News

NAAPID: Conversations and Learning



Families visiting OWL on National African American Parent Involvement Day on February 10th participated in learning walks, classroom visits, and discussions about our school model. We appreciate our partnerships with families and community experts!

African American Culture Night

Thanks to all families, students and staff who supported OWL's African American Culture Night event on February 12th, which was also the senior project of Jaydon Gilkes. Just a little over 200 people attended this extraordinary event. Special thanks to all the students and staff involved who made African American Culture Night possible, especially Elba Frazier, Mary Sellers, and our PTO. We made our event inclusive and engaging, and we hope to keep this event thriving. If you weren't able to make it, we hope to see you there next year. Please complete this survey to share your feedback: <http://bit.ly/3cifGsH>

~from your very own Jaydon Gilkes

Robotics News

OWL's FIRST Robotics team, the Open Circuits, are hard at work building a robot for their Regional Tournament in March. The robot will move power cells; since many of the team members are in Biology or AP Biology, they've named the robot *Mito, the Powerful Mover of Cells* (as a reference to mitochondria, the powerhouses of cells).



Stop by Tim's room this March after school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - or on a Saturday morning - to see this dedicated team build and program Mito from raw parts.

Scenes from OWL's African American Culture Night

Special thanks to Malachi Raymond, Abby Davis, Kevin Hansen, and Promise Moua for capturing the event!



OWL Community News continued...

Teacher Feature: Meet Tammy

Tammy joined the OWL staff two years ago as a Teaching Assistant. Now, she is our school clerk! Here's Tammy's story:

I grew up with my parents and three younger brothers in Gaylord, Minnesota. Growing up where everyone knows you and your family really taught me the importance of being honest, caring, and kind to all those around you. If I ever did get up to no good (which of course I didn't), I can guarantee you that my mom would know about it before I could get home. The small town of Gaylord will always hold a very special place in my heart as it's not only where I was crowned Miss Gaylord's Princess during the summer festival, but also where I met my husband Jeff. Jeff and I were classmates and started dating in ninth grade. We recently celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. With a lot of work, high school sweethearts really can make it!

After graduation, I went onto Rasmussen College where I earned an Associate Degree in Business. I worked several years in various companies doing administrative work, one of which was a travel agency that gave Jeff and I many opportunities to travel. With Jeff being a teacher, we decided to take our travel one step further by living and working in International schools abroad. As a trailing spouse with limited opportunities to work outside of the schools in our host countries, I found myself doing whatever was needed in our host school. Fast-forward seventeen years, and I have worked at seven different schools in five countries holding many different roles, including librarian, assistant principal's secretary, admissions secretary, teaching assistant in Pre-K, substitute teacher (Pre-K to Grade 12), attendance clerk, and here at OWL, Teaching Assistant. I feel very fortunate to have lived on three continents and traveled to over thirty countries. I love that I have been able to experience many cultures and can honestly say I have friends all over the world.

Currently, I live in St Paul with my husband and three sons (Lucas, Henry and Oliver) and Maple, our two-year-old labradoodle. I love to spend time on our boat, at the cabin, traveling, baking, and reading. In the winter months, I spend a lot of time at Afton Alps working in the retail shop while my boys ski. My piece of advice to everyone out there is that you can be anything you want to be - so be kind!



Congratulations, Cheryl!

On Friday, Feb. 28th, Cheryl Giles, OWL's clerk, will be retiring. She will be dearly missed after working the past decade at OWL. Cheryl has been the first point of contact for many families in the community. Throughout the years, so many have shared their appreciation for Cheryl's positive disposition and helpful presence. As one parent shared, "Every Cheryl memory is, well, memorable: [her] welcoming demeanor, [her] smile, [her] laugh when we shared a family joy and [her] concerned eyes and ears when listening to or sharing a personal 'issue.'" Staff at OWL share that sentiment and will also miss her help in organizing everything from field trip buses to purchase orders.

Cheryl, the OWL Community thanks you and wishes you a wonderful retirement!

Photo at left: OWL Clerks Tammy Plaman and Cheryl Giles – a dream team!



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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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PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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.