



## The Open Monthly: December 2017/January 2018

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



**MARCH!** OWL seniors were cheered by their classmates as they marched to mail college applications on Dec. 8. Story on page 3.

### OWL Upcoming Events

#### Committee Meetings

- The January **OWL Community Group** meeting will take place on **Tues. Jan. 9, at 6 PM** (dinner served at 5:30 PM) in the school cafeteria. **Parents, siblings & students welcome!**

#### THIS WEEK:

##### OWL's Fall Production: The Election

Come to the fall play this week! In *The Election*, an embattled student body president resigns in disgrace and another student figures he will cruise to victory in the special election. But when a mysterious super PAC gives his opponent unlimited funds, things start to get interesting.

**WHEN:** Wed., Thurs., & Fri., Dec. 13-15 at 7PM

**TICKETS:** \$4 for students, \$6 for adults

OWL theater students have been working very hard on this production. It promises to be a great show!



### December/January Calendar

**Wed., Thurs., & Fri., Dec. 13-15:** Fall Play: *The Election*, 7 PM, auditorium

**Thurs., Dec. 21:** Crew day of service and celebration – ask your student about their crew’s plans for this special day!

**Fri., Dec. 22 to Tues., Jan. 2:** Winter Break; no school. Happy vacation!

**Weds., Jan. 3:** School resumes for students and staff. Welcome back!

**Tues., Jan. 9:** **OWL Community Group** meeting, 6 PM, cafeteria

**Thurs., Jan. 11:** Showcase for prospective students/families, 6:30 PM. Encourage your friends to check out OWL!

**Thurs., Jan. 11:** **OWL Equity Group Meeting**, 6:30 - 8 PM at OWL

**Mon., Jan. 15:** Martin Luther King Day, no school for students or staff

**Thurs., Jan. 18:** **OWL Winter Choir Concert**, 7 PM, auditorium.

**Thurs., Jan 25:** End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

**Fri. Jan 26:** No school for all students; staff development/grading day

#### Looking Ahead...

**Fri., Feb 2:** **Winter Dance** 5:30-7:30 Middle School 7:30-9:30 High School

**Weds., Feb. 7:** **Student-led conferences**, 2-6PM, by appointment with crew leader

**Thurs., Feb. 8:** **Student-led conferences**, 4-8PM, by appointment with crew leader

**Thurs., Feb. 8:** **Potluck for teachers.** Bring a potluck item to sustain our teachers through this long night of conferences. More information on page 2.

## OWL Upcoming Events continued



### Be Inspired at the Winter Choir Concert, Jan. 18th

Mark your calendars to spend an enchanting evening at the OWL Winter Choir Concert, January 18th, at 7 PM in the OWL auditorium. The choirs have been working hard to perfect songs from many different eras and will end the concert with a joint performance of "Yamukela." All OWL choirs will perform, including Middle School Choir, Beginning High School Choir, Intermediate High School Choir, and Open Harmony Jazz choir.

Suggested free will donations are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. The choir department is raising funds to purchase music, choir folders, cabinets, and is also starting to save money for OWL's first concert choir tour to Maine, Boston, and NYC during interim of 2019. Please support the music department and our students!

### PTO's Potluck for Teachers is February 8th



During conferences, our teachers spend a full day teaching, then work into the night meeting with OWL families – a 13+-hour day! It's our PTO tradition to make that day a bit easier by providing a potluck dinner for them

on Thurs. Feb 8th. Our OWL staff truly appreciate this event! All food is welcome – homemade or store bought – including things like drinks, appetizers, casseroles, main dishes, salads, sandwiches, fruit and desserts. Look for sign up information in the weekly email after winter break.

## OWL Community News

### Thanks for your generosity during Give to the Max!

On Give to the Max Day and through our direct appeal, generous **OWL supporters helped reach a new milestone: we met our \$20,000 goal!** Thanks to all the OWL supporters who took to Facebook and Twitter to share your touching stories about why OWL is home for your family. The money raised will help keep our unique programs strong by funding hands-on learning during Spring Interim, Fall Retreats, in our classrooms and in the community for every OWL student. Heartfelt thanks to all family, staff and alums who donated! If you still want to donate, our fundraising site is available year round. <https://givemn.org/organization/Open-World-Learning-Community-Pto>



### Thanks for Dining out with OWL!

We had a fantastic turn out at our Dining out for OWL fundraisers at two Davanni's locations on November 27! We ate, we socialized and **raised \$414.85** to support important programs at OWL. Thanks to Beth Kellar-Long and Julia Hobday for organizing the event. We hope to hold the dual Davanni's fundraiser annually on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

### Lost and Found:

Missing something? We have many nice articles of clothing filling up our lost and found bin. Encourage your children to look for their missing clothes before winter break. We invite parents to come to look through the lost and found too.

### OWL's Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA)

meets on Wednesdays during Crew and occasional Tuesdays after school. All students are welcome. For more information, students should contact Lauren at [lauren.clauson@spps.org](mailto:lauren.clauson@spps.org).

### UPDATE: Race and Equity with Families and Community at OWL

We had another great evening of conversation and reflection on Thurs., November 2nd! We'd like to share some of the resources we have used with the OWL community. After watching a segment of "Cracking the Code" in our first meeting in September, we distributed the article, "Detour-Spotting for White Anti-Racists" by Joan Olsson, <http://www.culturalbridgestojustice.org/resources/written/detour>

In our November meeting we discussed the Olsson article after an exercise identifying and discussing our "Big 8" social identifiers. That evening, we left with another hand-out for reflection, <https://nationalseedproject.org/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack> by Peggy McIntosh. We are looking forward to our next meeting on Jan. 11 when we will discuss the article by McIntosh and delve back into issues of Race and Equity at OWL. Questions? Contact Michelle Bierman at OWL. Join us in January!

## OWL Seniors take to the streets for the College March



On Friday, Dec. 8, OWL Seniors participated in a national EL Education ritual as they marched to mail their applications to colleges across the country. The marking of this important milestone began with a celebratory and moving kick-off assembly at school. Then our 46 seniors and their parents walked from OWL to the Wellstone Center, while being cheered on by fellow students, teachers, and by enthusiastic students from Riverview Elementary. At the Wellstone Center, students were met by a postal carrier who accepted their letters and applications.

Because most college applications are submitted online, the event is a symbolic way for the students to mark this next step toward their academic future. Students reflect on their academic journey, and often mail thank you notes to the people who have helped them get to this point in their lives.

"For the past eight years, OWL has had 100 percent college acceptance for our graduating seniors. This event celebrates our seniors' accomplishments and helps bolster them for the work ahead – meeting requirements for graduation and completing their senior portfolios and projects," said Tim Leone-Getten. "It also gives a visual example that inspires our younger students to follow in their footsteps." More than 2,700 seniors from E.L. schools in 12 cities will participate in the College March. The annual ritual promotes the ideal of college for all and fosters college-going culture in participating schools.



## Scenes from the College March:

Special thanks to photographers, Abby Davis & Sawyer Neske, for capturing the event! Many more photos are posted on the OWL Facebook page.



## Family Involvement News:

Many thanks to all of the families who attended our **Asian Culture Family Night!** OWL students planned a wonderful event that featured dancing, singing, and Upward Bound program staff discussing their program and their personal experiences as first generation college students. Dave called all seniors to the stage to express how proud we are of them and share his wishes for their success beyond high school. Families shared foods from the many Asian cultures at OWL. Students organized OWL's first-ever spicy noodle challenge, which attracted a large crowd to watch students race the clock in a contest to finish a bowl of noodles drenched with hot sauce. It was a great night!



Our next big all school family event will be **National African American Family Involvement Day** in February. We welcome your ideas. If you would like to meet to plan for the event, or share your ideas, contact Mary in the Family Room at 651-744-2950.

## Get involved in the OWL Community Group

OWL Community Group is coming together as the best of both the Site Council and PTO. OWL parents and students involved have shown initiative in many ways since the merger of those two organizations. From creation of working committees, to organizing the successful Give to the Max campaign, to collaborating with other schools to host the movie "Screenagers" at OWL, our families are making a difference in significant ways for our community. ALL OWL families are encouraged to attend our bi-monthly meetings, which alternate between committee work and general school informational meetings. A light supper is provided at each meeting. Meetings start at 6 pm with dinner served at 5:30 pm. Contact Dave Gundale or Mary Sellers to learn how to get involved.



Above and left: Asian Culture Family Night

## Donation items needed:

Our school social worker is in need of many empty 8-12 oz. plastic bottles with screw on caps to make calming glitter bottles and fidgets with various groups of students. Also needed is superglue, clear glue, regular white glue, and unscented liquid laundry detergent. Questions? Contact [michelle.romano@spps.org](mailto:michelle.romano@spps.org).

Math teacher Tom is in need of pencils with erasers, Ticonderoga preferred. If you are able to donate some, please have your student drop them off in his classroom. Questions? Contact [tom.totushek@spps.org](mailto:tom.totushek@spps.org).



## Follow OWL on Facebook/Twitter

For up-to-the-minute information about what's happening at OWL,

"Like" **Open World Learning Community Group** on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @StPaulOpen



The OWL newsletter is published semi-monthly. If you have an idea of something you'd like to see in the newsletter, contact [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org).