



## The Open Monthly: February 2018

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

### OWL Upcoming Events

#### Committee Meetings

- o *There is no regular OWL Community Group meeting in February, but we encourage all OWL families join us at our **National African American Parent Involvement Day** events, detailed below. The next OWL Community Group meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 13 at 6 PM** in the cafeteria. Contact co-chairs Rebecca (rebeccabs@mac.com), or Sawyer (sneske002@gmail.com) for more information.*

#### REMEMBER: PTO's Potluck for Teachers is Feb. 8th



Help feed our staff a potluck dinner during conferences! **Sign up here:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/FebOWLpotluck>  
 Questions? Contact Rebecca at rebeccabs@mac.com.

#### National African American Parent Involvement Day!

All OWL Families are invited to spend **Monday, February 12** at school to experience your child's school day in honor of National African American Parent Involvement Day. Come when you can, and stay as long as you like! School lunch is available to all who come.

Please come to our annual **evening NAAPID event at 6PM**, with speakers, student performances, and a shared meal. Any potluck food donations are welcome, as are your ideas of ways to make this event meaningful. **Contact Mary Sellers at 651-744-2950 if you would like to help in any way with this event.**



### February Calendar

**Wed., Feb. 7:** Student-led conferences, by appointment with your Crew leader, 2-6 PM

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

**\*\* Contact Cheryl in the office ASAP if you need transportation to conferences, or help scheduling your conference.**

**Thurs., Feb. 8:** Potluck for teachers. See signup link at left for details.

**Mon., Feb. 12:** National African American Parent Involvement Day. See article at left for more information.

**Mon., Feb. 19:** President's Day, no school for students or staff

**Wed., Feb. 21:** History Day showcase, 5:30 to 8:00 PM at OWL (students can set up at 5:00 PM)

**Tues., Feb 27:** ACT Test for OWL Juniors, during school. Don't be late!!

**Wed., Feb. 28:** PSEO Information night, 6:00 PM. More information on page 2



OWL High School students pack the dance floor for a group dance at Snow Ball '18!

## OWL Upcoming Events continued...

### OWL History Day Exhibition: Wednesday, Feb. 22nd

Learn about important historical events through the eyes of our students at the OWL History Day Exhibition on Wednesday, Feb. 21.



•5:30-6PM: Exhibition open for viewing

•6-8PM: Exhibition closes for judging;  
**Students are expected to stay for their judging time.**

**\*\*Food will be available for purchase during the event.**

The event will showcase projects created by 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, US History students, and students doing independent projects around this year's National History Day theme, **Conflict and Compromise 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.**

The day after the exhibition, OWL staff will post a list of projects that will advance to Regional History Day, to be held at Johnson High School on Saturday, March 17th. Those projects will be revised and improved by the student or group for the next level of competition.

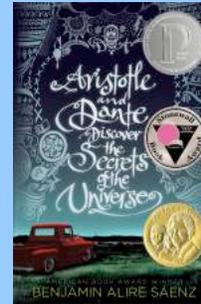


### Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Night

On Wednesday, February 28 at 6:00 PM, OWL will host a PSEO meeting for all OWL families of students who will be in grades 10-12 next year and are interested in learning about opportunities to attend college classes while in high school. Students can take a limited number of classes beginning in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. More options are available in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades at local colleges and universities and at OWL through the College in the Schools program. The application process begins this spring for classes that begin next fall. Counselor Jolene Yang and OWL College and Career Center's Amy Samelian will provide information on options and eligibility requirements for this opportunity.

## LIBRARY NEWS:

OWL is honored to host author Benjamin Alire Sáenz for a Read Brave event on Thursday, March 1, at 7:40 a.m. Our high



school students were offered a personal copy of the author's young adult novel, **Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe**, to read before the event. Sáenz will discuss his novel and his writing

process, and students will have the opportunity to get their books signed. Parents and community members are invited to join us! To learn more about the book, Caryl put together this great info: <http://libguides.spps.org/c.php?g=771324&p=5532879>

Read Brave is Saint Paul Public Library's annual, citywide program encouraging youth and adults to read and come together around a young adult novel. The program encourages intergenerational dialog about thought-provoking, contemporary issues facing teens and culminates with a visit by the author. OWL is fortunate to be a Read Brave host site and partner! For more information, visit the Read Brave website: <http://sppl.org/readbrave>

### Read | Share | Choose:

#### Student Choice Reading Program

SPPS Middle School Libraries were awarded a LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant. Eight SPPS middle schools are participating, including OWL! Our school will receive \$6,125 to buy new books for our library. The catch? Our librarian Caryl cannot spend a penny of that money without the help of students!

Students will learn how to write reviews for books in our Destiny library catalog ([mylibrary.spps.org](http://mylibrary.spps.org)). For every review a student writes, they can pick out a new book for our school library and will be the first one to check it out. There's more! After 50 reviews are written, our library will receive an additional \$700 to buy Makerspace items. We're looking forward to reading, sharing, and choosing great books this semester!

## OWL Community News

### 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, unusual 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 (enclosed in your student's grade report) and send it to school with payment **by Feb. 26** to Tim Leone-Getten. Orders arrive at OWL in early May.

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

### OWL Program Grants Enhance the Student Experience

Every year grant requests are considered by the OWL Community Group to fund projects from teachers, program leaders and students that focus on creating learning opportunities for students that the school cannot fund though the regular budget. These projects and programs enhance curriculum and provide our students with a well-rounded education. This year we were able to fund seven requests from teachers and students. All requests are reviewed based on the number of students they will serve. Grants awarded this fall include:

- Doua Ci Lor, a senior student, requested materials to create a **mural in the Fraquetball hallway**
- Alex Ferderer, our music teacher, was granted funds for **choir folders**. Anyone who attended the amazing concert in January knows our choirs will make good use of these!
- Caryl Mousseaux, OWL librarian, requested a grant to fund an **author visit** at OWL. This was highly successful last year and we can't wait to hear about this year's visit.
- Tim Leone Getten, Spanish teacher, will use grant money for students to **cook and enjoy foods common to various Spanish-speaking countries**.
- OWL counselor Jolene Yang, requested funds to create an **environment designed for group meetings** and providing a **conductive learning space** for students visiting her office.
- Leo Bickelhaupt, English teacher, received funds for the **publication of two student book projects**: the 8th grade River Book, & Survival Journal, filled with stories, poems and essays.
- Science teacher Megan Hall received funds to continue work to **create a Phenology Calendar** filled with artwork students create reflecting the theme of the calendar.

### NEWS BRIEFS:

#### Get your OWL application in on time!

February 23 is the deadline to apply for enrollment in all Saint Paul schools for next year. **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 [apply.spps.org](http://apply.spps.org)



#### Students Explore the Biology of Race

All OWL Biology students visited the Science Museum of Minnesota last week to explore the exhibit, "Race: Are We So Different?" Students are working hard to deconstruct the concept of biological race through identification of discrete and continuous traits through our OWL **Ancestors and Heirloom** expedition. They will also study the use of DNA technology to trace ancestry, heirloom potatoes from ancient Incan culture, and the impact of genetically engineered corn on Mexican landrace corn varieties.

**All OWL juniors will take the ACT test** at school on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 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. Contact Mary Sellers in the Family Room if you need any information about OWL testing at 651-744-2950.

The **ACCESS** test for English Learners will be assessed over the next several weeks. This assessment is used to determine services and accommodations needed by our EL students.

## COUNSELING NEWS:

### **JOBS, CAREERS, SCHOLARSHIPS!!!**

OWL Career Center staff Amy Samelian has information about good paying job opportunities, programs for career exploration, and summer enrichment programs in our community. She is also a great resource for help with the FAFSA and College Applications. Students can stop by the College and Career Center for more information and parents can **call Amy to learn more at 651-744-3149**. Below are just a few of the many opportunities coming up.

**Right Track** is a partnership between the City of St. Paul, St. Paul Public Schools and community partners to build Saint Paul's workforce by providing career-readiness opportunities and work experience for under-resourced Saint Paul youth. Right Track offers provides summer employment for Saint Paul youth ages 14 to 21 who are from a low-income family or have a barrier to employment. **Applications open Feb. 1 and close Feb. 28, 2018**. Last summer, Right Track provided over 600 Saint Paul youth with summer jobs and internships. Learn more at: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/right-track>

**Scrubs Camp** is a day and overnight camp for middle and high school students designed to inspire interest in healthcare careers. For more information: <http://www.healthforceminnesota.org/students/scrubscamp.html>

**The Minnesota Office of Higher Education** provides stipends on a first-come, first-serve basis, to cover all or a portion of the direct cost for low-income students in grades 3-11 for summer academic enrichment programs in summer 2018. <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/saePrograms.cfm>

**Camps at St. Paul College:** From philosophy to cooking, there are many great and affordable summer camp options to explore. <https://www.saintpaul.edu/wtce/highschoolcamps>



*Lots of fun at the middle school dance!*



*Eighth grader Adán Galván talks about his most memorable experience at Strive Forward at the banquet*

### **Strive Forward: A Year of Adventure**

In February, OWL students in the **Outward Bound Strive Forward** program celebrated their graduation from the middle school program with a banquet they organized for family, friends & teachers. *Strive Forward* helps students develop leadership skills, confidence and determination through outdoor adventure.

During their year in the program, students have gone snowshoeing, completed a high ropes course, paddled through Minneapolis on Lake Calhoun, and rock climbed the bluffs of Taylors Falls. They have also navigated their way through St. Paul on buses, the light rail, and their own two feet in search of clues throughout the city, and learned to use a map and compass to find geocaches at Lake Elmo Regional Park. To test their backcountry skills, they spent a week camping and canoeing the St. Croix River, and 5 days backpacking on the Superior Hiking Trail.

Through all of these experiences, the students have deepened leadership skills and learned more about themselves through challenge. Their adventures will continue in 2018. Congratulations!



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).