



## The Open Monthly: November 2017

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

### OWL Upcoming Events

#### Committee Meetings

- o The November **OWL Community Group** meeting will take place on **Tues. Nov. 14, from 6:30-8 PM** in the school cafeteria. Parents & students welcome!

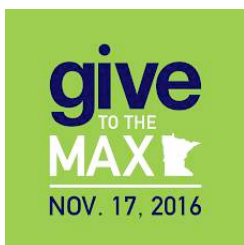
#### It's time to move: Fall Dance is Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Our first dance of the school year will take place on Fri, Nov. 3. Dress up or dress down; it's up to you! Just come on out and dance with your friends to our great playlist under the twinkling lights in the cafeteria!

- Middle School dance: 5:30-7:30 PM
- High School dance: 7:30-9:30 PM

Advance tickets are \$2 and will be on sale during all lunch hours the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Refreshments will be available for purchase at the dance.

#### SUPPORT OWL: Give to the Max Day is Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>



Support OWL on Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, Give to the Max Day, a massive 24-hour push for online giving to non-profits. Funds raised for OWL PTO support creative, hands-on opportunities like Fall Retreats and Spring Interim – transformative experiential learning that today's school budgets do not cover.

**Our goal is BIG: \$20,000!** Meaningful fieldwork experiences are vital to EL Education, but they are not cheap. Please help us reach our ambitious goal to guarantee that our fieldwork experiences stay robust, and that EVERY OWL student can participate. Your tax-deductible donation will help us reach our goal!

**WE HAVE A \$5000 MATCH:** A group of anonymous donors have generously created a matching grant so all online donations up to \$5000 will be doubled.

#### Schedule your donation NOW!

Donate online on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> or **schedule a donation TODAY that will be credited to OWL on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Donate at <https://givemn.org/organization/Open-World-Learning-Community-Pto> or use the GiveMN link on our website.



### November Calendar

#### Spirit Week: Oct. 30- Nov.3

- **Monday:** Dress like your favorite meme
- **Tuesday:** Costume Day – *nothing violent; no masks or weapons.*
- **Wednesday:** Twin day or dress like a favorite teacher day
- **Thursday:** Throw Back Thursday -- *dress like you did 5 years ago*
- **Friday:** Crazy hair or hat day

**Thurs., Nov. 2:** OWL Race & Equity family group meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM, kitchen classroom. **All are welcome and encouraged to come!**

#### Fri., Nov. 3: Fall Dance

- Grades 6-8 from 5:30-7:30 PM
  - Grades 9-12 from 7:30-9:30 PM
- More info in the article at left.*

**Thurs., Nov. 9:** High School Information Night for current OWL 8<sup>th</sup> grade families, **6 PM**, auditorium. *Get a preview of what high school at OWL will look like for your students.*

## OWL Upcoming Events continued...

### Dining Out for OWL: Mon., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> TWO LOCATIONS!

Feed your family and support OWL at the same time! On **Mon., Nov. 27, from 4-8 PM, OWL PTO will receive 20% of sales at TWO Davanni's locations, convenient for more OWL families:**

- 310 White Bear Ave. (at 94) and
- 41 Cleveland Ave. (at Grand Ave.)



Just bring a flyer (enclosed), and be sure to turn it in when you order. Please thank them for supporting Open World Learning Community! Flyers will also be available on the OWL website. Spread the word! **Note: this event takes place the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday. Put it on your calendar!**

## OWL Community News

### Apply for an OWL Community Program Grant: Deadline is November 10



All Teachers, coaches, advisers, parents/guardians of OWL students are encouraged to apply for grants that will enrich the experience of students in class and in school activities. **Grants of up to \$500** each have been funded in the past to provide cultural experiences in classrooms, equipment and materials

that enhance learning, fees for guests/presenters, the printing costs of final projects (River Book), and many other cool things. Funds can be used to support activities that take place during school hours, after school, or on weekends and should be for things that would not be funded by the regular school budget. Funds can be sought for projects in the arts, reading, math, sciences, language, school culture/climate, environment or nature, music, theater, sports – anything that would enhance the OWL student experience. **Full guidelines** can be found on the OWL website: <https://www.spps.org/Page/15579>

Please submit your application online at:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/rZ4zo2VhribQB1wv2>

Questions, contact Brenda Hilbrich ([bhilbrich@gmail.com](mailto:bhilbrich@gmail.com)). The **deadline is November 10**; applications will be reviewed at the Nov. 14 OWL Community Group meeting.

## November Calendar continued...

**Tues. Nov. 14:** Parent Seminar; *The Digital Divide*, 5:30 dinner, 6-8 PM seminar. More information on page 4.

**Tues., Nov. 14:** OWL Community Group meeting, 6:30-8 PM in the cafeteria

**Thurs., Nov. 16:** Picture retake day

**Thurs., Nov. 16: Give to the Max Day!!!**  
Donate online to support OWL today!

**Thurs., Nov. 16:** Open House for Prospective Families; 6:30-8 PM, auditorium

**Thurs. Nov. 16:** Showcase for Prospective Families, 6:30 -8 PM, Tell your friends!

**Fri., Nov. 18:** No school; staff development



**Thurs. & Friday Nov. 23-24:**

Thanksgiving Holiday, no school for students and staff

**Mon. Nov. 27:** Dining out for OWL at TWO Davanni's locations, 4-8 PM. Details at right.

**Thurs. Nov. 30:** OWL Asian Culture night, 6 PM.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Fri., Dec. 8:** College March!, 9:00 AM in the auditorium. Come and support our seniors during the important milestone of sending off college applications.

### OWL News Briefs

#### FREE ACT Review Course



SPPS is once again offering FREE Princeton Review ACT Test Prep courses on Saturdays for all Juniors. Students can choose the length of their course – from 3 hours to 18 hours. Students who take the longest courses have the largest gains in their test scores. In addition, all students can take a FREE, official ACT Plus Writing test at their school the morning of February 27, 2018.

Registration opens in early Nov. and all information can be found at:

[www.spps.org/ACT](http://www.spps.org/ACT)

**Questions?** Contact Jolene Yang, [jolene.yang@spps.org](mailto:jolene.yang@spps.org) or contact Mary Sellers, [mary.sellers@spps.org](mailto:mary.sellers@spps.org).

## Show your OWL School Spirit!



OWL Spirit Wear is available to order now through November 23. In addition to long and short sleeve t-shirts sweatshirts, we have flannel lounge pants, and Nalgene® water bottles. Just in time for winter, we're also selling knit hats in two OWL designs!

**To order, use the attached order form and turn it in in the OWL office with payment (in an envelope, please). Orders will be delivered to your student during crew the week of December 12.**

## Family Involvement/Counseling News

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Eligibility criteria:** 10<sup>th</sup> graders' admission for PSEO is based on passing scores on students' 8<sup>th</sup> grade MCA reading tests. 11<sup>th</sup> graders must be in top 33 % of graduation class, seniors must be in top 50%. Depending on which college applied to, PSEO candidates must 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 17** in order to allow time to gather information she needs to prepare for submission. Talk to Jolene soon for more information.

### Scholarship News



Optimist International

Congratulations to OWL seniors Nefsa Ambo, Simon Dungan-Seaver, and Houdraa Lee, who were awarded Optimist Awards from the St. Paul Optimist Club. The awards include a \$2,000 college scholarship to be used at the college of their choice. The students will be honored at a banquet on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Fall Family Gathering – Thanks!

Thank you to all who attended and/or volunteered at our Fall Family Gathering on Oct. 5th! It was a great night of community building with students, families and staff on lovely Harriet Island.

The Outward Bound Service Auction/ craft sale was a huge success, raising \$2400 toward the Outward Bound Service Adventure next spring.

*Big thanks to Renee Horsman for capturing our community on film! Photos below and on our Facebook page.*



## November Parent Seminar

Join us for OWL's next Parent Seminar on Parenting in the Digital Age on Tuesday, November 14. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, the seminar will take place from 6-8 pm. Contact Mary Sellers in the Family Room to register at 651-744-2950 or RSVP by email at [mary.sellers@spps.org](mailto:mary.sellers@spps.org).

## Asian Culture Night is coming up

Mark your calendar for OWL's annual Asian Culture Night on Thursday, November 30 at 6 pm. *Please note date change.* We welcome your ideas for this annual event, which includes dinner, student performances, activities, and more. Contact Mary Sellers, 651-744-2950 or Jolene Yang, 651-744-1430 if you would like to help plan this event.

# construct tomorrow

## Learn more about the Building Trades

Interested in finding out more about the highly-skilled and well-paying construction and building trades? **Construct Tomorrow** is a field trip on Nov. 8 to meet with Union Apprentices, Union Trainers and Union Apprenticeship Coordinators and give students the chance to experience some hands-on activities related to these trades. For more information, contact Amy at [amy.samelian@spps.org](mailto:amy.samelian@spps.org).



**Flashback:** The ribbon-cutting ceremony at our new school building took place in September 2014. It's hard to believe this is our 4<sup>th</sup> year in this great location!



## Support OWL with a coffee purchase!

Once again, the OWL PTO will be selling Velasquez Family Coffee as a fundraiser for the school. The Velasquez family lives in St. Paul and sells high quality coffee grown by their family and friends in the shade of the Comayagua cloud-forest mountains of Honduras. With each purchase of a \$12 bag of coffee, \$4.00 is donated to OWL. You can sign up for a monthly subscription delivered free to your home at [www.vfamilycoffee.com](http://www.vfamilycoffee.com). **Or, look for a paper order form coming home with report cards in November.** Coffee will be delivered to your child at school in Dec., before the holiday break.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

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