



The Open Monthly: April 2018

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

OWL Upcoming Events

Committee Meetings

- o The April OWL Community Group meeting is **Tues., April 10, 5:30 PM** in the cafeteria. In addition to committee reports, we will have a discussion of equity at OWL and we will give input for the Family Engagement plan, the Partnership Agreement and the School Continuous Improvement Plan. A light dinner is served at all meetings. For more information, contact Rebecca, rebeccabs@mac.com or Sawyer sneske002@gmail.com. **All parents, students and staff are welcome!**
- o Note: Our **meeting minutes** are published on OWL Community Group Facebook page and on the school website in the Families tab, under PTO, meeting minutes.
- o There will be a special OWL Community Group meeting on **Tues., April 24 at 6:00 PM**. Dave will discuss next year's school budget and how it will impact the school.

Enchanted Garden Prom: Saturday, April 21

Prom will be held on Saturday, April 21 at the Sokol Hall at West 7th St. & Western Ave. The



theme is Enchanted Garden, where students can move and groove in a woodsy wonderland. As always, students can dress in their finest, favorite, or most comfortable outfit – it's their choice. Middle School Prom (6th through 8th grades) is from 5:30-7:30 PM. High School Prom (9th-12th graders) and pre-

approved guests is from 7:30-10 PM. Tickets (on sale during lunch) cost \$15 or \$20 at the door. The price includes beverages, snacks and desserts. Students who want to bring a guest from outside the OWL community need to submit a guest approval form to the OWL office by Friday, April 13th. Please see Cheryl in the office to get the form.

State Champion!

Emily Yang takes first place in the NASP State Archery Tournament!



Congrats to 11th grader Emily Yang (above with coaches Tom Totushek & Mark Scioli), who took **1st Place overall at the NASP Minnesota State Archery tournament!** Emily shot a career best of 293 (out of 300), beating nearly 700 high school archers to win the title. Emily is the first athletic state champion in OWL's history. She will compete in the NASP National Archery Tournament in Kentucky in May. Look at the OWL website to see an article about Emily from the Pioneer Press!

April Calendar

Mon., April 9: Classes resume today

Tues., April 10: Middle School author visit with Abby Cooper

Tues., April 10: OWL Community Group meeting, 5:30 PM, cafeteria

Wed., April 18: Deep Portage Information meeting for parents, 5:30 PM

Don't Miss Our Spring One Act Plays

The OWL Spring One Acts are coming to a theater near you! Join us for an evening of short plays with comedy, drama, and suspense – something for everyone!

Cut!

by Ed Monk, directed by Kendall Koll

A group of actors rehearse a play within a play within a play. As the plot complications multiply, hilarity ensues!

COLORED

by Winter Miller, directed by Eponine Diatta

In a world where race is represented by primary colors, interactions between passengers on a subway ride escalate dangerously in this fast-paced drama.

american kids

by Emily Kaczmarek, directed by Rebekah Rentzel

On the 4th of July, two teenage school shooting survivors anxiously wait for fireworks to start.

Performances will take place on **Wed., Thurs., and Fri., April 25, 26, and 27** at 7PM in the Auditorium. Tickets, \$4 for students & \$6 for adults, can be purchased at the door. We hope you'll join us!



Save the Date!

OWL Celebration of Learning, Community Dinner & Raffle-O-Rama are Friday, June 1st

Mark your calendar for the OWL Spring Celebration of Learning, Dinner and Raffle-O-Rama event on Fri., June 1. It's a time for our community to celebrate student work and enjoy a community dinner – including delicious chicken tinga prepared by our principal, Dave! Then try your luck during our Raffle-O-Rama event. As in years past, we'll have \$2 raffles for the famous Crew baskets, a silent auction, Mystery Envelope, plinko, photo booth, Izzy's ice cream and more!

Back by popular demand, you can sign up to attend an **OWL Gathering** — an event, class, party or outing hosted by an OWL family or staff member that brings our community together to socialize and raise money for OWL. The gatherings can be for students, adults or families. Hosts provide the organization, supplies and funding for the event. During Raffle-o-Rama, sign up to participate in OWL Gatherings that interest you, and pay a fee to be part of that event. The amount raised from each gathering becomes a donation to the school.

April Calendar continued...

Wed., April 18: Outward Bound Information meeting for parents, 6:00 PM

Sat., April 21: Enchanted Forest Prom, Sokol Hall, 5:30-7:30 for 6th - 8th grades, 7:30 -10 PM for High School.

Weds., Thurs., & Fri., April 25, 26, 27: Spring 1-Act Plays, 7 PM, auditorium

Sat., April 28: State History Day, all day, at the University of Minnesota

Looking Ahead:

Wed., May 2: Algebra Fieldwork: Senate presentations at the Capitol

Thurs., May 3: Biology fieldwork: Planting at Indian Mounds park

Tues., May 8: Spring Choir concert

2018 OWL Graduation



Our Graduation ceremony will take place on **Tues., June 5, at 7:00 PM** in the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University. The address is 2004

Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. **All are welcome!**

The Graduation Rehearsal for seniors will be held from 9-11 on the morning of graduation at St. Kate's. **Seniors: Please bring your graduation gown so we can take some group pictures after the rehearsal!** Stay tuned for more information.

OWL families: If you haven't attended an OWL graduation ceremony, make this your year. It is a touching, personal event that is unlike any graduation ceremony you've ever attended!

We Need Baskets!

It's time to clean out your attic or basement; the OWL Community Group is looking for large baskets for the upcoming Raffle-O-Rama and Silent Auction. If you have baskets to donate, please drop them off in the school office. Thank you!

Raffle-O-Rama continued...

If you'd like to host an OWL Gathering, the ideas are endless: organize an Ultimate Frisbee or kickball game with snacks; bike rides; grill outs; yoga and wine, group cooking, etc. Use your imagination! Please plan your gathering to take place between June 2nd and October 31st, 2018. If you are interested in hosting an OWL Gathering, please contact Ginger Carroll at gingersnapcarroll@gmail.com or Jen Deutsch at ahappyfamilyof3@msn.com. Use the link to sign up to host a gathering. The deadline to sign up to host is May 18. Sign up to host at: <http://bit.ly/OWLGatherings>

Donations Needed! We're looking for donations for our silent auction – specifically tickets to sporting events: Twins, Vikings, Lynx, MN United, Saints, Wild, any U of M team, etc. If you have season tickets (or know someone who does) consider a tax-deductible donation to benefit OWL! Contact Jen at lodahl.stp@gmail.com for more information.

Interim is coming!

Each spring, OWL students participate in experiential courses called Interim that give them the opportunity to focus on a compelling topic or experience of the student's choice, that and takes them out into our community and beyond. During crew, students signed up for their top three interim choices from things like School of Rock, Dog Psychology, Game Theory, Musical Theater, Ceramics, Stop Motion filmmaking, Little Free Libraries/Bookmaking and much more. *In addition, 6th and 7th graders will spend interim at Deep Portage ELC, and some high school students will spend the week on an Outward Bound trip.*

Interim is May 21-25. **Non-overnight courses cost \$20** – to be collected later this month. **Scholarships are available.** Support the scholarship fund by adding \$5 to your payment. Thanks to our PTO for financial support for Interim!

Counselor's Corner & Family Involvement News

Join us for our **April OWL Community Group Meeting** on **Tues., April 10** at our new meeting time, 5:30 PM. We'll kick off our shared learning time with dinner and conversation on the topic of equity and how we think about equity in all of our OWL community groups and committees. You will also have an opportunity to sign up for a summer book group, if interested. This month's meeting also includes the opportunity to give input on the Family Engagement Plan, Partnership Agreement, and SCIP. If you can't attend but have ideas to improve family engagement at OWL, contact Mary Sellers in the Family Room at 651-744-2950.

Solidarity Against Gun Violence



On March 14, OWL students participated in a student-organized 17-minute silent walk out in solidarity with the students from Parkland, FL and to call attention to gun violence in schools. They also organized for OWL families to walk together as a group on March 24 to join the March for our Lives protest and rally at the State Capitol. Thanks to our students for organizing these events.



Donut Declaration Day



OWL seniors, May 1st is Donut Declaration Day. Students who come prepared to declare their college or post secondary plan, will earn a sweet incentive in the form of a delicious donut provided by principal Dave Gundale.

Counselor's Corner continued...

MCA Testing: OWL will administer the MCA tests on iPads and in the computer lab beginning on April 16. Please ensure that your child charges their iPad each night, comes to school on time, rested, and has breakfast. The results of these tests are used to assess our school program quality for Minnesota Department of Education reports. If you choose to opt your child out of testing, Saint Paul Public Schools requires that you send a note to principal Dave Gundale and copy testing coordinator Mary Sellers.

NOTE: 10th grade eligibility for PSEO classes is determined by having passed the 8th grade MCA Reading test.

Testing schedule corrected dates:

April 16-17: MCA Math-grades 6-8, and 11
April 18-19: MCA Reading-grades 6-8, and 10
May 1 and 2: MCA High School Biology
May 7 and 8: MCA Science grade 8

PSEO Deadlines: ALL PSEO applications with a deadline in June or July are due to Jolene by May 15, no exceptions. To learn more about PSEO, contact counselor Jolene Yang at jolene.yang@spps.org or 744-1430 or Amy Samelian at amy.samelian@spps.org or 744-3149.

Advanced Placement (AP) Testing

will take place in May for students enrolled in AP classes. There are no make-up testing sessions for these tests. Study hard, get a good night sleep and do your best! Contact AP Coordinator Rebecca Palmer if you need more information.

Tues., May 8: AP Spanish Literature and Culture exam

Mon., May 14: AP Biology exam

Wed., May 16: AP English Language and Literature exam

Thurs., May 17: AP Statistics exam



Open Education Abroad just returned from a fantastic trip to Spain and Italy – shown above in front of the Vatican. Plans are getting underway for the 2020 trip. See the sidebar on this page for more information.

News Briefs

Open Education Abroad is excited to announce that our 2020 Spring Break trip will be to Costa Rica and Nicaragua! There will be a meeting in Tom's room on **April 18th at 7:00pm** and an RSVP link will be in the weekly updates. This trip will feature all the favorites from the 2016 trip including whitewater rafting, zip lining through the canopy, and snorkeling with an added trip to Granada on the shores of Lake Managua. For more information, email tom.totushek@spps.org.

History Day Update

OWL students presented their projects at **Regional History Day** at Johnson High School on March 17th. Congratulations to all of our students on your hard work and perseverance to create your best project. No matter the result, the knowledge you gained has enhanced your growth as a student and educated all who saw your project. You all made us proud! At the event, seven OWL projects earned honorable mentions, and 20 projects qualified for State History Day on April 28th at the U of M. Full results are here: <https://tinyurl.com/OWL-Reg-HD>

Spelling Bee News

On March 27, OWL 6th grade student **Violet Wright** and 46 spellers from the metro area competed in the Metro ECSU Regional Spelling Bee, a qualifier for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. Each of the 4th-8th grade participants had previously won their school-wide spelling bee and passed an online qualifying exam before competing at Saint Catherine University in St. Paul. Violet made it successfully through several rounds, ending tied for 9th place. Congratulations, Violet!



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