

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

In an effort to increase communication with our students and families, we send a weekly email to all families on Sunday evenings or Monday mornings highlighting upcoming school events. This information will also be shared with students in Crew on Mondays. Events are listed in chronological order.

After School Activities Fair – Monday, September 14 @ 8:50

AM: We will be holding our first ever activities fair so students can learn about the many after school activities offered at OWL/Humboldt. Registration is going to be held over the next two weeks. A list of courses offered and registration forms will be sent home with students on Tuesday.

Our after school programming begins **Monday, October 12** and runs Monday – Thursday from 2 – 4 PM. A free snack is served to all students. Middle school students receive busing home and high school students receive Metro Transit tokens.

Middle School Athletics Begin Monday, September 14:

Students in grades 6-8 joining Girls' Volleyball, Boys' and Girls' Soccer and Boys' and Girls' Flag Football should meet in the cafeteria at the end of the day on Monday. Be sure to have forms and fees. OWL Staff will walk students over to meet their coaches the first day. Pick up is at 4:15 PM from the OWL entryway.

Ultimate Frisbee Begins Monday, September 14 from 2:15 –

4:15 PM @ Harriet Island: Fall Ultimate Frisbee practice will begin this week and will be held on Monday and Wednesday until it is too cold. In the winter, the team will practice on Fridays in the OWL gym. There is no charge for fall Ultimate. It is a great chance for students considering joining the team for the formal spring season to come try it out alongside our veteran players and

excellent coaches. Pick up your child at the Harriet Island EAST ENTRANCE (Turn east off Wabasha St. onto Water St., then left around the new apartment building, under the Wabasha Bridge. Follow the road to the parking lot at the end—right near the Showboat Theater) at 4:15 PM.

Fall Play Auditions this week: On December 9th, 10th and 11th, Open Theater will present *Anon(ymous)* by Naomi Iizuka. Separated from his mother, a young refugee named Anon journeys through the United States, encountering a wide variety of people -- some kind, some dangerous and cruel -- as he searches for his family. From a sinister one-eyed butcher to beguiling barflies to a sweatshop, Anon must navigate through a chaotic, ever-changing landscape in this reimagining of Homer's *Odyssey*.

Auditions will be Tuesday Sept 15th, Wednesday Sept 16th, with callbacks on the 17th. 2:15-4:00pm in the Auditorium.

Audition workshop will be held Monday Sept 14th – if you've never auditioned before, or would like to brush up your skills, come join us 2:15-4:00pm in the Auditorium.

Play rehearsals begin Monday, September 21 from 2:15 – 4 PM.

Note: Starting **Monday, October 12**, there will be busing home for Middle School students and Metro Transit Bus Tokens available for High School students working on the play.

Site Council Meeting—Tuesday, September 15 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM: The first meeting of the 2015-16 OWL Site Council will be held in the cafeteria. We will provide a recap of the start of school, an update on enrollment, staffing and budget. This

meeting will serve as our annual Title 1 Meeting, we will review our SCIP (School Continuous Improvement Plan). We will also provide an overview of the year and join the various Site Council sub-committees. All are welcome to come learn more about our school community, as well as provide valuable feedback and guidance on the future direction of OWL.

PTO Meeting—Tuesday, September 15 from 7 – 8:30 PM.

Please join us for the first PTO meeting of the year as we plan for a year of building community at OWL and raising funds needed to support the programs and teachers at our school. All parents, guardians, and staff are welcome--see you Tuesday!

Meeting for Grades 6, 7 and all NEW Families—Thursday, September 24 at 6 PM: Right before the Open House, we are inviting all new families and 7th grade families to meet in the OWL Auditorium for an overview of the year and answer any questions you may have.

Open House/Back to School Night—Thursday, September 24 at 7 PM: Come meet your child's teachers and hear about all the great things happening in our classes this year. Try to arrive promptly, as we will be running through your student's schedule starting at 7 PM.

Note: At the Open House, Outward Bound students will be selling pizza, beverages, and snacks to raise money for this spring's service adventure. Bring your appetites and a bit of cash!

Fall Retreats—Tuesday, September 29- Friday, October 2: Don't forget to get permission slips, health forms and fees turned in this week for our big week of adventure coming up.

"SAVE THE DATE! The OWL Fall Family Gathering will be Thursday, October 8, 5:30-8 pm, at the Harriet Island

Pavilion. Come together with the OWL community for food, fun and friendship in a beautiful location on the Mississippi River across from downtown Saint Paul. Look for more information in the October newsletter and future emails.

iPad Handout is set for October 8 and 9: Students will be receiving their SPPS iPads. If you have not completed the required paperwork, you can take care of it at the September 24th Open House.

School Picture Day is Friday, October 9: Information on purchasing pictures from Lifetouch will be coming home soon. Whether you are buying pictures or not, all students will have their picture taken for Student ID and Yearbook purposes.

After School Programming Begins: Monday, October 12.

Site Council EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING 101-- Tuesday, October 13 from 5:30 – 7 PM: Come learn more about our social and emotional education program (Crew), how your student's work is assessed (Standards-Based Grading), and how to check on your student's progress (Parent Portal and Teacher Websites).

PTO Meeting—Tuesday, October 13 from 7 – 8:30 PM.

NO SCHOOL—Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16: State Teacher Convention.

Upcoming College Events:

PSAT: Grade 11 will take the Preliminary SAT on Wednesday, October 14 at school.

Visits from College Representatives: Each year a number of representatives from colleges visit OWL to share

information about their programs with our students. Here are the first ones we have scheduled:

Marlboro College (Vermont) October 2

Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN) October 7

The Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA) October 19

National College Fair: Students in grades 11-12 will attend this event with booths from hundreds of colleges at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Wednesday, October 21 during the school day. There are also evening hours for families that would like to attend.

OWL College Knowledge Night is Monday, October 21 @ 5:30 PM: Come find out more about the college application and admission process. More information to follow.

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OWL:

Throughout the year there are many ways large and small to support OWL. The PTO will keep you posted as different activities and opportunities come up. Here are a couple of ongoing programs that will donate a portion of the money you may already be spending directly to OWL:

AmazonSmile: Choose "Saint Paul Open School Pto / Owl Pto" as your charity of choice, and 0.5% of your purchase goes directly to OWL. For more information, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/>

General Mills Box Tops for Education: General Mills "Box Tops for Education" can be found on a wide variety of items (including Huggies products, Cottonelle products, many Betty Crocker and Pillsbury products, numerous brands of cereal, Yoplait yogurt, and Juicy Juice.) Ten tops=\$1.00 for

OWL. Simply clip the Box Tops cleanly along the dotted lines, being careful not to cut off the expiration date, and bring them to OWL--we'll take it from there.

Campbell's Labels for Education: Just like the Box Tops program--collect Campbell's Labels For Education and OWL can redeem them for educational resources. Campbell's soups, Pepperidge Farms products including Goldfish crackers, V-8 beverages, Spaghettios, and other products are eligible.

Target Take Charge of Education: If you have a Target card consider this program--Target donates an amount equal to 1% of Target Visa and Target Card purchases made at Target and Target.com, and ½% of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere to the school of your choice. To enroll, visit:

<https://wwwsecure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>.

Thank you for supporting OWL!

Don't Miss the new Radio Documentary on Expeditionary Learning: In case you missed it, American Radio Works aired their excellent documentary on Expeditionary Learning earlier this week. *Beyond the Blackboard* provides great background on EL and highlights a mentor school in Springfield, MA. Find it here: <http://www.americanradioworks.org/documentaries/beyond-the-blackboard/>

Gaga is coming! No, not the lady, but the ball game. OWL is building on the crazy popularity of Four Square and adding another outdoor, lunch break destination activity to its backyard.

If you know what a Gaga Pit is then you are probably already pretty excited. For those of you new to Gaga Ball here's a quick description: Gaga is an energetic, inclusive game played in an octagonal court. The more players the better! Dubbed a kinder gentler version of dodge ball, its played with a soft foam ball, and combines the skills of dodging, striking, and jumping, while trying to bounce a ball against your opponents, below their knees. The games move quickly and after a few minutes everyone is back in for the next round.

Tim's crew will be working on building the Gaga Pit in the weeks to come--look for it in the yard just beyond the Four Square court.