

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 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.

**After School Activities**

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.

Course descriptions and registration materials were sent home with most students last week. A few more crews will get the forms on Monday. **\*\*These forms are attached to this email as well. Be sure to fill out the SPPS EDL application as well as the OWL registration form\*\***

**Please turn in your forms by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25. The sooner, the better as some classes fill quickly.**

**Ultimate Frisbee Continues Monday, September 14 from 2:15 – 4:15 PM @ Harriet Island:** It is not too late to join Ultimate this fall. Come when you can (once a week is fine) and try out this great sport! Fall Ultimate Frisbee practice 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 Rehearsals begin Monday, September 21** from 2:15 – 4 PM. Please arrange to pick up your child by 4:15 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.

**Meeting for Grades 6, 7 and all NEW Families—Thursday, September 24 at 6 PM:** *Right before the Open House*, we invite all new families as well as 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families to meet in the OWL Auditorium for an overview of the year and answer any questions you may have. If you come at 5:30, you can purchase dinner from our Outward Bound students. See below for details.

**FOOD FOR SALE:** From 5:30 until 7:30 PM, *at 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! Food will be for sale in the kitchen classroom off the cafeteria.

**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, with short classes, starting at 7 PM.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 during the school

day to share information about their programs with our students. Here are the first ones 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 who would like to attend.

**OWL College Knowledge Night is Wednesday, 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/>

**Open World Learning Community PTO has a new place on Facebook:** Our new "group" will replace our previous "page." Search for the group and join--you don't have to be a part of PTO, just have a connection to OWL. This change allows everyone who joins the group to post directly to the wall, which allows for a

greater exchange of information amongst everyone. OWL PTO will post updates about meetings and school events, and anyone can post news they want to share or questions they want to ask. Look for the group on Facebook and like it--then have your friends join too. As more people join the group the PTO will quit updating the existing PTO page and roll that into the group.