

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**OCTOBER 5, 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.

**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. There will be a climbing wall, cakewalk and service auction from our Outward Bound Service Adventure group.

**Volunteer!** We still need a few more volunteers to make this event a success. Sign up here (<http://bit.ly/1itax4L>) to bring a cake for our cakewalk or take a short shift at the event.

**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. **If you would still like to register, please turn in your form to Cheryl in the front office ASAP.**

**iPad Handout is set for October 8 and 9:** Students will be receiving their SPPS iPads. If you have not completed the required paperwork, your student will not be able to take the iPad home.

**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.**

**DRINK GREAT COFFEE AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!**

Savor your morning coffee knowing you've helped support programming at OWL and contributed to a sustainable, fair-trade family-owned company. Each time you purchase a bag of Velasquez Family Coffee, they will donate \$4.00/bag to OWL. The order form is attached to this email. You can pick up your order in the school office or have it delivered to your child's crew.

✓ Turn in your order form & payment to the OWL office by Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

✓ Coffee will be delivered the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>

**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:

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.