

OWL Weekly Email  
October 26, 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.

**OWL is in session on Friday, October 30:** While there is no school in elementary and K-8 schools, all 6-12 schools are in session.

**No costumes on Friday:** Halloween this year is on Saturday. While some Crews will be celebrating Día de los Muertos on Friday, we ask students to not wear costumes to school. We will be having a Spirit Week November 9-13, culminating in the Fall Dance on Friday, November 13.

**Notes on Attendance:** If your child misses school, please call us, email us or write a note stating the reason they missed school. If we do not hear from you, all absences are marked unexcused, so don't forget to communicate with us.

The following reasons will result in an excused absence - illness, doctor appointment, funeral, family emergency or religious holiday. If your child has 5-7 unexcused absences, they will be referred to a parent and student meeting with the SAM (Student Attendance Matters) program staff.

One final note: every time a student misses three classes (unexcused), it counts as a complete day missed, even if the classes are not on the same day.

### **After School Activities**

After school programming continues this week, Monday – Thursday from 2 – 4 PM. At this time, we are not able to accept any new registrations. If spots become available in the coming weeks, we will let you know in this newsletter. Questions or concerns: Call Tim 651-744-3981.

### **Upcoming College Events:**

**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:

St. Kate's 10/28 at 1pm

Saint Cloud State University 10/30 at 11 AM

U of M Morris 11/18 at 10am

**OWL College Knowledge Night will be Wednesday, November 4 from 6 – 8 PM:** This event is a great place to find out more about the college application and admission process. We will have several representatives from colleges and universities and a panel of OWL graduates and parents. The target audience is families of students in grades 9-12.

**Senior Family Meeting November 4 from 8:30 – 9 PM:** Immediately following College Knowledge Night, we will be holding a MANDATORY senior family meeting. Agenda includes the College March, Senior Portfolio, Senior Timelines and Graduation Details. Families not able to attend should contact Counselor Jolene Yang to get this important information: [jolene.yang@spps.org](mailto:jolene.yang@spps.org) 651-293-8670

**Site Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 10 @ 5:30 – 7:00**

**PM:** Come learn about what is happening at OWL. This month's meeting will focus on recruitment and a variety of other topics.

**PTO Meeting – Tuesday, November 10 @ 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**OWL Shirts, Sweatshirts & HATS!**

Show your OWL Spirit. Order your winter hats, baseball caps, sweatshirts and t-shirts now. There is an order form available on the school website, or you can order on-line at: <http://bit.ly/1iXg4AB>. All orders (order form & on-line) will be delivered to your student's crew the first week of December. Order deadline is November 10. Questions? Contact Ginger Carroll - [gingercarroll@comcast.net](mailto:gingercarroll@comcast.net) or 651-324-0359

**Give to the Max Day is Thursday, November 12:** Please support OWL and our innovative programs on this day with a tax-deductible donation.

**End of Quarter is Friday, November 13:** Be sure your student's work is getting completed by November 9, so that there is enough time for revisions. Also, work with your kids to schedule any test retakes they will need. An important aspect of Standards-Based Grading and Expeditionary Learning is students taking control of their learning by being proactive and planning ahead. We need to all work together to teach our students how to achieve this.

**Incentive/Intervention Day is Friday, November 13:** The last day of the quarter, students that have completed all their work (minimum: passing all classes) are eligible for various incentive activities, such as: a movie in the auditorium, board games or gym time. All other students will be working with staff on finishing up their work.

**Fall Dance is Friday, November 13:** Polish up your dancing shoes! The middle school dance is from 5 – 7:30 PM. The high school dance is from 7:30 – 10 PM. Both dances are held in the OWL Cafeteria. All students are encouraged to attend. Tickets will be sold during school lunch starting two weeks before the dance.

**Prospective Family Open House --Tuesday, November 17 @ 6:30 – 8:00 PM:** Families with students interested in coming to OWL next year can come learn more about our program. Bring your kids not yet at OWL. Invite your friends, relatives and neighbors!

**Picture Retakes – Thursday, November 19**

**Costa Rica Meeting—Thursday, November 19:** The first meeting of students committed to traveling to Costa Rica during Spring Break 2016.

**No School on Friday, November 20:** Teacher Professional Development.

**No School Thanksgiving Break – Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27**

**Senior College Application March to the Mailbox is Friday, December 11 at 9 AM:** A new OWL tradition—our Seniors will be marching to the US Post Office to mail their applications to college. This event highlights the fact that for the past 6 years, 100 % of our graduates have been accepted to college.

**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.