

OWL Weekly Email  
November 9, 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.

**Spirit Week—November 9-13:** Show your school spirit and get psyched up for Friday's Dance.

Monday: Twin Day

Tuesday: School Colors Day (Blue and White)

Wednesday: Hat Day

Thursday: Throwback Thursday #TBT

Friday: Costumes (no masks or violent costumes)

**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**

**Spirit Wear orders due THIS Tuesday - Nov 10!**

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

**Parent Seminar on Wednesday, November 11 @ 5:30 PM:**

All OWL families are invited to our next parent seminar event.

The topic will be Digital Citizenship and the presenters will be the Saint Paul Public Schools Office of Personalized Learning. This seminar will help Parents/guardians to understand what students need to know to use technology appropriately and responsibly. Pizza will be served at 5:30 pm and childcare is available. Please contact Mary Sellers in the Family Room at 651-744-2950 with questions or to register.

**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. The theme is BACK TO THE FUTURE – with music (and optional costumes) from the 50s, 80s and today!

### **Winter Sports Beginning:**

The following sports are getting started. Forms and fees are found at [sports.spps.org](http://sports.spps.org) under the forms tab. Athletes must turn everything in before they can even practice.

#### **Sports with Humboldt:**

Jr. High Girls Basketball	November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
High School Boys Basketball	November 9 <sup>th</sup>
High School Girls Basketball	November 16 <sup>th</sup>
Wrestling	November 16 <sup>th</sup>
Jr. High Wrestling	November 16 <sup>th</sup>
Boys Swimming	November 30 <sup>th</sup>
Adapted Floor Hockey	November 30 <sup>th</sup>
Jr. High Boys Basketball	January 19 <sup>th</sup>

#### **Sports with Central:**

Alpine Skiing	November 9 <sup>th</sup>
Nordic Skiing	November 9 <sup>th</sup>

### **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.

**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!

## **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:

U of M Morris 11/18 at 10am

### **Picture Retakes – Thursday, November 19**

In case you haven't ordered your school pictures yet, you still can!

1. Order online at [photogifts.lifetouch.com](http://photogifts.lifetouch.com)
2. Log in with your Portrait ID and Access Code located in your picture package

Satisfaction Guaranteed: Lifetouch will retake your portrait or you can return it for a full refund.

Parent/Guardian, how was this year's school picture experience?  
[Take Survey.](#)

**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**

### **Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels:**

A full turkey dinner delivered on Thanksgiving morning between 8-12. There needs to be someone home to answer the door and accept the meal.

The turkey is cooked and frozen, the rest of the dinner consists of: potatoes (to be peeled and cooked), vegetable, rolls, gravy, butter, milk, and a prebaked pumpkin pie.

Reservations are by phone: (must speak English) at 651-699-5404 between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm until Nov 20 or until they are full.

Caller must give name, full address including zip code, phone number and the number of people to feed.

**Dining Out for OWL is back!** Dining Out for OWL is a great way to enjoy the company of fellow OWL families and meet and greet families who are considering OWL all while helping to raise funds for the school. We've got two upcoming events to look forward to. The first is **Monday, November 30**, at Davannis on Cleveland and Grand--OWL receives 20% of proceeds from diners using the OWL flyer. The second event is **Tuesday, December 8**, 5-9 pm, at the Applebees on Robert Street in West Saint Paul. Applebees will donate 15% of food and beverage sales when you show an OWL flyer advertising the event. Keep an eye out for these flyers--they'll be available as the events get nearer.

**Fall Play, Anon(ymous), will be Wednesday, December 9 – Friday, December 11 @ 7 PM in the OWL Auditorium**

**HELP WANTED-- Fall Play Needs:** We're getting into fall play season, and our design crew has a list of **items we need donated**. If you see something you can spare, please send them it to school this week. You can leave them in the office anytime, or on Rebekah's desk in the auditorium. You can also come **volunteer your time and skills to help design crew** make theater magic happen. Join us this week for community build days in the auditorium, when we make the sets props costumes sound and

lights! This **Friday Nov 13th 2-4pm or Saturday, Nov 14th 9am -12pm.** No experience needed, all are welcome! All the cool kids will be there. Thankyou!

~Rebekah, OWL Theater Director

ITEMS NEEDED—PLEASE DONATE

Costumes:

ragged tennis shoes	mens small
thin track jacket - no logo	mens small
wetsuit	women's medium (we will return this)
pink and green floral ugly bathing suit top	founce bathing suit top & high waisted floral shorts
pink platform flip-flops	womens medium
green rubber boots	Like rain boots, but more heavy duty. womens medium
Gold sparkly heels	womens medium/large
Feather Boa	Multi-colored. Red and blue.
A lot of feathers, rainbow colors	
black pencil skirt	womens small
Khakis	men's medium
white chef's apron	mens
long sleeve mens buttondown blue shirt	mens medium
blue blazer	mens medium
pale blue button down	mens medium
20's style feather headband	
60's gogo boots	womens medium
period accessories - 80's 60's 20's etc	

Props:

PROP Donation List	Quantity	Notes
surfboard		womens if possible (will return this)
beach lawn chair		tacky is good (will return this)
toilet paper rolls	100	as many as we can get
sewing machine x4	4	non-working is good
beach toys	3	
beach towels	1	
camera	1	
radio	1	boom box style
take out box for curry	5	

fake food - plate of curry	1	
fake hot peppers	5 peppers	
prop hatchet	1	
ribbon spools		big bright colors
stage combat samurai swords	2	long shot but maybe someone has this?

**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. Senior families are warmly welcomed to attend.

**Tamales for sale:** Is your mouth still watering when you think back to the warm, delicious meal you had at the OWL Fall Family Gathering? Are you wishing that you didn't have to wait another year to bite into one of those fabulous tamales? Good news! Frozen tamales are available and for sale: \$2.50 a piece--buy a whole bag full! Contact Traci Hildebrant-Smith at [wheezus@mindspring.com](mailto:wheezus@mindspring.com) to make arrangements.

**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: if a student misses 3 classes unexcused in 1 day, it counts as 1 day missed. If a student misses more than half of one class, it counts as an absence for the whole class

### **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: <https://www.secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>.

**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.