

**OWL Weekly Email**  
**November 16, 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.

**OLPA Testing this week:** Students in grades 6-8 will be taking the OLPA math test. This test is very similar to the MCA and provides teachers with immediate information on how to best teach each student. If you have any questions about this test, please contact Dave Gundale [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org) or testing coordinator, Mary Sellers [mary.sellers@spps.org](mailto:mary.sellers@spps.org)

**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! Tours and shadowing experiences start Thursday, November 19 through mid-February. You can sign up on our website: [open.spps.org](http://open.spps.org). For more information, contact Tim @ [timothy.leone-getten@spps.org](mailto:timothy.leone-getten@spps.org)

**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. This week's visit: 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	flounce 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.

### **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.

**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 (School 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://wwwsecure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>. This program will end in May 2016, so take advantage of it while it lasts.

**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.