

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**MARCH 25, 2024**

*In an effort to increase communication with our students and families, we send a weekly email on Sunday evenings or Monday mornings highlighting upcoming school events. This information will also be shared with students in Schoology and in Crew on Mondays. Events are listed in chronological order.*

**Monday, March 25** is a **B day**.

**Monday is survey day in Crew.** On March 25, take the [OWL Culturally Responsive Crew survey](#) to share your views. We are hoping that every OWL student takes this survey! Do you have a survey for all OWL students? Email [megan.hall@spps.org](mailto:megan.hall@spps.org) to get on the survey calendar.

**Wednesday is Clubs Day in Crew:**

Students, click on [this week's Clubs slide](#) to see your club choices. *\*Students need to go to Crew for attendance and get **smart passes** from Crew leaders to go to clubs. Students who do not go to clubs should be doing a Crew lesson with their Crew leader or a buddy Crew leader*

**NEW! Donations Needed:** The Open Circuits got a big win a few weeks ago with Kathryn Totushek being named a [Dean's List](#) finalist. The final judging takes place in Houston at the World Championship in a few weeks and the Open Circuits are asking for

help to support her. Consider donating at [this link](#). Any money that exceeds her travel expenses will be used to support our growing robotics team.

**NEW! DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OWL AGAINST HUNGER:**

In EL Education schools, Better World Day is a day to celebrate a culture of service and community engagement. On May 3, we will be holding a schoolwide service project of packing 50,000 highly nutritious meals to address food inequities in our community. The food will be distributed throughout St. Paul schools and other sites to students and their families who are experiencing food insecurity. This month we are raising the money to pay for the meals we will be packing. In addition to learning about hunger issues, students have been given an envelope in Crew with the information below. We are encouraging students to raise what they can to contribute to this effort, recognizing that some can give more than others. Our overall goal is to raise \$15,000 and we have already secured a \$7,000 matching grant from the OWL PTO and raised \$2,200 this week. That means we have \$5,800 to go. Thank you for considering this request.

*Cash or checks payable to **Harvest Pack** (each student has an envelope).*

*To **DONATE ONLINE**: Use this link: [tinyurl.com/ycxsymp4](https://tinyurl.com/ycxsymp4)*

**NEW! Seeking meal donations for the teacher potluck buffet during Student-Led Conferences:**

Owl families will be providing a potluck buffet for the teachers in the afternoon and evening of April 17th, 2024 during Student-Led

Conferences. Please show your support by signing up to bring a food item or two to donate to the meal. Here is the SignUp Genius link- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0444A4AC29A2F49-48633835-studentled>

**NEW! OWL Robotics team members will be bagging groceries** as a fundraiser at Kowalski's on Grand in St Paul this Thursday, March 28 from 5:00-9:00 PM.

**Dine out for Robotics at Davanni's on Grand and Cleveland Avenues in St. Paul, April 1, 5:00-9:00 PM.** Mention the Open Circuits or OWL Robotics when you order your meal, and proceeds will benefit the team.

**NEW! 2024 - 2025 Course Registration Information!**

It is now time to register for classes for next year! Registration will take place during the first week of April for all grades. Please take a look in [this folder](#) for rising grade level registration information. At the bottom of each grade-level guide is a worksheet to help students make their selections. Students will be learning about different course offerings, and can work with families, crew leader and counselors to select appropriate classes.

**PROM!** Prom is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for April 20th for a night that will be Out of This World! Middle school is from 5:00-7:00 and High School is from 7:30-10:00. Tickets are \$20 and will be for sale at lunch starting April 15. At the door, tickets will be \$25.

\*Note: Though we want everyone to come to prom, we want to stress the importance of attendance the week prior to prom. Therefore, students can have no more than 3 unexcused absences or tardies during the week of Prom - April 15th to April 19th. If your student is ill or will be otherwise gone from school, please make sure to email the OWL attendance email at [owlattendance@spps.org](mailto:owlattendance@spps.org).

**NEW! Theatre Needs Donations!**

Costumes for the Spring Play *Snow Angel*. We are looking for

- 4 small/medium winter coats (any color)
- 1 small/medium brown corduroy jacket
- A couple pairs of mittens/gloves (any color/size)
- 6ish Pom Pom/tassel/knitted winter hats (any color/size)

Students can bring donations to Rebekah's classroom, 2209 in the mornings!

**OWL's Feminist Club is hosting a poster contest for all crews in honor of Women's Month.** Every crew is assigned a different feminist icon and will be expected to create a poster for their icon and hang it on their crew door. Crew leaders will all be

receiving an email that will include each crew and the icon they are assigned. Posters will be judged the first week of April, and a gift bag will be rewarded to the winning crew.

**Join the St Paul Mountain Bike Team:** Students in grades 6-12 can join. There is a virtual informational meeting on **March 26**. Practices start in the summer for the fall season. [THIS FLYER](#) has more information. Check out the website at <https://www.spymtb.org>. Questions: Daniel Marcelle [daniel.j.marcelle@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.j.marcelle@gmail.com) 561-294-5536

**The Purple Press:** Read the latest edition of the OWL student newspaper [HERE](#)

**Seeking student feedback on culturally relevant school menu items:** Please consider taking a moment to fill out [this short survey](#) to share your views on why it's important for schools to have menu items that reflect students' home cultures.

**The OWL/Humboldt High School Financial Literacy Debate team is looking for members!** Financial Literacy Debate is an after-school extracurricular run by the Minnesota Urban Debate League - a program of Augsburg University. Financial Literacy Debate teaches you how to argue about the subject matter, but also how to apply these concepts to your real life. It has the critical thinking, public speaking, and research skills policy debate does, but you also get this additional awesome education. The program is focusing on engaging female-identifying and non-binary students due to the persistent, gendered financial literacy gap, but all are welcome to attend and practice. The program runs from early March to late May. Practices are twice a week 3:15-4:15 schedule will be posted soon! There is no cost to attend, anyone interested should talk to Akira: [akira.mally@spps.org](mailto:akira.mally@spps.org)

**The OWL School Store is open for business at lunch on A days:** Families, please encourage students to use their OWL planners; Crew leaders are recognizing completed planners with CRISP tickets that can be spent in the OWL School Store. Donations of fidgets, mechanical pencils, water bottle stickers, books, games, and similar items are welcome. Please bring donations to Bridget in room 2608.

**Looking for a fun way to earn service hours this summer?** Nature Walk is a summer volunteer program that inspires youth to be stewards of wildlife. Youth will connect visitors to Como's animals and plants to encourage appreciation and preservation of the

natural world. Additionally, the Nature Walk program provides youth with valuable work experience and job skills, creating a gateway for potential future opportunities at Como and other conservation institutions. [Apply online](#) by April 8, 2024.

**PSEO Application Due Dates:** Students in grades 10-12 interested in applying for Post Secondary Enrollment Option classes—here are the due dates for applications. To see the video of the PSEO information night go [HERE](#). Contact Jolene with questions: [Jolene.yang@spps.org](mailto:Jolene.yang@spps.org)

**UMN: April 15**

**St. Kate's: May 1**

**Concordia: May 1**

**Hamline: June 1**

**St. Paul College: May 31**

**Century College: July 1**

**Inver Hills CC: July 1**

**UMN: April 1**

**St. Kate's: April 17**

**Concordia: April 17**

**Hamline: May 17**

**SPC: May 17**

**Century: May 17**

**IHCC: May 17**

ALL June and July applications for any PSEO college are due to Jolene by May 17th.

### **SPRING ATHLETICS REGISTRATION:**

We have a new online registration system for athletics. Please use the links below to help you create an account for your student if they are interested in playing a spring sport. This will be the new system going forward and information on fall sports sign-up will come out in May.

[SPPS ONLINE SPORTS REGISTRATION](#)

[POWERPOINT PRESENTATION-ONLINE SPORTS REGISTRATION](#)

**Sports offered this spring and when they start are:**

Girls Badminton- March 4<sup>th</sup>

Co-ed Adaptive Softball- March 11th

Boys and Girls Track and Field- March 11<sup>th</sup>

Girls Softball- March 11<sup>th</sup>

Boys Baseball- March 18th

Boys & Girls Golf- March 18th

Boys Tennis- March 25th

**OWL's Skateboarding Interim needs your donations:** We are looking for any extra skateboards (or parts like grip tape, wheels, trucks, & bearings). We also need protective gear like: helmets, wrist guards, knee pads and elbow pads. If you have any of these items to donate, please send them to school with your child. Items can be dropped off in the main office. If you have any questions, please email Bridget Leba at [marybridget.leba@spps.org](mailto:marybridget.leba@spps.org).

**iPad updates! All students update your iPad to 17.3**

**REMINDER** -all iPads should be updated to iOS 17.3 . If you are having trouble updating your iPad it might be a storage issue.

All iPads have 200 GB of storage.

Log into your Apple ID to take advantage of 200GB iCloud space and clear off Videos/Photos.

Your Apple id: student email

Password: student active directory password.



Any questions please contact: [Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org](mailto:Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org)

**Applications are open for the 5-day fall 2024 HBCU**

**tour:** Students interested in attending Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) can apply to attend a 5-day tour. For more information, [see this flyer](#).

**Attention all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders! We need more**

**tutors!!** Need more service hours? Need to boost that resume? Looking for something high quality to add to the common app? Sign up to tutor every Thursday during crew! Each tutoring period counts as one service hour!

If you have not yet filled out the form but think that you are tutoring, please confirm your involvement and fill out the form! It is required.

Sign up here - <https://forms.gle/4wLHD52Hah2pRtAx8>

Thank you so much! Raina and Hazel, Tutoring Coordinators  
2023-2024

**OWL Tutor Referral.** Would you like to refer a student to be tutored? Parents, guardians, and teachers can request an OWL tutor using [THIS LINK](#).

**Safety Information:** Each year, all schools in MN have to conduct 5 safety drills, 5 fire drills, and 1 severe weather drill. Drills are, of course, conducted so that staff and students know the procedures in case an actual safety concern arises. Being a part of a larger school complex with two separate schools means that we coordinate our safety procedures depending on the situation. Please take a moment to look at the SPPS district safety protocols at the following link:

<https://www.spps.org/Domain/14306>. Please don't hesitate to reach out to David or Ma'lene with any questions you might have. You can reach us at [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org), [malene.walker@spps.org](mailto:malene.walker@spps.org)

### **Summer Opportunities:**

**It's time to register for SPPS Summer Learning Programs!** Visit the SPPS Summer Website for detailed SLP information: [CLICK HERE](#). **Register between March 15 - April 15 for the best opportunity to get into the program of your choice.** Many programs fill quickly. Families should select one of the following ways to register: online through Campus Parent Portal or paper forms. If you would like a paper form, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Katerina, OWL MS Counselor, at [katerina.youngberg@spps.org](mailto:katerina.youngberg@spps.org)!

**St. Catherine University STEM camp for girls:** Registration started and it is free for all participants entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the fall. The camp will take place on our beautiful campus in St.

Paul. Students have two opportunities to attend the camp: June 24-28 and July 8-12. There is no overnight stay and food and snacks are included. More information [HERE](#). Questions: Vivian vamartis479@stkate.edu

**Have you ever heard of the STEPS Summer Program at the University of St. Thomas, School of Engineering?** It is a cost-free program that introduces **middle school girls** to careers in STEM. Go [HERE](#) for much more information!

**MITY is a summer program that provides young people with the opportunity to explore their passions, experience life on a college campus.** Our diverse and inclusive environment empowers students to be themselves and to learn without the pressure of grades or tests. **Financial aid is available.** We are now accepting applications for elementary, middle school and high school students. See a flyer with more information [HERE](#).

### **Community Information:**

**Youth Job Fair:** April 20 from 10am to noon at Maplewood Mall. More information [HERE](#).

**\*\*FREE COVID tests\*\*** are available through the mail from the MN Department of Health if you request them. LINK:

<http://sayyeshometest.org>

**Food Resources**: We wanted to share with our community that Ramsey County has compiled many resources to support food access for Ramsey County residents.

[Food Resources Map](#): an interactive map of food access locations across the county

[Food Resources Website](#): includes a food resource guide for the upcoming holiday, resource guides by neighborhoods, materials in multiple languages, and food resources for specific groups of people

**OWL Schoolwide Norms**: Created by representatives of each Crew this fall with input from all students

- Respect people, their boundaries and identities, materials, and spaces
- Be kind, caring and friendly, especially when it's difficult
- Keep an open mind: engage in opportunities and courageous conversation
- Help create safe and brave spaces so that everyone can be their authentic selves and speak their truths

- Actively listen and participate (one mic, one voice), staying engaged and following through on commitments and expectations. *We are Crew, not passengers.*

**One proven way to live a happy life is to express gratitude. Is there a staff member at OWL that has done something you are grateful for?** Shoot them an email! An alternative and way has been made available by filling out [this link](#). (This form requires an email but is sent anonymously.)

**Afterschool Activities Reminders:** In order for students to attend after school activities, they must attend school that day. This includes sports, theatre, and after-school clubs.

**Important Reminder about Attendance:**

If your child is going to miss school, please call, email [owlattendance@spps.org](mailto:owlattendance@spps.org) or write a note to explain the reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is documented as unexcused. After 3 days of unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from the school reminding you to please communicate with us so the absence(s) may be documented accurately. If your child continues to miss school, unexcused, he/she will be referred to the SAM (School Attendance Matters) Program for intervention.

The following reasons for absence qualify as an excused absence; illness, doctor, dental or therapy appointment (please be sure to obtain a note to give to the school), extreme family emergency or religious holiday not already recognized by our school district.

When a student misses 3 or more class periods in one day, this is considered to be a full day of absence. Please call us if you have any questions/concerns.