

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**APRIL 1, 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.*

**Today! 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.

**Monday, April 1** is a **B day**. It is the first day of Quarter 4. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter planners will be distributed after testing.

**Monday is survey day in Crew:** In Crew on April 1, please complete [this districtwide survey on standards-based grading](#). 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.

**MCA Testing starts this week:**

April 2: 7th grade reading MCA

April 3: 6th grade reading MCA

April 4: 8th grade reading MCA

April 23: 6th grade math MCA

April 24: 7th grade math MCA

April 25: 8th grade math MCA

April 30: Biology MCA (mostly grade 9)

May 2: 8th grade science MCA

**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*

**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.

**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.

**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. 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 just under \$3,000 this week. That means we have **\$5,000 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)*

**Still 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>

**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 1. At the door, tickets will be \$25.

**NEW! Spirit Week is April 15-19:** In the week before Prom, there are 5 fun ways to dress up! Join in the fun---

**Monday:** Emo vs. Coquette — the classic Monday Versus! Dress as either Emo or Coquette and represent your preference!

**Tuesday:** Twin or Triplet Day — match with anyone you can find! Plan group outfits or twin with your bestie.

**Wednesday:** Dress like a Star! — dress like your favorite celebrity or pop star!

**Thursday:** Throwback Thursday — dress as your favorite decade! 60's, 70's, 80's, 2000's, whatever floats your boat!

**Friday:** Grade Color Day — represent your grade by wearing your assigned grade color!

6th Grade: gray, 7th Grade: orange, 8th Grade: green, 9th Grade: purple, 10th Grade: red, 11th Grade: black, 12th Grade: blue, Staff/Teachers: pink.

### **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.

**New! AVID applications are open for the 2024-2025 school year!** Interested in learning more about AVID, a program designed to prepare all students for college readiness and success in a global society through academic support and engaging enrichment activities? Students can attend an in-person information session on April 26 at 2:00 PM in room 3215. Families can attend a virtual information session on April 30 at 6:00 PM at [this link](#). Students entering grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the fall can apply to join OWL AVID elective classes at [this link](#); this application should be completed by a student (a parent or guardian needed to answer the last 6 questions). Students entering grades 11 and 12 in the fall can apply to work as OWL AVID tutors at [this link](#). All AVID applications are due May 7.

### **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!

**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 full out [this short survey](#) to share your views on why it's important for schools to have menu items that reflect students' home cultures.

**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**

**UMN: April 1**

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

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

**Concordia: May 1**

**Concordia: April 17**

**Hamline: June 1**

**Hamline: May 17**

**St. Paul College: May 31**

**SPC: May 17**

**Century College: July 1**

**Century: May 17**

**Inver Hills CC: July 1**

**IHCC: May 17**

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

**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).

**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:**

**NEW! Free Swimming Lessons:** St. Paul has waived swim lesson fees this summer for Como Park and Highland Park pools. What a great opportunity to help kids/students learn how to swim and water safety. Registration is Monday, 04/01/2024 and it will fill up fast. [GO HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**NEW! 3M is providing 15 scholarships to SPPS students to attend a summer Women in Engineering Program, June 16-21, 2024:** Open to Students in 9th-11th grade. Cost: Free! All tuition, fees, housing, meals, and transportation included Location: Michigan Technological University; Houghton, MI. Apply [here](#).

**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.