

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL
OCTOBER 7, 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.

Welcome to Week 6: Monday, October 7 is a B day.

Monday is survey day! Please complete this [very important school calendar survey](#) today.

NEW! Flipside: Flipside is starting Monday October 7th. Students who had registered for flipside by 8am Thursday October 3rd should have gotten a sheet of paper from their crew leader with the courses they are registered for, as well as their bus information (if they requested bussing). Their crew leader asked them to take a photo of it on their ipad.

Transportation is very behind on bus routes, and many students do not yet have busses set up. **If a student does not yet have a bus, they should not stay after school unless they have a different way to get home.** I will be checking bus routes daily and updating students as soon as their bus route is set up.

If your student lost their slip, does not have a photo of it, and does not remember whether or not they have a bus, please email me at preston.west@spps.org. I will respond as quickly as I am able to.

If you have not signed up for flipside and you would like to, you can do so using [THIS LINK!](#) below.

NEW! Volleyball Team Fundraiser: If you can donate, please do. This fundraiser ends on **MONDAY**. Funds go to support the team meals before matches and scholarships for students to play on local clubs year round. Please consider helping our program raise funds that will go directly to students future opportunities to play more of the sport they love, volleyball.

[GO HERE](#) to help the Hawks up their game to better compete at the sport they love!

NEW! A Message from the Tutoring Coordinators: The OWL tutoring program will begin toward the end of October. The tutoring program is an opportunity for our middle school students to get a little additional help from our upper level students (10th -12th grade). Every Thursday during crew time, we do academic support and provide a 40 minute block of time for our tutors to meet and support students requesting a tutor. These relationships are very positive as our younger students really look up to our upper class students. Additionally, our upper class students have navigated the classes in middle school and can provide sage advice on how to turn things in on time and prepare for assessments. There are occasions when our upper class students can even provide some tutoring after school. Please use the link below to indicate your interest in the tutoring program for your child.

- Are you interested in **being tutored** this year? [Sign up here to be tutored.](#)
- If you have any questions please contact Kathryn Totushek and Aanen Kulseth at ktotushek001@stpaul.k12.mn.us and akulseth001@stpaul.k12.mn.us

Please Join Us at the Open World Learning Community

Fall Family Gathering

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 5:30-8:00pm: at the Dakota Lodge, 1200 Stassen Lane, West Saint Paul. FREE PARKING

Enjoy a relaxed evening in the good company of fellow OWL families!

- Delicious, savory tamales from La Loma: \$4/ each (vegetarian option available)
- Hot & Cold Beverages: \$1.50
- Ice Cream Treats: \$1.00
- NEW: Rock, Paper, Scissors Extreme: \$1/ticket/round
- Fun: gaga ball, four square, playground, your imagination – FREE!

Outward Bound Service Auction*: Bid on fantastic services- past services included homemade cookies of the month, climbing lessons, pet-sitting, yard work & more! **All proceeds of the Service Auction benefit the Outward Bound Service Adventure trips during the spring interim.*

Come hang out with the OWL Community and enjoy our beautiful new setting! We hope to see your family there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Share in the fun! We need your help to make this event a great success. Please sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer or donate a baked good!

NO SCHOOL—Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18: State Teacher Convention (MEA weekend)

Dia de los Muertos Celebration at OWL is Wednesday, October 30 at 6 PM: Come celebrate Latinx culture at OWL with this family friendly event with lots of fun and great food. Contact: Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org

From our school nurse: We have seen an increase in respiratory illnesses in our SPPS and broader MN community, including flu, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses. Here are steps you can take to stay healthy:

- Take time to get your flu and COVID-19 shots. It is fine to get both your flu shot and your COVID-19 shot at the same time.
- Stay home if you have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, or if you simply do not feel well enough to go to work or school
- Wash your hands frequently
- Get plenty of sleep and manage your stress levels

Stay hydrated

Family Reminders: If you have not completed the [Back to school forms \(formerly the iUpdate—linked here\)](#) please do this ASAP. Also, do not

forget to complete the form at [SchoolCafe \(linked here\)](#)—we need each family to do this. Finally, please pay the fee for [FALL RETREATS \(linked here\)](#) (scholarships available upon request). Please call 651-293-8670 or email tammy.plaman@spps.org if you need any help with the above.

NEW! Middle School Sports Update: We are now half-way through our Fall season. Flag Football defeated Global Arts to remain undefeated. Volleyball and Soccer played strong games against tough opponents. We have more home games next week. We hope you can join us. Middle School games are always free.

Monday, October 7th games

Volleyball vs Murray Middle at 3:30 in the JH Gym

Boys Soccer vs Murray Middle at 3:30 at El Rio Vista

Flag Football vs Murray Middle at 3:30 at Baker Playground

Wednesday, October 9th

Girls Soccer vs Global Arts at 4:30 at Humboldt (grass field)

We will be recruiting soon for our Winter I sports: Girls Basketball and Wrestling which begin in November. Boys basketball during our Winter II season which begins in January.

Interested in trying out archery? You can come to an Open Shoot and try it out without committing to the team on the following days: **October 8th, 22nd, and 29th, and November 12th and the 19st.** No sign-ups needed and Open Shoots are 100% free. See our [website](#)

[here](#) or email openworldarchery@gmail.com for more information. No rides home provided, but if the student is signed up for Flipside they can take that bus home.

Robotics Starts Soon! Are you a 9-12 student interested in building, programming, driving, or teaching other about robots? Are you a budding entrepreneur interested in designing a business plan to raise money for a STEM initiative? Maybe you just want to design and 3D print things? Then robotics may be for you! Preseason starts soon and you can see more information at our [website](#). Ready to sign up? Do so at [this link](#). Maybe you just want to support the team and keep it free to join by funding our [Donor's Choose](#) or buying something off our [Amazon Wish List](#). Contact owlopencircuits@gmail.com for more information of if your workplace in interested in sponsoring the team.

PSAT Testing is Monday, October 14 for all OWL 11th grade students, plus 10th grade students who wish to take the test. The test is free for 11th graders. 10th graders wishing to take the test can reserve a spot for \$18 (Scholarships are available). 10th graders, please fill out [this form](#) to register. Checks should be made out to “Office of College and Career Readiness.” For more information, contact testing coordinator Rebecca Palmer rebecca2.palmer@spps.org This test offers great practice taking a timed test in advance of the ACT to be given to juniors in the spring. The PSAT test is also the basis for National Merit Scholarships.

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.)

OWL believes that access to menstrual/period products is a right. If you are able to donate to help us provide free menstrual/period products so that they are always available, please consider donating some by dropping them off with Tammy in the front office. From there we will make sure they get to where they are needed.

Interested in downhill ski racing? Join the St. Paul Alpine Ski

Team (SPAST)! The team is open to SPPS students in grades 7-12. Spots are limited so priority will be given to high school students. While some alpine skiing experience is necessary, racing experience is **not** required. It should be noted this is a race team and **not** a ski club. The team practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Afton Alps. The activity fee is \$250/\$40 for free and reduced lunch. In addition, skiers will need their own equipment, and a season pass to Afton is required (currently \$501, price does increase as season gets closer). Bussing is provided and departs from Central and Highland High School. Please fill out [this form](#) to sign up to be invited to our informational meeting or email annekettler@yahoo.com for more information.

Donors Choose Projects for OWL: Donations to support the work of OWL students are gratefully accepted!

Robotics Supplies for Open Circuits

Provides radio, metal, and motor parts for OWL's FIRST Robotics Competition team, the Open Circuits.

Friday Fun Time: De-Stress and Celebrate

Provides enrichment supplies to ALL of OWL's 23 Crews.

Community Announcements:

NEW! Indigenous People's Weekend events: at Johnson High School October 12-13. More information [HERE!](#)

Glow & Grow after school program for Black Girls: creates intentional space for Black girls to embrace and be affirmed in their unapologetic Black brilliance, joy and resiliency. Go [HERE](#) for more information.

Saturday Math Program: for students in grades 6-7 at the University of Minnesota. Go [HERE](#) for more information.

Important Reminder about Attendance:

If your child is going to miss school, please call, email 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.

OWL Schoolwide Norms

- 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.*