OWL Weekly Email
January 28, 2025

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 1: There is no class on Monday, January 27. It is a staff grading day. Tuesday, January 28 is the first day of semester 2 and it is a **B day**.

NEW! Read the Latest Edition of the Purple Press: OWL's student newspaper HERE!

NEW! SPIRIT WEEK! Get ready for the big dance on Friday by dressing up each day this week!
Tuesday: Tacky Tuesday—dress in a mismatching assortment of clothes and accessories for this wacky and tacky day full of crazy outfits!
Wednesday: Elphaba vs. Glinda—embrace your inner WICKED self as you dress in the colors of the protagonists of this iconic musical and movie.
Thursday: Opposite Day High School vs. Middle School—Middle schoolers dress up as their favorite high schooler and high schoolers dress in the style that they wore in 6th grade.
Friday: Fancy Friday—dress all prim and proper for this day full of snobby laughs or the "high class" individuals that will be around you.

This week TUESDAY is survey day: Nutrition Services are working on getting meals for kids to take home during Ramadan. Please fill out this survey if you observe Ramadan.

OWL Feminism Club will be hosting a women's shelter drive for a local women's shelter, Women's Advocates: Donations will be taken from **January 27th to February 14th**. There will be boxes in Katie's room and the office to deposit any donations. Visit https://www.wadvocates.org/support-us/donate-items/ to find a full list of suggested donations. Please make sure all items donated are new and unused!

THIS FRIDAY! Winter Dance is Friday, January 31: Come enjoy a warm night of fun to help get through the long cold winter. The Middle School dance is from 5:30-7PM and the High School Dance is from 7:30-9:30PM. Tickets are on sale at lunch for $5 all week.

1. Dance Expectations - no dismissals or suspensions from 1/21 - 1/31 and no more than 3 unexcused absences the week of the dance. Must attend school on 1/31.
2. No guests outside of school for MS students
3. H.S. guests must have form filled out and signed by school administrator (both OWL and other school) by Thursday, 3:00 p.m. 1/30. Outside guests will not be allowed without this form. GUEST FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.

Dining Out With OWL Robotics at Chipotle on Monday, February 3rd, from 4-8pm: The address is 867 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105. If ordering online for pickup, use **code 77XM38F**, or if purchasing in-store, show the flyer **or** tell the cashier that you are there for the fundraiser. HERE is the link to the flyer.

Spring Play: UPSTEAM, a collaboration with Mixed Blood Theater: Auditions on Monday, February 3 and Tuesday, February 4. Call backs will be on Thursday, February 6 and rehearsals start on Monday, February 10. Design applications due Wed Feb 5.

Spring Play Informational Meeting Wednesday Jan 29th during Crew: Come to the meeting to learn more about this original show, how to audition, and what kind of design roles are available.
Collaborate with professional artists on this original, interactive play about climate change.

OWL History Day Wednesday, February 5 from 5:30-8 PM: Come celebrate all the great projects as students vie for the chance to represent OWL at Regional History Day.

NAAPID during the school day is Monday, February 10: Families are invited to come spend some time at school with their student in celebration of National African-American Parent Involvement Day.

NAAPID Evening Celebration is Thursday, February 13 from 6-8 pm: Families are warmly invited to spend the evening in celebration of National African-American Parent Involvement Day with cultural presentations, activities and great food.

Application Deadline to OWL for Fall 2025 is Friday, February 14: If you have another student applying to OWL for next year, be sure to submit your application by 2/14.

Presidents' Day is Monday, February 17: No School

PSEO Info Night (Virtual) is Wednesday, February 19 at 6pm: Families of students iin grades 9-11 who are interested in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option for next school year can join us **virtually** to find out more about the program and application process.

OWL Community Meeting: Students and Families are warmly invited to join the OWL Community Group—the organization that combines our PTO and Site Council functions. This is a great way to have your voice heard in the vision of our school community and to find out what is

happening at OWL. Here are the dates of the meetings for this school year:

- Tuesday, February 18 - 6:30 - 8:00
- Tuesday, March 18 - 6:30 - 8:00
- Tuesday, April 15 - 6:30 - 8:00
- Tuesday, May 20 - 6:30 - 8:00

All are welcome and encouraged to attend—hope to see you!

From our school nurse: As you are already aware, we have seen an increase in illnesses in our SPPS and broader MN community, including Influenza A/B, COVID-19, Pertussis, RSV, Norovirus, and other gastrointestinal illnesses.

Here are some steps you can take to stay healthy:

- Take time to get your FLU and COVID-19 shots. It is still appropriate to get both your FLU and your COVID-19 vaccinations if you haven't done that yet this 2024/2025 school year.
- School staff and students~Please stay home if you have a fever, respiratory symptoms like a cough, runny nose and/or sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, OR if you simply do not feel well enough to go to work or school.
- Consider wearing a face mask which are also available at school in the front office and the health office.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Get plenty of sleep and manage your stress levels.
- Stay hydrated and eat a balanced diet.
- Get enough sleep.
- Include physical activity in your daily lifestyle.
- Students-Please report any concerning symptoms promptly to your parents and/or guardians or if they occur while at school, please visit the health office

The Better Crew Bureau is developing Crew lessons on neurodiversity. if you have ideas or resources to share, please email the BCB President, Connie, at cvangenderen001@stpaul.k12.mn.us and the OWL Crew Lead, Megan, at megan.hall@spps.org.

This month in Crew we are studying civil discourse with a fun series of discussions. Last week, students participated in easygoing discussions about best vacation spots, best movies, and best times to do homework. This week, juniors and seniors get to show their younger Crewmates how to hold a fishbowl discussion. As the month progresses, we will tackle increasingly complex topics to hone our ability to agree to disagree.

NEW! Scholarship Opportunity: Are you a male high school senior planning to attend the University of Minnesota - Twin Cites? Apply for the Farmhouse Scholarship, available to students of all majors: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K7Ck3ippfbD-CCcDL_Tjug-W9K7FJmktfLFVQnN9LrE/edit?usp=sharing

DEADLINE THIS FRIDAY TO REGISER!

BILINGUAL SEAL TEST REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Does your student speak more than one language? It is time for them to be recognized and earn up to 20 FREE semester college credits per language!

What? A Bilingual Seals assessment is a language proficiency test. The test includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Earn your Minnesota Bilingual Seal or Certificate with a qualifying score!

Where? OWL - Open World Learning

When? April 21, 2025 / (calendar link to all schools)

Curious? Have a look at a sample test HERE or HERE.

Register today! Registration ends **January 31, 2025.**

Assessments are available in:

Amharic • Arabic • ASL • Bulgarian • Czech • Dakota • Dari • French German • Hebrew • Hindi • Hmong • Hungarian • Italian • Japanese • Karen Korean • Lakota • Mandarin Chinese • Ojibwe • Oromo • Pashto Portuguese • Russian • Slovak • Somali • Spanish • Swahili • Tamil • Ukrainian • Vietnamese

Talk to a language teacher or counselor for more information, or email lisa.showers@spps.org

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.

Community Announcements:

Summer Youth Employment Opportunity with Tree Trust: Click HERE for more information about a great job in the great outdoors.

Community Resources for Eye Care and Glasses HERE

Family Grief Support Group: Get more information HERE

Teen Grief Support Group: Get more information HERE

APPOINTMENTS ARE OPEN!

FREE DENTAL CARE FOR UNDERSERVED CHILDREN

Friday, Feb. 7 & Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025

Give Kids a Smile is a charitable outreach program that provides free dental care to underserved children (typically ages 3-18). Dental clinics throughout the state volunteer to provide these services during Children's Dental Health Month.

FIND A CLINIC

WHEN IS IT?

February 7 and 8, 2025

(Some clinics hold events on alternative dates.)

LOCATION?

Volunteer dental clinics across the state.

HOW ARE APPOINTMENTS MADE?

Families can locate a participating clinic by visiting www.mndental.org/gkas or contacting the United Way by dialing 2-1-1 or texting the zip code to 898-211.They can then contact the clinic directly to schedule an appointment.

Please, help us get the word out!

Many children have never been to the dentist and are suffering from untreated dental care – possibly many that you work with. We ask you to please inform families about this event so their children can get the needed care they desperately need.

Flyers and other materials are easily accessible by visiting the MDA website. Please print and post fliers, distribute information sheets, and forward this email to your network of professionals who work with families (schools, agencies, clients, and other organizations).

Remember, because this program is focused on providing dental care to children who face barriers to accessing dental care, families will NOT be asked any eligibility questions.

Thank you for helping us inform families about this important opportunity to improve their children's dental health…and smiles!

If you have any questions, please email sleclair@mndental.org

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.*