

OWL Weekly Email

January 26, 2026

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 is survey day in Crew, but we are taking this week off. Do you have a survey to give? Email megan.hall@spps.org.

NEW DATE!!! OWL 6th Grade Music Exploration and Songwriting showcase Tuesday January 27 from 7-9pm! The 6th graders will perform drumming, ukulele, ad songwriting skills they learned from music exploration in the OWL Theatre from 7-8pm. After the 6th grade performance, the students from the songwriting class will showcase their original songs from 8-9pm in the cafeteria. Come and support the budding music scene at OWL!

OWL Crew Parliament: meets in Megan & Akira's science classroom Wednesday during Crew.

Last day of Quarter 2: Thursday, January 29

No School on Friday, January 30: Staff Grading Day

First day of Quarter 3: Monday, February 2

Winter Spirit Week is February 2-6: The themes for each day will be released later in the month.

OWL History Day is Wednesday, February 4 from 5:30-8PM: Come see all the amazing projects prepared by our scholars!

Winter Dance is Friday, February 6 in the OWL Danceteria (cafeteria): Middle School Dance is 5:30-7 PM. High School Dance is 7:30-9:30 PM. Tickets for sale in lunch the week of February 2-6.

OWL Community Group/PTO will meet on Tuesday, February 10 from 6:30-8PM: Everyone is welcome to learn about what is happening at school and offer ideas and feedback. Hope to see you there!

OWL Art Night is Wednesday, February 11 from 6-8 PM: Come celebrate Art at OWL at this new event planned by senior Maddie Linstad.

NAAPID Celebration is Thursday, February 12 from 6-8PM: All are welcome to celebrate African-American Culture at OWL with presentations, activities and a great meal. Hope to see everyone there!

No School on Monday, February 16: Presidents' Day

The Parent Patrol is adding an instruction to our procedures: If you are approached by any unknown person, please refer them to the principal, Dave Gundale. Do not share any information, personal or otherwise.
*The rest of the instructions, and a schedule where you can sign up for parent patrol shifts, can be found HERE-- Code is: OWL640

Semester 2 Schedule Check! It's time to look at your semester two schedules and make change requests. Click on this link to submit a change request: CLICK HERE. Please know we do our best to get you the schedule you would prefer but note we may not be able to make all changes (due to class size caps, balancing, etc.). **Requests are due by Friday, February 6 at 3 pm**. Thank you! -Katerina

This month in Crew: OWL Crews are embarking on a two-month lesson series on civic engagement, designed in collaboration with Simmons University, Boston University, and Boston College. Crews are also getting ready to explore the connections between civic engagement and literacy in a school-wide February Read-a-Thon.

Flipside after school classes: The 2nd session of flipside starts on 2/2/2026. You can get a form to register HERE or pick up a copy from Jonathan Shirilla. We are offering 3 new classes for the 2nd session: American Sign Language (ASL), K-Pop Dance, and coding. We are so excited to start another session, and we look forward to seeing new faces in the program. Flipside is for 6th-8th grade students. Questions: contact Sharon Sharon.idowu@spps.org

SLAC (Student Library Advisory Council) is looking to produce a magazine that is composed of student-made stories, artwork, poetry, and more, about personal experiences that they or a person they know has had with ICE, immigration, or border patrol. Once produced, this magazine will be freely available for anyone to take in the OWL library.

Students may choose to remain anonymous if they'd prefer, and if they choose to make a story about someone that they know, make sure to ask consent before proceeding. We appreciate any and all submissions!
Submit your stories to:
Kmcnamara001@stpaul.k12.mn.us

agottfried001@stpaul.k12.mn.us
alind003@stpaul.k12.mn.us

Do you speak more than one language? It is time 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? Open World Learning Community
When? April 21
Curious? Have a look at a sample test HERE or HERE.
Register today! Registration ends **January 31, 2026.**
Assessments are available in:
Amharic • Arabic • ASL • Bulgarian • Czech • Dari • French • German • Hebrew • Hindi • Hmong • Hungarian • Italian • Japanese • Karen • Korean L/Dakota • Mandarin Chinese • Ojibwe • Oromo • Pashto • Portuguese• Russian • Slovak • Somali • Spanish • Swahili • Tamil • Telugu • Ukrainian • Vietnamese
Talk to Tim or Abbie for more information, or email lisa.showers@spps.org

The Assistant Principal HOWL Award theme for January is Integrity!
Ms. Ma'lene will be awarding 1 student who has gone above and beyond showing the HOWL of the month.
Examples of Integrity:

- Being honest
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Doing the right thing when no one is watching
- Admitting mistakes
- Taking ownership of your choices and their consequences
- Treating others with dignity

Students can enter by taking a picture of themselves doing the HOWL and using this **LINK HERE** or scan the QR code on the window outside my office and uploading it on the form. Some possible prizes are:

- **Ice Cream for you and your Crew!**
- **Tickets to special events!**
- **Lunch with 4 of your friends and Ms. Ma'lene!**
- **Sports equipment!**
- **Gift cards!**

All entries must be submitted by Jan. 26th to be considered for the Assistant Principal January HOWL Award. The winner will be announced at the January community meeting!!
I'm so excited to present this award and to celebrate your hard work!
Good Luck, Ms. Ma'lene

Purple Press Student Newspaper: CLICK HERE to read the latest issue of the newspaper.

It is not too late to join the High School Robotics Team: You can help us build a robot, program a robot, or drive a robot. Additionally, you don't even have to like robots to join! We have STEM outreach, and a whole business team that is in charge of finding donors and bringing in money. Oh, and 3D printers - we print all kinds of things (in fact, if you need something 3D printed for a class,

we can do that too). While this is a 9-12 team, if you are an 8th grader on a Lego League Team and you are interested in joining the team after your season is over, you can do that too! Sign up here.

DONATIONS NEEDED: Looking for a way to support Latino-owned businesses and our West Side neighbors who cannot work or leave their homes to shop: Neighborhood House and El Burrito Mercado are combining strengths to connect culturally relevant foods with Latino families right here in St. Paul.

Here's how you can partner with us:
• Shop at El Burrito Mercado and donate at the collection box inside the store.
• Purchase El Burrito Mercado gift cards HERE (Recipient: info@elburritomercado.com | Add "Neighborhood House" under Personalize Your Card)). Gift cards are donated directly to Neighborhood House to purchase culturally relevant foods for families.
• Donate directly to Neighborhood House HERE.

This partnership is truly a win-win for our community.
Your kindness and solidarity mean so much. Gracias, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

DONATIONS NEEDED--Beads Please: One of OWL's Lego League teams is looking for bead donations. For the past two years team members have made lego league-themed friendship bracelets to hand out to other teams at the competition in January, and they'd love to keep up the tradition! Wider, colored, pony bead-style in plastic, clay or glass and any letter beads would be much appreciated. They'll give your old beads a new STEM-filled life! Donations can be dropped off in the office or Sorcha's room (3202). Email coach Sorcha Nix with questions (sorcha.nix@spps.org). Thank you!

DONATIONS NEEDED: The Closet - We are collecting items for families who are impacted by recent local events:
Non-perishable food items: Flour, Rice, Maseca Corn Flour, Beans
Hygiene products: full size shampoo/conditioner, soaps including dish, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper
Please bring to room 2209 - Rebekah's classroom

Yearbook: Order your copy of this year's OWL yearbook here!!
If you have any photos that you think would make a great addition to the yearbook, please email the photos to Emily, our lead student editor, at **etotushek001@stpaul.k12.mn.us**

Join OWL PTO on Facebook: Keep up with what is happening at OWL:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/878792348867374

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.)

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.

Community Resources:

Food Resources Information from Ramsey County: Click HERE for more information

Give Kids a Smile is a charitable outreach program that provides free dental care to underserved children (typically ages 3-18).

FREE Summer Camp at the U of M: The Science of Breadmaking Info HERE

FREE Summer Camp at the U of M: Food, Agriculture and U Info HERE



Timothy Leone-Getten
Timothy is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters