

OWL Weekly Email

February 9, 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.

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

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.

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

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

Meals will be available to take home for students who are fasting during Ramadan, starting on February 18: Meals can be picked up at the end of each school day in the cafeteria. Make sure you know your student ID number. Students who eat in the cafeteria during lunch time and also take

home Ramadan meals on the same day will be charged $5.50. For more info, including menus, visit www.spps.org/ramadanmeals. Please reach out to OWL's head of nutrition services, Victoria Ojo at victoria.ojo@spps.org if you would like a Ramadan meal box.

Spring Ultimate Frisbee Registration for MIDDLE SCHOOL: Click HERE for information about joining the Manatee this spring! Deadline is February 28.

Spring Ultimate Frisbee Registration for HIGH SCHOOL: Click HERE for information about joining the Manatee this spring! Deadline is February 28.

High School Athletics Newsletter: Click HERE to find out about what is happening in OWL/Humboldt sports

History Day: OWL History Day was Wednesday and close to 200 students presented their projects to judges and the community. You can see full results and who is moving on to Regionals here.
*Students advancing to Regionals will attend a meeting during Crew on Tuesday 2/10 in the Auditorium. They'll get their comment forms from OWL History Day and have a chance to ask questions about Regionals.

This month in Crew: OWL Crews are engaged on a two-month lesson series on civic engagement, designed in collaboration with Simmons University, Boston University, and Boston College. This week, all Crews will begin a project in celebration of National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID).

Next month in Crew: OWL's first student-led read-a-thon is coming! **Donations of blank Sudoku and word puzzle books, and gently used graphic novels, are gratefully accepted** - please deliver to Megan's office, room 2206.

OWL PARENT PATROL: If you would like to volunteer to come to morning or afternoon buses and help keep an eye out, the sign up can be found HERE-- Password: OWL640
Please make sure you sign up if you intend to volunteer so that patrol leaders ensure that all intersections are manned. If slots are filled and you still want to patrol, you are welcome to join.
The OWL staff have generously started a hot beverage station inside the main office area for the parent patrol. Coffee, tea, and cocoa. Please bring your own mug, disposable cups available.
OWL parents are extending our help to the Humboldt school community: Humboldt has put together a list of current needs for their students and families. They have a lot of families sheltering in place and unable to get groceries, or experiencing a loss of income.
If you can help, please check out the details below!
Drop Off at the OWL front desk during school hours
Humboldt Groceries and Supplies Needs--Updated: 1/29/2026
· *Cooking Oil 48oz or smaller*
· *Spices-onion, garlic, salt, chili peppers, cumin, ancho chilies, ginger, turmeric*
· *Deodorant*
· *Toilet paper*
· *Toothpaste/toothbrushes*
· *Shampoo/conditioner*
· *Dish soap*
· *Laundry soap*
· *Razors/shaving cream*

· *Boxes of snacks (to be broken up into snack kits for families)*
· *Canned Tomatoes*
· *Canned fruit (no peaches)*
· *Canned veggies (no corn)*
· *Cereal*
· *Reusable grocery bags are always welcomed!*
*Humboldt's PTO can always take donations for family needs here: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/help-our-neighbors-in-need. These are used for more food and supplies for Humboldt families. Please share this widely!

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

2025-2026 WIDA ACCESS Test: State and federal laws require that all English Learner (EL) students are assessed yearly to measure their English reading, writing, listening and speaking progress.
Minnesota uses the WIDA ACCESS test as its annual assessment. EL students who receive special education services and who meet certain guidelines may take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS test instead.
These tests are used to see if students meet the WIDA English Language Development Standards and if a student is ready to exit from SPPS's EL program.
All SPPS EL students in grades K-12 will be given the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS tests between January 26 - March 19, 2026.
OWL ELL students, who work with Bridget and Matheus throughout the school week, will be testing between February 17-27.
If you have questions about your student's participation, please reach out to your child's principal. For more information on English language proficiency assessments and the MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal form, please go to:

- ACCESS Family Test Information website: spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- MDE Family Testing Information website: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

Please reach out to Bridget marybridget.leba@spps.org if you have any questions.

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: 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.

Summer Programs:

NEW! Right Track—Summer Employment for high school students (age 14 and above):
This program is for all Saint Paul young people (14-21) that meet our eligibility criteria.
The application can be found at the link here: Right Track Youth Application | Saint Paul Minnesota

Summer Outward Bound Opportunity: Outward Bound is offering two summer canoeing expeditions on the upper St. Croix River specifically for OWL students at a greatly subsidized cost. The two dates available are July 20-July 25 and August 17 - August 22, 2026. The cost of the 6-day trip is $450, which is a significant discount from a typically 6 day course. Each trip can have an enrollment of 10 students. Please use the following link to state your interest by February 20th: Summer Outward Bound Interest Form.

Summit Education: 2026 Summer Programs
Summit Education organizes virtual summer programs empowering the next generation of leaders in STEM. In 2026, Summit will host the Summit STEM Fellowship (SSF) and Summit Research Scholars (SRS).

- **Summit STEM Fellowship (SSF)**: SSF aims to empower the next generation of leaders in STEM. Students explore diverse STEM fields and career pathways, learning from 50+ mentors from Harvard, Stanford, and MIT. The fellowship is a flexible 10 - 15 hour/week commitment, allowing students to participate alongside other summer activities.
- **Summit Research Scholars (SRS)**: SRS equips students with the tools to conduct original research. The bootcamp covers essential research methodologies and technical skills, such as research design, literature analysis, Python programming, and data science, culminating in a Research Capstone project. The program emphasizes using research to solve real-world problems.

Applications for Summer 2026 programs are now open! Admissions are rolling, and students are encouraged to apply early to maximize their chances of acceptance. To learn more and apply, please visit www.summiteducation.org

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