OWL Weekly Email

February 23, 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: This week we are registering for Interim! The link is in the Crew slides and your Crew leader will share it in Crew. Do you have a survey to give? Email megan.hall@spps.org.

OWL Crew Parliament: meets Wednesday during Crew in Megan and Akira's science classroom, 3215.

School Service Spotlight: kudos to Collin Larson for washing all the Food Science dishes last week!

AVID Schoolwide: Teachers are working on mid-quarter grades this week. Use your planner to keep track of the assignments you need to complete.

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.

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

TRY ULTIMATE! March 4th 5PM-7PM: Curious about the wonderful sport of ultimate frisbee? Frisbee Coaches Donald and Flannery will be hosting an introductory-level frisbee event for any MIDDLE SCHOOLERS interested in playing ultimate frisbee in the spring season. There is NO SIGN UP NEEDED to come to the event, and there will be pizza and beverages. Meet in the OWL GYMNASIUM!

Spring Ultimate Frisbee Registration for MIDDLE SCHOOL: Click HERE for information about joining the Manatee this spring!

Spring Ultimate Frisbee Registration for HIGH SCHOOL: Click HERE for information about joining the Manatee this spring!

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

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.

Read-a-Thon: The Better Crew Bureau and OWL Crew Parliament are leading a school-wide, Crew-based read-a-thon in March and April. Donations of blank Sudoku and word puzzle books, and gently used graphic novels, are gratefully accepted - please deliver to Megan's office, room 2206. The three Crews with the most reading minutes will win ice cream parties. Prizes and certificates will also be awarded for students who reach 200-minute, 500-minute, and 1000-minute reading milestones; the top two readers in each grade; and student who read books with civic engagement themes.

Seeking Volunteers to Provide OWL/Humboldt Students a Safe Transportation to and from School: We are looking for volunteers who would be able to provide consistent, safe transportation to and from school for OWL/Humboldt students. Please fill out this form if you are able to volunteer: Provide Safe Transportation Sign-up We currently have a need for students who live in the West Side. If you are able to help, please fill out the form or contact Laura at laura.orris@spps.org.

Housing Assistance: The Highland Park Elementary School Parent Solidarity Network has partnered with Neighborhood House to provide district-wide housing assistance for SPPS families facing imminent eviction. If you are able to help support the effort, please donate here: Cheddar Up SPPS Fundraiser

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.

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

Join the Golf Team this spring: OWL has a strong history of student participation in athletics in partnership with Humboldt High School. OWL student athletes have made significant contributions to numerous athletic teams at Humboldt in the past.
My name is Ray Gonsalez, I am the Boys Golf Coach at Humboldt. I am inviting OWL students and parents to consider increasing the number of OWL students that participate on our Boys and Girls Golf Team. We have had a few OWL students participate in golf in the past but not close to the number that have participated in other Fall, Winter, or Spring sports.
I am asking all students interested in joining the Boys and Girls Golf teams at Humboldt High School to contact me for further information regarding the upcoming 2026 Spring Golf Season.
Ray Gonsalez ray.gonsalez@spps.org 651-744-5581

MCA & MTAS/Alt MCA Testing 2025-2026: Each spring, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) is provided to students in mathematics (grades 6,7,8 and 11). The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) is provided to students in reading (grades 6-8 and 10) and science (grades 8 and in high school upon completing biology). These tests provide a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards. The MCA are used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. The Minnesota Department of Education and SPPS can use results to look across student groups, schools and districts to evaluate equitable learning opportunities for all students.
Assessments are designed to provide information about student learning, but there is no single assessment that can provide the full perspective of what a student has learned. These assessments provide one data point that should be considered in the context of additional evidence of student learning.
The spring testing schedule is below. All MCA tests will take place during **Periods 1, 2 and possibly 4 if students do not finish.**

<table>
<tr><th>6th Grade</th><th>7th Grade</th><th>8th Grade</th><th>9th Grade</th><th>10th Grade</th><th>11th Grade</th></tr>
<tr><td>4/14 A day MCA Reading</td><td>4/15 B day MCA Reading</td><td>4/16 A day MCA Reading</td><td rowspan="3">5/5 B day MCA Biology</td><td rowspan="3">4/17 B day MCA Reading</td><td>3/5 A day MCA Math</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">4/29 B day- MCA Math</td><td rowspan="2">4/28 A day MCA Math</td><td>4/23 B day MCA Math</td><td rowspan="2">3/10 B day ACT
**7:45am Arrival - approximate 12:45pm Finish</td></tr>
<tr><td>5/6 A day MCA Science</td></tr>
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If you have questions about your student's participation in statewide assessments, reach out rebecca2.palmer@spps.org , the schools testing coordinator.
For more information on the MCA and MTAS please go to:

· SPPS MCA & MTAS/Alt MCA Family Testing Information website: https://www.spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/mca-family-information
· MDE Family Testing Information website: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

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: 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.

FREE MOVIE AT THE WALKER: Come See HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE on Saturday, February 28 at 1 PM. More information HERE

SUMMER PROGRAMS

NEW! Math Corps at Macalester: Paid positions for high school students in grades 9-11 in June and July. More information HERE

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

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.*



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