



OWL Weekly Email

March 2, 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 have TWO new surveys (and one old one). Use the QR codes shared in Crew or the links below. Do you have a survey to give? Email megan.hall@spps.org.

1. All Crew students need to complete the [SPPS Advisories Survey](#) on March 2.
2. [Read-a-thon surveys are open](#); students should submit their minutes every week in March and April.
3. Students can still complete the [Interim registration form](#) posted in the Crew slides.

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

School Service Spotlight: Hats off to Halie Karre for preparing Crew materials for the entire school for this 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.

Read-a-Thon: The Read-a-Thon is ON! Be sure to bring something to read (or Success Maker) to Crew every Wednesday in March and April. 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. [Read-a-thon surveys are open](#); students should submit their minutes every week in March and April.

School Service Mid-term Self-Evaluations: All school service students need to attend mid-term self-evaluation sessions as follows.

Monday, March 2 (B day)

- 1B: Tim's office (2111)
- 2B: Megan's office (2206)
- 3B: Megan's office (2206)
- 4B: Megan's office (2206)

Tuesday, February 3 (A day)

- 1A: Tim's office (2111)
- 2A: Tim's office (2111)
- 3A: Megan's office (2206)
- 4A: Megan's office (2206)

TRY ULTIMATE! Wednesday, 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!

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.

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: March Crew lessons focus on integrity and the read-a-thon. OWL Crew Parliament members who attend meetings will be ready to lead one integrity lesson every Tuesday.

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.

PSEO Night Video Recording: If you are in grades 9-11 and you missed the virtual meeting about Post-Secondary Enrollment Options for next year, [HERE](#) is a link to the recording. Questions contact Jolene: Jolene.yang@spps.org

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: Hello parents, we will continue to update the signup for parent patrol and welcome volunteers to continue to patrol at pick up and drop off. The link can be found [HERE](#)-- Password: OWL640

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 Gonzalez, 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 Gonzalez ray.gonzalez@spps.org 651-744-5581

The Assistant Principal HOWL Award Theme for March is Stewardship!

Ms. Ma'lene will be awarding 1 student who has gone above and beyond showing the HOWL of the month.

Examples of Stewardship:

- Taking responsibility
- Cleaning up after yourself and/or community
- Empowerment through involvement

- Making time to complete work

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 Mar. 11th to be considered for the Assistant Principal January HOWL Award. The winner will be announced at the March community meeting!!

I'm so excited to present this award and to celebrate your hard work!

Good Luck, Ms. Ma'lene

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.**

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
<u>4/14 A day</u> MCA Reading	<u>4/15 B day</u> MCA Reading	<u>4/16 A day</u> MCA Reading	<u>5/5 B day</u> MCA Biology	<u>4/17 B day</u> MCA Reading	<u>3/5 A day</u> MCA Math
<u>4/29 B day-</u> MCA Math	<u>4/28 A day</u> MCA Math	<u>4/23 B day</u> MCA Math			<u>3/10 B day</u> ACT **7:45am Arrival - approximate 12:45pm Finish
		<u>5/6 A day</u> MCA Science			

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 SPSS's EL program.

All SPSS 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.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

NEW! The University of St. Thomas School of Engineering STEPS Camp Registration is [open!](#)

What is STEPS?

STEPS is a one-day camp designed to inspire girls in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to explore engineering, though all students in these grades are welcome to participate. Campers will explore the engineering design process, visit UST engineering labs, and explore life on campus. Students will have the opportunity to make new friends and learn from college students and teachers about engineering. Lunch and a morning snack are provided. [You can read more about STEPS here.](#)

Who is it for?

For students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade for the 2026/2027 school year, so that they will have the opportunity to sign up for STEM electives at their school in the fall.

When is STEPS being offered?

Monday, June 22, 2026: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Wednesday, June 24, 2026: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Thursday, June 25, 2026: 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Friday, June 26, 2026: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Note: There is a \$15 non refundable registration fee. Please register for the day that works best for you.

Where is STEPS?

The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Campus. 2115 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105

[You can register here.](#) Please share this email with other families and spread the word about this low-cost program.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelsey Irizarry at CEE@stthomas.edu.

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