

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**JANUARY 29, 2024**

*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, January 29** is the start of Semester 2. It is an **A day**. We will all go to crew for the first 10 minutes of the day to hand out semester 2 schedules.

**Monday is survey day in Crew**: On January 29, please complete [this survey](#) on SPIRIT WEEK and Friday's WINTER DANCE!!! Do you have a survey for all OWL students? Email [megan.hall@spps.org](mailto:megan.hall@spps.org) to get on the survey calendar.

**DEADLINE WEDNESDAY!! Plant Sale**: OWL students hold an annual plant sale to support service trips to Outward Bound basecamps around the country each spring. 100% of the money earned through this plant sale fundraiser goes to transportation fees for students. All lodging and meals are earned by student volunteer work. Thank you for supporting this over 30-year tradition and making an empowering adventure possible for our students!

Our plants are of excellent quality and reasonably priced.

[HERE is the order form](#). Print out the form, complete your order **either online or on paper** and return it to OWL. You can pay online, cash or check.

Deadline to turn in your order is **JANUARY 31**. Plants will be ready to be picked up from OWL in mid-May.

We hope you choose to support our sale!

Questions: Tim [timothy.leone-getten@spps.org](mailto:timothy.leone-getten@spps.org) or Clara [clara.raineri@spps.org](mailto:clara.raineri@spps.org)

**Wednesday is Clubs Day in Crew:**

Students, click on [this week's Clubs slide](#) to see your club choices.

*\*Students need to go to Crew for attendance and get **smart passes** from Crew leaders to go to clubs. Students who do not go to clubs should be doing a Crew lesson with their Crew leader or a buddy Crew leader*

**NEW! Auditions for OWL Theater's Spring Play - Snow Angel:**

Auditions for OWL Theater's One Act Plays are this week!

- **Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th**
- Afterschool from 3-5:30pm.

**Signups are on the Call Board outside the Auditorium.**

Students will be given a monologue to read at auditions. Arrange a ride home after their 5 minute time slot. If students cannot arrange a ride, please email Rebekah.

## **Designers**

The Design Crew is responsible for sets, costumes, props, lights, sound, projections, and making the show run! Come learn what it's about **Wednesday Jan 31st during Crew** for an informational meeting. Design Crew applications are due to the folder outside the auditorium by Wednesday Jan 31st at 3pm.

## **Important Dates:**

Mon Jan 29th & Tues 30th: Auditions 3-5pm

Wed Jan 31st: Design Crew Forms Due at 3pm

Wed Jan 31st & Thurs Feb 1st: Callbacks 3-5pm

Fri Feb 2nd: Cast List & Design Crew posted - Auditorium at 1:00pm

Mon Feb 12th: First Rehearsal

April 24th, 25th, 26th: Performances of Snow Angel at 7pm

Questions: email Rebekah at [rebekah.rentzel@spps.org](mailto:rebekah.rentzel@spps.org)

## **Spirit Week:** January 29-February 2.

Monday VS: Snow vs. Summer: Wear your snow gear or your beach attire

Tacky Tuesday: Old trends, silly costumes, as tacky as you want!

On Wednesdays, We Wear Pink!

Thursday: Anything But a Backpack Day: bring something creative to carry your things!

Fancy Friday: Go as formal as you like—even what you plan to wear to the dance!

## **Winter Dance:** Friday, February 2 in the OWL "Danceteria"

Middle School Dance 5:30-7PM, High School Dance 7:30-9:30PM

Tickets are \$5 and will be for sale at lunches the week of January 29.

**OWL History Day:** Wednesday, February 7 from 5:30-8PM. Come see all the amazing historical projects of our students!

**NAAPID National African-American Parent Involvement Day:** Monday, February 12. Families are warmly welcomed to school today for classroom visits and activities.

**African-American Family Culture Night:** Thursday, February 15 at 6PM. Families are invited to a wonderful night of performances, food and community.

**Presidents' Day:** Monday, February 19--NO SCHOOL

**NOTE DATE CHANGE! PSEO Information Night VIRTUAL:**  
**Wednesday, February 28 at 6PM.** Students and families in grades 9-11, come to this virtual meeting to learn more about Post-Secondary Enrollment Options at local colleges.

**DEADLINE ON WEDNESDAY! Do you speak more than one language?** It is time to be recognized and earn up to 20 FREE semester college credits per language! **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!  
\*The test will be given at OWL on Tuesday, April 23.  
**Register at this link today!** Registration ends **January 31, 2024.**

**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 • Somali • Spanish • Swahili • Tamil • Ukrainian • Vietnamese**

**Talk to Tim or Jolene for more information, or email [megan.budke@spps.org](mailto:megan.budke@spps.org)**

**Watch this Video** about the Bilingual Seal Test  
Have a look at a sample test **HERE**.

**Applications are open for the 5-day fall 2024 HBCU**

**tour:** Students interested in attending Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) can apply to attend a 5-day tour. For more information, **see this flyer.**

**Do you have another student who is interested in OWL?**

If you would like to sign up to tour OWL during the school day or shadow a current OWL student, you can sign up [HERE](#) on our website.

**The Purple Press:** Read this year's first edition of the OWL student newspaper [HERE](#)

**Attention all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders! We need more tutors!!** Need more service hours? Need to boost that resume? Looking for something high quality to add to the common app? Sign up to tutor every Thursday during crew! Each tutoring period counts as one service hour!

If you have not yet filled out the form but think that you are tutoring, please confirm your involvement and fill out the form! It is required.

Sign up here - <https://forms.gle/4wLHD52Hah2pRtAx8>

Thank you so much! Raina and Hazel, Tutoring Coordinators  
2023-2024

**OWL Tutor Referral.** Would you like to refer a student to be tutored? Parents, guardians, and teachers can request an OWL tutor using [THIS LINK](#).

**Robotics season has started!** Stop by Tim's room Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 if you want to learn more - visitors are welcome, and we still have room on the team. You can sign up to receive team emails at [this link](#). Please consider supporting the Open Circuits by purchasing an item from the team's [Amazon wish list](#). Send purchases to school with your child or ship directly to: Megan Hall, OWL, 640 Humboldt Avenue, St. Paul MN 55107.

**NEW Dine out for Robotics!**

- Join us on **February 7 at Panera** (2056 Ford Parkway) from 4-8pm for a good meal and a chance to support the OWL Robotics team, Open Circuits! Just remember to mention the team's fundraiser at checkout, or use the promo code FUND4U if you're ordering online.
- And if you can't make it February 7, there's another opportunity to support the team. Just go to Chipotle (1857 Robert St S) on March 4 from 5-9pm, and mention us while ordering, or use the code YNQRWRZ if you're ordering online!

**Safety Information:** Each year, all schools in MN have to conduct 5 safety drills, 5 fire drills, and 1 severe weather drill. Drills are, of course, conducted so that staff and students know the procedures in case an actual safety concern arises. Being a part of a larger school complex with two separate schools means that we coordinate our safety procedures depending on the situation. Please take a moment to look at the SPPS district safety

protocols at the following link:

<https://www.spps.org/Domain/14306>. Please don't hesitate to reach out to David or Ma'lene with any questions you might have. You can reach us at [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org), [malene.walker@spps.org](mailto:malene.walker@spps.org)

### **Summer Opportunities:**

**NEW!** **Have you ever heard of the STEPS Summer Program at the University of St. Thomas, School of Engineering?** It is a cost-free program that introduces **middle school girls** to careers in STEM. Go [HERE](#) for much more information!

**NEW!** **Team Right Track is reaching out with an exciting announcement that our Application for Summer 2024 youth internships is NOW OPEN, through February 29, 2024.** Go [HERE](#) for eligibility information and links to the application.

**NEW!** **MITY** is a summer program that provides young people **with the opportunity to explore their passions, experience life on a college campus.** Our diverse and inclusive environment empowers students to be themselves and to learn without the pressure of grades or tests. **Financial aid is available.** We are now accepting applications for elementary, middle school and high school students. See a flyer with more information [HERE](#).



## Community Information:

**NEW!** Circle of Security Parenting Class: A free 6 week class this winter offered to indigenous families. Go [HERE](#) for more information.

### **APPOINTMENTS ARE OPEN!**

#### **FREE DENTAL CARE FOR UNDERSERVED CHILDREN**

*Friday, Feb. 2 & Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024*

[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 2 and 3, 2024

*(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](http://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.

**\*\*FREE COVID tests\*\*** are available through the mail from the MN Department of Health if you request them. LINK:  
<http://sayyeshometest.org>

**Food Resources:** We wanted to share with our community that Ramsey County has compiled many resources to support food access for Ramsey County residents.

[Food Resources Map](#): an interactive map of food access locations across the county

[Food Resources Website](#): includes a food resource guide for the upcoming holiday, resource guides by neighborhoods, materials in multiple languages, and food resources for specific groups of people

**OWL Schoolwide Norms:** Created by representatives of each Crew this fall with input from all students

- 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.*

**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](mailto: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.