

Open World Learning Community PTO
640 Humboldt Ave, St Paul, MN 55107
In Person and Google Hangout Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
6:30p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Welcome: Welcoming folks in person and online. Introductions were made, agenda was reviewed.

Treasurer Report:

- The PTO's registration with the Minnesota Secretary of State has been updated through the end 2022. Soon we will re-register with the Office of the Attorney General.
- The current balance of the PTO checking account is \$56,620.11, with approximately \$1,000 expenses for the Fall Family Gathering coming soon!
- **Give to the Max Day:** Be on the lookout for our annual direct appeal fundraising letter from Dave, which will be mailed to OWL families this week. The letter kicks off our biggest fundraiser, Give to the Max Day — a huge day of online giving to non-profits that this year takes place on Thursday, November 18th. This year we have an ambitious goal of raising \$20,000 for experiential learning, primarily Fall Retreats. We've met this goal in the past and have high hopes we can do it again! We hope you'll consider a donation to the PTO online on Give to the Max Day, or by using the envelope enclosed in the direct donation letter — in any amount that works for your family. We want to stress that the school did not ask families for any fees to offset the fall retreat this year.
 - Most years we have a nice sized matching grant — from \$1000 up to \$13,000! one year — from multiple donors. To date, we do not have any match donors. Anyone who would like to make a matching grant donation should call or email Dave.

Principal Report:

- Fall Retreats: Last time we met we were a week away from Fall Retreats. Every grade had different things going on during the week - especially outdoors, and especially on the West Side.
- Lots of staff have been out due to COVID-like symptoms while they wait for test results. This has made long term planning harder, and short term planning easier.
- Growing number of kids showing up in the office with cold-like symptoms that need to be properly addressed.
- Fall sports are wrapping up.
- EDL/Flipside started last week. About 40-50 kids are participating. In addition theater started yesterday and drop in practices for archery. Some classes are full, but many have space. No transportation this year. We are planning to have both a theater and choir performance.
- Latinx daily event was postponed until Spring to allow for more planning.
- Asian family night planned for December 1.
- After MEA students will be allowed to find new seats in their same zone at lunch. The cafeteria seating chart has been very useful for contact tracing.
- Digital Learning Day on November 2 (all kids are school from home).

- 15 students (11 & 12th graders) have signed up to participate in “Grit Lab” with about 85 students in schools from around the country. We attempted to watch a video called “Grit Lab 101 Lecture 6.1”, related to goal setting. Technology hurdles were a barrier.

Student Report (Mae):

- Homecoming Week: Usually we have a fall dance - but no dance this year. So we had a homecoming hangout after the Ultimate game. It was a good alternative to a dance. Spirit Week usually revolves around the theme of the dance the week leading up to it, this year spirit week followed homecoming. “Anything but a backpack” day was a hit.

Upcoming events:

- MEA - No school 10/21 & 10/22
- Fall Family Gathering - Rescheduled to Wednesday, November 3. Still at Harriet Island Pavilion from 5:30 - 8:30. Pavilion requires masks indoors, but not outdoors. A great event to get to know other families.
- School pictures - November 29 (Monday). Retakes December 16 (Thursday).

OWL PTO Volunteer Opportunities:

Grateful for all the support we have received so far from the community to help in volunteer roles. We still need more help!

OWL PTO welcomes your time and talents with many small and larger volunteer jobs! Sign up on your own or with a friend or tell us if you’d like to do part of a job and we will pair you with another volunteer. We would like to have students involved in these activities as well. Students can count these activities as school service hours! Contact Kristin Peterson at kapeters500@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer.

Theater Refreshment Coordinator (1 - 2 people)

Organize the sale of refreshments during our fall and/or spring plays. Schedule volunteers online and organize/set up items needed for the refreshment sale at each of the three nights of the play. This is a great job for someone who has a student in the play and a great way to meet lots of other OWL parents. Please contact Kristin at kapeters500@gmail.com if you are interested.

MCA Snack Coordinator (1 person)

Work with the OWL testing coordinator to determine testing dates and number of students. Purchase predetermined snacks (things like granola bars, bottled water, and mints/gum) and deliver to the testing coordinator 1-2 times during the year. Please contact Kristin at kapeters500@gmail.com if you are interested.

Teacher Appreciation (1 - 2 people)

Organize teacher appreciation week in the Spring and other ideas throughout the year to show OWL teachers and staff how much they are appreciated. This volunteer can work with PTO members to come up with ideas and solicit help from parents in the OWL Community as well as work with David Gundale

on teacher shout outs throughout the year. Contact Kristin at kapeters500@gmail.com if you would like to help with this.