



The Open School Monthly: **October, 2009**

Dedicated to keeping families informed about Open School events & volunteer opportunities

Open School Events

Saint Paul Open School PTO Meeting October 1st

Saint Paul Open School PTO will meet Thursday, October 1st 6:30 – 7:30pm to review our final details for Homecoming and to brainstorm future events & their corresponding dates!

Homecoming, Family Fun – October 9th

Homecoming at Open School is a unique endeavor since we do not have the traditional football game with a rival team followed by a dance. We are a unique school, therefore our Homecomings are unique.

Back by popular demand, come and join us Friday, October 9th from 6-8:00pm for an evening of music, basketball, hoola-hooping, frisbee, four-square and staying warm at the fire pits. Bring your flash-light for flash-light tag. Light snacks will be served. Meet at the firepits at 6:30 to weigh-in on the final two Open School name selections.

Homecoming at Open School is a K-12 family event and alumni in 'good standing' are also invited to attend. Elementary students need to be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian to attend this event. Bring the family and enjoy an evening of fun and community with a variety of activities for everyone. Parents/Guardians; if you need transportation to the Homecoming event, please contact Janice to make arrangements at 293-8679.

Volunteers are needed for setup, take-down and event supervision in ½ hour shifts.

- Bonnie at 489-7499 or email at Bonnie.Youngquist@comcast.net
- Susan at 690-9217 or email at swpc@comcast.net

Site Council Monthly Meeting – October 20th

Site council meets Tuesday, October 20th beginning at 5:30. Site Council consists of students, parents, teachers and administration. Everyone is encouraged to attend; especially students. A light dinner is served. More information about meeting minutes and site council members can be found at http://www.open.spps.org/Site_Council.html.

Open School News

Open School Name Change Update

A task group consisting of staff members, a site council representative and student representation have reviewed all proposals and presented their two new name recommendations at the September 22nd Site Council meeting. You will have the opportunity to review and comment on the final two name choices at our Homecoming event

October Calendar

1st, Thursday, Open School PTO Meeting, 6:30 – 7:30pm, teacher lounge

9th, Friday, Homecoming, 6:00-8:30pm, playground (cafetorium in case of rain)

13th, Tuesday, November newsletter submissions due to

Bonnie.Youngquist@comcast.net.

15th -16th, Thursday & Friday, Statewide Teacher Meetings/NO SCHOOL.

20th, Tuesday, Site Council Meeting, 5:30 – 7pm, includes dinner.

23rd, Friday, Secondary Professional Development ; Elementary Conference Preparation; NO SCHOOL

November Theatre Production – The Tempest

Shakespeare theatre is back at Open School this fall with a much anticipated production of "The Tempest."

Set aside November 19th & 20th for November productions. December productions will be noted in the November newsletter.

Breakfast to Go (B2G)

This fall, Open School is one of several schools that will be offering students the opportunity to pick up a nutritious breakfast when they arrive at school and take it to their classroom/advisory to eat. Offering B2G is a great way to reach students who do not have time to eat before school, aren't hungry when they first wake up, don't have time to eat in the cafeteria, or have a long bus ride to school. The B2G program reinforces the linkage between eating a healthy breakfast and learning.

on October 9th. The final name will be determined mid-October.

A message from Morris Goodwin, Tutor Coordinator

Dear Parents,

My name is Morris Goodwin III, and I am the Tutoring Coordinator. I wanted to let you know about a great volunteer opportunity new this year to Open School. As a full time staff member, my main focus at Open School is planning and implementing our Reading and Math Buddies program. The program is designed to work with students K-8, engaging them either one-on-one or small group tutoring in the classroom. The program is a great opportunity for you as a parent to participate in your child's school. We want Open School to be an environment in which you and your child feel welcome and comfortable. The best way to become part of Open School is to volunteer your time to be a reading or math buddy to one of our students. A minimum volunteer commitment at Open School requires a brief tutoring training at the start of the program, followed by 1 hour a week of working with a student for 13 weeks. If you are interested and want to know more, don't hesitate to contact me.

Morris Goodwin, Tutor Coordinator, morris.goodwin@spps.org
651-293-8670 ext. 6110

Saint Paul PTO Update

Welcome to *Saint Paul Open School's* PTO organization. Last year, a small but dedicated group of parents started the process to become a tax exempt, non-profit parent teacher organization. Once finalized, our PTO will be able to accept tax-deductible donations and would be responsible for following regulations set by the IRS and the state.

If you are looking to get involved in the PTO please contact any member of the PTO board noted below. Or better yet, complete the attached PTO membership application and we'll give you a call. Be involved as little or as much as you can. This is a great way to meet parents & staff and support Open School. Membership to the *Saint Paul Open School PTO* is open to parents/guardians of Open School students and staff and is free of charge.

The PTO sponsors several events throughout the year, including the popular annual Homecoming Event, Silent Auction, multi-cultural night and more. Additionally, at least two teacher appreciation events are scheduled per year; the most requested event is the *Potluck for Teachers* scheduled during evening conferences.

As for fundraising activities, the PTO generally offers a catalogue sale at least once per year. We also sell refreshments at various events at Open School such theatre performances in addition to collecting food labels. Although it might not seem like much, collecting food labels and printer cartridges pay for some field trips, special classroom supplies, and other "extras" not otherwise covered by school budgets.

- Bonnie at 489-7499 or email at Bonnie.Youngquist@comcast.net
Susan at 690-9217 or email at swpc@comcast.net

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. Wash with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner. CDC recommends that when you wash your hands -- with **soap and warm water** -- that you wash for 15 to 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. If using gel, rub your hands until the gel is dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol kills the germs on your hands."



Soap & towel dispensers have been added (when missing or broken) in Open's bathrooms to encourage hand-washing.

Youth Frontiers Character Challenge

Printed with permission, for more information, go to: www.youthfrontiers.org

"Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." Mahatma Gandhi

Character Challenge: Welcome back to a brand new school year! This is your chance to start the year anew - and allow others the same favor. This week, focus on letting go of past grudges, and give those people with whom you haven't gotten along another chance.

Character Tip: Everyone has made a mistake once or twice. The next time you hear someone talking about another's mistake, kindly remind them that none of us are perfect.

Character Bonus: Remember this is your chance to start fresh as well! Focus this week on putting forth your best efforts in your classes, and use your talents for the good of the school.

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

Check the CDC website for updates and any revised recommendations at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. (SPPS requires that you keep your child home from school until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever without the use of a fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol or a prescription anti-viral medication. A fever is defined as having a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 Celsius or greater.)

Note from Jim, Open's School Nurse

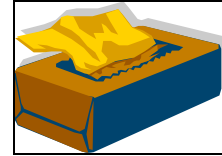
The beginning of the school year is often associated with head lice among school aged children. Head lice are commonly spread from person-to-person by direct contact, on shared personal items (combs, brushes, hats, sports headgear, head phones, jackets, and other clothing), or by lying on infested furniture, carpeting, or bedding. Lice do not jump or fly. They crawl and can fall off the head. Head lice do not live longer than 48 hours off the head. They only lay nits while on the head. Nits that hatch after they have fallen off the head will die quickly without a blood meal. Lice do not spread to or from pets.

You can prevent head lice by encouraging your child not to share hair care items, towels, clothing, hats, sports headgear, and headphones. Frequent checking of children's heads helps prevent the spread of lice because new cases can be treated promptly.

Head lice can cause itching of the scalp and neck. The nits (eggs) are glued to the hair within ½ inch from the scalp and often at the back of the head and behind the ears. Tiny red blood spots (louse bite marks) on the scalp are also a sign of lice. Using a magnifying glass and a bright light will help you spot lice or nits. What to do if your child gets head lice:

- 1) Kill the lice with special lice shampoo purchased from the drug store or by prescription from your healthcare provider. Alternative methods include manual removal and/or suffocating agents such as petroleum jelly or mayonnaise.
- 2) Remove as many nits as possible with a nit comb (available at pharmacies or provided with pediculicide shampoo).
- 3) Remove lice from the environment:
 - * Soaking combs/brushes in 130 degree water for 5-10 minutes
 - * Washing bedding in 130 degree water
 - * Sealing non-washable items (stuffed animals, pillows etc.) in a plastic bag for 1 week
 - * Vacuum furniture, carpets, and mattresses thoroughly
- 4) Notify Open's school nurse: resources and recommendations for treatment are available: james.patterson@spps.org
- 5) Follow-up and repeat treatment as needed.

Cough & Sneeze Tip: Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Wash your hands often with soap and water and after you cough or sneeze.



Monthly on the Web

The Monthly is on our website! Go to www.open.spps.org and click on "Newsletters" in the left-hand menu.

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Return Service Requested**