



ACADEMY OF WHOLE LEARNING

The Exceptional School for Exceptional Learners

The BRIDGE

Thursday, November 5, 2015

We provide a personalized learning path integrating academic, social and life skills for qualifying students with autism spectrum disorder or related learning differences.

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Snapshot from The Nest

Academy of Whole Learning invites you to enjoy a spontaneous view of school life.



Happy Fall! Students in the St. Croix River Room explored the science between micro-vibration motors! Students learned how to connect a small vibration motor to a battery in order to create vibrations. Once taped to a toothbrush head, these vibrations propelled small foam

Quick Links

[2015-2016 School Calendar](#)

[I CAN! Tutoring Registration](#)

[Home Base Registration](#)

[Co-Curricular Fall Registration](#)



Upcoming Events & Reminders

Finding Your Spark

Thursday, November 10

Give to the Max Day

Thursday, November 12

Fall Open House

Thursday, November 19

Book Fair

Monday, November 23

Tuesday, November 24

Special Person's Day

Tuesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 25 - 27; No School

BULLETIN BOARD

Words from Wyayn

When explaining Academy of Whole Learning to public school colleagues, I frequently get asked how I could support a model of exclusive education. They often go on to tell me that inclusive education is the best model. I usually smile in response and completely agree with them. And then I go on to explain that inclusive education is the best model, which is why Academy of Whole Learning provides an inclusive atmosphere for all our students with learning differences.

The term inclusion is a relatively new philosophical interpretation of Least Restrictive Environment. Interestingly, the term does not appear in the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The origin of inclusion came from a joint meeting in 2009 of the National Association for the Education for Young Children (NAEYC) and the CEC's Division for Early Childhood (DEC). They issued a statement identifying the features of high-quality inclusion: "a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning" (DEC/NAEYC, 2009, p. 2). The driving forces should be participation, social relationships, and learning outcomes. The thought behind the word inclusion should be more than physical placement of children with disabilities in the same classroom as those without.

The controversial part of inclusion is found in several key studies. One such study found that parents of students in public school inclusion classes voiced a greater degree of concern with their children's school programs; parents and teachers of the students in the inclusion classes described more occasions of behavior problems; students in inclusion classes reported lower levels of self-esteem and that while students in inclusion classes were more likely to experience gains in reading, no notable improvement for mathematics, language, or spelling were found (Daniel, 1997). Benefits of inclusion are especially lacking for students with autism spectrum disorder.

Students with ASD need to learn what is just intuitively grasped by the neurotypical student. Batten, Corbett, Rosenblatt, Withers & Yuille (2006) found that inclusion programs for students with autism spectrum disorder into classrooms with non-disabled students were detrimental to the ASD student. They found that the content and teaching practices in regular education schools were not changed to accommodate students with ASD. They found that teachers, when working with a student of any disability, would modify and break down the traditional curriculum. The teachers' approaches were geared toward a mythical 'norm' of how students think and learn. Breaking down

Donations



On Special Person's Day, AOWL students and guests will be completing a service project in partnership with the In Love, Word & Deed: a ministry to the homeless of Minnesota. We will be making fleece blankets to donate to children and adults in need. We are in search of parent volunteers to take home fleece and precut the corners and strips of fleece to be tied on Special Person's Day. Parents can pick up the fleece from the office on November 18, and would need to return the cut blankets on Monday, November 23.

To volunteer, please email Tina San Miguel tina.sanmiguel@gmail.com.

Stay Connected



Accreditation

content into smaller steps, which often works for students with learning disabilities, is not always suitable for students with ASD (Jordan, 1997).

At Academy of Whole Learning, we interpret inclusive learning not to mean educating students with disabilities alongside students without disabilities; rather we meet the original intent of inclusive education. We provide a fully inclusive environment focused on participation, social skills and learning outcomes. A beautiful example of our focus on participation and social skills is our athletics program through Special Olympics. Please see the article in this issue of the Bridge entitled: AOWL State Champs!

--Wyayn Rasmussen, Head of School

Session II - Winter I Co-Curricular Activities Registration is Now OPEN



Session II - Winter I Co-Curricular Activities
Registration is Now OPEN!

Offerings Include:

- Art Club (Grades 1-3)
- Special Olympics Basketball (Grades 4-12)
- Special Olympics Basketball SKILLS (Grades 1-3)
- Chess Club (Grades 4-12)
- Lego Club (Grades 4-12)
- Karate Club (Grades 4-12)

For more information about the Winter I offerings and registration information please visit our [co-curricular activities](#) page on our website.

AOWL State Champions

& Memberships



Minnesota Non-Public School Accrediting Association

www.mnsaa.org

*We are proud to be an MNSAA
Candidate.*



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

Minnesota Independent School Forum

www.misf.org

*We are grateful for MISF and their
continued support.*



National Association of Special Education Teachers

www.naset.org

*We are proud to be a
2015-2016*

School of Excellence
award recipient.



Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

<http://www.minnesotanonprofits.org>



Council for Exceptional Children

www.cec.sped.org





AOWL State Champs!

We have a secret. A magic jewel of a secret. Hardly anyone knows this secret. But the truth is, it shouldn't be classified. We should be shouting this from the mountain tops. Except that we're in Minnesota, so perhaps we'll be shouting this from the IDS Tower. Are you ready? Here it is: Academy of Whole Learning Owls took first place in our division in the State Tournament for Special Olympics Flag Football. **State Champions!** This wasn't on the local news or covered by the local paper. The stands weren't packed with fans. But our kids played with everything they had.

Partnering with Breck School, Academy of Whole Learning students took to the gridiron like seasoned professionals.

The team played three games. The Owls first game was a tough one, playing the Orono Spartans-1. This team was not a new team for the Owls as they played the Orono Spartans at the State Competition last year. Jacob was able to throw long passes to open receivers like Adin and Quinn during the opening game, and handing the ball off to Madi and Brendan to gain yards and score touchdowns. During the first game, Owls were down by one point. Joshua was able to throw a pass to Ben for the winning touch down. Owls would go on to win the game 34-26.

The second day of competition, the Owls went up against the Warlocks. This was yet again another nail-biter of a game! Will and Ben both pulled out some big plays rushing the quarterback causing him to throw the ball away. The Owls would win their second game 28-14.

In the final game, the Owls were ready to play! They played the Orono Spartans-2 team. Both Jacob and Joshua came up with some more big plays for the AOWL Owls passing to the wide receivers and running backs such as Remy and Seyade. The Owls pulled off a win with a score of 32 to 8.

A special thank you to our our outstanding coaches this season -
- Gina, Paul Sean and Griffin.

**Council for Advancement and
Support of Education**
<http://www.case.org>



**Association of
Fundraising Professionals**
www.aefnet.org



**Minnesota School Counselors
Association**
www.mnschoolcounselors.org



American Counseling Association
<http://www.counseling.org>



Nonprofit Financial Group
<http://www.nfgmn.org>

Finding Your Spark: Getting off the Couch and Into Life



Finding Your Spark: Getting Off the Couch and Into Life

November 10, 2015 from 7-9 p.m.
An AuSM Skillshop held at Academy of Whole Learning

Finding Your Spark: Getting Off the Couch and into Life is an AuSM Skillshop presented by Sherryl Brandt. This event will be held on November 10, 2015 from 7-9 p.m. at Academy of Whole Learning. You can find out more information about this special event by clicking [here](#).

Special Person's Day

**Special People
Deserve A
Special Day...**



On Tuesday, November 24, grandparents and special friends are invited to join Academy of Whole Learning for our annual Special Person's Day. This event is a wonderful opportunity for guests to experience the excellence of an Academy of Whole Learning education through hands-on classroom activities. Special Person's Day will take place from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Please complete and return the [Special Person's Sign-Up Form](#) by Tuesday, November 17.

Important Details to Remember

- For privacy reasons, guests will not receive an invitation from the school, so please share all essential information with them.
- We will allow up to four guests per student.
- All guests must be over the age of 18.
- If your family would prefer not to participate or if special arrangements need to be made, please let [Sarah Fitzgerald](#) know as soon as possible.

Leaving with a Special Person?

If your child plans on leaving with his/her Special Person(s), please let the office know.

Scholastic Book Fair



Mark your Calendars! The AOWL Scholastic Book Fair will be here soon, November 23 & 24. Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits. Online shopping will be available too, perfect for Holiday gift shopping! Look for more information in the next few weeks.

Amazon School Supplies



Academy of Whole Learning now has a published school [supply list on Amazon](#). Throughout the school year teachers are in need of more classroom supplies. This is an easy way to know of teachers needs and requests with a simple click. Don't forget to select Academy of Whole Learning as your preferred Charitable Organization.

Amazon.com will donate a percentage of your purchase to AOWL. Thank you for your support!

Our job is to serve you! Please let us know how we can help make your AOWL experience an even better one!

AOWL Leadership	Board of Directors Officers
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Wyayn Rasmussen - Head of School	

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Academy of Whole Learning values each student's gifts as an individual, regardless of age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or genetic information. Academy of Whole Learning is unable to meet the needs of students with emotional or behavioral issues that may negatively impact the learning environment. This policy applies to all areas of student concerns; including admissions, athletics, educational policies, tuition assistance, and other school-administered programs.

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