



ACADEMY OF WHOLE LEARNING

The Exceptional School for Exceptional Learners

The BRIDGE

Thursday, January 7, 2016

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

In This Issue

[Words from Wyayn](#)

[February Break Adventure Camp](#)

[Mandatory Parent Meeting](#)

[Winter Social](#)

[Piano Registration](#)

Snapshot from The Nest

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



Students from the Minnehaha Falls class recently spent time at home reading each night and completing a project of their choice that interested them. The students then presented their projects to the class. Some of the students even created fun interactive games relating to their story plot that we were able to play!

Quick Links

[2015-2016 School Calendar](#)

[I CAN! Tutoring Registration](#)

[Home Base Registration](#)

[Co-Curricular Winter](#)

[I Registration](#)



Upcoming Events & Reminders

Winter Social

Saturday, January 9; 7:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day; No School

Monday, January 18

Mandatory Parent Meeting

Thursday, January 21; 6:30 p.m.

Stay Connected



Words from Wyayn

Happy New Year!

Every December I start thinking about changes I'm going to make in my life to become a better person. Then faithfully I begin my new resolutions. Many of them last for 3-4 weeks. I often pick them up again in June and July and then again in October. Then I start in January with the very same goals I've had for years.

Don't get me wrong. I make progress, but it's sporadic at best. Just ask my bathroom scale. Sometimes I change it up a bit. This year instead of losing weight, I'm going to eat healthier. Instead of reading my Bible every day, I'm joining a women's Bible study at church. I missed the first meeting last night, so I didn't even make it through January on that one. Oh well, June is coming and I can try again then, right?

I've asked myself why I seem to accomplish so much more at work than I do at home. I know the answer. It's because at work I have a Strategic Plan to guide me and co-workers to keep me accountable. Let's be honest. It would do my husband no good at all to remind me to eat healthier or to tell me to go read my Bible. So this year, one of my new year's resolutions is to create a strategic plan for my life. I'm going to have 5 overall objectives and then list strategies and action steps. My 5 overall categories are Health, Fitness, Spiritual, Education and Professional speaking skills. I could have added many more, but these are ones I'm vested in and I think have a chance to succeed if I just put a plan in place.

So, I have a plan to have a plan. It sounds a little redundant, but it's where we started with AOWL three years ago. Our first step was to create a plan. Now, after three years we have our seven year strategic plan at AOWL. Within our plan is to create many specific plans for our different departments and committees. This past Tuesday evening our Development Committee met to begin writing our development plan. We set 7 priorities and have divided up responsibilities to write up strategies and action steps to meet each of our priorities.

It seems so much simpler to create the plan at work. Maybe it's because we have nine people on our Development committee or fifteen people on our Board of Directors who are dedicated to the success of our school.



Teacher Blogs



Want to keep up with what your student is learning? Check out our teacher's blogs to see lessons and activities taking place inside the classroom.

[Lake Itasca](#)

[Minnehaha Falls](#)

[St. Croix River](#)

[Cedar Lake](#)

[Lake Nokomis](#)

Accreditation & Memberships



**Minnesota Non-Public School
Accrediting Association**

www.mnsaa.org

*We are proud to be an Accredited
School through MNSAA.*

Maybe I need a Board of Directors for my life? Don't tell my husband and kids that. I'm afraid they would apply for the positions.

--Wyayn Rasmussen, Head of School

February Break Adventure Camp

Are you wondering what to do when school is out?

Send your student(s) to Academy of Whole Learning



Adventure Camp! Siblings are welcome too! Each day your student(s) will have a different adventure. Please see the attached

[brochure and registration sheet](#). If you have any questions contact Sarah Fitzgerald, Sarah.Fitzgerald@aowl.org.

Mandatory Parent Meeting



On Thursday, January 21 a mandatory parent meeting will take place in the Owl's Cafe from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. There will be very important topics covered so it is critical that all families attend.

Items to be covered at the meeting include:

- Minds of All Kinds Benefit Breakfast
- 2016-17 Tuition/Re-Enrollment Process
- Accreditation Report
- New Billing System

We will be hosting a movie night for students and their siblings this evening so parents can attend the mandatory parent meeting. We will be showing the movie Inside Out. You can make reservations by emailing the [office](#) or telling Karla at the front desk.

Winter Social



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



Council for Advancement and Support of Education

<http://www.case.org>



Association of Fundraising Professionals

www.aefnet.org



You are invited...

AOWL Parents, Staff, Committee and Board Members, let's celebrate the start of the New Year! John and Amy Higgins will be hosting a party of all of us at their home. Come and enjoy our growing community and help get 2016 off to a fun start. Please bring yourself ready to relax and have fun!

Please kindly RSVP through the [Evite](#) ASAP.

Piano Registration



The end of the first semester is almost here, which means that it is time to register for the second semester of piano. The new session will start Tuesday,

January 19th. You will find the registration form below. Please turn it in by Friday, January 15, 2016. If you have a question about payment, you can ask Carly at carly.rasmussen@aowl.org. For questions regarding lessons, please contact Sarah at sarah.fitzgerald@aowl.org.

[Piano Registration Form](#)

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!



Minnesota School Counselors Association

www.mnschoolcounselors.org



American Counseling Association

<http://www.counseling.org>



Nonprofit Financial Group

<http://www.nfgmn.org>

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
Lindsey Brandt - Director of Advancement	Janel Dressen - Board Chair
Sarah Fitzgerald - Dean of Students	Dan Martin - Board Vice-Chair
Rosey Glynn - Director of Outreach	Mark Basco - Board Treasurer
Rachel Houle - Lead Teacher	Chris Elliott - Board Secretary
Carly Rasmussen - Business Manager	
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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