



ACADEMY OF WHOLE LEARNING

The Exceptional School for Exceptional Learners

The BRIDGE

Thursday, February 25, 2016

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.



The Nokomis students serve as mentors on Friday afternoons with the Itasca students. During this time students read to one another practicing fluency and reading comprehension skills. Students are also practicing their social skills learning, by taking turns, working on communication skills and deepening their understanding of Whole Body Listening.

Quick Links

[2015-2016 School Calendar](#)

[I CAN! Tutoring Registration](#)

[Home Base Registration](#)

[Co-Curricular Winter](#)

[II Registration](#)



Upcoming Events & Reminders

Re-Enrollment Contracts Due

Tuesday, March 1

Good Friday; No School

Friday, March 25

Baker Near Wilderness Day

Grades 1-3

Thursday, March 31

Baker Near Wilderness

Overnight

Grades 4-12

Thursday, March 31 - Friday, April 1

Wyayn's Words

Taxes and Tuition

I received this letter from a parent of an AOWL student late last spring and asked his permission to send the information to all our families this year.

Dear Wyayn,

Some people may be able to deduct the Tuition as a medical expense (at least that amount beyond 10%). Depending on your gross income, a medical expense deduction may be more valuable than the \$3500 tuition deduction. Thus If someone's gross income is \$150,000, they could deduct $\$25,000 - \$15,000 = \$10,000$ as a medical expense. Plus once a person gets over the 10% hurdle all other medical expenses incurred for that year are also deductible. So if a person had \$3000 of other medical expenses that year, they could deduct a total of \$13,000. In contrast, if they treated the tuition as tuition, then there would be no deduction allowed for the \$3000.

One way a person could help support their deduction would be to have their physician/professional write a letter recommending AOWL specifically or some other alternative school as a way to help treat the diagnosed condition. I did this with our son and his social skills classes and camps. I got his therapist to write a letter recommending that he attend social skills classes and camps to help with his ASD. I have already used that letter to support in running the camp expenses through my Flexible Health Savings Account, which has the same requirements as a medical expense on Form 1040. I can send you a copy of the letter if you want to see it.

But, I am not an expert on personal income tax. So it's just an FYI. I've included an article from the Wall Street Journal from a few years ago that explains this better than I can.

[Special Tax Deductions for Special Education](#)

Wall Street Journal Article

- *Wyayn Rasmussen, Head of School*

Financial Assistance Applications

The deadline to apply for financial assistance for returning



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

families has been extended to March 1. Please visit our [website](#) for step-by-step detailed instructions on the application process.

Basketball Tournament



On Monday, the Silver and Gold Basketball Teams played at an Invitational Tournament at Holy Family School in Victoria, Minnesota. This tournament was a school-aged unified tournament, which allowed us to play with our unified partners from Breck School. Both the Gold and Silver team each played two games, making improvements to their passing, dribbling and shooting. Both teams showed tremendous teamwork both on and off the court as they worked together to score and cheered each other on from the sidelines. At the end, each team took home a trophy to represent their hard work and achievements at the invitational.

Summer Academy Registration Now Open!



Summer Academy @ AOWL
*Registration is
Now Open!*

www.mnsaa.org

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



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

Summer Academy Offerings Include:

- Learning2Learn(Grades K-3)
- The Parliament (Grades 4-12)
- Sociable Skills(Grades 4-12)
- Sports Camp (Grades 4-12)
- Theater Camp (Grades 3-12)

For more information about our Summer Academy offerings and registration information please visit our [Summer Academy page](#) on our website.

myHealth



We know talking about sexuality with your child can be difficult. We are fortunate to partner with myHealth for Teens & Young Adults, a nonprofit organization that provides basic and reproductive health care, education, and mental health counseling to teens and young adults. myHealth provides youth education programs on sexuality, dating, and reproductive health for youth and young adults with disabilities. Jennifer Poole-Stout, the Community Education Manager for myHealth, who will be teaching the myHealth classes, will be leading our family education night on Tuesday, March 8 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Special Olympics of Minnesota is a highly cherished partner of Academy of Whole Learning. Through this partnership, our students have the opportunity to compete in tournaments, develop sports skills, and participate in unified teams with youth from all over the metro. It is for this reason and more that we ask you to join us in giving back to Special Olympics of Minnesota this year at the Eden Prairie Polar Plunge on.

There are a few ways you support team Academy of Whole Learning:

- Date of the Plunge - **Saturday, March 21, 2016** - The Plunge starts at noon.
- [Register](#) and take the plunge with team AOWL - select and join Academy of Whole Learning team.
- Support team AOWL with pledges - Here is the [link](#).
- Come out to the event in your AOWL spirit wear and cheer

Fundraising Professionals

www.aefnet.org



Minnesota School Counselors Association

www.mnschoolcounselors.org



AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

American Counseling Association

<http://www.counseling.org>



Nonprofit Financial Group

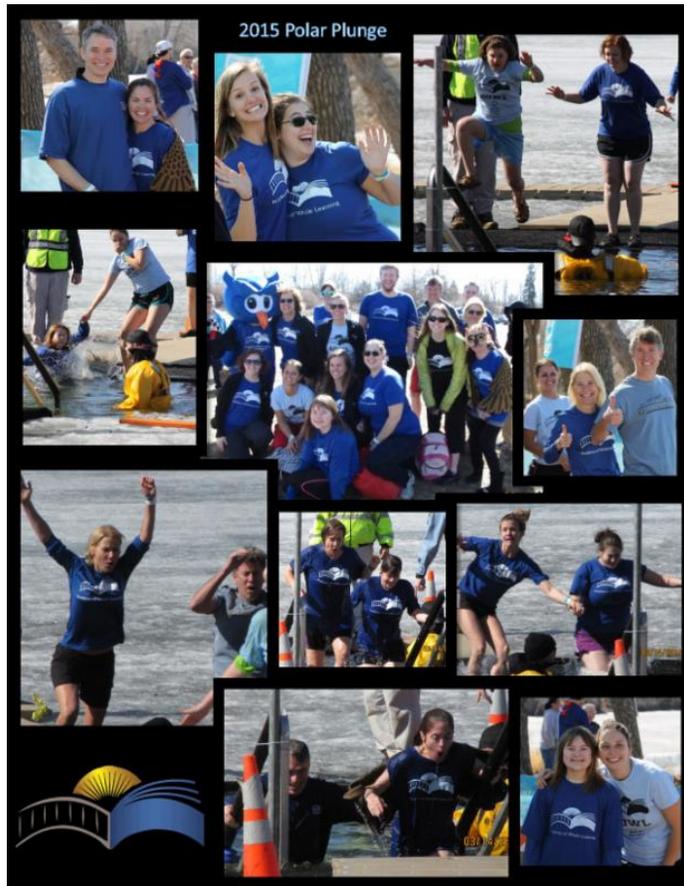
<http://www.nfgmn.org>

us on - no registration necessary.

On the day of the event, plungers (and supporters) will be meeting at the home of Jeff and Liz Sloan and then walking to the plunge site, Lake Riley. All families and friends are welcome to join our team. You will be jumping with AOWL Staff, their families and some of our amazing students! What happens to the pledge money? That's the best part - 50% of the money raised through the Polar Plunge pledges goes to support Special Olympics, the other 50% comes back to AOWL!

As you can see in the photo below, this event was a blast (of freezing water) last year and this year promises to be even better!

Please contact [Rosey Glynn](#) if you have any questions about pledging, registering, or jumping!



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
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.