

Using OWL to Support Learning Success — in the Classroom, in the Library and at Home

For more than 35 years, *OWL* Magazine has been helping children discover the world around them. With the September 2014 issue, *OWL* continues this tradition with a new look and focus that reflects the changing needs of kids, families and educators. Never before have children had greater access to information. Yet, the deluge of data can be intimidating and sometimes even overwhelming. In order to feel confident to explore complex topics, children need to be active participants in their learning and to see themselves as creative innovators and problem solvers. Full of fun, entertaining and age-appropriate content, *OWL* is committed to engaging and inspiring curious-minded young female and male readers from ages 9-13 and supporting teachers and parents in developing learning success.

Promotes STEAM Inquiry-based Learning

OWL fosters creativity and critical thinking using articles and activities that showcase science, technology, engineering, arts and math at work as well as hands-on maker projects for kids to try. Incorporating the insider knowledge of guest editors like Commander Chris Hadfield and an advisory board of working scientists and science journalists, *OWL* offers readers up-to-date insights into diverse topics such as space, microbiology, conservation and robotics.

Authentic, real world articles

- The **Insider** feature article gives readers an in-depth, interactive look at a current science or technology story. Information is presented in various formats including narrative text, diagrams, maps, timelines, and quizzes. Subject specific vocabulary is introduced.
- New animal and nature research is highlighted in the **Incredible!** feature. Featuring stunning photos, Incredible! offers a visual and appealing link to science curricula topics like habitat, biodiversity, conservation, etc.
- Presented in appealing and accessible infographic formats, **Snapshot** offers timely, relevant info on kid-friendly topics from cutting edge tech to sports.

Maker Projects – Maker Space offers inspiration for budding inventors, showcasing projects built by maker kids. How-to instructions encourage readers to try projects at home, at school, or at the library.

Skill Development – As every teacher knows, there's no better way to engage students and improve skills than by embedding them in a game. *OWL* **puzzles** and **quizzes** invite students to work out their literacy, numeracy, observation and problem solving muscles and exercise their critical and creative thinking—and they just think they're having fun.

Inspiring Innovations – Weir Zone offers short news tidbits on new wacky, science and tech developments from around the world. Flash Forward offers insight into real-world technological innovations in development. From invisible towers to flying trains, it breaks down for readers how scientific principles and innovative ideas combine with miraculous results.

Offers Great Graphic Stories

Librarians and educators have long championed the use of graphic stories to foster a love of reading and to strengthen reading skills. And, it's certainly working in *OWL*. Each month the magazine features original comics which readers consistently rank as their favourite section. But the comics aren't just popular with kids. Educators like them, too: they offer age appropriate situations, multi-ethnic characters, classroom friendly dialogue, and non-violent action.

- In **The Outrageous World of Alex & Charlie**, readers laugh along with the fun-loving friends and their antics.
- In this you-solve-it mystery, **Max Finder Mystery Comic**, readers use visual and text analysis and critical thinking skills to solve the latest crime at Whispering Meadows school.

Appeals to Diverse Readers

It's difficult to find one resource to appeal to students of different ability levels, life experiences and interests. So let the experts help. The *OWL* editors are masters. Each month, they create a high quality publication that both boys and girls from aged 9 to 13 read for pleasure. Carefully curated to ensure a wide range of topics and reading levels and to reflect the varied ethnicities

of readers, *OWL* offers something to entice and enlighten all the unique individuals that make up this diverse cohort.

Provides Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Study

Each issue of *OWL* and the accompanying online activities offer busy teachers opportunities to meet expectations in multiple subject areas including science, math, English language arts, visual art and social studies. Plus, the magazine provides real-world media study. Classes are invited to submit an interesting project, event or community initiative to be featured in the Cool Schools section. Readers can submit to The Buzz, a reader-driven round up of book and video game reviews, advice column, artwork, and jokes.

Works at Home or at School

Many parents are looking for high quality resources that they can offer their children at home to promote learning success. *OWL* is a great resource for independent reading inside and outside of the classroom.

— *Mary Beth Leatherdale is the former Editorial Director of Owlkids, former OWL and Chirp editor and the current Editorial Consultant and fan. She writes, edits and consults on books, magazines and digital resources for children and youth.*