



December 7, 2015



# Owl Post

The official weekly newsletter  
of Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA

## Upcoming Events

**December 15**

**Winter Band Concert by STEM  
4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students**

**6:30pm**

Chief Sealth Int'l. High School  
2600 SW Thistle St.  
Seattle, WA 98126

**December 17**

**Gingerbread House  
Engineering Showcase**

**Time TBD**

STEM K-8

**December 18**

**Spirit Wear Day**

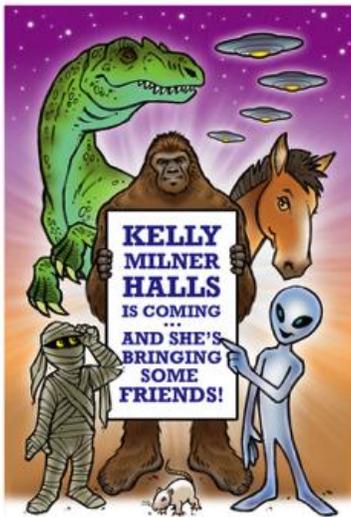
STEM K-8

**December 18**

**Author Visit**

STEM K-8

**Kelly Milner Halls**



**December 18**

**1-hour early dismissal**

**2:40pm**

STEM K-8

Pick your Owls up at 2:40pm.

**December 21 – January 1**

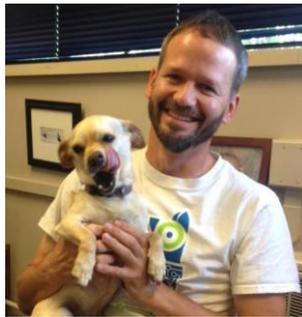
**No School**

Winter Break

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## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

There are many exciting things happening at STEM! Winter PBL projects are in full swing, from designing and testing Mars landers in middle school to explorations that range from birds to the Civil War in elementary. If you have not put the evening of January 14 on your calendar for our winter PBL

exhibition, do it now (time TBD).

We are starting to tackle a range of facility planning issues regarding our future use of the Boren building. The location of grades, STEM programs, and individual classrooms within the Boren building will raise questions regarding enrollment capacity, number of classrooms/grade, building modifications, program needs and more. A steering committee led by AP Kim Noble will be leading planning. Recommendations that emerge will be shared with the Leadership Team, staff, and the PTA/STEM K-8 community for input before final decisions are made. If this is a topic you want to get involved in, please contact Kim at [kfnoble@seattleschools.org](mailto:kfnoble@seattleschools.org).

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Ostrom  
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

## Giving Garland



You can help families in our STEM community, who otherwise may not have much hope of receiving gifts for the holidays. If you have the resources to help a student in our community please pick an ornament off our Giving Garland in the STEM office. Gifts include those that are needed, wanted, and books. Please

wrap the gift and attach the ornament tag you took from the garland so we can identify it. Return to the office by December 14. If you want to participate, but can't get into the office to grab a tag, email [president@stemk8pta.org](mailto:president@stemk8pta.org) and we will email you the info. Thanks so much for your support and caring.

## Upcoming Events (continued)



Snowy Owl

By [pe\\_ha45 / Flickr](#)

**January 4**  
**Back to School!**  
STEM K-8

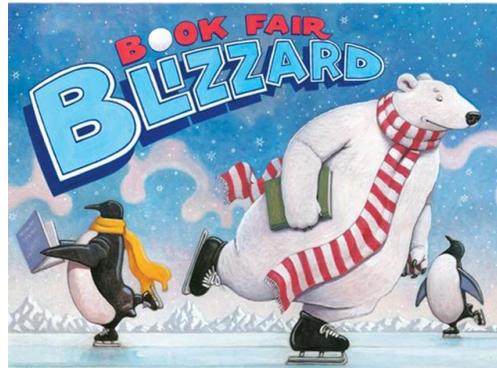
**January 7**  
**PTA Meeting**  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Boren Library  
Please join us! Complimentary  
childcare provided by the PTA.

**January 13**  
**2-hour early dismissal**  
1:40pm  
STEM K-8  
Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

**January 14**  
**Winter PBL Display**  
TBD  
STEM K-8

**January 18**  
**No School**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**January 29**  
**[Spirit Wear Day](#)**  
STEM K-8



### Book Fair Blizzard Makes \$4,000!

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Scholastic Book Fair Blizzard, and all our volunteers! We sold \$4,000 worth of books and gifts – our school keeps at least 50% of the profits which, along with the \$580 we raised through the All for Books campaign, gives us lots to spend on classroom libraries!



### Literacy Presentation

At the PTA meeting on Thursday our Librarian Mary Bannister presented some interesting information about the literacy curriculum in Seattle Public Schools. There has not been a literacy curriculum adoption in the Seattle Public School district for 14 years and our Louisa Boren STEM K-8 teachers have to design every single literacy lesson they teach from scratch. There are no officially adopted guides or materials in Seattle Public Schools. In case you missed Mary's presentation you can [download it here](#), though you will not have the benefit of Mrs. B's wise words.

Our Advocacy Committee has started a campaign to send a message to the superintendent and board of directors that we need and expect a literacy adoption now. We have postcards available that you can send to Superintendent Nyland. Look for them in your kids' backpacks next week.

[Mrs. B. and Ms. W.'s video!](#)

## Upcoming Events (continued)

### February

#### Jump Rope for Heart

Raising money for the American Heart Association.

### February 4

#### PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

### February 15

#### No School

Presidents Day

### February 16

#### No School

Mid-Winter Break  
(one day only)

### March 3

#### PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

### March 23

#### 2-hour early dismissal

1:40pm

STEM K-8

Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

### March 26

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual STEM Auction

TBD

### April 7

#### PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

### April 11 – April 15

#### No School

Spring Break

Check out the school calendar [here](#).



## Gingerbread House Engineering – December 17

Many STEM classrooms will be doing some Gingerbread engineering this week and next. Last year there were some amazing creations. We will have a showcase of the completed projects on December 17.



Last year's *Tessellated Tower* from Mr. Gluck's class and *Candy City* from Ms. Williamson's class.

## Hour of Code



It's Computer Science Education Week! To celebrate, our school is taking part in the worldwide [Hour of Code](#) event for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Technology Teacher Julie Schmick will kick the project off this week, and an engineer from the Hour of Code will visit STEM on Thursday to answer students' coding questions and inspire them to learn more about Computer Science.

## 5-Minute Game Design Studio at Delridge Library

If you have a future video game designer in the family, you'll want to check out this workshop for ages 9 – 13. Students will learn how to make games and animations in minutes using BlockStudio. All games and animations will be playable after the workshop is over. Snacks will be served. To register call Delridge Library at [206-733-9125](tel:206-733-9125).

Monday-Thursday, Dec. 14-17, 4-5:30 pm

Delridge Library

5423 Delridge Way SW



## Got Stuff? Looking for old Laptops, Gears, LEGO, and More!

Ms. Schmick is seeking the donation of old laptops for students to use in Tech Lab. She is also looking for toys like gears, LEGO, K'Nex, magnetic letters, and other materials to use with students with the vision of a future maker space. If you have plans to get rid of something, check in with Ms. Schmick at [jaschmick@seattleschools.org](mailto:jaschmick@seattleschools.org) to see if it may have a future at STEM.

## Stay Connected

[PTA Website](#) – all things PTA (become a member, volunteer, shop and earn, how YOU can be involved).

[STEM K-8 school website](#) – our SPS school website (curriculum, staff details and more).



[STEM K-8 Facebook](#)



[STEM PTA Twitter](#)



[Principal Ostrom's Twitter](#)

[Principal Ostrom's Blog](#)



[Mrs. B.'s Library Page](#)



## Holiday Shopping? Earn Cash for our School!

If you're doing some shopping online or in stores don't forget that many of your purchases can benefit our school. Here's a reminder of all the ways to earn money for STEM K-8 when doing your holiday shopping and all year round.



Use [this link](#) to shop at Amazon, and 7% of your purchase amount will be donated to our school. Support STEM and shop in your pajamas from home - what could be better? You can always find our Amazon link on the front page of the [STEM PTA website](#).

**Important Note:** Shopping via this link earns our school much more money than using *Amazon Smile*.



If you have a Target REDcard be sure to register it in their Take Charge of Education program. 1% of purchases on your REDcard will come back to our school. Visit [Target.com/tcoe](#) or call **1-800-316-6142** to designate Louisa Boren STEM K-8. **Our ID number is: 153701**

If you would like to apply for a REDcard, learn more at [Target.com/redcard](#) or stop in at a Target store. **The REDcard saves you 5% on all Target purchases every day. It's available**

**as either a credit or debit card.**

Grandparents, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for us. Sadly, Target has announced that the Take Charge of Education program will end in May 2016. So, let's make the most of it while we can!



Make cards, calendars, photo books and more at Shutterfly, Tiny Prints or MyPublisher. Click on our [STEM School Storefront](#) and 13% of your purchases will be donated to our school!

**This offer applies to all Shutterfly brands** (Borrowlenses, MyPublisher, Shutterfly, ThisLife Tiny Prints, Treat and Wedding Paper Divas).

### PCC

Order your \$25 PCC scrip card [here](#). Our school earns 5% each time you use it. You can reload it and use it every time you shop at PCC.

### West Seattle Thriftway

Please drop your West Seattle Thriftway receipts off in the donation box in the school office. 1% of the purchase price of every item you buy is returned to our school.

[More Shop & Earn Opportunities on our website.](#)