



March 13, 2017



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

March 14

6:00 PM

Pi Night Community Gathering

Pizza, pie and mathivities! Ticket options: \$5 per family, or bring a pie for the pie walk, or a side to go with pizza. Pizza provided by STEM K-8 PTA.

STEM K-8 Cafeteria

March 18

10:00 AM-Noon

Spring Clean Boren Gardens

Bring 'em if you have 'em: gardening gloves, a shovel, and small gardening tools.

STEM K-8 Grounds

March 22

2:05 PM

2 Hour Early Dismissal

Reminder, students will be dismissed from class 2 hours early on Wednesday, March 22.

March 23

8:45 am

Coffee Chat with Mr. O

Join Principal Ostrom for a morning Q&A with parents. PTA will provide coffee.

STEM K-8 Cafeteria

April 1

5:30 PM

STEM K-8 Dinner Auction

Join STEM K-8 families and staff to celebrate and support STEM learning. Dinner, auction, and good times. Tickets available online.

Hall at Fauntleroy
9131 California Ave SW

April 5

6:30 PM

STEM K-8 PTA Meeting

Join staff and families to discuss PTA priorities for 2017-2018.

STEM K-8 Library

Save the Date for April events

April 20: Zippy's Fundraiser

April 27: STEM Cultures Night

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



STEM K-8 students excelled at the WA State Robotics Championships! Four robotics teams and coach Julie Schmick traveled to Ellensburg for the competition: two advanced to the finals and a third qualified for the National Championships. Stay tuned! As STEM has grown into a K-8 school, clubs and athletics have become a more significant commitment.

In addition to teaching classes, staff members have taken on robotics, ultimate frisbee, boys and girls basketball, glee club, student council, and more. We are currently preparing to start up girls' volleyball and boys' soccer. Parents have also key support roles in getting those programs rolling. Research shows that extra-curricular involvement benefits students' school performance and social-emotional health.

Last week the Washington State Senate and House finally passed a bill that addresses \$30 million of Seattle Public Schools (SPS) budget shortfall due to the Levy Cliff. Thanks to the many volunteers and partners who helped persuade the Legislature this action had to be taken! The bill is still being analyzed, and language was added that may restrict what levy can be spent on. The Seattle School Board will review implications of the bill on March 29 at a budget work session, and the plan for budget restorations has not been announced. There is still much work to be done. The Levy Cliff bill (SB5023) provides temporary relief and helps avert immediate loss of some positions. but only addresses about one-third of the 2017-18 budget shortfall. This bill does not address SPS long-term needs or the state's obligation to fully fund education. As always I am grateful to STEM PTA members and the peerless PTA Advocacy committee for collaborating with us to meet the needs of our students and school program.

Last Chance for Auction Tickets is March 15

The annual Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year, where families, staff and the surrounding community gathers to celebrate and support STEM learning. Now more than ever, it's time to come together and raise the paddle and the dollars needed to support the differentiated project-based education that we value. No matter what level you give at, the auction is always a wonderful night out and an

opportunity to connect with your STEM K-8 friends. Read more about the auction on the [STEM K-8 website](#)

The last day to buy auction tickets is Wednesday, March 15. So [get your tickets now!](#)

When: April 1st from 5:30pm – 11:00pm

Where: Hall at Fauntleroy 9131 California Ave SW



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](#)

Volunteer

Are you looking for a way to get involved? All current opportunities are listed on STEM K-8 [Sign Up Genius Page](#).

Library Volunteers

Looking for helpers to shelve, label and check books in and out. [See full details on Sign Up Genius](#)

Garden Work Party

For the Spring season we're gathering support and volunteers to help beautify our gardens. [Get more details and sign-up to volunteer here.](#)

PTA Budget Survey

Please help the PTA decide how to allocate its funds for the coming school year. Your input is important. Please take the survey today. [Click here](#) to get started.

Enrichment Snow Day Make Ups

If your student is enrolled in Monday or Tuesday Enrichment classes please keep an eye out for an upcoming message from the Enrichment Coordinator regarding make up classes for snow days.

Book Bandits Steal Our Hearts!

So very proud of the BOOK BANDITS that represented STEM at the Global Reading Challenge Semi-Finals. It was a competitive event! While they are finished for the year, they will go down in history as having been one of the four teams tied for second place in a Semi-Final Round. We received compliments from other librarians and parents about the wonderful comradery and teamwork, not to mention fashion sense, of the BOOK BANDITS! Captain – Ali and team members, Hailey, Jackson, Kofi, Olivia, Sam and Tristan.



Save the date for these April Events

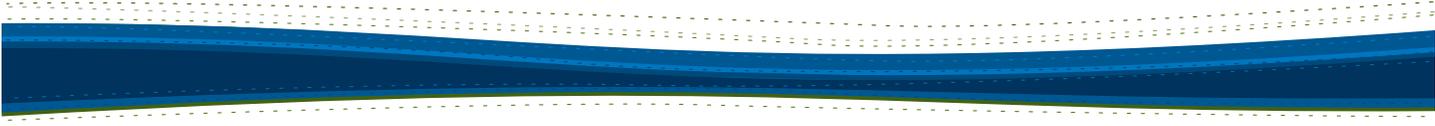
April 20 8 am-9 pm

STEM K-8 Dine Out Fundraiser at Zippy's Giant Burgers in White Center
Zippy's Giant Burgers in White Center will give back 15% of the days take to STEM K-8 PTA. Invite friends and family for a tasty burgers and a good cause. More burgers equal more dollars for STEM K-8.
9614 14th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98106

April 27 6-8pm

Share your Culture Community Event

Save the date for this upcoming event that will feature activities for kids and adults representing the cultures in our community. If you would like to get involved in the planning for this event please contact:
president@stemk8pta.org.



Washington State Education Funding Shortfall Reduced

Thanks to all who called, emailed and sent post cards to our legislators! It worked! They listened, and this week the Senate and the House approved a bill that will extend our current levy authority. This means that Seattle Public Schools will have \$30 million in funds available from our local levy, reducing the projected budget deficit for our school district in 2017/2018 to about \$44 million. There are still several education funding bills floating in Olympia this session, so let's keep up the pressure on our legislators to keep the best interests of our students as their first priority. [This Seattle Times article](#) gives further detail. A great way to keep up with the latest on these issues is to join the [Facebook Group, Washington's Paramount Duty](#), a local non-profit dedicated to advocating for fully funded public schools in our state.