



March 6, 2017



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

Upcoming Events

March 11

Middle School Basketball Season Closer

JV Boys. 1:00 PM at Jane Addams

Varsity Boys. 10:00 AM at Ingraham High School

Varsity Girls. 10:00 AM at Ingraham High School

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. Pack a sack lunch and join in a community picnic afterwards!

STEM K-8 Grounds

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 in light of pending budget cuts.

STEM K-8 Library

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Spring is sniffing its way past the various freezes and snows. In Seattle Public Schools that means preparations for staffing and budget for next fall are underway. Washington State's failure to address school funding and the school levy cliff ([see Seattle Public Schools budget update](#)) is wreaking havoc on school districts throughout the state.

STEM K-8 will not experience losses as large as some other schools. We continue to grow with strong enrollment demand, which helps absorb the effect of funding reductions. At this point I see two clear impacts from 2017-18 STEM budget/staffing projections:

- 1) Larger class sizes (26 students/class K-3rd grade, 28 students/class 4th-5th grade, 32 students/class middle school)
- 2) The loss of anticipated staffing support previously allocated to K-8's with 3 grades (another 1.0 FTE office assistant, .5 FTE additional certificated support).

Some major challenges we are trying to address at this juncture include Middle School instrumental music instruction, planning support for Project Based Learning and pre-K-8 expansion, and the final round of iPad purchases for the middle school 1:1 program. The 2017-18 staffing package included new allocations for two additional Access programs, two 8th grade classrooms, and additional specialist time to meet PE requirements. As our planning for 2017-18 moves forward, we will partner with families and the STEM K-8 PTA to meet our community's top priorities.

STEM K-8 PTA Priorities Amid Education Funding Cuts

By Rebecca Garcia, President, Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA

As the school budget process begins the PTA's budget process gets underway in tandem. Our budget decisions have never been easy. As a STEM school we have always leaned into our school mission, supporting Project Based Learning and STEM subjects among many other essentials. But with the budget looking dire for the coming year we are looking at a hole much bigger than we have seen in our few short years as a school and the likelihood that we can or should fill it is not a possibility.

Principal Ostrom's list of potentially unfunded concerns are big gaps, some of which we have helped to fund in the past, but as the list grows longer it becomes harder to choose how to fill the holes. Should we continue to focus our money on supporting PBL? Do we continue to put money into Library books, Singapore math texts, iPads? What if we need to help fund instrumental music or other key elements to our student's school experience? We don't have the answers to these questions yet, but as we begin to discuss the options and watch what happens in our state legislature, we welcome as many voices as possible.

PTA's should never have to be responsible for funding school essentials, it is not our role and takes away from our ability to advocate for our kids and provide programs that make our school unique and our curriculum soar for all students.
(continued)

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.](#)

Unfortunately, our state is not adequately funding education and it is affecting our schools in real and harmful ways. The Washington State PTA states as one of its top priorities the support of legislation and policies that:

...fulfill Washington state's paramount duty to amply fund basic education. Funding solutions must be progressive revenue sources that are sufficient, sustainable and equitable, and must not cut services that support the whole child, or rely only on redistributing existing education funds.

At this point in time we are not close to this goal and I would ask for all of us to be bold, to speak out for our kids and to find ways to stand up and ask our state government to act to fund our schools. Below, our Advocacy Chair, Shawna Murphy, shares guidance on actions you can take. Find the way that works for you as each of your individual voices makes a difference.

You can also be involved in our budget process. Look for a survey in next week's edition of the Owl Post and reach out to me any time to talk to me about your concerns and priorities when it comes to how the PTA can support our school.

It's Not Too Late, Tell YOUR State Senate to Act Now!

The legislature is considering several bills that would lessen the education funding crises in our state. One quick fix is SHB 1059, which would extend our city's current levy authority, and bring back \$30 million to our school district for next year's budget.

This bill is currently stuck in the Senate's Ways and Means Committee. **Contact Senator John Braun (R), Centralia, Chairperson of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.**

Ask Senator Braun to bring SHB 1059 to the floor for a vote. Here's how:

- Call him at: 360-786-7638
- Email him at: john.braun@leg.wa.gov
- Send him a post card:

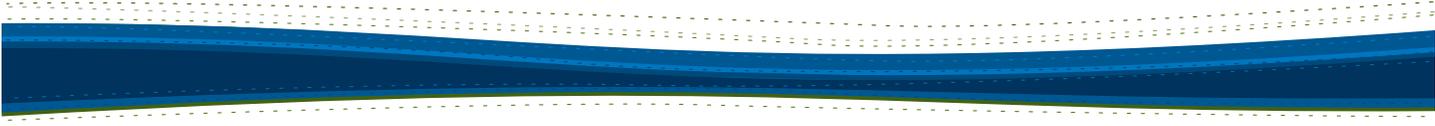
Senator John Braun
PO BOX 40420
Olympia, WA 98504-0420

2017 STEM K-8 STEAMPUNK Auction

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. [Get your tickets now!](#) Read more about the auction on the [STEM K-8 website](#).

When: April 1st from 5:30pm – 11:00pm

Where: Hall at Fauntleroy 9131 California Ave SW



Upcoming STEM K-8 Community Events

Pi night.

March 14, from 6-8pm in the Cafeteria. Pizza, pie and mathivities! Pizza provided by the PTA. Ticket options: \$5 per family, or bring a pie for the pie walk, or a side to go with pizza.

Spring Clean Boren Gardens

March 18th, from 10am-12pm. Bring 'em if you have 'em: gardening gloves, a shovel, and small gardening tools. Pack a sack lunch and join in a community picnic afterwards!

Shop at Fred Meyer and QFC and earn money for STEM

We have been approved as a participant in Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program. So if you shop at Fred Meyer or QFC you can now use your rewards card and Fred Meyer will donate money to STEM K-8.

Customers can now [log in to your online account](#) and link their Rewards Card to the organization of their choice. Customers will continue to receive Rewards Points, Rebates and Fuel Points.

At the end of each quarter, Fred Meyer will make a donation to participating nonprofits based on the accumulated spending of the Rewards customers linked to each nonprofit. Fred Meyer will donate \$650,000 each quarter via Community Rewards!

To learn about all the ways you can earn money for STEM while you shop at Amazon, PCC, Thriftway and others visit the STEM K-8 PTA website's [Shop and Earn page](#).

Parents Night Out hosted by West Seattle High School Junior Class ASB

Parents' Night Out is a child sitting service where the West Seattle High Junior Class ASB will watch your kids, provide food, fun and activities so the parents can enjoy a night out too! Sitters are CPR trained. RSVP to wshsco2018@gmail.com.

Cost:

- \$25 per child OR \$20 with two canned goods which will be donated to the West Seattle Food Bank.
- Cost includes: Pizza, Games, Crafts, and Movie!

When: Friday, March 24, 5:30-10 pm.

Who: Kids ages 3 (must be potty trained) – 11years old.

Where: California Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116. Check in at the WSHS foyer at West Seattle High School