



October 10, 2016



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

Upcoming Events

October 11

7 pm

STEM K-8 Advocacy Committee Meeting

Join us at our first meeting of the school year to learn how you can help to advocate for issues pertinent to our school.

*Uptown Espresso @ 3835
Delridge Ave SW*

October 14

No School

October 19

5:30 PM

Testing and Our Kids

Concord International PTA invites you to hear Dr. Wayne Au of UW Bothell speak about the systemic inequities surrounding standardized testing. Limited child care. Light dinner. Spanish interpretation.

*South Park Neighborhood
Center
8201 10th Ave S 98108*

October 26

2:05

2-hour early dismissal

October 27

6:30 PM

STEM K-8 Harvest Festival

Mark your calendar to celebrate the season with STEM friends and family.

STEM K-8

November 2

6:30 PM

STEM K-8 PTA Meeting

The second general meeting of the year. See minutes from the September meeting [here](#).

STEM K-8 Library

November 18

TBD

STEM K-8 Community Movie Night

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Hopefully last Wednesday night's showing of Screenagers sparked some interesting thoughts and conversations for those who attended. It was the first of several events focused on family interest that the STEM K-8 PTA is sponsoring this year during monthly meetings.

Today is Indigenous Peoples' Day

Indigenous people in the United States successfully reclaimed Columbus Day. October 10 is now celebrated as Indigenous Peoples Day. Washington State has 29 federally recognized Native American tribes, and Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has thousands of people who identify as Native American—from students to teachers to our district webmaster. We celebrate this day to honor the dignity and diversity of the cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations of our city, state and country's indigenous peoples.

The Direct Give is on!

Thanks for your ongoing participation and willingness to give at the level that works for your family. Many essential STEM experiences are supported by the Direct Give, including Project Based Learning, library books, technology tools and support, science materials, lumber, screws, hardware cloth, duct tape, precision rulers, and more!

Seattle Public School is seeking input on possible 2017-18 school schedule changes.

SPS and Seattle Education Association (SEA) are partnering to increase students' access to core content, improve instruction and accelerate student achievement. As part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement process SEA and SPS agreed to provide one additional hour per week of teacher collaboration time and add 20 minutes to the school day in 2017-18 (**the extra 20 minutes already happened for STEM K-8**). As SPS plans to make this schedule adjustment, we want to hear from families and stakeholders on how the additional time should be added and how and when to schedule the collaboration time. You may provide feedback in one of two ways:

- 1) Complete the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG9X8FC>
- 2) Complete and turn in a paper-based copy of the survey to Mailstop 32-518

All surveys need to be completed online or due back to mailstop 32-518 by October 21.

Ben Ostrom

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

The Annual Direct Give Campaign Starts Now!

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](#)

Get Involved

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

Volunteers Needed This Week

[Room Parents Still Needed!](#)

[Direct Give Fundraising Committee](#)



Welcome to the annual STEM K-8 Direct Give Campaign, our first fundraiser of the year. Our kids are always pushing to go higher, to see more. That is why we choose STEM. We want them to climb higher and do more than they could anywhere else.

The STEM K-8 PTA serves as the roots of the STEM community and supports funding for every aspect of our unique school. State and local funding is terribly inadequate to support the vision of our school and provide the level of services, support, and materials we need for all of our students.

With the support of families and local businesses, STEM K-8 PTA has enriched the baseline curriculum by investing in technology, art, literacy, engineering, Project Based Learning, playground equipment, science fair projects, scholarships, emergency equipment, teacher training, field trips, and community events. It's only with your financial support that STEM K-8 PTA can continue to create opportunities for every student.

Our goal is \$35,000 in the month of October.

The Direct Give Campaign ensures that each dollar you donate goes directly to the school. Each donation is tax deductible, and many employers will match donations, increasing your gift to our school and community.

The PTA invites everyone in our community (including friends, neighbors and relatives) to give what they can today. Every dollar makes a difference. Help us climb higher on the tree.

To Donate:

- [Submit a payment online](#)
- [Did you want to setup recurring payments?](#)
- Checks can be made out to: Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA. Return the donation form to the STEM K-8 PTA mailbox at STEM or mail to: STEM K-8 PTA 5950 Delridge Way Seattle, WA 98106