



November 14, 2016



# Owl Post

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

## Upcoming Events

**November 16**

**2:05**

**2-hour early dismissal**

**November 18**

**7:00 PM**

**STEM K-8 Family Movie Night**

*STEM K-8 Cafe*

**November 21-25**

**No School, Thanksgiving  
Holiday**

**November 28-December 2**

**All for Books Campaign**

Bring in your coins so teachers  
can build their classroom  
libraries during the Book Fair  
Blizzard.

**December 8**

**6:30 PM**

**STEM K-8 PTA Winter PBL  
Night**

*STEM K-8 Library*

**December 7 & 8**

**Book Fair Blizzard**

**5:30pm-8:30pm (Weds.)**

**8:30am-10:00am (Thurs.)**

**5:30pm-8:30pm (Thurs.)**

4th annual blizzard of books!

*STEM K-8*



## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Many of us are struggling with visceral responses to an election that validated bigotry, sexism, xenophobia, and disrespect as American values. Swirling horror, grief, fear, and shame knot our stomachs and chests. As we search for grounding, try to figure out what we need to learn, and plot a course forward, I make these commitments to STEM K-8 students and families:

1. At STEM K-8 you will be safe. I reaffirm my commitment to searching out bias and fighting bigotry. I will stand by our Muslim families, black families, Mexican families, Native families, Asian families, immigrant families, gay families, white families, female students, students with disabilities, male students, transgender students—all students. No one will hurt, threaten, or deport you without having to deal with me. We will face bigotry and fear by working to create a school where we all belong.
2. Your voices are important. I will listen. I will work with staff and students to understand one another, solve conflicts, live with diverse and conflicting beliefs, listen, and interact respectfully. Respect means acting in a way that shows care about others' feelings and well-being. I will work with staff to help students voice their fears, anxieties, and hopes, and build inclusivity.
3. I am committed to teaching students to become responsible members of a democratic society. We will participate in discussions that build knowledge and understanding. We will learn to think critically about facts and opinions, weigh sources, question assumptions, examine our own biases, receive feedback, and challenge one another respectfully.
4. I will love and respect each and every one of you. I will stand by you, learn from mistakes, challenge you to learn more and become even better human beings. Together we will have experiences that prove love and understanding overcome fear and hatred.

On a few more mundane matters :<):

- We don't provide supervision for students until 9:15 am. Many mornings we have over 20 students in the office before 9:15 am, which creates a zoo.
- Please don't forget that students aren't allowed to use phones at school, even to contact parents. It creates confusion and disrupts class. They need to come to the office for those calls.

Respectfully,

***Ben Ostrom***

***Principal, STEM K-8***

## 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](#).

### Volunteer at the Book Fair

Receive a \$5 Book Fair gift certificate for every two-hour time-slot you volunteer for. See full details on [the Sign Up Genius Page](#)

### Volunteer at the Movie Night November 18th 7-9PM.

Volunteers needed to run concessions, set up and break down, and donate baked goods for the bake sale. Find out how you can help [on the Sign Up Genius page](#).

## Family Movie Night

You are invited to STEM Family Movie Night, November 18! Come to the school cafeteria from 7 – 9 PM for movie, concessions, and community fun! Bring a chair or blanket for seating and money for our Bake Sale! All donations, concessions, and bake sale proceeds support our 4th and 5th graders in overnight PBL field trips - including next year's Islandwood trip for current 4th graders. This is a family event, students may not be dropped off unsupervised. We look forward to seeing you there! Volunteers are needed to run concessions, set up and break down, and donate baked goods for the bake sale. Find out how you can help [on the Sign Up Genius page](#).

## All for Books

Monday, November 28 is the start of our week-long *All for Books* campaign. We're raising money so teachers can build their classroom libraries during our Book Fair Blizzard (December 7 & 8). The money we raise also helps readers beyond our school. Every year, Scholastic matches the *All for Books* money raised nationwide with a donation of up to one million books to the **Kids in Need Foundation** and **Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.**

Monday November 28 - Penny Day

Tuesday November 29 - Nickel Day

Wednesday November 30 - Dime Day

Thursday December 1 - Quarter Day

Friday December 2 - Dollar Day (coins or bills)

(Of course, spare change will be accepted on any of the above days!)

**Donation boxes in every classroom and the school office.**

## STEM K-8 Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair Blizzard is a reading event that provides the books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level.

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please make plans to come to the Book Fair Blizzard and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits. Remember, all purchases benefit our school library.

See you at the Book Fair!

*Mary Bannister, STEM K-8 Librarian*

Bring the whole family to browse and shop for Scholastic books at STEM K-8.

- Wednesday, December 7th 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- Thursday, December 8th 8:30am – 10:00am & 5:30pm – 8:30pm

We're looking for volunteers to make the Book Fair happen. Receive a \$5 Book Fair gift certificate for every two-hour time-slot you volunteer for. See full details on [the Sign Up Genius Page](#)

Prefer to shop from home? The [Book Fair is also online](#) Dec.5 through Dec. 18. Here you'll find a bigger selection of books (from preschool to adult). You can also send wish-lists and e-cards to family and friends. *(continued)*

## STEM K-8 Book Fair (continued)

Book Fairs App Makes Finding the Right Book a Snap!

[The Scholastic Book Fairs app](#) is free and available for both iPhone and Android. With any scan of a book cover or barcode you get essential details, including summary, reading levels, age and grade guidance and more

## Chinook Books Now Available!

The STEM K-8 PTA sells Chinook Book to raise funds in support of our families and classrooms. We will be selling books from Thursday, November 4–Thursday, December 11.

Chinook Book is a print coupon book and mobile app featuring hundreds of green businesses near you. Enjoy discounts at the best grocery stores, restaurants, bike shops, plant nurseries, theaters, consignment shops, and more. [Order one for your family here](#), or learn more at the [STEM K-8 PTA website](#).

## Direct Give Fundraiser 2016, Mission Complete!

Thank you STEM K-8 community for making the Direct Give Fundraiser a huge success! Every \$5, every \$100, every \$1000 donation adds up and your contribution is very appreciated! Our final total is \$36,566!

Tax letters will be sent to the address on file by Dec 31. If you still want to make a donation the PTA will always accept your financial support. Check with your employer if they do matching gifts (Amazon, Nordstrom, Microsoft, Boeing, F5 Networks, and Google to name a few all do!). Contact [president@stemk8pta.org](mailto:president@stemk8pta.org) for more information.

Next up - The STEM K-8 AUCTION is April 1, 2017! Save the date. It's going to be a hoot.

Much appreciation for your support.

*Robin Graham - STEM K-8 Fundraising Chair*

