



November 28, 2016



# Owl Post

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

## Upcoming Events

**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 5**

**7:00 PM**

### STEM High School Pathways Planning Meeting

Are you thinking about where STEM K-8 kids will go to high school? Whatever grade your child is in, come to a short planning meeting to start thinking about a high school pathway.

*Uptown Espresso Gameporium  
3845 Delridge Way SW*

**December 7 & 8**

### Book Fair Blizzard

**3:00 PM-6:00 PM (Weds.)**

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

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

4th annual blizzard of books!  
STEM K-8

**December 7**

**6:30 PM**

### Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Winter Band Concert

*4th-7th grade band students will perform in our winter concert on Wednesday at Chief Sealth High School. Call time for performers is 6:00pm.*

*Chief Sealth High School*

**December 8**

**6:30 PM**

### STEM K-8 Winter PBL Night

STEM K-8



## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



I hope you all found some time within the craziness around us to immerse yourself in experiences that bring you gratitude.

A few things for which I am grateful: My family nurtures my humanity. My work is creative and meaningful. My colleagues at STEM are crafting a more equitable, sustainable future that embraces teaching as creative activism. STEM students and

families are partners providing inspiration, joy, challenge, and purpose. I live in a democracy in which I can speak and organize around my concerns and hopes. Our work in public education provides the foundation for that democracy!

If you want to see what our students have been up to, don't forget to join us for STEM Fall PBL-Science Extravaganza on Dec. 8, from 6:30-8:00 PM. You'll get a chance to see how our K-8 students experience integrated learning that explores questions about their world.

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 is building a reputation. We have hosted schools visiting from around Washington and Canada. This week staff from STEM schools in Seattle, Tacoma, and Richland will be visiting to observe how we implement STEM curriculum and Project Based Learning. Staff at STEM K-8 live the evolving challenges of constant growth, and continue to craft powerful learning experiences.

*Ben Ostrom*

*Principal, STEM K-8*

## Meet Your School Counselor, Meredith Osborne



A belated welcome to Meredith Osborne, who joined the STEM K-8 team as school counselor at the start of the year. Meredith grew up in Seattle and has lived in West Seattle for the last three years. With a graduate degree in school counseling from Gonzaga University, Meredith comes to STEM K-8 after 8 years of K-8 counseling experience in the Issaquah School District.

Meredith is on site at STEM K-8 Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 PM - 4:00 PM and Thursday and Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM.

Learn more about Meredith and how to work with her at the [Louisa Boren STEM K-8 website](#).

## 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](#)

### Library Volunteers

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

## Take the STEM K-8 Homework Survey

Have you had the opportunity to take the homework survey for each of your LBSK8 students? The homework survey is being conducted by members of our school's Building Leadership Team and we'd like to hear from you. Hard copies are available from K-5 teachers, Mr. Des and Ms. Paulson. If you prefer, you can [take the survey online](#). The survey deadline is Monday, December 12th at 9:35 am.

## This Week is All for Books

Today 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 School Bell Time Survey Results

One hundred and forty-seven families took our PTA Advocacy Committee survey about bell times changes for next school year. Thank you for participating. Nearly 60% said they would prefer Tier 2, 8:45-3:15. Nearly 70% of our families would prefer a new start and end time next year. Over 57% say the later bell time has negatively impacted their family, citing examples such as:

- Less time after school for play, homework and family.
- Increased spending for before and after school care.
- Missing out on sports and other after school activities because they start prior to our dismissal.
- Late to work.
- Juggling students at multiple schools with different start and end times.

Please join us in taking the following action steps to ask to be moved into Tier 2 for the 2017/2018 school year:

- Send emails to the Directors at [Schoolboard@seattleschools.org](mailto:Schoolboard@seattleschools.org) (continued on next page)

- Send post cards and letters to the SPS School Board Directors

JSCEE

PO Box 34165

Seattle, WA 98124-1165

- Sign up to testify at a school board meeting or show up to hold signs on January 4th and January 18th. For more info contact Shawna Murphy at [southernstreetkids@yahoo.com](mailto:southernstreetkids@yahoo.com).

And congratulations to LBSK8 parent Kurt Vaupel, the winner in our gift card drawing for survey completion.

## STEM K-8 Book Fair is Next Week

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 7. 3:00–6:00 PM
- Thursday, December 8. 8:30–10:00 AM & 5:30 – 8:30 PM

\*\*\*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.

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.

