



November 2, 2015



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

November 5

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

Please join us! Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.

November 11

No School

Veterans' Day

November 16 - 20

All for Books Campaign

Bring in your coins so all STEM students can buy a book at the Book Fair!
STEM K-8

November 20

Movie Night

TBA

STEM K-8

November 23 - 25

No School

Parent / Teacher Conferences
STEM K-8

November 26 - 27

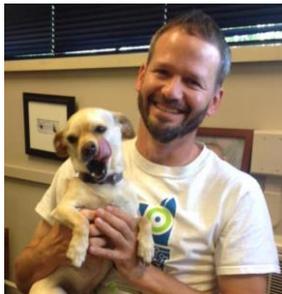
No School

Thanksgiving Break



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A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

students across the waves and back.

The PTA Harvest Potluck was a festive, costumed affair! I hope all who were able to attend had fun, and left with a specially dramatized version (or two) of *Where the Wild Things Are* in your heart. Special thanks to Marie Nelson for leading STEM's primary



Staff used the early release day on October 28 to learn about and develop guided (small group) reading practices. STEM students demonstrate a broad range of reading skills, and our staff is committed to challenging our spectrum of learners. Our Literacy Team will work with the PTA to make sure each classroom has access to leveled reading resources.

Education funding is a state-wide issue in Washington. We are fortunate to partner with families to provide the STREAM resources necessary to create a unique education experience. Over the next two weeks several grade levels will participate in release days funded by the PTA to plan and implement fall PBL and science units. If you haven't had the time, please contribute at whatever level you are able to the PTA's Direct Give campaign at stemk8pta.org. Join us for the PTA meeting on November 5 in the library from 6:30-8:00pm to learn about and participate in a variety of school-family partnership opportunities.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Upcoming Events (continued)

December 2 - 4
Book Fair Blizzard
Schedule TBA
STEM K-8

3rd annual blizzard of books!
Look out for famous mouse
reporter Geronimo Stilton.



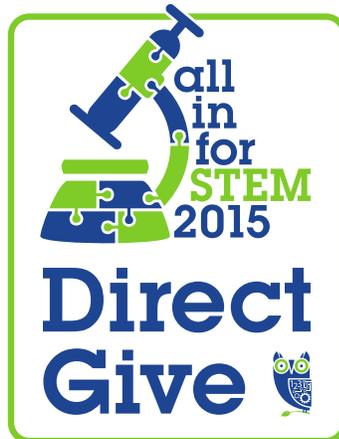
December 3
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library
Please join us! Complimentary
childcare provided by the PTA.

December 18
1-hour early dismissal
2:40pm

STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 2:40pm.

December 21 – January 1
No School
Winter Break



Extended One Week

We are extending our Direct Give for one more week to see if we can make our goal for 2015. Our final deadline will now be Sunday, November 8. We are so close to our goal and there are so many programs and projects we want to continue to support next year.

We are currently at **\$27,000**, which is phenomenal and close to our goal of \$35,000. We are immensely thankful to everyone in this engaged, generous community who has donated so far. If you haven't had the chance to donate, **now is the time to help us meet our goal.**

The Harvest Festival potluck last week was a good reminder of the amazing community we have at our school and the family and staff that come together to put on such fun events. But that is not where our money goes. Those community events are put together almost entirely by volunteers. **The money you donate all goes back into the programs, projects and consumables that our students use to learn and grow.**

The money we raised last year has already been put to work this year, here are a few of the things we are able to support:

- \$10,000 in library books, which only fills a few shelves.
- Tech support for educational apps for iPads.
- Singapore math textbooks that the district would not purchase for us.
- Project Based Learning support in teacher professional development time and consumables for classrooms and projects.
- We provide each teacher with a \$200 stipend to buy items for their classroom that the school district does not have budget to provide.
- PTA dollars provide our before and after school Enrichment program, the diverse programming, coordination and all scholarships.
- A clean campus with new wood chips and beautiful new plants.
- Balls, ropes and playground equipment for recess.

Please consider a donation of any amount in this last week. You can [donate online](#) any time or leave a check in the PTA box in the office.

Upcoming Events (continued)

January 4
Back to School!
STEM K-8

January 7
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library
Please join us! Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.

January 13
2-hour early dismissal
1:40pm
STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

January 18
No School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February
Jump Rope for Heart
Raising money for the American Heart Association. Organized by Ms. Gray.

February 4
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library
Please join us! Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.

February 15
No School
Presidents' Day

February 16
No School
Mid-Winter Break
(one day only)

Check out the school calendar [here](#).



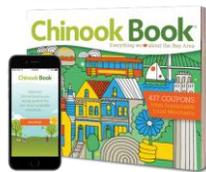
Family Math Game Night



math 4 love

The Delridge Library Children's Librarian, Beatriz Pascual-Wallace, would like to invite families to **Family Math Game Night** at **West Seattle Library** on **November 10** from **6-7:30pm**. Math teacher Dan Finkel, of [Math for Love](#), will help parents understand how to make their children's learning process easier through a variety of math games, puzzles and toys.

Chinook Book



Do you Chinook? Keep your eyes peeled for Chinook Book Order forms sent home with Owls this week. You'll also be able to order online on the PTA website. Hard copy books and the Chinook Book app will be available. These coupon books save money all over town, but especially West Seattle. STEM keeps half of each sale.

General Election - Remember to Vote November 3!

Along with important local council races and ballot measures, four of the seven Seattle School Board member seats will be decided in the general election on November 3. PTAs cannot endorse candidates, but we can provide voters with information about candidates and take positions on ballot measures.

I-1366: Washington State PTA has endorsed a NO vote. This initiative would require lawmakers to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot to establish a two-thirds majority; if they fail to do so, the state sales tax would be reduced from 6.5 percent to 5.5 percent.

Seattle School Board: The School Board is responsible for establishing District governance policies and has legal and fiduciary authority for the District. Their decisions have a direct impact on your child's education. SCPTSA and the League of Women Voters held a candidate forum on October 8. You can watch it here on the [Seattle Channel](#).

Other useful resources:

- [MyVote Voter Resource by League of Women Voters Information](#)
- [King County Voter's Guide and Voter Registration Information](#)

Information on the school board candidates, their statements, and endorsements can be found via the links above. We encourage members to learn as much as they can to make an informed decision.



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](#)



[Mrs. B.'s Library Page](#)

Introducing the STEM K-8 PTA 2015-16 Exec. Team



Lisa Waskowitz
Building Leadership Team
blt@stemk8pta.org

Joined STEM PTA: 2013

Kids: 4th and 1st grade sons (and a future Owl – preschool son)

What I like best about our school: STEM is a vibrant, passionate, caring community of families from all over West Seattle. I love that STEM is a choice for families and that families are making the decision to be a part of this amazing school. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated, kind and innovative group of teachers and staff members for our students. Every day that I walk onto our campus with my boys, we are greeted with smiles, energetic greetings, and high fives. My boys know that their teachers and staff care about them and that makes a world of difference. We are so happy to be a part of this community. I am excited to see STEM grow in the coming years and continue to thrive.

PTA Membership

Get a new membership or renew (you must renew your PTA membership each year).

Non-Voting Membership – FREE

Voting Membership - \$15

[Sign Up Online](#)

