



December 12, 2016



# Owl Post

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

## Upcoming Events

**December 13**

**7:00 PM**

**Advocacy Committee Meeting**  
*Uptown Espresso on Delridge*

**December 16**

**Spirit Wear Day**  
**STEM K-8**

**December 16**

**3:05 PM**

**1-hour Early Dismissal**

**December 19-January 2**

**Winter Break**  
**No School**

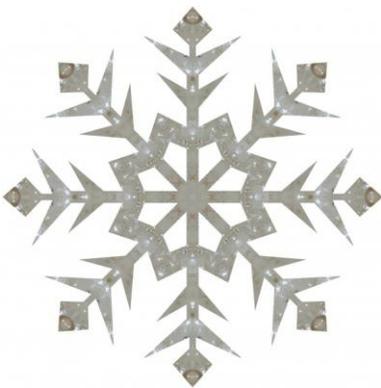
**January 4**

**6:30 PM**

**PTA Meeting**

Join STEM families and staff for discussion on public school funding issues and how you can get involved.

*STEM K-8 Library*



## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Thanks for everyone who managed to join one or more performances last week at STEM K-8. Shrek the Musical, the Winter Band Concert, and our Winter PBL Extravaganza made for a busy week for students and families. Sorry for the scheduling conflicts that located all of those events the same week!

Many of you have read about Seattle Public School's imminent budget crisis. The source of a projected \$74 million shortfall is Washington State's constitutional failure to fund public education. Next year's shortfall is magnified by a mandate, called the "Levy cliff," that local levies stop filling in state funding gaps. The consequences for Seattle Public School students and families are enormous.

*Now a note from Rebecca Garcia, PTA president, who writes about opportunities to get involved and help drive action to address the pending budget crisis...*

It was great to see everyone who could join us for PBL night on Thursday and thank you for all the support you provide to our PBL programs. The PTA is a critical component of PBL funding at our school, our community has invested a significant amount of its budget towards the ongoing commitment to PBL as a core tenant of our school mission.

But our funding cannot make up for the massive gaps left by a state that has not complied with its paramount duty to fund basic education in our state. And things are getting worse not better in the short term.

**School funding in Washington is suffering from a budget crisis and our public schools need our support more than ever, not just financially but with our voices.**

Seattle Public Schools is facing a "levy cliff" which will occur on January 1, 2018, nine months prior to the State's renewed promise to fully fund basic education by September 1, 2018, leaving Seattle Public Schools with a **projected \$74 million short fall for the 2017-18 school year**. Seattle Public Schools will be forced to cut 10% of its operating budget and an estimated 440 staff positions for the 2017-18 school year, and will start going through the Reduction in Force (R.I.F) process to lay off staff and cut vital positions like teachers, assistant principals, and support staff in March 2017 with layoff notices being sent out in May or April 2017. We don't know what this could mean for STEM, but anticipate it could affect us. Cuts to our nurse, librarian, larger class sizes, are only a few of the cuts that are on the table and none of them are acceptable.

You can learn more at our next PTA meeting on January 4, 2017 or reach out to PTA President Rebecca Garcia to get involved: [president@stemk8pta.org](mailto:president@stemk8pta.org). Or join the Advocacy Committee meeting Tuesday, December 13 from 7-8 PM at Uptown Espresso on Delridge. Contact Advocacy chair Shawna Murphy for more information: [southernstreetkids@yahoo.com](mailto:southernstreetkids@yahoo.com).

Thank you,

Ben Ostrom, Principal STEM K-8

Rebecca Garcia, STEM K-8 PTA President

## 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](#).

### Library Volunteers

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

## STEM K-8 Advocacy Team Meeting Tomorrow

The PTA Advocacy Committee is meeting Tuesday December 13th, from 7-8 PM, at the Uptown Espresso located at 3845 Delridge Way SW. The Committee has an open membership and all Louisa Boren STEM K-8 community members are welcome to participate. We will be finishing up our bell times advocacy campaign and begin planning for our Washington Legislative focus on lifting the levy cliff and fully funding our public schools. Contact Shawna Murphy [southernstreetkids@yahoo.com](mailto:southernstreetkids@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Register Now for Winter Enrichment Classes

Registration for Winter Enrichment has begun! Although Wednesday Carpentry and Happy Bites are full, there is still plenty of room in most classes and Parent Volunteers get 50% off class tuition!

New classes include: Lego Ecological Engineering, Star Wars Lego Bricks4Kidz, Paperclay Ceramics, Tennis, Basketball, Friday afternoon Circus Arts, Glee, Jr., Girls on The Run/Heart and Sole Running (March), Green Team (March), You Matter Communication (Video Production), Morning Middle School Robotic Arts, and more!

[Register online on the STEM K-8 Website](#).

Contact Cassandra O'Neal at [afterschool@k5stempta.org](mailto:afterschool@k5stempta.org) to Volunteer or request a scholarship. Classes begin 1/9/17.

## STEM K-8 Holiday Giving Tree Update

All Giving Tree wishes were fulfilled! Thank you STEM K-8 families for your generous support. Please remember to **return gifts to the office by December 14**. Any questions about the Giving Tree? Contact [president@stemk8pta.org](mailto:president@stemk8pta.org).

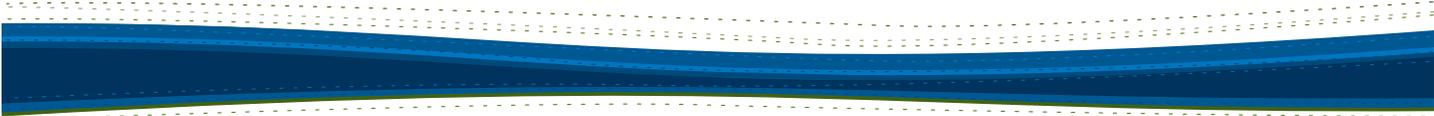
## STEM Students Doing Good: Beezus Murphy

*Today we kick off a new Owl Post feature, highlighting 7th Grade STEM Students fulfilling their volunteer requirements. This month, we feature Beezus Murphy who has designed and implemented a clothing drive for The James W. Orion YouthCare Center. Read on to see how you can help Beezus make a difference for youth in our community.*

Hi, my name is Beezus Murphy. I'm a seventh grader here at Louisa Boren STEM K-8. I've been going to school here for 5 years. I first heard about YouthCare when I told my mom about an assignment I got from my Social Studies teacher, Ms. Paulson that requires us to do at least 10 hours of community service. I learned that 1,000 young people, some of them my age, are sleeping outside tonight. About 40% of them identify as LGBTQ or non-gender conforming. For my project, I decided to do a sock, hoodie and coat drive for the homeless youth, ages 12-24, being served by The James W. Orion YouthCare Center. **If you would like to contribute to my drive, there is a pink labeled bin in the main office until Friday December 16th.** Thank you.

## Lost & Found: Last Chance to Claim Items

Please come in and check the rack for lost coats, sweaters and lunch boxes. Left items will be removed at 4:30 PM, Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> and donated to charity.



## Book Fair Raises \$3122 for STEM K-8 Library

Thank you to everyone who came to our 4th annual Book Fair Blizzard - this is the second time we've had real snow as well as decorative snow at the Book Fair! We sold \$6222 worth of books, hand-pointers, bookmarks and more. Which gives Librarian Mary Bannister \$3122 to spend on Scholastic books for our library! A HUGE THANK YOU to all our wonderful Book Fair volunteers!

Didn't find that perfect book? Our [Online Book Fair](#) is open [until December 18th](#).

## STEM Spirit Wear Day Friday, December 16, 2016

The last school day of the calendar year has been designated as a Spirit Wear Day. Along with any uniform bottom\*, students can wear **shirts** (t-shirts, sweat shirts, hoodies, in long or short sleeves) within the following parameters:

- With any owl on it (shirt in any color) **OR**
- Plain (no graphics or logos) blue shirts **OR**
- Plain (no graphics or logos) green shirts

*\*No jeans, PJs or other bottoms that do not conform to the uniform policy.*

