



September 14, 2015



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

First Day of School (TBD)
First day of school
decompression coffee hour!
9:25am-10:30am
STEM K-8
Meet with other parents and
school principal Ben Ostrom to
celebrate/decompress.

September 17
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library
Uniform Swap. Lots of
opportunities to volunteer.
Complimentary childcare
provided by the PTA.

September 23
2-hour early dismissal
1:40pm
STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

October 1
Curriculum Night and Open
House
6:30pm-8:00pm
STEM K-8

October 2
STEM Social at TAF
(adults only)
TBA
TAF 605 SW 108th St.
Seattle, WA 98146
Join us for light refreshments
(beer, wine, soda, coffee & light
appetizers).

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

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

We wish we were celebrating the first week of school. Unfortunately we are now hoping for a swift and successful resolution that finds vital teaching staff feeling supported and students back in school.

At this point all instructional SEA employees are officially on strike: teachers, instructional assistants and counselors. This means that they are currently not reporting to work or checking work emails. Employees who are required to report for work—clerical staff, lunchroom staff, custodians and principals are in the building during regular hours. We are working hard to make sure everything is ready to hit the ground running when a settlement is reached. Our doors are not locked—we will try to address any needs you have. However, please understand that with many SEA represented employees on strike, our ability to assist may be limited. Your best option for obtaining the latest updates is by tuning in to local media and/or by following this link seattleschools.org/bargaining-updates-2015.

Over the summer, we were meeting, planning, and working overtime to lay the foundation for an amazing school year. STEM K-8 has a special community of staff and families that come together to create a unique school experience.

There are many exciting things happening! A few ways to keep in the loop:

1. **Bookmark the [Louisa Boren STEM K-8](#) and [STEM K-8 PTA](#) websites** (they overlap and contain a wealth of useful information).
2. **Make sure your email address is accurate and updated in the school information system** (check and fill out the data verification forms you receive at the beginning of the school year). You will receive the PTA/School newsletter (*Owl Post*) weekly and other updates via School Messenger that use that email address.
3. **Bookmark** my school blog at principalostrom.wordpress.com and follow [@PrincipalOstrom](#) on Twitter. Both are linked to the school and PTA website and combined [school/PTA Facebook page](#) (at Louisa Boren STEM K-8), and share news, ideas, and developments as they happen.

Some key information regarding the new year:

STEM K-8 Start and End Time:
9:25 am and 3:40 pm (they remain unchanged).

Pick up/Drop off/Parking:
Supervision is provided starting at 9:10 am. Please do not bring your child to school before 9:10 am as there is no supervision.

For Morning Drop off and Dismissal: Students may be dropped off or picked up in the designated zone on the west end of the playground. Parents may pull into the drop off/pick up zone and supervisors will direct children accordingly. **When in the pick up line please remain in your car. We will bring your child to**

Upcoming Events (continued)

October 9

No School

All day

STEM K-8

Teacher work day.

October 22

PTA Potluck

TBA

STEM Cafeteria

Harvest festival with pumpkin decorating.

November 1

Pumpkin Chunkin'!

TBA

STEM Playfields

3rd annual chance to [smash those pumpkins](#) in creative and scientific ways!

you. Parents wanting to walk and pick up their children may park in the visitor parking section of the parking lot, or the park and walk section designated "School Load and Unload only" along Delridge. **Students may not be dropped off on Delridge to walk to the playground.** To respect instructional time in a building serving more than 800 students, after the first day of school we ask that parents pick up and drop off outside (or in the office for late arrivals) rather than at classroom doors. *On the first day of school students and parent may go directly to classrooms.*

There is now a crosswalk and flashing lights that make it permissible to park on the west side of Delridge *and walk your child to the playground/school.* **For safety reasons students may not be dropped off on either side of Delridge to walk to the playground. Parents must walk from those parking spots to drop off/pick up their on the playground.** FYI—During school hours/flashing lights driving faster than the posted speed limit will incur a hefty camera-recorded ticket!

Arbor Heights Co-location continues for one more year!

We have another year to collaborate with Arbor Heights' staff and families. The co-location of both schools in the Boren building for two years continues to create a number of benefits and opportunities for both schools! I am enthused to continue working with Principal Collins and the Arbor Heights staff and community to create a positive learning environment and experiences for our children.

Uniform Expectations:

STEM K-8 is a uniform school (yes, for middle schoolers too)! Uniforms were adopted to build community, decrease inequalities and distractions, support safety, and many other reasons. Visit the [STEM School Website](#) for full details on uniform expectations and guidelines. A uniform closet exists to support families requesting financial assistance to meet uniform guidelines, and also address short term needs.

Welcome to New and Returning Staff:

STEM K-8 welcomes several new staff members, and some staff changed assignments and last names. K-8 expansion and class size reduction money alone meant adding three new staff. We were fortunate to add some outstanding educators to support our students and further our vision. Names in italics are new to STEM K-8. Make sure to search them out and introduce yourselves.

Position	Names
Kindergarten	Whitney Mebane (formerly Cook), Alicia Ciocca (formerly Hardman)
1st	Lisa Sweeney, <i>Jessica Broadland</i>
2nd	Jodi Williamson, Soheyla Nur, <i>Joseph Roicki</i>
3rd	Sunny Graves, <i>Kristin Colby, John Castilleja</i>
3/4	Kent Daniels
4th	Deborah Giza, Mo Newton
5th	Ro Gluck, <i>Lauren Martin</i>
6th	Craig Parsley, Travis DesAutels
Specialists	Gretchen Gray, (PE), Julie Schmick (Technology), Marie Nelson (Performing Arts), Mary Bannister (Library)
Special Education	Katie Griffith (Resource), Shamsah Rahim (SM4). Clara Hanson (SM4), <i>Mary McDaniel (SM4)</i>
Instructional Assistants	Ronald Adams, Hayward Coleman, Greg Wolf, Craig Rankin, Caroline Ong, Jasmine Johnson

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](#)

ELL	<i>Lee-Chin Chua</i> , teacher; Maria Asuncion, ELL IA
Counselor	Renee Davis (.5 Counselor)
Office	Cindy Baca, Patti Bunting
Assistant Principal	Kim Noble (.5 AP)
Principal	Ben Ostrom
Custodial Engineer	Tom Zech
Lunchroom Manager	Lynn Ferguson

Many good things are happening! STEM K-8 Staff gathered August 31 to work on year-long planning with the Next Generation Science Standards. On Sept. 1, 2, and 3 staff participated in SPS training, and also worked at STEM preparing to roll out Singapore Math again, school priorities, planning, and room set up. We will have much to share and celebrate in the weeks ahead. Thank you for joining me and STEM K-8 Staff to create a powerful learning community filled with scholars who are aspiring, creating, and expecting.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Required Back to School Packet is now online



Each year all families are required to fill out and sign paperwork for STEM K-8 and the school district. In past years these documents have been printed and sent home with students on the first day of school. This year we have decided to provide these documents electronically and ask each student's family/guardian to fill them out online, print them, sign them and return them to school.

You will need to complete a packet that includes health and privacy information and one that provides the information needed to volunteer at school. These forms are **REQUIRED**, so please go to the link below as soon as possible to complete them.

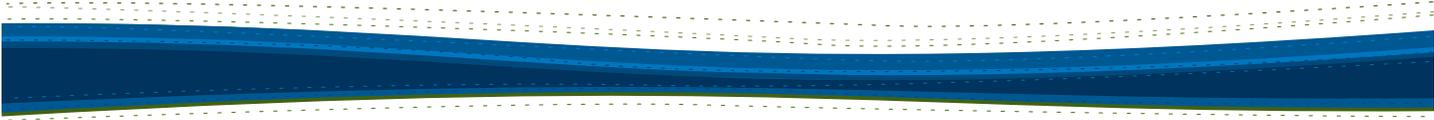
At this time you cannot submit them electronically because Seattle Public Schools requires they have a signature.

Step-by-Step:

1. Click on the link to the [back to school packet](#).
2. Fill in the required information. It will auto-populate with your information to make filling them out fast and easy.
3. Print out your completed form and sign each form that requires a signature.
4. Drop off in the school office or send to school with your student/s.

School Supplies

School staff will be ordering supplies for STEM students in bulk, so there will not be a school supply list. Please bring cash or a check for \$35 per student (made out to STEM K-8) in an envelope on the first day of school. Write your child's name & grade on the envelope.



Become a Room Parent!

Each classroom has a parent, family member or guardian who supports the teacher, communicates with families in the class and makes connections between the classroom and the PTA. It's an important role, but it does not require that you are on site at school or present during school hours. If you are interested please contact vp@stemk8pta.org.

Uniform Closet

The STEM K-8 PTA has a Uniform Closet for families in need of assistance and to provide emergency change of clothing for students while at school. It is not required to prove need.

If you would like clothes from the Uniform Closet you can [download and fill out this form](#) and place it in the PTA mailbox in the school office.

Uniform Swap

At the PTA Meeting Sept. 17th 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Bring your gently-used uniform items that no longer fit, and swap them for some that do!

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](#)