



October 12, 2015



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

October 14

Curriculum Night & Open

House for:

3rd Grade

Mr. Daniels' 4th Graders

6:00pm-7:00pm

STEM K-8

October 15

School Picture Day

STEM K-8

Individual pictures (class pictures are taken in spring).

October 17

Campus Beautification

Work Party

9:00am

STEM K-8

October 18

2-hour early dismissal

1:40pm

STEM K-8

Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

October 28

PTA Potluck

5:30pm

STEM Cafeteria

Harvest festival with pumpkin decorating. Non-scary costumes welcome.

November 1

Pumpkin Chunkin'!

TBA

STEM Playfields

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

November 5

PTA Meeting

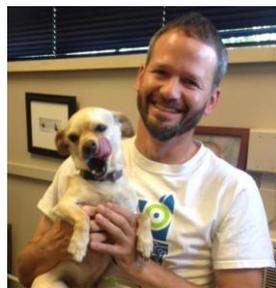
6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

Please join us! Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.

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A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

Louisa Boren STEM K-8's partnership with parents creates engaged learning experiences: Thanks to all the families who were able to join the third and 3/4 multiage team to pull off the Camp Long overnight last week! 6th grade students are presenting multiple approaches to math problems on a shared screen connecting a class full of iPads. Mrs. B is ordering hundreds of books to create a library that supports students' and teachers' desires to learn about STEM topics! A vital foundation for these and other learning experiences is the PTA's annual Direct Give campaign. It funds STEM literacy, Project Based Learning, and other efforts to implement the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 vision. Imagine tools, construction materials, books, scientific instruments, software, and training and support. Please consider [making a donation](#) at whatever level you are able.

Indigenous people in the United States are reclaiming Columbus Day. We are now celebrating October 12 as Indigenous Peoples Day. Washington State has 29 federally recognized Native American tribes, and Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has thousands of people who identify as Native American—from students to teachers to our district webmaster. We celebrate this day to honor the dignity and diversity of the cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations of our city, state and country's indigenous peoples.

October is National Bullying Prevention month. STEM K-8's counselor, Renee Davis, has included information on the difference between bullying and conflict. This week's Owl Post also includes a copy of STEM K-8's Anti-Bullying Policy.

Throughout October students will learn to identify the dynamics of bullying, how to report concerns, and how to be assertive in creating a safe environment for everyone. All in For STEM, our school norms, places safety at the top of the list; we want to create a community where feeling safe and included is a foundation of learning,

Many people have asked whether Seattle Public Schools (SPS) October staffing adjustment will include STEM K-8. There is a real possibility that district enrollment shortfalls will affect STEM's allocation of a class size reduction position. I am also hopeful that this impact may be avoided. SPS is currently reexamining the numbers and circumstance associated with each class size reduction allocation. I will communicate clearly with families our plan to address any staffing changes if a staffing adjustment becomes certain.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Upcoming Events (continued)

November 11
No School
Veterans' Day

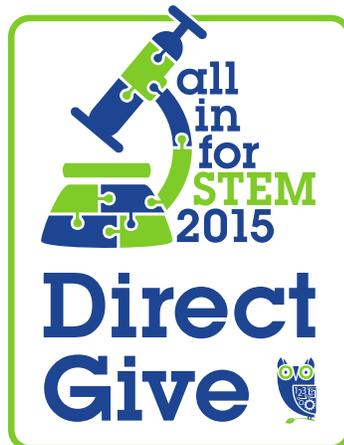
November 16 - 20
All for Books Campaign
Bring in your coins so all
STEM students can buy a book
at the Book Fair!
STEM K-8

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

December 2 - 4
Book Fair Blizzard
Schedule TBA
STEM K-8
3rd annual blizzard of books!
Look out for famous mouse
reporter Geronimo Stilton.



Your Donations Help Fund STEM Literacy – Help us meet our goal of \$35,000!

Discussion about STEM education is often fraught with false choices. Recent assessments of students nationwide show them struggling with science. The same assessments show that two thirds of 4th graders are not reading proficiently in this country.

So, should we invest our limited PTA resources in supporting critical reading skills or put that money towards STEM subjects? The truth is, we must do both.

Our emerging scientists and engineers can't comprehend complex texts if they can't read.

Literacy is not just the ability to read and write. True literacy includes critical thinking, active inquiry, and reasonable and creative response.

Despite the profound importance of literacy, the district does not fund literacy resources sufficiently. While we were provided with some books when we opened three years ago and some resources for our middle school roll up this year, almost **all of the books we have added to the school library since have been paid for by your donations to the PTA and book fairs.**

Here are the facts:

- Next year Arbor Heights will move into their new school and they will take 10,000 library books with them.
- To fill $\frac{3}{4}$ of a shelf of books at the library costs approx. \$1000
- Last year we were able to provide the library with \$3,000, which enabled the purchase of about 150 books.
- The \$10,000 we were able to provide our Librarian Mary Bannister this year will buy about 500 new books.

Can you imagine the time and resources it will take to fill our library with 10,000 more books? We need your help!

In addition to our shared library each classroom has its own leveled-library for shared reading and classroom instruction. Many classrooms have very few books and several are not at grade level. According to Mary Bannister, "most of the [classroom] libraries that would be considered approaching adequate belong to the individual teacher, not the school. Each primary classroom has around 100 or so titles that were purchased by the school and PTA. Where I see the most need is intermediate classrooms."

Ideally our state and our school district would more adequately fund education, which includes appropriately filled libraries. We voted on and passed a resolution in our PTA meeting last week asking the state to abide by its constitutional requirement and paramount duty to fund education. Until that day – it takes the support of our community to hold up our school and our kids. Together we can help to provide the supplies they need for the education we want them to have.

Please donate today.

Donate Now

Upcoming Events (continued)

December 17
Gingerbread House
Engineering
TBA
STEM K-8



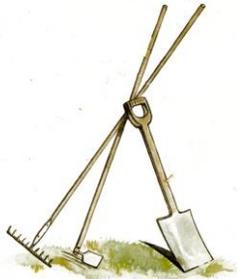
December 18
1-hour early dismissal
2:40pm
STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 2:40pm.

December 21 – January 1
No School
Winter Break

Important Reminder

Unless your student is in a before school enrichment program, please do not drop them off before 9:10am as there is no adult supervision until that time.

Campus Beautification Work Party – Sat., October 17 9:00am



Join us for a morning of gardening and cleaning our school. **We have been awarded a grant to make the Delridge-facing side of our school more beautiful.** We are starting with a pollinator garden in one of the courtyards. We could use all the help we can get. We will also be cleaning up the front of the school and the front left corner of the playground. We will supply the tools, **coffee and donuts** if you can come out and lend a hand!



And don't forget to join Jen Greene **every Friday throughout the fall from 2:30-3:30pm** to clean up our school's landscape beds. Please bring gloves, weeding tools, and a bucket. Steady rain cancels.

For more information, email Jen at jenaisa@gmail.com.

Harvest Festival Potluck Weds., October 28 5:30pm



Our first potluck of the year will be a fun and festive harvest celebration. We will be decorating pumpkins so we ask that you bring a small pumpkin to decorate and maybe one for a friend. Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening with our STEM community. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will have an opportunity to perform songs and skits they have been learning with Ms. Nelson in performing arts class. Costumes are welcome but not required. Please no weapons and no blood and gore. Weapons include

cardboard, pretend or costume weapons of any kind. Please be respectful and tasteful and do not come with costumes that are made to frighten or include any kind of blood or gore. This is a family event for all our community and we want everyone to feel welcome. Hosted by our 1st grade families.

Library Volunteers Needed

Our wonderful Librarian, Mary Bannister, needs lots more help checking in and shelving books in the library (particularly in the mornings).

If you'd like to help out, please email mebannister@seattleschools.org.

Check out [Mrs. B.'s web page](#) for STEM Library news!

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



Debbie Sarsidi Ross

Treasurer

treasurer@stemk8pta.org

Joined STEM PTA: 2012 Charter Member

Kids: 5th and 2nd grade sons.

What I like best about our school: I like the sense of community we have. The parents and teachers at this school are dedicated with the same goal in mind for all our kids. The community involvement is amazing. I love the fact that STEM focuses on PBL to make learning both enriching and enjoyable. The development opportunities for our kids are endless!

PTA Membership

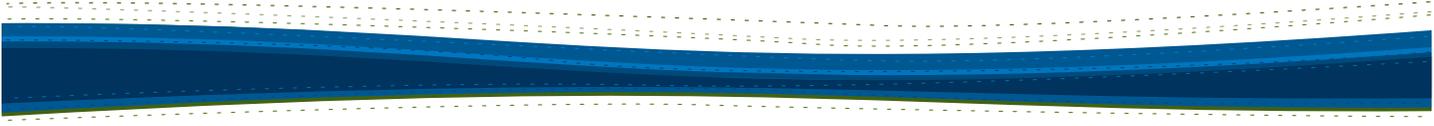
Get a new membership or renew (you must renew your PTA membership each year).

Non-Voting Membership – FREE

Voting Membership - \$15

[Sign Up Online](#)





Note from the Counselor, Renée B. Davis

Hello Students and Families,

October is **National Bullying Prevention Month!** We are implementing a school-wide curriculum about how to recognize, report, and refuse bullying. To support our month of learning and advocacy, here is a little education about the difference between Bullying vs. Conflict:

Bullying vs. Conflict

Conflict

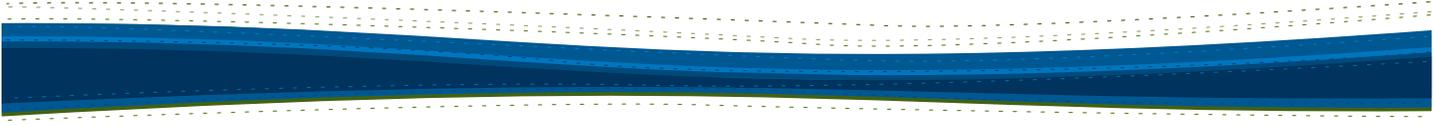
- Generally happens in the heat of the moment (**unplanned, once in a while**).
- Is usually about a difference of opinion.
- Most of the time **both parties are involved and/or upset**.
- Both parties are usually **willing to work it out** after they've calmed down.

Bullying: Bullying is unfair and one sided. It happens when someone keeps hurting, teasing, frightening, or leaving someone out on purpose.

- Some ways to differentiate between bullying and conflict:
 - Bullying is often a deliberate act and there is the **intention to hurt, insult or threaten** the other person.
 - There is a definite **power imbalance** where **the student who bullies seeks to manipulate the situation** so that the **target has no power**.
 - The student who bullies may be unwilling to stop / can be difficult to stop.
 - If the definition applies, it may still be bullying even if there is not an intention to hurt, insult, or threaten (e.g. one party thinks they are just messing around or having fun).

Thank you for your amazing support for our school community!

Renée B. Davis
Counselor, MAEd, NCC
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays, Thursdays
rbdavis1@seattleschools.org
206-252-8450



STEM K-8 Anti-Bullying Policy

Members of the STEM K-8 community are committed to keeping one another **safe**, being **scholars**, acting **respectfully and responsibly**, and treating one another with **compassion**. We treat each other with respect and we will refuse to tolerate bullying in any form at our school.

At STEM K-8 we define bullying as follows:

Bullying is unfair and one-sided. It happens when someone **repeatedly** hurts, frightens, threatens, or leaves someone out on purpose.

Examples of bullying behaviors may include:

- Hurting someone physically.
- Using language that is intended to harass, humiliate, and intimidate another student.
- Stealing or damaging another person's things
- Ganging up on someone.
- Teasing someone in a hurtful way.
- Using put-downs, such as racial slurs, sexual harassment or gay bashing.
- Touching or showing private body parts.
- Spreading rumors about someone.
- Leaving someone out on purpose or trying to get other kids not to play with someone.

Staff and STEM K-8 students will do the following things to prevent bullying and help children feel safe at school:

- Ensure students are supervised in all areas of the school and playground.
- Teach bullying prevention curriculum.
- Train all staff in responding effectively to reports of bullying.
- Respond quickly and sensitively to bullying reports using the Steps To Respect reporting and coaching model.
- Take seriously parents' concerns about bullying.
- Provide immediate consequences for bullying and retaliation.

Students at our school will be instructed in the following strategies to prevent bullying:

- Treat each other respectfully.
- Refuse to bully others.
- Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied.
- Try to include everyone in play, especially those who are often left out.
- Report bullying to an adult.