



October 19, 2015



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

October 28
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 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

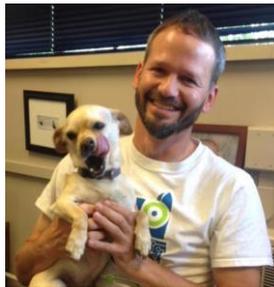
November 20
Movie Night
TBA
STEM K-8

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:

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 has faced a few challenges this fall requiring big lifts to get our plans going. Our partnership with parents makes results possible: 6th grade scholars putting tower designs to a pressure assessment with genuine force testers, teachers using release days to plan Next Generation Science and Project Based Learning units, scholars at all grade levels reading nonfiction text at their reading level, students using a video application to produce and share conclusions from research, and many more experiences each day. Now is a great time to log on to the stem8pta.org website and participate in the PTA's annual Direct Give campaign at whatever level you are able.

Special thanks to those who were able to join the work party last weekend working on beds in one of the courtyards bordering Delridge Way. It was not just improving an eyesore, but helping prepare the way for class gardening projects.

Seattle Public Schools finalized its fall staffing adjustment, and STEM K-8 will lose our class size reduction position. STEM K-8 teacher John Castilleja, the support teacher within our 3rd and 3rd/4th grade team, graciously volunteered for displacement. As staff met with parents last week and collected their priorities, the majority of feedback centered on three themes: maintaining a multi-grade, team oriented program, minimizing social and academic disruption, and concerns about differentiation and student/teacher ratios for math and reading. We will keep those priorities in mind as staff meet to finalize plans addressing the loss of staff this week.

Our STEM K-8 Vision aims to grow 21st Century readiness in a community that values equity, sustainability, and the whole child. The four C's of 21st Century skills—Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Communication, will be front and center as we map a path through this challenge.

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.



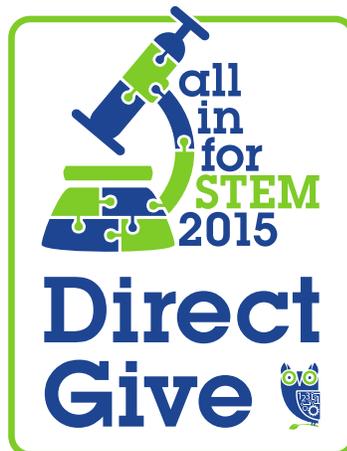
December 3
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library

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



Direct Give Week 3

Thank you to everyone who has already generously donated to our Direct Give. Our goal this year is \$35,000, which we know we can accomplish with your help. We have raised about \$8,000 so far with two weeks to go.

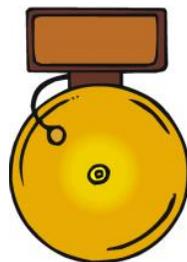
This week we are sharing a few statistics about STEM education to keep us thinking about why we continue to support our school however we can and keep pushing it to be the kind of exceptional learning environment we all want for our kids.

- 80% of jobs in the next decade will require technology skills.
- The U.S. ranks 25th out of 30 in an international assessment of high schoolers' performance in math.
- 61% of male STEM students say that games or toys sparked their interest in STEM, the top indicator for boys*.
- 68% of female STEM students say that a teacher or class sparked their interest in STEM, a top factor for girls*.

You can [donate online](#) any time or leave a check in the PTA box in the office.

*Source, STEM perceptions student and parent survey, Harris Interactive.

Bell Times



Many of you saw last week that our proposed Bell Time for next year has been changed in the final proposal to the School Board. Our current proposed Bell Time for next year is **9:40am - 4:20pm**. This is a change from the previous proposal that had STEM K-8 and several other K-8's slated for an 8:50am - 3:20pm Bell Time. Thank you to all that wrote letters and voiced your opinions to the Bell Times Task Force, SPS Superintendent and the School Board.

For more information about the Bell Times task force and the current proposal go to: <http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One>

There is a School Board meeting this week on Wednesday, October 21 where the current proposal will be discussed. There may be an opportunity for our school to voice its concerns with the latest proposal. Stay tuned to [our web page](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates. There is still time to have your voice heard whether you are for or against the latest proposal. This link contains the email addresses and a sample letter you can use to voice your concern: <http://stemk8pta.org/2015/10/15/share-your-voice-on-changes-to-stem-bell-times/>

Upcoming Events (continued)

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



Our first potluck of the year is a harvest festival theme featuring pumpkin decorating, arts and crafts, a photo booth and performances from our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders who are in attendance. Costumes are welcome for kids, but please no weapons of any kind and no blood and gore. Please be sensitive to our diverse community and sensitive little ones amongst us.

Wednesday, October 28, 5:30 - 7:30pm in the cafeteria. Please bring a dish to share. Plates, utensils, napkins, water and lemonade will be provided by the PTA.

Pumpkin Chunkin' Organizers Needed!

The 3rd annual Pumpkin Chunkin' event is in danger of being cancelled! We are in urgent need of volunteers to organize this year's event. Check out [the video of our first Pumpkin Chunkin'](#) to get an idea of what it's all about. This is a fun event and would perhaps suit a group of parents who could share the responsibilities. Please [email Rebecca Garcia](#) if you are interested.

Register for eScrip to Help our School!



With the eScrip program you can earn money for STEM K-8 every time you swipe your credit and/or debit cards!

[Register Here!](#) and [Check out the other ways to SHOP & EARN for STEM K-8.](#)

Campus Beautification



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.

Important Reminders

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.

To Report a Student Absence or Change of End-of-Day Plans:

Please email BOTH Cindy Baca and Patti Bunting:
chettrick@seattleschools.org, plbunting@seattleschools.org
or call the school office: (206) 252-8450.

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



Stephanie Kellner

Co-Treasurer

treasurer@stemk8pta.org

Joined STEM PTA: 2012 Charter Member.

Kids: 4th grade daughter and 1st grade son.

What I like best about our school: I love that my kids come home and talk about the scientific questions they are examining in class. I'm always impressed by the creativity of our teachers in infusing science, technology, engineering and math concepts into our kids' everyday learning. I decided to join the PTA board after hearing Principal O. talk about the school budget. I realized how important the PTA is in filling the gaps at our school, from supporting Project Based Learning to filling the library with great books. All in for STEM!

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](#)

