



October 5, 2015



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

October 7
Curriculum Night & Open House for:
1st Grade
6:00pm-7:00pm
STEM K-8

October 8 - 9
Overnight Field Trip for:
3rd Grade and Mr. Daniels'
3rd/4th Grade
Camp Long

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

October 14
Curriculum Night & Open House for:
3rd Grade
Mr. Daniels' 4th Graders
6:00pm-7:00pm
STEM K-8

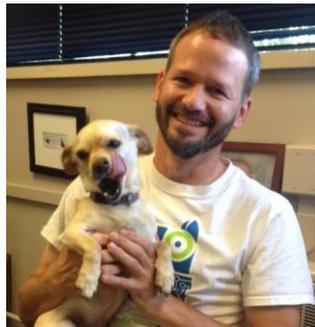
October 15
School Picture Day
STEM K-8
Individual pictures (class pictures are taken in spring).

October 28
2-hour early dismissal
1:40pm
STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

October 28
PTA Potluck
TBA
STEM Cafeteria
Harvest festival with pumpkin decorating.

Table of Contents

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom.....	1
Direct Give 2015.....	2
Advanced Learning, Advocacy Vote, Library Volunteers, Campus Beautification.....	3
Introducing the STEM K-8 PTA 2015-16 Exec. Team, PTA Membership.....	4



A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

Thanks to all the families who were able to join us for curriculum night. Seeing teachers and parents come together is always inspiring. Note first grade curriculum night was rescheduled for October 7 from 6-7pm, and third grade (plus Kent Daniels' 3rd/4th class) will have curriculum night on October 14 from 6-7pm.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. At STEM K-8 we will be providing all staff and students with training on recognizing, reporting, and resisting bullying using the Second Step socio-emotional curriculum. We will also be sending home and posting information on our school and PTA websites as well. Thanks in advance for helping us achieve our aim of making sure all our scholars feel safe and supported.

For fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, we just received SBAC and MSP score reports from the State—thank you for your patience during this delay. After we are able to stuff them in individual envelopes, score reports will be sent home with your students. Please look for them on Thursday. State tests provide a snapshot of how your child performed during this round of a complex new test, and are not always good indicators of academic performance. Classroom performance should be the primary measure of your child's skills and knowledge. If you have concerns about your child's academic skills, please talk with his/her teacher.

Note that under the [revised SPS calendar](#) **Oct. 9 is now a school day!**

Seattle Public School's ongoing discussion about switching elementary and secondary bell times would affect STEM K-8's start and end times next year. Our proposed start time for K-8 would be moved up to 8:35am and end time back to 3:20pm. The change would seem to benefit working families. For more information about the school district bell time proposals, visit www.seattleschools.org.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Upcoming Events (continued)

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.

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

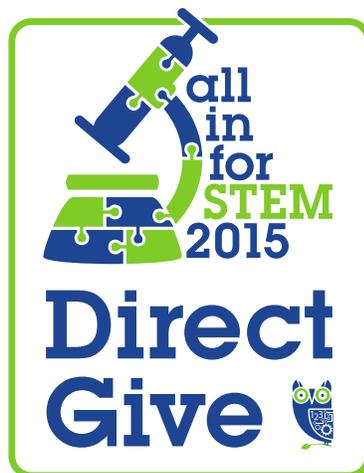
Conferences

STEM K-8

November 26 - 27

No School

Thanksgiving Break



Dear STEM Community, are you “All in for STEM?”

Did you know that each Monday morning our kids sit together as a community at assembly and start their week off by proclaiming they are "All in for STEM?" It's pretty amazing to hear them all say it together and see them work hard every day to live it as they learn and grow together.

Today and over the next few weeks we are asking the **family of our students at Louisa Boren STEM K-8 to be “All in for STEM” too.**

This first fundraiser of the year is our Direct Give. State and local funding is terribly inadequate to support the vision for our school and provide the level of services, support and materials we want for all of our students.

We chose Direct Give so that each dollar you spend goes directly to the school. We do not ask our students and families to sell products or gather pledges. Each donation is tax deductible, and many employers will match donations, increasing your gift to our school and community.

Science, technology, engineering and math provide the foundation for a strong future. STEM learning is a game changer; an opportunity; it offers up unlimited potential if we can bring our school's vision to life. I believe that being “all in” means working everyday to cultivate the community we envision that values equity, sustainability and the whole child.

This school is still in the process of making this vision a reality piece-by-piece, dollar-by-dollar every day. This is only our 3rd Direct Give and our goal is to raise the same \$35,000 we raised last year. **It can't happen without your support.**

The funds will help acquire supplemental materials that support STEM literacy, Project Based Learning, and our Louisa Boren STEM K-8 vision. **Imagine tools, construction materials, and a wide variety of books, scientific instruments, software, training and support.** Let's engage children in learning how to build a sustainable future!

I invite everyone in our community (including friends, neighbors and relatives) to give what they can today. **Every dollar makes a difference.**

Thank you for your support and being one of the building blocks for an amazing future.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Garcia

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA President

Donate Now

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 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

Advanced Learning

Online referral forms for Advanced Learning eligibility are due **Thursday, October 8**. Information about the application process can be found at: www.seattleschools.org/advlearning. The referral form takes about 15 minutes to complete and submit.

PTA Meeting – Advocacy Vote

Please join us at the next PTA meeting (Thursday October 8, 6:30pm – 8:00pm) for a discussion facilitated by the newly formed Advocacy Committee about what we can do to advocate on the state level for fully funding our schools.

We will be presenting a resolution drafted by The Network of Excellent Washington Schools, which calls our state officials to act quickly to comply with our state Supreme Court's order in the McCleary case. (If you haven't heard of McCleary feel free to study up - or we can fill you in!)

The Network has called upon all the PTA's in our state to adopt this resolution calling for fully funding education promptly. Review the resolution here: [Paramount-Duty-Resolution-for-Organizations](#)

Shawna Murphy
STEM K-8 PTA Advocacy Committee Chair

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!

Campus Beautification



Help improve our school's appearance!

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.

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



Helen Green
Secretary
secretary@stemk8pta.org

Joined STEM PTA: 2012 Charter Member

Kids: 3rd grade son.

What I like best about our school: I love the enthusiasm and dedication of our school community - the staff, students and families. The vision for STEM that SPS announced in early 2012 was amazing, and we, like many families, got behind it. However, lack of funding meant that many things that had been planned did not materialize. That's when our school community really came together; from buying balls and jump ropes for the playground to microscopes for the science labs and books for the library. We are determined to make the vision of a vibrant, successful STEM school a reality.

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](#)

