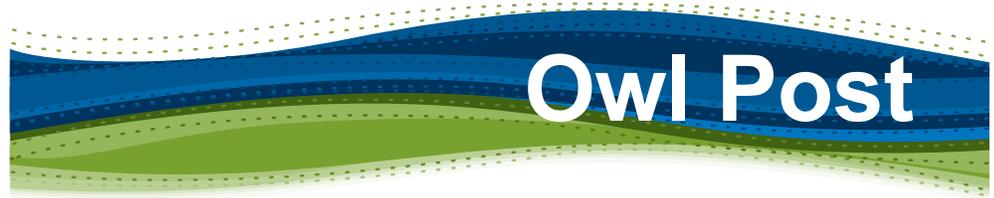




September 5, 2018



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

Upcoming Events

September 5

First Day of School
8:50am

Grades 1-8.

Regular school hours apply for the first day. Release at 3:25pm.
STEM K-8

Decompression Coffee Hour
8:50am – 9:50am

Meet with other parents/guardians and Principal Ostrom to celebrate and decompress.
School Entrance

September 5, 6, 7

Kindergarten Family Connections

STEM K-8

September 7

Back to School Bash!

Celebrate with the 7th annual B2SB!

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Lincoln Park NORTH END Shelter 5 & picnic tables 60-84

September 10

First Day of Kindergarten

Welcome new Owlets!
STEM K-8

Decompression Coffee Hour For K Parents/Guardians
8:50am – 9:50am

Meet with other kindergarten parents and Principal Ostrom to celebrate/decompress.
School Entrance

September 13

PTA Meeting & Uniform Swap
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Please join us! Complimentary YMCA childcare provided by the PTA
STEM Library

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

We're excited to see you all! Special thanks to all the staff who put in loads of extra time to help get STEM ready.

In case you missed my back-to-school letter (emailed 8/27), you can read it on the [STEM K-8 website](#).

Start of School forms are available on the [Seattle Public Schools website](#), including the [Student Verification Form](#). **You can also pick up hard copies of the forms at the school office.**

We really need you to fill out and return these forms: **FERPA, Emergency Information and Student Release, and Student Health Information.**

Others forms may be needed on an individual basis and include: Title VII, Free and Reduced Lunch Applications, Advanced Learning, and many more.

Two last minute staffing updates: we are excited to welcome Karen McKinley as our Primary Access teacher and Matt Okun as both our Middle School Band and Elementary Instrumental Music teacher.

Welcome back!

Ben Ostrom
Principal
STEM K-8



Don't Miss the Owl Post!



Delivered to your email inbox every Monday when school is in session! The Owl Post includes a weekly letter from Principal Ostrom, a calendar of school events, plus lots of STEM K-8 news!

September 14

Enrichment Sign-Up Begins 6:00pm

Read more about enrichment programs [here](#), plus a sneak peek of what classes are in store.

September 27

MOD Pizza Fundraiser All Day

Bring a copy of the flyer with you and MOD will donate 20% of food & beverage sales to our school. Only valid at West Seattle location. Phone, Dine-in, or take-out orders. Not valid on online orders. Flyers available at school or [download](#) and print.
MOD Pizza
4755 Fauntleroy Way SW

September 28

Spirit Wear Day STEM K-8

Check out the school calendar [here](#).



Back to School Bash!

It's almost time to Back to School BASH, for the 7th year in a row, aka LBSK8B2SB7!

The Back to School Bash is a great way to connect with old friends and welcome new Owls into the community. This event is Potluck Style – PTA supplies the hot dogs & lemonade – so please bring a dish or item to share.



- Date: Friday, September 7
- Time: 5:30–8:00 PM
- Location: Lincoln Park NORTH END Shelter 5 & picnic tables 60-84. Park on the street (be careful not to park in a restricted ferry line) or in the NORTH END parking lot. Walk in to the wading pool/playground area.

Want to get more involved? [Sign up](#) to help with set up, grilling, and/or clean up; it's super easy and a great way to meet other families.

PTA Meeting & Uniform Swap – September 13

When: Thursday, September 13, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Where: STEM Library

Join us for the first PTA meeting of the 2018-19 school year!

Complimentary YMCA childcare is provided by the PTA.

We will also have a Uniform Swap. Bring gently-used uniform clothes that don't fit anymore, and exchange them for ones that do!

School Supplies



A reminder that STEM K-8 does not distribute school supplies lists. **In lieu of an expensive list of supplies, the school asks that K–5 students bring a backpack and a check (payable to STEM K-8) for \$45, and middle school students bring a backpack and check for \$90.** Water bottles are optional. Middle school fees help cover additional technology and science supplies used at the middle school level.

The fee is per student, not per family, and multiple students can be paid for on a single check. The check can be delivered to the office or teachers the first week of school and payment can be spread out over multiple months if necessary. You are welcome to add more for a donation! The supply payment is not required; all students will receive the same supplies in each classroom regardless of ability to pay. Please do contribute at the level and in the way that best works for your family.

PTA President's Corner

Dear STEM Family,

Welcome to year seven at Louisa Boren STEM K-8! Whether you are returning to our community or joining us for the first time, I hope that your family had a great summer and is excited for the upcoming year.

In our first six years, our community has found so many ways of supporting our school – and we'd love you to join us in the seventh!

The STEM K-8 PTA envisions a school that supports and advocates for a STEM education that values equity, sustainability and the development of the whole child. We support the belief that STEM learning means being a critical thinker, a maker, a scientist, a philosopher, an artist. It means respect and community and safety for everyone, everyday.

Time, treasure, or talent – whatever you bring to the table is appreciated.

Whether you volunteer an hour a month or three hours every Tuesday, donate an auction item, make a tax-free financial donation, write a letter to the school board, or bring in a snack for a teacher, your contribution enriches our school. There is no one way to support the PTA! We welcome and encourage all families to participate in the way that is right for them.

Last year, the PTA funded school events including the Back-to-School Bash, Harvest Night, Pizza Pi Night, and the first annual STEM 8th Grade Graduation. It also provided Enrichment program scholarships, uniform closet requests, professional development for our staff, books for staff and students, teacher-appreciation gifts, science fair funding, and much more.

It's our job to bring the community together and support our school, and we have big plans for this year. Already on the calendar are the STEM direct give campaign (we "ask" once – no selling wrapping paper or cookies or wreaths!), our annual auction, a movie night, Enrichment program before and after school activities . . . and that is just the tip of the iceberg. We need you! Come join us. Bring your ideas, your passion, your expertise and let's make great things happen...because it takes a village!

Our first PTA meeting (with childcare provided by the PTA) will be on September 13 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library. Come find out about volunteer opportunities and the programs we fund. Register to be a member of the PTA, vote in the new slate, and meet new friends.

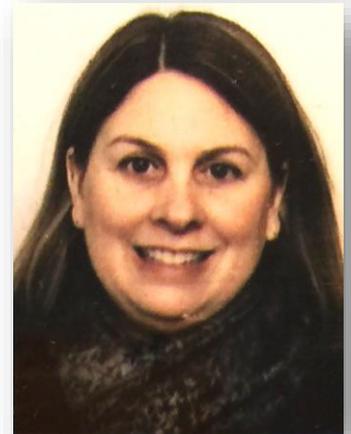
Membership is \$15. Sign-up is online, at school events, and at our PTA meetings. Everyone is welcome (member or not) to attend the PTA meetings. Future PTA meetings are on the second Thursday of each month (6:30-8:00pm, Boren Library), and free PTA sponsored childcare is always provided in partnership with the Boren STEM YMCA staff.

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time if you have questions, comments, or concerns. I would love to hear from you.

Welcome to STEM on behalf of the PTA! Wishing you and your students a wonderful year of growth, learning, and curiosity.

Kind regards,

Melinda Luke-White, PTA President 2018-2019
president@stemk8pta.org



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](#)



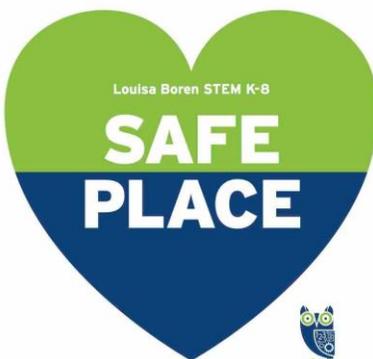
[STEM PTA Twitter](#)



[Principal Ostrom's Twitter](#)



[Principal Ostrom's Blog](#)



Special Education at STEM (SPED)

Calling all Special Education Families!

Are you a parent or guardian of a student at STEM participating in our special education services, does your child have an IEP or 504? Do you have a child in our distinct or Access classrooms? Does your child get pulled out of their general education classroom for services in the Resource Room? We want you to meet with our Special Education (SPED) families.

Often our special education families can feel a lack of support from our community. Many of us understand the unique struggles of raising a child who is wired differently, and we want to offer a place for support and camaraderie.

If you have concerns, want to better support our SPED classrooms or need help dealing with an IEP process, you are invited to attend the upcoming and second PTA sponsored SPED support meeting. This ***October 2018** gathering will be hosted by PTA Board members Rebecca Garcia and Shawna Murphy for our SPED families. Please join them as they facilitate a discussion on ways the PTA at STEM K-8 can better support our students and families.

***Date and location TBD**

In addition, a new "SPED@STEM" private Facebook group is available as an information and support tool to stay connected. If you want to be added, please contact Rebecca Garcia (rebecca_garcia@mac.com).

Questions? Contact Rebecca Garcia (rebecca_garcia@mac.com) or Shawna Murphy (southernstreetkids@yahoo.com).

SPED@STEM – Visibility, Support, and Connect!

