

**OWL POST**  
**November 10, 2014**  
**Volume 10.0**  
**The official weekly newsletter of the K-5 STEM PTA**

**{Aspire, Create, Expect} <sup>more</sup>**

**Direct Give 2014: \$30,015!**  
**THANK YOU FRIENDS!**

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA Direct Give! These funds will go directly back to STEM and will support initiatives and requests made by our teachers and staff to make STEM the best learning environment possible. We already have some BIG asks in the works- primarily in the form of leveled readers and guided reading libraries for each classroom. Stay tuned for what the PTA will do with your donations and for updates soon!

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**Message from the Principal – Ben Ostrom:**

Thanks to all the students who participated and volunteers who helped make *Mary Poppins* a huge hit! It was a memorable experience for the participants and audience both.

Seattle Public Schools has made some changes to the progress reports families receive each trimester for elementary students. As you may know, a few years ago, Washington state adopted new College and Career Readiness Standards (known as Common Core). Like all districts in the state, Seattle Public Schools has been training teachers on these standards so that the district would be ready for the new statewide tests that will be given this spring to students in grades 38 and 11. Those tests, known as Smarter Balanced, will cover standards in English Language Arts and Math. The state will continue to test students in Science using the MSP, administered in grades 5 and 8.

To reflect these new English Language Arts and Math standards, the district has revised its Elementary Progress Report. Families will see updated standards in the areas of English Language Arts, Math and Learning Behaviors. Because the new College and Career Readiness Standards (Common Core) cover only English Language Arts and Math, standards in other subject areas like Science are not changing.

Please view the following video to learn more about these changes: <http://vimeo.com/110191805><http://vimeo.com/110191805>. Your student's classroom teacher will review the progress report during your child's conference in November.

**This Week:**

| Date         | Time     | Place         | Information         | Details   |
|--------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| Nov 8- Dec 5 |          |               | Chinook Books       | Chinook Books and mobile apps (iPhone/Android phones) with valuable coupons for saving at local, sustainable businesses for sale.<br><a href="http://chinookbook.net/whats-inside/seattle-puget-sound/">http://chinookbook.net/whats-inside/seattle-puget-sound/</a><br>Books \$20 / app \$15 /combo book & app \$30<br>50% of each sale goes to the PTA.<br><br>Purchase via PayPal at: <a href="http://www.k5stempta.org">www.k5stempta.org</a> . Or send order envelopes back to child's teacher or main office. Checks payable to: K-5 STEM PTA. Books will be sent home with students. |
| Nov 11       |          |               | No School           | Veterans Day  |
| Nov 13       | 6:30-8pm | Boren Library | PTA Meeting         | Childcare provided – NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!  |
| Nov 14       |          |               | Picture re-take day | For students who missed the first picture day. If you student is having their picture retaken, please return the first package.   |

**Other Information:**

- School Directories will be emailed home this week. If you do not see your contact information, and you would like your information in the Directory, please go to <http://k5stempta.org/school-directory-entry-form/> and fill out the form. If your information is incorrect or needs editing, please send the correct information to Kimberly at: [kimberlykmcDonald@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlykmcDonald@hotmail.com). All new/revised information will need to be received by December 5<sup>th</sup> in order to make it into the final Directory. The final Directory will be distributed before Winter Break.
- Enrichment, Enrollment, Web, Laminating (Safety support) and Popcorn have all been filled! Thank you so much to Lori, Leah, Liz, Michelle, Darcey, Susie, Lisa, Stacey, Kal and Vanessa for raising their hands to help. We are so grateful and excited to share in your talents!

- Volunteer needed for advocacy: Key PTA position open for motivated, engaged volunteer. Represent STEM during Legislative voting sessions and provide key information about State decisions that will impact our school. Contact Wendy at [president@k5stempta.org](mailto:president@k5stempta.org) if interested in learning more.

### Preparing for Parent / Teacher Conferences:

At STEM, the conferences are student lead. Other siblings can hang out in the hallway or find a quiet activity in the room. See below for eight questions to ask from Seattle Public Schools that will spark a conversation with your student's teacher.

### Upcoming Dates:

| Date      | Time        | Place         | Information         | Details  |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Nov 18    | 6:30-7:30pm | Boren Library | Positive Discipline | Introduction Class on Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> .<br>A free 8-week series will start Jan. 7th on Wednesday's evenings from 6-8pm in the library. Childcare will be provided. Maximum of 30 attendee's. Must commit to entire program. |
| Nov 21    | 8:30-9:30am | Cafeteria     | Coffee Chat         | Coffee Chat with Mr. Ostrom  |
| Nov 24-26 |             |               |                     | Parent Teacher Conferences – sign up with your student's teacher(s)!   |
| Nov 27-28 |             |               |                     | Thanksgiving Break   |

More information always [www.k5stempta.org](http://www.k5stempta.org), on Facebook (West Seattle STEM PTA) and twitter @STEMPTA

## **8 questions to ask at your parent-teacher conference**

- 1.** Is my child meeting academic standards at his/her grade level in reading, writing and math?
- 2.** Could you please show me some work that shows that my child is meeting standards?
- 3.** What can I do from home to support my student? What materials can I use?
- 4.** How often and how long should my child be doing homework?
- 5.** What are my child's academic strengths and weaknesses?
- 6.** Does my child get along well with other children?
- 7.** How can I know about my child's progress? Do you send progress reports home? How often?
- 8.** How can I best communicate with you throughout the year (email, phone calls, notes, etc.)?