

**OWL POST**  
**March 30, 2015**  
**Volume 27**

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

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

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

Wow! The Rock ‘n’ Roll Up Auction on Saturday night was a smash! It was a great time and amazing fund-raising from families to support Louisa Boren STEM K-8. My gratitude goes out to everyone who participated as procurers, bidders, volunteers, and STEM supporters! Special thanks to Lisa Dawson and Robin Graham for their leadership of the volunteer corps who made happen. It was inspiring to see so many people having a great time supporting our school!

As we move into English/Language Arts Smarter Balance testing for third graders the week of April 6-10 (all other Smarter Balance testing will not begin until May), Seattle Public Schools has produced a video to support understanding and view portions of the test format. The video can be viewed at

<https://youtu.be/sDvHFFEytis?list=PLd1qfjKjaOxTbw7Zsk4nauEeDsFTp11XG> .

Parents who choose to opt their child out of state or district mandated testing may do so by providing the school with a written request.

A final note: please have students keep Pokémon and other game cards at home **unless** their teacher has invited them to bring them for a specific class experience. When we have lots of game cards at school the distractions and angst over loss and disappearance become a disruption.

Thanks again for your spectacularly generous participation in the auction and all the other ways our families STEM K-8!

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AT THE ROCK’N’ROLL AUCTION! Details soon**  
**- but preliminary gross is over \$77K! WOW!**

**This Week:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Details</b>
March 31	6:30-8pm	Fairmount Park Elementary	Levy Priority Community Meeting	<b>WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!</b> Seattle Public Schools is hosting five community meetings to share information about our upcoming Operations Levy and our Buildings, Technology, Academics/Athletics IV (BTA IV) Capital Levy which will be submitted to Seattle voters in February 2016. Please join the K-8 STEM PTA to find out about initial

				planning and how to ensure that K-8 STEM is on this levy as a top priority school for improvements. This funding will support modernizing our building including new HVAC, plumbing, windows, science/tech lab improvements, playground and other vital, permanent remodeling.
April 1		Class Photos		<p>Bring your best smile to school! Class photos are free this year to each student. Extra copies will be available for order online at <a href="http://www.yuenluistudio.com/school-pictures/">http://www.yuenluistudio.com/school-pictures/</a></p> <p>We need a parent volunteer for class pictures on Wednesday, April 1 (no foolin'!).</p> <p>Yuen Lui will have an assistant on site to help herd and corral, but would like at least one parent volunteer who knows teachers and where classrooms are. This job can be easily split between morning and afternoon shifts - we just need hands on deck. Please contact Cindy Baca in the office if you can help!</p> <p>As an side, this year's portrait company offers free class photos to each student!</p>

### Upcoming Dates:

Date	Time	Place	Information	Details
April 2	6:30-8	Boren Cafeteria	PTA Meeting	Budget, 2015-16 plans and information on Smarter Balance Testing (SEE BIO'S OF SPEAKERS BELOW!)** Childcare provided.
April 13-17			No School	Spring Break
April 25	8am-1pm	Boren parking lot & garden spaces (please park on Delridge)	Parking lot safety, painting and garden party!	Boren parking lot safety updates and site beautification! Projects include painting, unearthing a hidden sidewalk, adding new signage, and beautifying the grounds with our amazing GREEN TEAM! We've got the supplies & tools - we just need your help to make it happen!
April 30	6-7:30 pm	Boren	Kids & Safety Online	Online Safety class! Join our Arbor Heights friends for a class on keeping kids safe. SPD officer Stephanie Thomas will join us for this informative session. Not appropriate for school aged children. Childcare will be provided (YMCA).
May 28	TBD	Boren	Science Fair	Stay tuned for details soon! Interested in helping

			& Invention Convention	out? Email Kathleen at: <a href="mailto:KQland@gmail.com">KQland@gmail.com</a>
May 29	2-3pm	Boren	Seattle Opera visit to STEM	Seattle Opera will be visiting STEM to perform their first act of their elementary school program from "Our Earth: Heron and the Salmon Girl". Next year, we hope to have this terrific program as an enrichment program for our kids- come check it out!
June 4			Summer Book Swap	Start saving your gently loved books for Summer Book Swap

- 2016-2017 Bell Time Proposal: Community Feedback Required** The Bell Times Task Force is reviewing public input on whether to either keep the bell time schedule the same, change it to a modified flip of elementary, middle & high school bell times, or extend the high school day by adding an optional seventh hour beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The Neighbor to Neighbor program was created to facilitate community engagement and is being led by parents from our schools. The feedback gathered from every family in these N2N discussions will play an important role in the District's recommendations and decision making processes on Bell Time changes moving forward. Three (3) Options are being reviewed and only one will be recommended for the Superintendent for implementation. Community feedback is DUE NOW. Please join Emily Giaquinta & Genevieve Carlson on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm at Schmitz Park Elementary (5000 Spokane Street) for a brief presentation, Q&A session and to complete the family survey. You can also view information and submit the survey online at <http://neighbortoneighbor.www.seattleschools.org>. Contact: Emily Giaquinta - [legislative@schmitzparkpta.org](mailto:legislative@schmitzparkpta.org)
- If you need to get hold of the office, Ms. Baca and Ms. Bunting are your best bets! Ms. Bunting's email is: [plbunting@seattleschools.org](mailto:plbunting@seattleschools.org)

\*\* BIO'S OF SPEAKERS AT APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> PTA MEETING:

Dora Taylor:

Dora is a founding member and current president of Parents Across America and has co-authored two books on school reform, *Left Behind in the Race to the Top: Realities of School Reform* and *Digital Networking for School Reform*. Her writing may also currently be seen in *The Progressive's Public School Shakedown* and in her role as editor of the Seattle public education blog [seattleducation2010.wordpress.com](http://seattleducation2010.wordpress.com). When not writing or speaking on school issues, Dora is an architect and enjoys sharing her talents with kids and teens through a workshop series called *Architecture 101 for Kids and Teens*.

Anastasia Samuelson:

Anastasia is a Montessori teacher and the mother of a high school student in Seattle Public Schools. She has taught in both Seattle's public Montessori programs and private preschools, and loves working with young children and their families. A former researcher with the UW School of Social Work, she has authored many articles on early childhood social-emotional development as well as the art of parenting. A fan of Diane Ravitch and bell hooks, she enjoys exploring the nature of human development.

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