



October 26, 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-7:30pm

STEM Cafeteria

Harvest festival with pumpkin decorating. Non-scary costumes welcome.

October 30

Spirit Wear Day

Show your STEM Owl spirit!

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

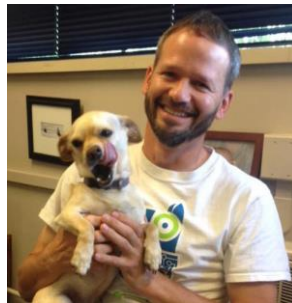
November 26 - 27

No School

Thanksgiving Break

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A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

The [Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Emerging Vision](#) serves as a guide for school priorities. We discussed what it means to “Develop rigorous *STREAM* skills to ask and answer audacious questions” at the October PTA meeting. During the Early Release on October 28 (school gets out at 1:40), staff will focus on the

Reading element of *STREAM*--Reading instruction utilizes Balanced Literacy practices to teach reading and writing skills, and integrate literacy into content areas and PBL projects. We will be looking at how to use guided (small group) reading instruction to support our range of readers. The PTA's Direct Give plays a vital role in helping us acquire STEM reading resources. Depending upon grade level, all students should be reading between 20 and 30 minutes each night at home.

I've had many questions about the SPS Bell Times proposal. The goal of the Bell Times Task Force was to move start times back for Middle Schools and High Schools to account for their need for more sleep and to move most elementary schools to earlier times when younger kids are best able to focus. Because of funding restrictions (all proposals had to be cost neutral), when the [final recommendation](#) for new bell times was published, several schools (including STEM K-8) were moved to a “Tier 3” time slot. This would make start and end times for next year 9:40am – 4:10pm. This later bell time may create a variety of hardships. You can provide direct input prior to board action on November 4. The PTA provided a [sample letter](#) on their website. If the proposed Bell Times are a concern for you, send feedback to the following addresses: arrivaltimes@seattleschools.org, schoolboard@seattleschools.org, superintendent@seattleschools.org.

There is a **potluck on Wednesday, October 28 5:30 – 7:30pm in the school cafeteria**. Join us for food and fun! Students are able to wear non-gory costumes (please leave toy weapons at home) for the evening. In line with past practice, on October 30 we will not wear costumes or have candy parties at school to limit learning disruptions.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Upcoming Events (continued)

December 2 - 4
Book Fair Blizzard
Schedule TBA
STEM K-8

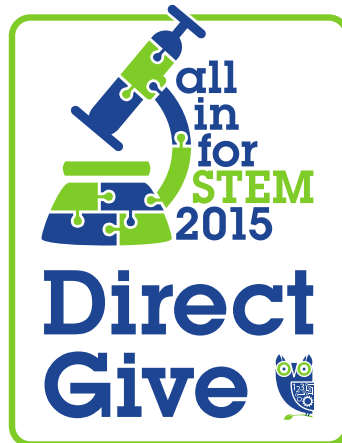
3rd annual blizzard of books!
Look out for famous mouse
reporter Geronimo Stilton.



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



Last week to be All in for STEM!

It's already the last week of our Direct Give and we have a long way to go. Our goal is **\$35,000** and we are short of the half way mark at **\$14,000**. The first several weeks of school have been a blur of late starts, unexpected changes and some disappointing news. In the midst of all this, students went to school every day and committed themselves as best they could to learning, participating and holding onto the values of their school and classroom.

Every bit of our support financially helps to support and cultivate that commitment. By providing the tools, training, programs and support that help make our school what we want it to be. **The reality is that only our support is going to replace the technology and tools that students use every day.** For example, the 32 out-dated iPods that were purchased four years ago when STEM started. Or the 16 iPads also purchased four years ago and the cart used to charge and secure them as they travel from classroom to classroom. They are used in myriad ways and integrated into projects from Kindergarten to 6th grade, to take photos and video, operate robots and learn basic code. **Current, working technology should be a given for a STEM school, but it only happens with our support!**

Help us to make our goal today. You can [donate online](#) any time or leave a check in the PTA box in the office.

Meet Crossing Guard Tioana!



Hello, my name is Tioana Ford. I work mornings from 8:10am to 9:40am and afternoons from 2:35pm to 4:00pm. This is my second year as a Seattle Public Schools Crossing Guard. In the previous year I worked at Sanislo Elementary School.

I am a native of Washington State, born and raised in the great Northwest. I have one daughter named Bre. I love to cook, read and play games on my tablet. I look forward to meeting and greeting all of you!

Upcoming Events (continued)

January 4

Back to School!

STEM K-8

January 7

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

Please join us! Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.

January 13

2-hour early dismissal

1:40pm

STEM K-8

Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

January 18

No School

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

Jump Rope for Heart

Raising money for the American Heart Association. Organized by Ms. Gray.

February 4

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

Please join us! Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.

February 15

No School

Presidents' Day

February 16

No School

Mid-Winter Break
(one day only)

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



Spirit Wear Day



Spirit Wear Day is back this Friday! Check out Spirit Wear Day info. [here](#), so you can see what your Owls can wear to show their school spirit. No Halloween costumes please.

A Note from Counselor Renée Davis

Dear Families,

There is an amazing opportunity to attend a FREE lecture about executive functioning and brain development on December 7 at the University of Washington. If you are interested in attending, please register through this link: [Executive Function and the Developing Brain](#).

For more information on executive functioning, please visit: www.understood.org

Thank you for your continual support for our students!

Renée B. Davis
Counselor, MAEd, NCC

Games for Rainy Day Recess

If anyone has any gently used board games they would like to donate for rainy day recesses it would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off in the office.

Harvest Festival Potluck This Weds., 5:30 – 7:30pm!



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.

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

Pumpkin Chunkin' Cancelled

This year's Pumpkin Chunkin' has been cancelled because we were unable to find an organizer for the event. Hopefully, we'll be able to get back to squashing squash next year!

Washington State PTA Opposes I-1366



The PTA is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidates or act as a lobbying organization. But if an issue directly impacts education in the state the WSPTA Board of Directors can vote to take a position on an issue as is the case with I-1366 which is currently on your ballots. Region Director Kristi Shafer moved that Washington State PTA oppose I-1366 without active involvement. Motion was carried. For more information on this position see <http://www.no1366.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](#)



[Mrs. B.'s Library Page](#)

Introducing the STEM K-8 PTA 2015-16 Exec. Team



Mercedes Diggs
Building Leadership Team
blt@stemk8pta.org

Joined STEM PTA: 2012 Charter Member.

Kids: 3rd grade son.

What I like best about our school: There is a lot to love about STEM K-8, from our dedicated staff and stimulating Project Based Learning opportunities to the mighty support from our student families. This is a place of enthusiasm and inspiration. What I really love, though, is the rich tapestry of our STEM families. We are a community woven of wonderful similarities and differences, and to me, this makes STEM K-8 an exciting place to be.

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](#)

