Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

September 28
2:05 PM
2-hour early dismissal

September 29
Curriculum Night and Open House
6:30-8:00 PM
STEM K-8

October 5
6:30 PM
Screenagers. Growing up in the Digital Age
A free documentary screening sponsored by STEM K-8 PTA
STEM K-8

October 14
No School

October 26
2:05
2-hour early dismissal

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

The school year is picking up steam. We welcomed Kindergartners last week. Today is the first day of the year for students in our developmental preschool. We're starting to get our feet under ourselves at STEM.

Two reminders to help make sure your child returns home safely:

1. Please communicate any changes in pick-up routine to the office before 2:00 pm.
2. If you park and pick your child up after school, please do not collect them at the door before they are lined up in the playground. This allows us to account for all our students at dismissal.

Complete Your Back to School Packets
Back to school forms are still available on the Seattle Public Schools website. You can also pick up hard copies at the school office, or ask your child to bring a packet home.

If your child might be eligible for free or reduced price lunches, please submit an application October 1. This is important for several reasons, including school and district funding. Completed applications can be submitted to our school office, the STEM lunchroom, or mailed to Nutrition Services. Families can also now apply online on the Nutrition Services webpage.

Save the date!
Don't forget to mark your calendar with the Wednesday, 9/28 two-hour early release for professional development. Then, join us for Curriculum Night on Thursday, 9/29 from 6:30-8:00. This is your chance to meet your child's teacher and get an overview of class curriculum and expectations.

Thanks again for joining the K-8 STEM community. We're glad to have you with us!

Ben Ostrom
Louisa Boren K-8 STEM Principal

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](#)
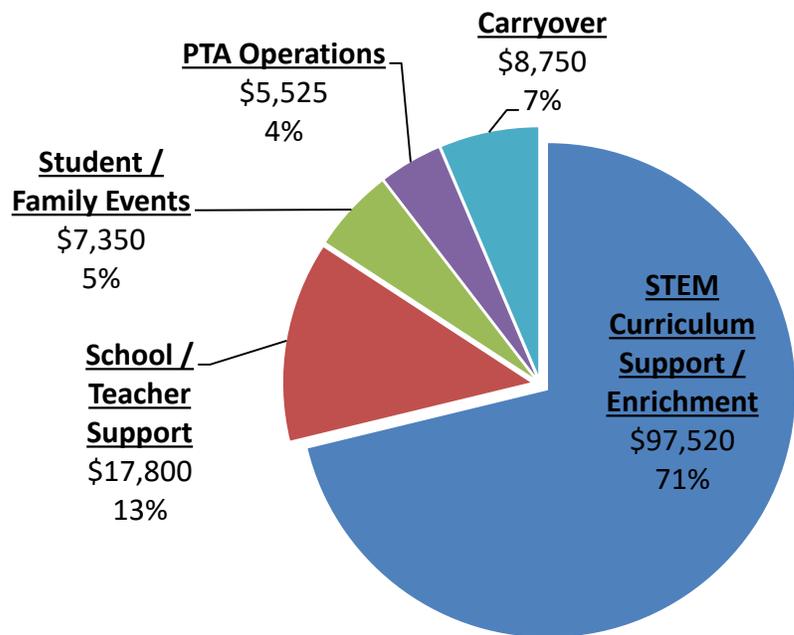
[Principal Ostrom's Blog](#)

K-8 STEM PTA Kicks Off the School Year
A message from our 2016 PTA President

A big *Thank you* to everyone who was able to attend our first PTA meeting last Wednesday. We had an amazing turnout. I know how hard it is to get out of the house on a weeknight and I really appreciate the effort, presence and participation.

If you were not able to make it the meeting the minutes are available [here on the PTA Website](#).

Our treasurer Stephanie Kellner spent some time going through our budget and talking about where our money goes. It's important to talk about since our money comes from our community and we want to be as transparent as possible about how it is spent and how we make those decisions. Below is a pie chart that gives a snapshot of what makes up our budget and how it is spent.

This year we have additional funds for teachers to spend on Project Based Learning (PBL). As a way to reinforce our commitment to STEM learning and PBL these funds will be offered as challenge grants to teachers who have projects they need to fund. This is in addition to the funds allocated for each teacher for supplies and PBL projects.

We would love for the momentum we have at the beginning of the year to stay strong as we move into winter. We are a non-profit corporation that serves our school and students and your participation as a member makes a difference. You can become a member at any time, it's easy to sign-up online.
[Join the PTA today!](#) (*continued on next page*)

Get Involved!

Volunteers Needed This Week
School Parking Lot Traffic Support

Direct Give Fundraising Committee

Room Parents Still Needed!

We have two big fundraisers each year. The first – our Direct Give starts on October 1 and all donations make a difference. There is no *one* way to participate in our community, to be a part of the PTA or have a presence in your student's school experience and we welcome and encourage any participation that is right for you and your family. We work hard to be as welcoming and open as possible and serve our community as a bridge between our families and our school. Please bring any questions, comments or issues to me at any time. Here's to an amazing year of learning, imagining and growing.
Rebecca Garcia
president@stemk8pta.org

Fall Enrichment Registration Opens Today
Fall Enrichment Registration Forms are now available! Check your student's backpack for the fall flyer. Fall Enrichment Classes will run from October 3 to December 9. Morning classes will run from 8:15-9:15am and Afternoon classes from 4:15-5:15pm.

- **Online registration and program details** are available on the PTA website under Activities. Online payment is through PayPal.
- **Paper registration forms and program details** are available at the Main Office. Completed paper registration forms may be turned into the Enrichment Box in the Main Office, along with a check made payable to "K8 STEM PTA."

Contact Cassandra O'Neal at Afterschool@stemk8pta.org with questions.

REMINDER: Parking Lot Rules of the Road
This week extra hands will be at pick-up and drop-off to help with the back-to-school congestion and assist staff with the process. Please be kind to the volunteers! They care about student safety and are there to help! If *you* want to help, sign up here!
Biggest rules:
1. Park if you need to come into school. The right lane is for pick-up, left lane to exit.
2. Exit to Exit. Enter to Enter.
3. Always yield to pedestrians.
4. Use the crosswalks to cross.
5. Please no honking unless it's an emergency.
6. Use your best deep breathing and exercise all your patience.