



Owl Post

Welcome to the School Year!

Week of September 4-11, 2020

Upcoming Events:

September 4th | First Day of School

September 10th 6:30-8PM | STEM Zoom PTA Meeting

September 11th 5:30-7PM | Back to School BINGO!

September 14th 7:00PM | Auction Committee Zoom Meeting

October 9th 7PM | STEM Online Auction

STEM Library Needs Assessment [SURVEY](#) (please complete by 9/11/20)

Find answers to [frequently asked fall 2020 planning questions](#).

STEM K-8 PTA



Welcome Back to School Owls!

2020 – Year 9! This year promises to be another year of new experiences and growth. We all know this will be a challenge as the world comes to grip with COVID and all the associated challenges. Our teachers are hard at work planning remote learning that will be valuable to all. Please consider becoming a member of the PTA (<https://mp.gg/mu19o>) and join us at Back to School Bash 9! The PTA supports STEM families and teachers and all are always welcome.

September will be a busy month. Don't miss a thing! There are lots of ways that you can stay in the know and get involved. Get announcements, information on school events and connect with other STEM K-8 families and staff by checking out the following resources and key dates.

STAY CONNECTED:	UPCOMING EVENTS:
<p>STEM K-8 PTA Website: http://stemk8pta.org/</p> <p>STEM K-8 PTA Facebook: @STEMK8 www.facebook.com/STEMK8</p> <p>Email: (for Owl Post Newsletter, SPS School Messenger & School Information): Please use the Student Verification Form to update or add (first day packet has information about how to do this)</p> <p>STEM K-8 Website: borenstemk8.seattleschools.org</p> <p>Twitter: @PrincipalOstrom / @STEMPTA</p> <p>Principal's Blog: principalostrom.wordpress.com</p> <p>STEM K-8 PTA President: president@stemk8pta.org</p> <p>Classrooms: Classroom specific – teachers & room parents will communicate with families</p> <p>PTA Membership: http://stemk8pta.org/get-involved/membership/</p> <p>TEXT NOTIFICATIONS: Opt-in to text notifications by texting @stemk8 to 81010.</p> <p>PTA & school TEXT alerts & updates, sign up here: REMIND.COM</p>	<p>9th Annual Back to School Bingo Bash - B2SB9! Friday, 9/11/20 5:30-7:00pm All New VIRTUAL BSB9 through ZOOM! More Info: www.facebook.com/events/2119522621621794/?ti=icl</p> <p>First PTA Meeting Thursday, 9/10/20 6:30-8:00pm ZOOM ID: 951 9535 1879 Password: 5950 Come to the first PTA meeting of the year to discuss plans, find out how to volunteer and what's happening for the year! Join the PTA: https://mp.gg/mu19o</p>

Welcome Letter from your PTA President, Don Knutson:



Dear STEM Family,

Welcome to our 9th year at Louisa Boren STEM K-8! Whether you are returning to our community or joining us for the first time, this will be a year like no other and I hope you are excited for the journey ahead!

This year we must be strong, resilient, and join together to ensure the success of all of our families. Communication will be key so be sure to follow the PTA for the most up-to-date information. **Website:** <http://stemk8pta.org/> **Facebook:** @STEMK8

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, community, and safety for everyone, every day.

Louisa Boren STEM PTA is an anti-racist organization! Our PTA is engaged in anti-racist work and will continue to listen, learn, and speak out against racism and violence. We seek to center the voices of the Black community and communities of color at STEM and look to them for guidance and leadership in achieving our mission and staying true to our values.

In the coming 2020-21 school year, we will explore concrete actions to identify systemic racism and the ways it affects families of color. The PTA will review all policies and procedures, including stating this position on our enrollment form, prioritizing engaging with anti-racist vendors, and educating our students and families on racism. We will review resources, including statements by Superintendent Juneau, the district and school board, national and state PTAs, the Academy of African American Male Achievement, and other respected sources, to inform our decisions.

We strive to remove all forms of racism—structural, institutional, and individual—at STEM. This work will never finish but will be ongoing. We have brought back the Race and Equity Chair Position (thank you Ebony Lee!) and welcome your inputs on how we can do better.

There is no one way to support the PTA! Whether you volunteer your time, donate an auction item, make a tax-free donation, or write a letter to the School Board, your contribution enriches our school. We welcome and encourage all families to participate in a way that is right for them. In fact, the PTA is seeking a Vice-President and Co-Treasurer for the 2020-2021 School Year and we would love to have you join our team. Look for additional information in the Owl Post!

Last year, the PTA funded the Back-to-School Bash, Project Based Learning events (Tiny Science), Maker's Space supplies (the 3D printer), Enrichment Program scholarships, professional development for staff, books for students, teacher-appreciation gifts, Robotics Club support, and much more. The PTA was also able to provide funding for critical support to our families when school unexpectedly moved to online learning this spring.

It's our job to bring the community together and support our school, and this will be more important than ever this year as we navigate uncertain times. Already on the calendar are the Direct Give Campaign (we "ask" once – no selling wrapping paper or cookies or wreaths!), our annual Auction, and an exciting art event. Please join us and bring your ideas, passion, and expertise to make great things happen!

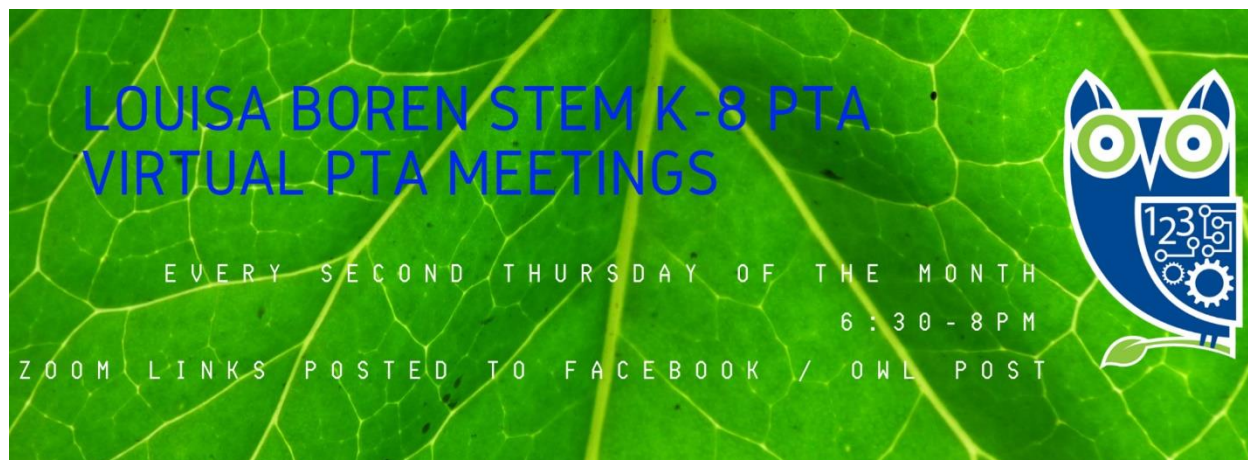
Our first PTA meeting will be on September 10th from 6:30-8:00 via ZOOM. Come find out about volunteer opportunities and the programs we fund. You do not need to be a member of the PTA to attend - everyone is welcome! Future PTA meetings are on the second Thursday of each month (6:30-8:00pm, via ZOOM).

If you are interested in becoming a PTA member, the annual membership cost is \$15. Sign-up is online during the year of COVID (<https://mp.gg/mu19o>)! Please feel free to contact me directly at any time if you have questions, comments, or concerns. I would love to hear from you.

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

Sincerely,
Don Knutson
PTA President 2020-2021
president@stemk8pta.org

Thursday, September 10th: JOIN US AT THE FIRST STEM PTA MEETING for the 2020-21 School Year!



STEM PTA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: General PTA Meeting (September 10, 2020)
Time: Sep 10, 2020 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95195351879?pwd=aHFmbGdlQVoxV0c1aXFGc0czYUtJdz09>

Meeting ID: 951 9535 1879

Passcode: 5950

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adFXuHyXfG>

To JOIN THE PTA, please use this link:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/packetview/louisaborenstemk-8pta/louisaborenstemk-8pta>

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS

Starting Friday, September 4th 11:30am-1:30pm families can pick up breakfasts and lunches at the backdoor of the kitchen. Boren is a trial meal test site so the more participation the better in order to keep it at our location.



Friday, September 11th: Back to School Bash 9 where we sneeze all over a Potluck Dinner? Nope! It's BINGO!



We are taking our oldest community event online! Join us for a family/friends Bingo night!

You can join for a few rounds, or for the whole night. Prizes include t-shirts, stem swag, trinkets, owl swag, and a night of fun.

Free to play!

1. **RSVP** by 9/10 @5pm via the facebook event
<https://www.facebook.com/events/807458683417546/>

OR

<https://forms.gle/eiwB9WbrkSbwW7xW8>

You can use the same card the whole night, but each family member will want their own. Pre-readers will need support for this activity - the BINGO cards are "STEM themed."

2. You will receive an email with a Bingo link for either; 1. following along online (you can "daub" the bingo numbers online and then reset each game) OR 2. you can print out your card(s) and go old school by printing out copies of how many games you would like to play.

3. You will receive a zoom call invite from the PTA. Join us when it works for you and play as many or as few games as you would like. PTA meeting / school rules in affect so please no swearing, etc... since a bunch of owlets are on zoom call / chat.

4. If you win: enter your email into the chat section of the zoom call OR email: robingraham26@gmail.com to connect about your prize!

Calling all STEM Adults!

*Have you ever considered volunteering for a non-profit Board? Now is your opportunity! The [Louisa Boren STEM PTA](#) is seeking volunteers to fill two officer positions for the 2020-21 school year! Our Executive Board needs a **Vice President and Co-Treasurer**. Our PTA is active, organized, and committed to the well-being of our school community. Our work is grounded in equity; we support school activities to fill gaps in District funding, including annual library book purchases, project-based learning supplies, classroom resources and supplies, substitute teachers, and teacher development. Please consider offering your time to support our kids and teachers during this upcoming year! Contact Angela Wallis, nominations committee chair, at secretary@stemk8pta.org, or 206-999-2132 with questions, or to demonstrate your interest!*

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Executive Team Vice President and Co-Treasurer Roles and Responsibilities

The STEM K8 PTA Board of Directors is engaged, active, and committed to providing funding and activities to engage all students and teachers. We look forward to filling this important position for the 2020-21 school year. The Vice President position “rolls up” to President for the 2021-22 school year (a two-year commitment).

VICE PRESIDENT Duties of the Vice President include:

- Leading committees as needed;
- Participating in at least one major fundraising initiative;
- Participating in and volunteering for school and PTA events;
- Depositing and signing checks as needed;
- Participating in monthly meetings and other communications with the school Principal and PTA President;
- Planning membership meeting agendas with the President;
- Preparing for the President position in year two;
- Meeting other parents, learning about STEM and the school district, and having fun!

CO-TREASURER (a two-year commitment; position rolls up automatically to Treasurer in year 2)

The duties of the co-treasurer include:

- Supporting the treasurer role;
- Stands in for treasurer as needed and learns the role within the executive team;
- Attending all executive team and board meetings;
- Performing monthly bank statement reviews;
- Serving as co-chair of the budget committee with the treasurer;
- Serving as chair of the mid-year and year-end financial review committee ensuring these two reviews are completed yearly;
- Participating in and volunteering for school and PTA events.

Coming to you on October 9th @ 7pm – STEM ONLINE AUCTION

In preparation, we need your help!

Update on the Saturday Morning Cartoons & PJ's Auction - originally scheduled for March, then May, then October. We are changing the TV channel from Animaniacs (it's much to Wakk-o!) over to MacGyver!

The past six months we've had to be problem-solvers, innovators, flexible, and improvise under unpredictable circumstances. A swiss-army knife isn't SUPER helpful for COVID, but it will help you open up your Auction winnings - so get ready for the STEM MacGyver Virtual Live Auction!

The silent auction items will be online before and after October 9th, and live virtual auction will be October 9th @7pm and open to all - no tickets will be needed for this event.

Just this year we are flipping things around with the Auction in the Fall and the Direct Give in the Spring.

Thank you for your patience and your understanding during this time – the students, teachers and community depends on the monies raised and we are grateful for your support. Every year we say it's imperative - this year more than ever every line-item has been carefully budgeted for supporting the needs of our community.

If you can help with auction planning, email robingraham26@gmail.com and save September 14th @7 for a **Zoom auction committee meeting**:

STEM PTA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Auction Committee Meeting (Sep14)

Time: Sep 14, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95564541263?pwd=Q1N2SGs0cjVVaGx1cVNtcEd1SmdkUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 6454 1263

Passcode: 644908

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aAXInxy0p>

We have always been the school that “made it work” and we will this year too.

We’ve got this.

More information soon,
Robin Graham – Auction Chair





Note from Mr. Ostrom sent on 9/3/20

STEM Families,

There are full plates as teachers are immersed in training and we prepare to start the school year. My apologies for the many “learning mistakes” that will happen over the next 3 weeks as we try to relaunch school in a very different manner than last spring.

Below is an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Stay brilliant, healthy, and sane.

Ben Ostrom

Issue	Families FAQ
Classroom Orientations	<p>Primary 5:30-6:15 pm 3rd-5th Grade 6:15-7:00 pm Middle School 7-7:45 pm</p> <p>Links to classroom orientation sent to families directly from teachers and also repeated by school via School Messenger.</p>
<p>Strong Start</p> <p>Starts 9/4 8:30 am</p>	<p>Links to Strong Start classrooms sent to families directly from teachers and also repeated by school via School Messenger.</p> <p>From Sept. 4th (8th for K and Pre K) all SPS schools will follow a “Strong Start” schedule. The Strong Start schedule will have 2 hours of synchronous (live) instruction to start the day (8:30am-10:30 am) and then independent work the rest of the day.</p> <p>The morning schedule will focus on socio-emotional learning, student and family connections, helping make sure students and families have access to working devices, Internet, and are able to use school software such as Schoology, Seesaw, and Microsoft Teams. During afternoons teachers will work on professional development, meet with families, and plan culturally responsive online instruction.</p>

Device Distribution Update	<p>All K-6 students will pick up SPS iPads or Laptops during the window of Tuesday, Sept. 8 to Thursday, Sept. 10 between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. Details will be sent separately on 9-4 or over the weekend.</p> <p>Families may choose to use their own iPads or laptops.</p> <p>Special Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 7th and 8th grade students and current 7th and 8th grade students hoping to exchange problematic laptops—we are still working on obtaining a few more laptops. Stay tuned. <p>Because of supply shortages SPS chose to reprocess existing STEM iPads to distribute to K-2 students. Thus we are able to distribute them sooner.</p>
Student Technology Support	<p>Student username and password reset—Click here</p> <p>Online tools for students—Click here</p> <p>Technology Supports for families—Click here</p> <p>District Device.</p> <p>Contact us between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone number: 206-252-0100 (if the line is busy you can leave a voicemail) • Email laptops@seattleschools.org <p>General Technology Support Questions</p> <p>Contact us between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone number: 206-252-0100 (if the line is busy you can leave a voicemail) <p>Email laptops@seattleschools.org</p>
Attendance	<p>As part of a teacher’s basic responsibilities, daily attendance is mandatory and must be in alignment with OSPI guidelines and District approved protocols Clearly outlined expectations and consistent procedures will be provided to students and educators. Student participation could look like, in order to be counted as present, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily logins to learning management systems. 2. Daily interactions with teacher(s) to acknowledge attendance (including messages, emails, phone calls, or video chats); or, 3. Evidence of participation in a task or assignment. Student presence is determined by engaging in planned synchronous or asynchronous activities.
Internet Access Support	<p>For more information visit: SPS internet service support webpage</p> <p>SPS is strongly committed to work to make sure every family has access to Internet and a working device. This is a significant undertaking and may take a little while to accomplish. There are two supports that SPS is currently providing to families who qualify: Comcast Internet Essentials (for families who will have</p>

	<p>a fixed address for at least 6 months) which is installed in the home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS Cellular Hotspots (for families with no fixed address or moving frequently) which can be picked up at select locations. <p>Families needing assistance with Internet access should reach out to Genevieve Saarenas at 503-765-6935 or glsaarenas@seattleschools.org.</p>
Grading	<p>Required elementary grading: Use the traditional standards marking scale (1-4) toward power standards (the narrowed list of standards that are most critical for each content area) with detailed comments.</p> <p>Marking the standard and providing comprehensive feedback to students will allow families/caregivers to better understand their student's progress toward the grade-level standards. Comments provided to students will be aligned to the standards, which supports the SPS Strategic Plan Priority "High-Quality Instruction and Learning Experience" by ensuring comments are aligned to standards with consistent and appropriate feedback.</p> <p>Required secondary grading: "'A - C-" or "Incomplete" are the Board-approved grading options. Grades should be aligned with content standards, communicate student progress toward those standards, and provide another way to support African American boys and teens in their efforts to graduate on time and ready for college and career.</p>
Lunch time	<p>Grades will have individual lunch schedules between the window of 11:45 am -1:15 pm (12:30 pm on Wednesdays) to align with lunch distribution at STEM K-8.</p>
School supplies	<p>STEM has ordered at-home learning supplies for all families. We are not collecting donations to offset this expense this year. While we are waiting for supplies and devices to arrive the only supplies needed would be typically found around a house; ie. pencil or pen, paper or scratch paper of some kind.</p>