

# Stevens Speak

★ THE STEVENS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ★

## UPCOMING EVENTS



1242 18th Ave E  
Seattle, WA 98112

April 19, 2017

## From The Principal

**April 27 ELL Cultural Panel Tea, 2:30-4:30pm, Library**

**May 4 - Multi-Cultural Night 6:30-8:30pm**

**May 10 - 2 hour early dismissal**

**May 17 Class Picture Day**

**May 21 Seattle Storm Stevens Elementary Day, 4pm**

**May 23 PTA Meeting—Vote on Budget & new Board Members**

**June 9—Carnival**

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“What grade did you get on your math test?” “How did your presentation go?” “What was your score?” “Did you get an ‘A’ on your essay?” “What did you get wrong?” These are just some of the questions all of us remember being asked as kids, and perhaps have asked our children as well. Separating school and grades is hard to do. One of our jobs as teachers is to communicate with parents about how their students are doing at school. We also want to make sure that we communicate with children about their performance and progress. This is traditionally done by grading papers and returning them to students and parents. Teachers have a history of spending hours grading papers. We’ve all seen the teacher at their own kids’ soccer games grading papers. As accountability has increased in recent years; educators and education research has focused more and more on identifying effective practices. We want to know our ROI (Return On Investment) for everything that we do. How should we invest our time? If the goal is student achievement and maximizing student learning; what strategies should teachers engage in? It turns out that the practice of grading everything a student turns in and correcting every mistake is not a good use of time.

What does help students is providing specific learning targets (what we want a student to learn), and then providing specific, and if possible in the moment feedback to students about that learning. Let’s say a student is working on writing standard 3.3b “Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.” The teacher might provide this third grader with an assignment to show their understanding of how to write using dialogue by writing a one page short story about two students having an interaction on the playground that shows good sportsmanship. The teacher may notice and make note that the student demonstrated a strong understanding of how to use and punctuate dialogue. Now you as a parent look at your child’s short 1-page story and notice that more than 15 words are misspelled and the teacher didn’t say anything about the spelling. So as a parent you are wondering why this teacher didn’t correct the spelling on this story; and in fact didn’t correct the spelling on the math paper that came home either. The answer is that spelling was not the learning target.

What you as parents are going to start to notice from your teachers is that there will be less papers coming home with grades on them; and more papers coming home having only been graded/scored for certain things. We want our teachers to provide to our students feedback that is targeted to what the students are working on. You will still see grades and papers scored. That feedback and reporting to parents is important; but you will see less of it. Instead, our teachers will be investing more of their time in reviewing data, collaborating and preparing lessons and materials that will help each child make more progress.

*Dr. Brian K. Fitch, Principal*

## From our PE Team:

Dear Families,

May is fast approaching & kids across the nation will be biking to school for Bike to School Month! The Stevens Community and Cascade Bicycle Club are geared up to support biking to school and promoting active families.

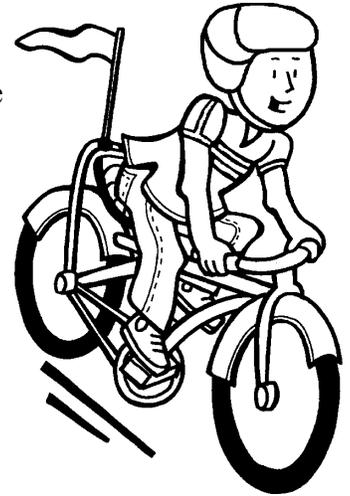
You and your student(s) are invited to participate in the Bike to School Month Challenge. Students will receive a Bike To School Calendar at school to track the number of minutes they bike each day. We realize that not every family can bike to school, so minutes spent biking to sports practice, the park, library or just around the neighborhood should be counted on the calendars.

Stevens volunteer "Bike Fairies" will also appear throughout May to greet riders with small prizes to recognize them. Calendars are due to your student's classroom teacher by June 5th to earn prizes from Cascade Bicycle Club (prizes TBD).

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thanks and happy riding!

Mr. Peters [ejpeters@seattleschools.org](mailto:ejpeters@seattleschools.org) , Ms. Goubert [smgoubert@seattleschools.org](mailto:smgoubert@seattleschools.org) & Stevens Green Team

P.S. All Stevens Elementary student calendars will be tallied and added together for our combined minutes of riding. The elementary school with the most combined bike minutes will receive the prestigious Golden Pedal Award and receive a bike safety assembly at school! Let's Go Stevens Bikers!



## From the PTA:

### Tutu's Pantry Food Donations

This Week, April 17-21: **Fourth Grade Families** please donate non-perishable food items in bin outside front office.

Next week: Second Grade

## ELL Cultural Panel:

### ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF TEA on Thursday, APRIL 27th** to socialize with other Stevens families, and join in an open discussion about cultural challenges some ELL (English Language Learner) families are experiencing, and how we can be supportive at Stevens. Event will take place in the Stevens Library from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Conversation will be facilitated by ELL Program teacher Ms. Cao.

## Stevens Elementary PTA Upcoming Fundraisers

### Stevens Elementary PTA Seattle Storm Game - Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 4pm

Gather your friends and buy tickets NOW for Seattle Storm Women's Basketball game at Key Arena. <http://seattlestormbasketball.com/ticketcentral/stormyourschool.html#/> - use promo code: **STEVENS17** A portion of each ticket sold will come back to help fund Stevens programs.



**Optimism Brewery Beer Tasting & Dinner**, next Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Leave your kids with a babysitter and grab one of the remaining spots at this \$50 buy-in event. Contact Caren Ezratty O'Connor to secure your ticket: [ezratty@hotmail.com](mailto:ezratty@hotmail.com). Donation goes directly to support the arts at Stevens.



## Carnival

How'd that spring cleaning go over Spring Break? Were you able to wrestle stuffed animals away from your tot or did you have to sneak out of the house with your bundle?

We'll gladly accept all clean, gently loved, non-broken kids' items to turn into CARNIVAL PRIZES: Small toys, board games, stuffies, bikes, scooters, electronics - you name it, we WANT IT!

We can also take BOOKS which we'll redistribute at our summer reading book giveaway in June.

Drop items off in the carnival donation boxes located in Stevens front entry hallway. And if you'd like to help SORT incoming items after Spring Break, contact [carnival@stevenspta.org](mailto:carnival@stevenspta.org).

## WSPTA Platform Issues and Resolution Workshop

WSPTA Platform Issue & Resolution Workshop [this Saturday afternoon](#), Apr. 22 - for any PTA member who would like to share issue ideas or has more questions about the process. Sign up here to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wspta-region-6-platform-issueresolution-workshop-tickets-33784134255?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esfb&utm-source=fb&utm-term=listing>

The WSPTA 2017 platform priorities are:

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Amplify Fund Basic Education

Closing the Opportunity Gap

Standards for Para-educators

Breakfast after the Bell

More information on legislative process can be found at: <https://www.wastatepta.org/help-children-washington/>

All ideas will be considered and all concerned members are invited. If you have a conflict on Saturday but would like to get together with any of the WSPTA Legislative team, Region 6 Director Sherry Rudolph will be travelling the Region this week and can arrange some coffee shop meet-ups. Email: [Ptareg6@wastatepta.org](mailto:Ptareg6@wastatepta.org) Or call: [425-890-9027](tel:425-890-9027)

## Stevens After-school Enrichment Classes via Miller community Center

**Afterschool Enrichment Spring Session starts this week** and runs through June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**A NEW CLASS:** Wednesday's **Martial Arts & Self Defense** for ages 8-11 did not make it into the take-home catalog. Here are the details:

### **Martial Arts & Self Defense #165097 – Grades 3-5**

In a safe, stimulating, and fun environment, students are immersed in the eclectic martial art of Kajukenbo Kung Fu. Our staff of dedicated, energetic instructors are advanced martial artists at Fusion Kung Fu and experienced educators who provide quality instruction on basic Kajukenbo techniques, including strikes, blocks, forms, partner work, and board-breaking, as well as mindfulness, team-building, and collaboration skills. Through games and engaging activities, students also learn important self-defense tools that can support them to feel safer, more confident interrupting bullying and violence, and better able to respond to challenges they face in and out of school.

Program Provided by Mollie Wolf

You can register via SPARC online <https://class.seattle.gov/parks/Start/Start.asp> or at Miller community center in person – 330 19<sup>th</sup> Ave E.

Any questions? Contact Enrichment Program Administrator [Tiffany.Flye@seattle.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Flye@seattle.gov)

Seattle Public Schools, SPS, provides Equal Educational Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunities and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex; race; creed; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; age; economic status; sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; physical appearance; the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. SPS also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

For students and members of the public, the following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Office of Student Civil Rights, (206) 252-0306, or [oscr@seattleschools.org](mailto:oscr@seattleschools.org), or by mail at Seattle Public Schools, MS 32-149, P.O. Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1166. In that department:

- For sex discrimination concerns, including sexual harassment, contact: Title IX Grievance Coordinator, (206) 252-0367, or [Title.IX@seattleschools.org](mailto:Title.IX@seattleschools.org)
- For disability discrimination concerns contact: ADA/Section 504 Grievance Coordinator, (206) 252-0178, or [accessibility@seattleschools.org](mailto:accessibility@seattleschools.org)

For employee questions about or requests for disability related accommodations and/or complaints of alleged discrimination, including sexual harassment, contact: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Seattle Public Schools, Mailstop 33-157, P.O. Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1166, (206) 252-0024, or [hreeoc@seattleschools.org](mailto:hreeoc@seattleschools.org).