



Stevens Speak Stevens

1242 18th Ave E
Seattle, WA 98112

November 4, 2009

CALENDAR

**November 4
PTA Meeting
*Tonight***

**November 11
No School - Veterans
Day**

**November 23 - 25
No School
Parent/Teacher
conferences**

**November 26 - 27
No School
Thanksgiving Holiday**



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From The Principal's Office

As part of the strategic plan, *Excellence for All*, Seattle Public Schools is currently implementing "Phase 1" of performance management efforts. One important component of this work is to provide differentiated responses to schools. Stevens has been selected as one of 12 schools to work closely with the district in these efforts. Selected schools represent a broad spectrum of performance and were chosen both for the diversity they bring but also because of their strong school communities. We're excited to be a part of these efforts, and value the opportunity to work closely with the district in this initial year of performance management.

Stevens has consistently shown relatively high performance on WASL and other student learning assessments. We know, however, that we are not immune to the "gap" that is present between the performance of our overall population and that of some subgroups of ethnicity, socio-economic status, and those receiving specialized services. We're committed to providing ALL students with opportunities for success, and through our participation in this first phase of performance management, are able to access additional resources to do so:

- Extended learning opportunities for students. We are excited to be able to extend our existing after-school tutoring program to provide additional instruction from teachers after school for identified students.
- Professional development opportunities for staff. In order to continue our own professional learning around instructional best practices, we are able to provide some substitute coverage for teachers to visit other classrooms during the day and learn from one another.
- Additional support for data-driven instruction. We're thrilled to welcome Ms. Ilana Bechick to Stevens, who is joining us as a .5 data/instructional coach. Ms. Bechick will work alongside classroom teachers to analyze and utilize student assessment data in order to guide instruction.

Stay tuned for additional performance management updates throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Jennifer

Important Information

Please call the office at 252-3400 or 252 3402 to report if your child will be gone from school due to illness, doctors appointment,

You can find us on the web at www.stevens elementary.org

In an effort to provide opportunities for representatives from the entire Stevens community to be meaningfully and actively engaged in processes that affect the school, we are currently working on blending Site Council and the Building Leadership Team. Our hope is that this shift will provide for more substantive and actionable conversations that can continue to shape the direction of Stevens Elementary. Stay tuned for more information in coming weeks!

Stevens Annual Food Drive

Stevens School will host our 9th Annual Holiday Food Drive from Monday November 9th to Friday December 11th. If you would like to participate, please contribute non-perishable food and/or other items to the drive. Donated items will be given to Stevens Families in need of extra help during the holiday season. Listed below are items that we will need to prepare gift boxes. Students should take donated items to the tables on each floor that will be marked for this purpose. In the past our students have worked extremely hard to reach their goal and each year they have been successful at exceeding it. If we meet our goal, the students will earn 15 minutes of extra recess before the winter break. Let's all work together to help support our Stevens Families.

If your family is in need of a food box please contact Rita Marlowe

We need volunteers to help pick up food from the tables on each floor. If you are interested please contact Rita Marlowe at rimarlowe@seattleschools.org.

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES OF ITEMS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Hot Cereal | Cornmeal | Boxed Cereal |
| Olives | Canned Vegetables | Beans |
| Baby Diapers & Wipes | Canned Fruit | Food Seasonings |
| Clothing | Detergent | Hand Soap |
| Canned Soup | Spaghetti Noodles | Bar Soap & Liquid |
| Canned Meat & fish | Spaghetti Sauce | Toilet Paper |
| Canned/Bottled Juice | Boxed Mac & Cheese | Ziploc Bags |
| Flour | Spices | Foil |
| Sugar | Cake Mix & Frosting | Popcorn |
| Cooking Oil | Rice | Pasta |
| Peanut Butter | Crackers | Baby Jar Food |
| Jams & Jellies | Packaged Snack Items | |
| Disposable cooking pans | | |



Grocery Store Food Certificates/Gift Cards
Are Welcome!

Reminders

It's Reflections Time

"Beauty Is..."

This Friday, November 6th, is the Reflection's deadline. Completed artwork can be turned into the office or to your child's teacher. All artwork will be displayed in the school library starting in mid November until the holiday break.

Any questions, please contact Michelle Martine at meemee103@msn.com.

From the Gym

PARENTS: We are biking until 3:20 every day for the next two weeks. PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE on the playground until after the bikes are gone at 3:20. The kids are learning important skills about staying right, stopping, and controlling their bikes. We need all the space. Thanks. Mr. Beard

Additionally, because the playground is utilized by students in after school programs, we ask that cars not be parked on the playground after 3:45. Thanks for your support in this manner!



Tamale Sale

Thank you so much for your overwhelming response on the tamales. By Thursday night, we received close to our 400 orders target, and had 540 by Friday... That fast!

We will do our best to fulfill as many of the orders received (those received by Friday 30th), but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to. If we cannot fulfill your order, we apologize in advance, and we will return your check.

Here is a reminder on your pick up/delivery options:

- ? Warm just out of the "vaporera" on Saturday Nov. 7th, from 4pm to 7pm at 333 18th Ave. E. (Between Thomas and Harrison). If you are planning on stopping by, and would like to make sure that your order will be fulfilled, please call (206) 324 8925.
- ? At Stevens, on Monday Nov. 9th, from 8:30am to 9:30am or from 3:30pm to 6pm. (on the playground, next to the gym).
- ? Delivered to your house on Monday Nov. 9th, from 6 to 8pm. (if you have given us your address).

Thank you!

The Latino Families at Stevens

Stevens Tree Sale



Calling all Paul Bunyan's! We need you AND your chainsaw to cut the bases of the trees at our tree sale on December 5th. Slots are available from 8:15-10:45 and 10:30-1:00. Channel your inner outdoors man and help out the school. Tree selling and cashiering positions still available. Contact Erika at erikagrayson@yahoo.com if you are interested!

....And don't forget to get your bright green order form turned in for your tree, wreath, swag and garland needs for the season. Deadline is November 20th!!

Pancake and Latke Breakfast

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 am to 10:30 am in the school cafeteria during our Tree Sale. During that time, Stevens students will provide entertainment with holiday songs. We will need help with flipping pancakes, warming up latkes and serving up the food! Come be a part of our wonderful school community and meet the many families and neighbors of Stevens!

**Saturday, December
5th Only**

PTA Meeting Tonight

6:30 – 8:00 pm in School Library
Childcare provided in cafeteria

Please join us for an update on programs at the school as well as a special parent education piece. Hear from Principal Reing and our program leaders for the Tree Sale, Pancake Breakfast, Tamales Sale, Auction and much more!

"Bringing Out their Best"

Kathy Slattengren from *Priceless Parenting*

Kathy will cover the following topics:

Behaviors we hope to encourage in our children

Avoiding parenting practices that are likely to have long term negative results ("parenting pitfalls")

Four parenting styles based on more/less control and more/less guidance: Permissive, Personal Assistant, Director, Mentor

Pros/cons of each style as children grow older.



Penny Harvest

- Did you know there are over \$2 billion unused pennies in homes across America?
- Many people wonder what to do with those jars of pennies gathering dust. The answer? Give them to young people during the Penny Harvest!
- Every November for the last 15 years, students and their families have worked together to collect pennies in their neighborhoods.
- The Penny Harvest is just beginning here at Stevens. When a school fills 25 canvas sacks of pennies, they are awarded a Philanthropy Roundtable.
- A roundtable is where student leaders meet regularly to research community needs and decide how to allocate Penny Harvest funds – usually \$1000 – to community service projects and charitable organizations.
- Not a single penny collected by students is used for overhead, operations, or any other purpose. All collected pennies are given back to the students to use to meet community needs as they see fit.
- Your child has a great opportunity to make a difference. So do you.
- With the Penny Harvest, every penny counts and every person counts. Please work together with your child to collect pennies – your support will make the Penny Harvest a success. The process is easy. The results are meaningful. And the need is there. Together, we can make a difference. On behalf of the students, people, families, and organizations that have been touched by Penny Harvest, we thank you.
- For more information, contact: Chris Wilkie at clwilke@seattleschools.org or contact Penny Harvest at www.PennyHarvest.org.
- Flyers and bags for collection were sent home with each student.

TUTORING PROGRAM NEEDS SNACKS!

The tutoring program is in dire need of granola bars so our kids can have a snack before getting down to work. If you can donate some nut-free bars, or some money to allow a volunteer to buy some, please bring your donation to the office or to Ms. Einmo's room (206) ASAP. Checks can be made to

Stevens Elementary. Please make sure you label your donation for tutoring. Thanks!



Box Tops For Education

Save the small pink tokens on many of your favorite products. Each token is worth ten cents. These tokens really add up and help the PTA fund many learning opportunities.

Stevens Annual Fund Drive

Invest in our kids—one of our most important fundraisers of the year!!

It's almost time to start our 13th Stevens Annual Fund Drive! Last year, through generous direct donations from parents, relatives, friends,

and alumni of Stevens, we raised over \$100,000! This year we are aiming for another \$100,000, an ambitious goal in these trying times but attainable if everyone digs deep for the kids.

Please consider volunteering to assist with the Annual Fund. We could use another four or five thank you letter writers. An easy task you can do whenever you have time, but

one that allows you to contribute in a meaningful way to this great fundraiser.

To sign up or if you have any questions, please contact Chris Clements at: chrislclements@comcast.net or (206) 579-9859. Thank you!

Free Money for Stevens

Do you ever dream about **free money**? Do you ever shop at **Amazon.com**? How about **Safeway**? **eScrip** Or **Endless.com**? Believe it or not there are **LOTS** of “**FREE MONEY**” programs out there to help our kids!! As you begin your holiday shopping consider using one of these programs:

- Amazon.com **6% of each purchase** is donated back to Stevens PTA at no additional cost to you **if** you use one of the following links bit.ly/23aKVh (which will take you directly to Amazon) or <http://www.stevenspta.org/pta.htm> and click on the link. Take a look at the site! Amazon carries everything from books to music to DVDs and much, much more. And, through Amazon partners and subsidiaries, you can get virtually anything from a vacuum cleaner bag to a soccer ball. For every **Kindle** purchased through Amazon, Stevens PTA actually earns 10%! WOW! What a great gift.



- Endless.com <http://www.endless.com/?tag=stpt-20> This is an Amazon owned shoe, boot and handbag company with **GREAT** selections that actually gives **15% back** to Stevens for purchases made through this link!
- eScrip <http://www.escrip.com/> Go to the eScrip site and at least register your **Safeway card**. 4% of purchases are donated back to the Stevens PTA! Just visit the eScrip web site and search for Stevens Elementary PTA or use **8567072 for Group ID #**. You can also register your credit cards and earn 2-4% for Stevens at many, many retailers and restaurants!
- Box tops <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx> : Keep collecting those “box tops” from the many sponsoring companies including Ziplock, Hefty, Cheerios, Betty Crocker and Huggies. You can send these in with your children in an envelope marked “box tops” or drop them directly in the blue “box tops” box outside Mr P’s classroom, Room 102, just to the left as you enter the front of the school.

Don’t forget to ask your company about matching funds for Annual Fund or other financial contributions you make to Stevens Elementary PTA. Some companies (Microsoft) even pay for your volunteer hours. What a fantastic bonus!!

All proceeds fund special programs for Stevens’ students and help our PTA provide teachers and assistants who help keep the student-to-teacher ratio as low as possible.



1242 18th Ave E
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Phone: 206- 252-3400

STEVENS SPEAK

We're on the web at
[www.stevens elementary
.org](http://www.stevens elementary.org)

Coat Swap: Reuse/recycle

Please join us in our first ever Stevens Coat Swap. It's time to clean our closets of last year's too-small coats. Swap out your child's gently used coat for a larger one or just "Be Green" and recycle it for someone else to use.

Children's' coats of all sizes can be left in the brightly decorated "Green" box in the school's entryway. Then shop at our store in the Stevens' cafeteria before or after your parent conference on November 23 to 25th. Everyone is welcome, even if you didn't drop off a coat to swap.

All coats are free. Donations will be accepted and will benefit our Winter Wishes program to support Stevens families in need during the holidays.

See you then!

Any questions, or just interested in helping out? Contact Shelly Chinn avalonwinc@comcast.net

