



Stevens Speak

1242 18th Ave E
Seattle, WA 98112

Nov 10, 2009

Stevens Annual Food Drive

CALENDAR

November 9 Annual Food Drive begins

**** 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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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!**

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,

****Tomorrow****

There will be no school tomorrow in honor of Veterans Day

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

Stevens' Parenting Pearls

"Homework"

Note: 'Parenting Pearls' is a new feature that offers parenting tips on various topics that were discussed at our PTA meeting. This feature will occur about once a month. This month's topic was "homework" and here's what your fellow parents have to offer in terms of "best practices" . . .

- Have child do their homework with a friend
- Homework done each morning at breakfast
- Know when is your child's best time to do their homework
- Allow your child to chose his/her best timeslot to complete work
- Have cool chairs to lounge and study

Notes From the Gym



We are almost finished with bikes and I have to say it has been very helpful to have so many kids bring their own helmets. The recent wet weather has put something of a cramp in our style, but we have coped with it. I've included a picture.

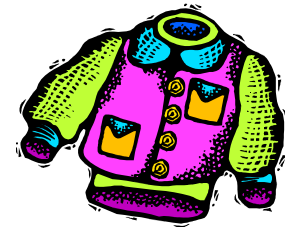
Keep bringing those helmets to school because we will have the skates starting next Monday. We will have the skates for 3 weeks. I could use help from kindergarten parents (or any parents, actually) tying shoes from 10:10 until 11:20. If you are able to come in during these kindergarten times, please let me know. It takes lots of hands to get them into and out of the skates.

PE just keeps on rolling!



Coat Drive-Final Week

Please drop-off any gently used coats by **THIS Friday, November 19th** in the front entrance where a brown box decorated with "coats" is sitting. We only have 12 coats to date and we would like more so that **EVERY** child at Stevens has a warm coat this winter. Coat swap will occur the week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 23-25) during Parent/Teacher conferences, where parents can pick up a coat, **FREE** of charge, for their child. If you would like to make a cash donation to the program, all money will go towards our Winter Wishes Program to help those families in need this time of year.



Stevens Tree Sale



Mark your calendars for the Annual Stevens Tree Sale and Pancake Breakfast on December 5th. **Breakfast will be served from 8:30am - 10:30 am.** During that time, Stevens students will provide entertainment with holiday songs. Pre-ordered trees, garland and wreaths can be picked up and purchased on SATURDAY ONLY from 9:00am - 11:00am. General tree sale and book fair will continue until 4:00pm.

Thank you to Glenn MacDonald for printing labels for our tree sale flier mailing. Also, thank you to all of the volunteers who helped pass out order forms in the neighborhood: Wendy Saffel, Alaine Nijenhuis, Hattie Vogel, Barbara Kelley, Libby Hill, Stephanie Farrell and our first alum volunteer, Marcie McHale (yes, she just keeps on helping us out!)

If you would like to see your name in Stevens Speak, please contact Erika at erikagraysen@yahoo.com to volunteer. This is a FUN event that gets the whole community into the holiday spirit! If you would like to help with the Pancake Breakfast, please contact Susan Goubert at sgoubert@mac.com.

**Saturday, December
5th Only**

Stevens Auction 2010 Needs Class Auction Reps

Would you like to help out with the auction this year? Then please consider being a classroom Auction Rep for your child's classroom! As an Auction Rep, you will support the committee's efforts to raise over \$120,000 in the following ways:

- ◆ Relaying information - primarily via e-mail - regarding the Auction to your class. This will include information about specific items needed for procurement, extra volunteer needs, ticket & raffle sales, etc.
- ◆ Organizing a themed Class Basket to sell at the event. We plan to have the baskets be family-focused and experience-based this year. You can use your own fabulous idea or choose from a list of themes we've already dreamed up. The value of each basket will vary depending on the class and the theme with a goal in the \$200-\$600 range. This is a fun thing for your classroom to do together and it makes a big impact - last year, all class baskets combined raised over \$6,200 for Stevens!

The class auction rep is not required to attend auction meetings, but your presence and input is definitely welcome and you'll be put on the volunteer list so you will receive invites to meetings as well as updates.

Katie Ohtake, a parent in Ms Richman's and Ms. Luke's classes, will be the Lead Class Auction Rep.

If you have any questions about the job, please don't hesitate to contact Katie at rafeo@comcast.net or Barb Chin at barbarachin@mac.com.

Thank you so much!



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.

Stevens Annual Fund Drive

*Your Annual Fund

brochure is on the way*

Please look for the **GLOSSY WHITE** Annual Fund Drive brochure sent home this week in your children's backpacks. The brochure contains everything you need to donate to your favorite elementary school – Stevens, that is. You need only supply the check. The Annual Fund Drive brochure will also be mailed early next week to the people whose names you supplied us in October. So don't forget to remind those friends, relatives, alumni, & neighbors to be sure to donate as well!

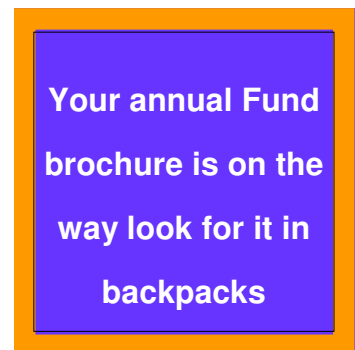
Last year, the Stevens Annual Fund Drive successfully raised over \$100,000, with most of those

donations coming from Steven's families. Our goal this time around is \$100,000 as well. Reaching such an ambitious goal will require participation from as many Stevens families (and their friends, neighbors, and relatives) as possible. Donations to the Annual Fund go directly to many wonderful programs that benefit all students at Stevens Elementary—see your brochure for more details.

Continuing a trend begun several years ago - you can skip the check and donate easily and securely online at www.stevenspta.org/annualfund.htm. Donations, big, small, and everything in-between, really add up. And remember, they are completely tax-deductible! So, when you receive your Annual Fund brochure, please consider supporting Stevens School in whatever amount you can. If you have any

questions, feel free to contact Chris Clements at (206) 579-9859 or chriscllements@comcast.net.

Thank you for your support!



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.

Stevens PTA General Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2009
Stevens School Library

Welcome and approval of minutes from 9/23/09 – Kris Wilk. Approved by Barb Chin and voted on unanimously.

Ice Breaker - “Stevens' Parenting Pearls” - HOMEWORK – Barbara Staley

Principal Report – Jenniffer Reinig

Stevens has been selected as 1 of 12 schools in the district to participate in a new “Performance Management” program. Teachers will have more resources allocated to them to help in the classroom as a result. A “data analysis” instructor will be assigned to our school to assist teachers with understanding data about students.

Teacher Report – Chris Wilkie

Penny Harvest drive. Students will collect pennies to help fundraise for various organizations in need. Goal is to make \$1,000 by Thanksgiving. Brochures and information were sent home this week.

Legislative News – Stephanie Jones

Levy Campaign February 2010. If you can help raise awareness please contact Stephanie at jonesiifam@gmail.com

New Student Assignment Plan – Stevens' boundaries have changed since initial draft. Community meetings are ongoing until vote on November 18th. Check www.seattleschools.org for dates.

Siblings – district trying to determine how many siblings are at each school to consider “grandfathering” and allowing younger siblings to attend school with their older siblings.

Committee Reports:

Annual Fund – Chris Clements

Letter writing will begin next week and brochures coming home soon.

Auction – Katie Ohtake & Barb Chin

Seeking Class Auction Rep to take responsibility for communicating Auction news and helping to create “Class Baskets”, which raised over \$6,200 last year. Need 1 rep/class. Committee is also seeking a “beverage maven” who can manage the beverage procurement this year.

Latino Committee – Emma Le Du

Tamales coming next week! Goal was 400 and over 600 orders have been received. We will try our best to fulfill all orders.

Pancake Breakfast – Susan Goubert

Saturday, Dec. 5th. Expecting 600 people so we need volunteers for flipping pancakes/latkes, serving, set-up and clean-up.

Tree Sale – Erika Grayson

Pre-order trees NOW. Tree Sale only on Saturday, Dec. 5th this year. Need volunteers for cutting tree bases and cashiering.

Stevens Coat Swap – Sharmila Williams

1st Stevens Coat Swap to ensure every child at Stevens has a coat this winter and to re-use/recycle coats amongst our families. We only have 12 coats now, and need more. Coat Swap will occur during week of T'giving during parent/teacher conferences.

Parent Education - “Bringing Out Their Best” Guest Speaker: Kathy Slattengren of Priceless Parenting

Kathy talked about the 4 styles of parenting: Director – lot of guidance and parent control, Personal Assistant – less guidance from parent but lots of parent control, Permissive – child controls situation and parents offer less guidance, Mentor – parents provide guidance, but allow children to make choices.

As parents we can fall into any of these categories at any stage, or age of the child. Our goal as parents should be to guide children into solving their own problems.

To get more information about parenting issues, please visit Kathy's website at <http://www.pricelessparenting.com>