



# Stevens Speak

1242 18th Ave E  
Seattle, WA 98112

Dec 09, 2009

## CALENDAR

**December 18**  
**1 hr Early Dismissal**

**December 21 -**  
**January 1**  
**Winter Break**  
**NO SCHOOL**

**January 18 MLK Day**  
**No School**

**January 20**  
**Stars Assembly**

**January 29 Day**  
**between semesters**  
**No School**

## Helping Our Community



### Winter Wishes

Steven's annual holiday giving program "Winter Wishes" is underway. Gift tags are posted on the big board near the school office. We are asking for donations of gift cards again this year. We have decided to extend the due date to December 10th so that you may have an opportunity to select a gift tag and help out this holiday season. To save you time and gas, gift cards for Target can be purchased at Safeway on 15th and John.

Thank you for your support!

## From The Principal's Office

### Tina Alexander Memorial Art Project

Our fifth graders have been working on an art design inspired by the glasswork of long-time Stevens volunteer Tina Alexander. The students' designs will be transferred onto an archway in the library in Tina's memory. The dedication of this project will be held in the Stevens library on Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Please join us as we celebrate the life and contributions of a Stevens supporter and the artistic talents of our current fifth graders.

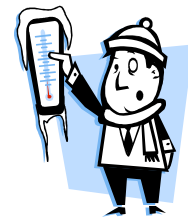
### Important Information

School will be released one hour early on December 18th which begins the Winter Break and will resume on January 4th. Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up at 2:30 on the 18th. Busses will be one hour earlier than normal at their regular drop off stops.

After School Classes and Tutoring will end this week Thursday the 10th. The next session will begin on Monday, January 11th.

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## Coat Swap/Drive

We received approximately 90 coats, ranging in size from infant to adults, thanks to our great Stevens Community! Most coats were taken by the end of last week, with only about 15 left. These were donated to another school conducting a coat drive as well. We thank Shelly Chinn for her great idea and initiative in making this a reality for all. We hope that all of you took advantage of getting a "new" coat for your child!

## Snow and Ice

There is a possibility of ice and snow conditions during the school year. Changes in operating hours will be announced over AM and FM stations and television. If Seattle Public Schools are mentioned and it says buses will be operating two hours late please note that schools will start two hours late. Also, when it is announced that there will be no AM kindergarten, that does not apply to Stevens because we only have all day kindergarten - two hours late means two hours late for everyone.

## News From The Library

### Global Reading Challenge

Students in grades 4 and 5 have been invited to participate in the 2010 Global Reading Challenge. Groups of seven students read the ten selected books and work together as teams to answer questions about the books posed by the Seattle Public Librarians. Members of a team must cooperate and put their heads together to be able to answer all the questions! Teams compete against each other, and one team will represent Stevens at a regional contest in March. This program encourages teamwork, fosters an attention to detail, builds reading comprehension and is fun. Is your student going to participate?

### D.E.A.R.

Stevens Elementary has long participated in a program sponsored by the Federal Government, Reading Is Fundamental (R.I.F.), through which, three times each year, students are given the opportunity to select a book to keep. The name of the program was changed at Stevens decades ago to avoid unpleasant connotations associated with that acronym RIF (reduction in force) to Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.). This program requires 25% of the cost to be funded locally. I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank our generous P.T.A. for their contribution!

Our 1<sup>st</sup> book selection will take place during the class visits to the library between December 11 -17.

### Shop Izilla's and have 15% go back to Stevens PTA!

Get into the holiday spirit and shop for your holiday gifts at Izilla Toys on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm and have 15% of your total purchase go back to the Stevens PTA! Make it a "date night", and shop and have dinner on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave! Izilla Toys 1429 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., Suite D, 98122

# Annual Holiday Food Drive

Stevens School will host our 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!**

## Volunteers Needed



### **After-School Program**

The After School Enrichment Program has been lucky to have help from several dedicated parents (and a sibling) in the Fall session. We would love to have some more help for the next session.

**Mondays: Class Assistant for Architecture 101: Town Planning.** Instructor Dora Taylor would love to have help from parents with an architectural background in this wonderful, hands-on class.

**Thursdays: Class Assistant for Chess.** Help the instructor from Chess4Life in teaching students to play chess, check attendance, help guide students upon class dismissal, and make sure the classroom is orderly and clean afterward.

**Mondays & Thursdays: After School Program Assistant.** Check attendance for all classes, help ensure that students who are not in class are accounted for, and assist with other administrative tasks. Typically, a commitment of one half hour per day, at 3:30 p.m.

The commitment: once per week, from January 11<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>, at school, from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping after school, please contact After-School Program team member Susan Chua at [susanLchua@yahoo.com](mailto:susanLchua@yahoo.com) or 206-650-6688. Thanks!

## ***Our Kids = Our Future***

# **The Stevens Annual Fund Drive: The March to \$100,000!**

The Annual Fund Drive is off and running and we are approximately 15% of the way to our goal of \$100,000! Brochures went home to parents via 'kid mail' on Thursday, November 12 and they were mailed to friends and family on the following morning. The brochure contains everything you need to make a donation to the Annual Fund. Simply fill out the included donation form OR go to <http://www.stevenspta.org/annualfund.htm> to donate

quickly and securely with PayPal. You can check the status of our fund drive any time at: <http://www.stevenspta.org/annualfund.htm>  
If you get your donation in before the end of the year (or postmarked before the end of the year.) it is 100% tax-deductible for 2009!



## **Thank You, Thank You**



### **Tree Sale**

*We all thank Erika and Blake Grayson for their tremendous work and effort on our very successful Tree Sale! A lot of time, energy and thought goes into this annual sale, and Erika and Blake carried on with the tradition!*

Thank you, Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped at the tree sale. With your help we sold every last tree, wreath, swag and length of garland. Thank you to Julie Kouhia and Molbaks for helping us get the beautiful poinsettias, Hattie Vogel for helping to repaint all of our tree sale signs, Mark Herkert for the use of his two chain saws and to Tim Wood and Brad Laesch for helping to unload and set up ALL of those trees! Thanks to everyone who pitched in: Heidi Johnnacheck, Mike Hayes, Colin Walker, Rafe Ohtake, Brian Neville, Hoagie Fritsch, Michelle Martine, Geoff Jones, Tim Wood, Ben Schmidt, Paul Lambros, Neil Piliavin, Morgan Cole, Chris Clements, Matt Sullivan, Ken Schubert, Peter Argeres, Art Vogel, Darrell Powell, David Guthrie, Libby Hill, Stephanie Farrell, Sarah Slater, Lexie Weil, Dave Farrell, Brad Laesch, Scott Morrison, Ethan Bell, Mark Herkert, Bill Ramsey, Gail Gray, David Kaill, Willemijn deClercq,

Scott Mortenson, Alaine Nijenjuis, Katie Ohtake, Michele Weller, Brian Williams, Tracy and Simon Krauter, Andrew Beihl, Crystal Lampkin, Dana Hay, Hugh Saffel, Laurie DeTreville and Helen Bell.

### **Pancake Breakfast**

*We thank Susan Goubert for her 3 years of managing the Pancake Breakfast! Her strong leadership and ability to run this large-scale event has made this a great community event, which has grown over the years. THANK YOU Susan for your years of dedication to the school! Generous. A dose of thanks to Sharmila Williams who facilitated the Pancake Breakfast with ease and a smile for all of us.*

We thank all of these volunteers for their help with the Pancake Breakfast this year: Libby Hill, Patty Taagen, Mary Ellen Osthus, Barb Chin, Ellen Skugstad, Catherine & Toby Jessup, Zoran & Conan Brkanac, Craig Verling, Patty Taagen, Nancy Hartunian, David Kaill, Steve Stout, Ben Chotzen, Mary Ellen Digennaro, Susan Chua, Catherine Rigor-Hammond, Katie Ohtake, Marcia Hood, Therese Joyce, Therese Horan, Jennifer Durrie, Sally Hulsman, Hattie Vogel, Christine Bertany, Margarita Medina, Michelle Martine, Adrienne Fairhall, Jade Kim, Wendy Saffel, Stephanie Jones, Beth Bisignano, Michele Weller and Jenniffer Reinig.

Special thanks to Cafeteria Manager Sandy Grady-McFarlin for giving us access to the kitchen and for helping us throughout the morning as we flipped, served and cleaned up in your kitchen. We couldn't have done it without you!

The vocal concert was a huge success as always, under the direction of vocal instructor, Mr. Edd Key. Our community has come to love Mr. Key and all that he does for our children, so be sure to say "thank you" when you see him!

Thanks a latke to the generosity of Steve & Jill Rosen who generously donated the use of BOOM Noodle's facilities to prepare our latkes! Our latke making team: Pete & Susan Goubert, Stephanie Jones, Barbara Kelley, Cliff Meyer, and Art Vogel worked in Boom's kitchen 6am-10 am on Thanksgiving weekend to prepare and pack these tasty favorites for you to enjoy!

## 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](http://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.**



## Sustainable Stevens News

### Another zero waste event

You may have noticed a conspicuous absence of the usual gray garbage bins at the pancake breakfast this year. All the plates, cups and flatware were compostable and as a result, we used only our food composting bins for the event.

### Chinook Books and Tote Bags

Thanks for supporting the Sustainable Stevens program through purchase of Chinook Books and tote bags at our Christmas tree sale. We will continue to sell Chinook Books and our Sustainable Stevens tote bags through the holiday season. Chinook Books contain hundreds of valuable coupons for businesses, services, restaurants and products in the Seattle area. They make a wonderful gift and cost \$20 (half of which supports our Sustainable Stevens program). Consider wrapping a Chinook Book in one of our lovely Sustainable Stevens tote bags (\$10 each)!

### Can You Help?

If you are interested in selling Chinook Books at your workplace, please let us know. We have a simple form and envelope to track your sales and proceeds go to Stevens. Help us reach a goal of selling 75 books by the end of the year!

Contact David or Sarah if you'd like to purchase or sell books or bags. Contact info below.

### Low-waste Gift Ideas

Consider gifts of experiences instead of stuff. Here are a few suggestions:

- Make-your-own coupons for friends and relatives for services such as baby-sitting, cooking a meal, walking the dog, yard work, house cleaning, museum outing, etc.

- Gift certificate for a massage, pedicure, movie, theater show, music event

- Subscription to a favorite magazine or journal

- Punch card to a yoga studio; music or dance lessons

- Subscription to one of our local museums (Seattle Art Museum, Children's Museum, Seattle Aquarium, EMP, Frye Museum, MOHAI, Henry Art Museum, Burke Museum)

- Offer an in-house experience – art project, tea party, make-your-own sushi party, etc.

For more ideas on making your holidays green, see: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/ecoconsumer/green-holidays.asp>.

### Interlaken Park Garden Party

On Saturday, **January 9<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00-2:00, we will be co-hosting a work party with Montlake Elementary at Interlaken Park. We'll remove weed and invasive species and plant new shrubs and trees. We'll have tools and refreshments; bring gloves and your friends and family. Meet at the park entrance located at the intersection of Galer and 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

For more information, contact Sarah Brace ([sarahbrace@seanet.com](mailto:sarahbrace@seanet.com)) or David Shelton ([daveshel4@yahoo.com](mailto:daveshel4@yahoo.com))