Thank you!

We have had a busy past few months and with the help of the PTSA officers, committees, members, parents, students, and staff, we've been able to accomplish many things, including giving back to the community.

Our Toe Jam initiative to collect socks for Mutual Ground and jars of jam/jelly for the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry was quite a success! There were a total 716 items collected: 608 pairs of socks and 108 jars of jams/jellies. Broken down by grade: 3rd grade = 6, 4th grade = 167, 5th grade = 77, 6th grade = 256, 7th grade = 198, 8th grade = 12. The Mayor of Aurora, Tom Weisner, and his wife, Marilyn Weisner, the Executive Director of the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, visited with all of the students during lunch on March 4th. They really enjoyed speaking with some of the students. The students were excited to meet them and take pictures with them. The grade that collected the most socks and jars of jam/jelly took a group photo with Mayor Weisner and Marilyn Weisner (shown above). The 6th grade also received cupcakes as a special treat. We applaud the efforts of the entire school because their donations will go a long way to help those in need.
Thank you to those who participated in our Krispy Kreme fundraiser. With your help, we sold 335 boxes of donuts that raised $1,002.50 towards upcoming PTSA and school events and programs. The totals by grade were: 3rd grade = 88 boxes, 4th grade = 122 boxes, 5th grade = 27 boxes, 6th grade = 18 boxes, 7th grade = 46 boxes, and 8th grade = 34 boxes. Since the 4th grade sold the most boxes, they won a donut party! Congratulations to all of the students and parents for a job well done!

Help us find the best officers for the 2015-2016 school year!

Know of a great parent to help lead our PTSA?? Then, put them up for nomination. Are YOU interested in serving?? Contact the Nominating Committee right away! PTSA wants you!!!

Only current members may be nominated. Only members have the right to vote in the officers’ election. If you are not a current member of the PTSA IT’S NOT TO LATE to JOIN!!! For just $10 for an individual membership or $15 for a family membership, you can be a part of this amazing organization that supports enriches, and serves the entire STEM community. Fill out this form here to become a member.

All nomination forms must be submitted by Friday, April 10th. You can fill out the nomination form here (please complete a separate form for each person you are nominating).

Nominating Committee Members:
Sarah Anderson- anderson.sarahk@gmail.com
Jessica Watkins- jessi@24-7g.com
Elizabeth Aguilar- eaguarbarrios@d131.org
Jalpa Shah- jalpatravels@outlook.com
Mary Garza- bestgarza@hotmail.com
Stephanie Mack- smackmom25@gmail.com

The elections will be held at the general PTSA meeting on Wednesday, May 6th from 7 pm to 8 pm.
Spring Break Fun at the Aurora Skate Center - Rebate Skate

Are you looking for something fun to do with the family during Spring break? Visit the Aurora Skate Center and let the kids get their energy out by skating along to music! Admission is $6 for all matinees and skate rentals are available. From Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 3rd and also on Monday, April 6th, the Aurora Skate Center has their "Rebate Skate" program. When asked, skaters attending the rebate skates need only mention STEM School and $1 of each skater's admission will be given to the PTSA. Enjoy!

Upcoming Restaurant Nights

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Stem Partnership School PTSA. Come into the Fox Valley Chipotle on Thursday, April 9th, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Stem Partnership School PTSA.
We appreciate everyone that came out to the Sweet Tomatoes fun-raiser. It was great seeing some of the families enjoying a good meal together. We have some more restaurant nights coming up and we invite you to join us. With these restaurant nights, you can enjoy a night without cooking and some of the proceeds are donated back to the PTSA.

Our next restaurant night is on **Thursday, April 9th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Chipotle**, 848 North Route 59, Aurora, IL 60504 (off of Route 59 and Liberty). Show the above photo or tell the cashier that you are supporting the STEM Partnership School PTSA and 50% of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated to the PTSA. Feel free to spread the word and tell your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to mention our school if they visit Chipotle during that day and time.

Save the dates for these upcoming restaurant nights (more information will be sent out soon):
- April 14th and 15th - Papa John's
- May 5th - Smashburger
- May 19th and 20th - Papa John's

**STEM speaker series**

Our Educational Enrichment Committee has partnered with Aurora University’s Career Services Department to present the STEM Career Speaker Series. The first one was successful and the students learned some things from the speakers.

The next sessions will take place on:
- Wednesday, April 8, 2015
- Wednesday, May 13, 2015

The presentations for the students of the STEM School will take place at 1:30 pm at the school on the above dates. The presentations for the Aurora University students will take place in the evening on the above dates.

If you are interested in being part of this first STEM Career Speaker Series or would like to refer someone who would be a good addition to the series, please contact Dr. Howerton at ehowerton@aurora.edu or call him at 630-947-1256.

More information about the Speaker Series can be found on [this flyer](#).

**HELP WANTED: El Dia de los Ninos Volunteers**
“El Dia del los Niños,” which means “Day of the Children,” is a popular celebration in Aurora which honors the cultural importance of children and families, has drawn more than 5,000 people annually for the last two years.

This year’s celebration will be held on Saturday, April 25th at the Aurora Transportation Center, 233 North Broadway, Aurora, IL 60505. "El Dia de los Niños" is a very special holiday celebrated throughout Latin America where families, schools and communities come together to value and uplift the children in the community. The event includes food vendors, a variety of fun-filled and educational activities, costumed characters and main stage entertainment that is appropriate for all ages.

Our school will have a booth there this year and will be doing a fun atom activity with the kids that are attending the celebration. We would love to have the STEM school students involved in showing this activity to the kids. They will show how to make atoms using spice drops and gum drops and toothpicks. Please sign up for one or more time slots (one hour each) to volunteer here. We hope to have 3-5 students for each hour and at least one more adult to supervise each hour (Mary Garza will be there for the whole duration).

If anyone would like to donate spice drops or gum drops, toothpicks, or barbecue skewers, please send them to the school with your child by April 20th (Attn: Michelle Lange).

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**Feed My Starving Children**

Food-Packing Session at

**Every day, 6,200 children die from starvation...**

...but you can make a difference by volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.

In 2013, nearly 800,000 volunteers joined us to package more than 191,600,000 meals for 70 countries around the world.
We have the opportunity for our students and their families, staff, and others to gather together and help to make a difference in the world.

**Feed My Starving Children** is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God’s children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and they ship these meals to their distribution partners. FMSC meals have reached nearly 70 countries around the world in our history.

We have two dates set up for students and their families, staff, and others to help pack meals:
- **Wednesday, April 22nd from 6 pm to 7:30 pm** - register here
- **Tuesday, April 28th from 6 pm to 7:30 pm** - register here

We will be at Feed My Starving Children, 555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL 60504. Please come out and join us with your families. It's a wonderful way to show our students how they can make an impact on the world around them.

*NOTE: The minimum age to volunteer at FMSC is 5 years old.*

**PTSA memberships still available**

Thank you to everyone that has become a member of the PTSA so far. Your support means a lot to us and the school because it helps us to put together these programs that help to benefit your student, the school, and our families.

With the upcoming elections, in order to vote or become an officer, you MUST be a member of the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School PTSA. Please make sure your voice is heard and your vote is counted by (1) becoming a member and (2) attending the elections and placing your vote (or running for office).

It's not too late to become a member. Just fill out this form online or this paper form and send your payment of $10 for an individual membership or $15 for a family membership to Michelle Lange at the school. The payment methods accepted are cash or check payable to Dunham STEM School PTSA.

Plus, as a PTSA member, you will be entitled to **member benefits with partner companies**.

Together, we have made a difference in this school and we can continue to grow in the upcoming years with your continued support!

**Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education**
We just submitted the first batch of Box Tops for Education that were collected through the end of February. Each box top is worth $0.10 and they can add up quickly. We earned $49.50 from the box tops that were collected. That's a great start! We will continue to collect box tops year-round. All you need to do is send them in with your student (Attn: Michelle Lange).

A few notes:
- Make sure the box tops have not expired. Box Tops for Education will not accept any expired ones. It also adds additional work for the volunteers to go through and toss out expired ones.
- Send in bonus box tops as soon as you get them. They tend to expire sooner, so we'll make sure to send them in on time to get the proper credit.
- You do not have to attach them to any forms, you can just send them in loose in an envelope or plastic bag. If you do have some attached to forms, we will accept those also.
- Sign up on the Box Tops for Education website to stay up-to-date on promotions, coupons, and sweepstakes. They also offer free samples once in awhile.

We are also collecting Labels for Education. Each one earns us points that we can use for free educational merchandise. Please send those in with your student (Attn: Michelle Lange). We are also collecting these year-round. Feel free to send them in an envelope or plastic baggie. Visit the Labels for Education website to find out which products are included, for promotions, coupons, and additional information about the program.

Upcoming events
Please put these upcoming events on your calendar:

- **March 30th through April 3rd and April 6th** - Aurora Skate Center "Rebate Skate"
- **Monday, April 6th at 7 pm** - PTSA meeting at the STEM School - we'll be voting on the bylaws, so review them here before the meeting
- **Wednesday, April 8th** - STEM speaker series
- **Thursday, April 9th** - Chipotle restaurant night
- **Tuesday, April 14th and Wednesday, April 15th** - Papa John's restaurant night
- **Wednesday, April 22nd** - Feed My Starving Children
- **Saturday, April 25th** - El Dia de los Ninos
- **Tuesday, April 28th** - Feed My Starving Children
- **May 4th through May 8th** - Teacher appreciation week
- **Tuesday, May 5th** - Smashburger restaurant night

- **Wednesday, May 6th at 7 pm** - PTSA meeting at the STEM School (Officer elections)
- **Wednesday, May 13th** - STEM speaker series
- **Tuesday, May 19th and Wednesday, May 20th** - Papa John's restaurant night

**Follow us!**

We share updates on our social media channels, so stay connected by following us:

- **Website**: http://stem.aurora.edu/parents/ptsa.html
- **Email**: STEMSchoolPTSA@gmail.com
- **Facebook page**: https://www.facebook.com/STEMSchoolPTSA
- **Facebook group**: https://www.facebook.com/groups/STEMSchoolPTSA/
- **Twitter**: https://twitter.com/stemschoolptsa

**Officers**

President: Maria Tiongco Ramos  
Treasurer: Carrie Czarnik  
Recording Secretary: Aruna Davis  
Corresponding Secretary: Ana Venegas

Thank you from the 2014-2015 PTSA officers!