



# School Communicator

*Vision ~ Arbor Heights Elementary School is a community dedicated to fostering the development of lifelong critical and creative thinkers*

[arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner](http://arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner)

October 11, 2012

## My Child Keeps Talking about JiJi & ST Math

### Q: WHAT IS ST MATH?

**A:** The ST Math® product family consists of engaging courseware which employs the learners' spatial temporal reasoning abilities to explain, understand, and solve multi-step math problems. The language barrier to learning math is eliminated, and the program has proven uniquely engaging and effective with students at every level of math and language proficiency. Source: [http://www.mindresearch.net/cont/programs/prog\\_stk5\\_desc.php](http://www.mindresearch.net/cont/programs/prog_stk5_desc.php)

### Q: WHO DEVELOPED ST MATH?

**A:** Mind Research Institute - The MIND Research Institute enables elementary and secondary students to reach their full academic and career potential through developing and deploying math instructional software and systems. A non-profit organization, MIND also conducts basic neuroscientific, mathematics, and education research to improve math education and advance scientific understanding. SOURCE [http://www.mindresearch.net/cont/about/landing\\_about.php](http://www.mindresearch.net/cont/about/landing_about.php)

### Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF the ST Math® PROGRAM?

(A) The benefits include:

- to learning math
- Instructional design reaches students at every level of academic proficiency
- Innovative games train students in multi-step problem-solving
- Self-paced instructional software makes teaching easier and more productive

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**Q: CAN I SEE A DEMO OF THE SOFTWARE?**

**A:** Yes, just click here: <http://www.mindresearch.net/media/edu/demoFolder/demo/games/index.html>

**Q: Who IS Jiji?**

**A:** Jiji is the penguin mascot guiding students through the program

From Principal Collins **This is Jiji!**

At Arbor Heights Elementary we want all of our students to be proficient in mathematics, and we strive to teach learners to be critical thinkers. Developing children's spatial temporal reasoning capability does more than improve their math scores. It improves their ability to conceptualize and solve multistep problems. The St Math® program is meant to augment classroom instruction, used for 45 minutes twice a week in a computer lab setting.



We want to send students out into the world, not only proficient in mathematics, but also with the skills to solve the problems they will encounter in the workplace, in their community and in their everyday lives. I am confident that the ST Math® will help to develop students that are both proficient in the area of mathematics and as critical thinkers.

The ST Math® process encourages students to visualize mathematical concepts (like adding fractions, solving equations) before they ever try to solve math problems using language, numbers or symbols. The games revolve around the cartoon character Jiji, a penguin whose life is made easier when the student gets the problem correct.

There are similarities between this program and the approach taken in Singapore to teach the solution of simultaneous equations used to learn math using problem solving and spatial skills. Apart from anything else, it does not insist that students start abstracting before they have a concrete understanding of concepts and it is catering for those who struggle with mathematics because of language issues.

Teachers will soon send home to our families access codes for the use of ST Math® at home.

Have fun with Jiji!

**SCHOOL CALENDAR****OCTOBER****Oct 11**

~Family PE Night 6:00-7:00 p.m.

~Read Live Orientation 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Oct 12**

~No School

Professional Development Day

**Oct 16**

~Picture Day

**Oct 18**

~PTA General Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Oct 20**

~Emergency Reach Out Community Event 10:00am-2:00pm

**Oct 31**

~Book Character Day

~Early Dismissal 1:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER****Nov 6**

~PTA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Nov 7**

Principal Coffee 9:15 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

**Nov 9**

~Veterans Day Assembly 2:15-2:45 a.m.

**Nov 12**

~No School

Veterans Day Holiday

**Nov 13**

~Picture Retake Day

# Picture Day is: 10/16/2012

Picture Day is on Tuesday, October 16, 2012. Questions or comments? Here's the link to Lifetouch Portrait Studios Inc. <http://www.lifetouch.com/> or call 800-562-5195



## How to Be A Compost Quarterback!

This Fall,

**Be a Compost Quarterback!**

**Tackle Waste:** 30% of the garbage Seattle send to the landfill is made up of compostable food scraps.

**Sack Your Scraps** with paper or compostable bags. Its an easy way to carry egg shells, banana peels, coffee ground, napkins and other food scraps to your cart- just toss the whole thing in!

**Punt Plastic.** Keep plastic bags, metal, glass and all other non-organic material out of your food and yard waste cart. They ruin the compost.

Get a **FREE** bag of Cedar Grove compost and enter to win great prizes at [www.cgcompost.com](http://www.cgcompost.com)



## 2012-2013 PTA BOARD

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## GRANTS

<OPEN>

## VOLUNTEERS

<OPEN>

## Letter from West Seattle PTA Leaders to SPS Board and Regional Executive Director

Dear Director McLaren and Executive Director Dellino,

Last Saturday a group of West Seattle PTA leaders and parents from Roxhill, Concord, K-5 STEM, Schmitz Park, Arbor Heights, Gatewood, Pathfinder, Alki, Madison, and Denny met for two hours.

In that short time we heard from each school about their concerns and reached consensus as a community. While this is not news to either of you, we were able to agree that capacity management and the health and safety of children are top priorities.

Other problems at our schools include; needing adequate supportive staff, K-5 STEM wanting a home, wanting to keep families together at schools, and a plethora of equity issues.

The West Seattle parents and PTA members believe in and will advocate for the following two tenants:

1. We support one another. We will not fight the "whose problem is worse" fight. We will work to make all schools in West Seattle safe and give all students an amazing education.
2. We would respectfully encourage the School Board to edit the LEVY to move Arbor Heights up on the timeline (while maintaining the Schmitz Park move to Genesee).

We have self-identified as interested parents, PTA leadership and members, and the greater West Seattle community members - use us.

**We are your front line - and we respectfully wish for transparency, advocacy and equity for all West Seattle children.**

Thanks for your commitment to our children and for your time.

Parents, community members, and PTA leaders from Roxhill, Concord, K-5 STEM, Schmitz Park, Arbor Heights, Gatewood, Pathfinder, Alki, Madison, Denny and Lafayette

*Note: This meeting was held on Saturday, September 29th. Rosslyn Shea and Amy Christensen attended from Arbor Heights.*



## Arbor Heights to Host Community Emergency Reach Out Event

What would you do if there was a natural disaster or emergency? Would you be prepared?

Join Arbor Heights Elementary on Saturday, October 20th from 10am-2pm for a FREE day of community learning, bonding and helping prepare for the "just in case".

With our dynamic panel of educators, speakers and vendors, now you can get prepared!

There will be classes, tables, raffle prizes, useful preparedness handouts, food, drink and fun meeting your neighbors.

*Some of the speakers and table hosts are:*

SNAP

*Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods*

*American Red Cross*

*Seattle Animal Shelter*

*West Seattle Be Prepared*

*West Seattle Block Watch*

*Puget Sound Energy*

*Dispatch 911*

*Seattle Public Utilities*

*YMCA*

*Seattle Fire Dept.*

*Seattle Police Dept.*

*West Seattle Herald*

*West Seattle Blog*



We also have a FREE pastry & latte' cart coming (10am-12pm) as well as BigFoods food trucks for those who'd like to buy lunch.

This community sponsored event is the culmination of a year-long project. The Arbor Heights Elementary PTA applied for and was awarded a Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund Award grant for Emergency Preparedness.

The Facebook link is : <https://www.facebook.com/events/354688177956184/>

## Parent Volunteers Needed for Auction Classroom Projects

Our auction is coming up and we need parents to help volunteer with classroom projects. Each year parents, students and teachers work with the Classroom Project Liaison to create classroom projects which are auctioned off during the live auction portion of the evening. This is a great way to get involved and get to know the teachers and parents.

The following teachers need volunteers to help spearhead these projects.

Wilke

Wilson

Ingerslev

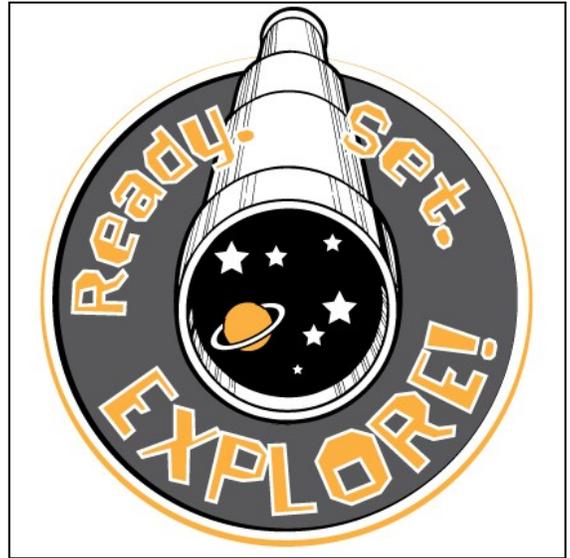
Simmers

Fisk

Sato

Gonzales

Kennewick



If there are any willing volunteers, please email Lucy Weber, [lucyweb2@yahoo.com](mailto:lucyweb2@yahoo.com) or the Classroom Project coordinator Amanda Nokes, [amandanokes@gmail.com](mailto:amandanokes@gmail.com)

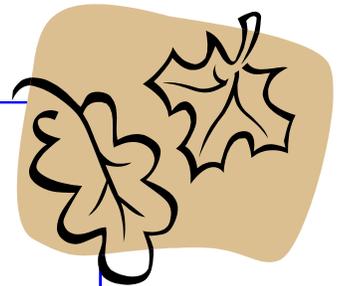
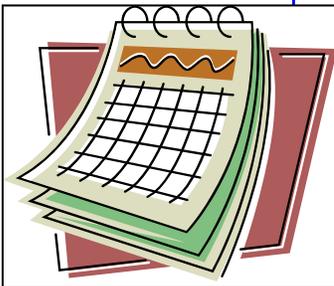
### PTA Fall Cleanup at Arbor Heights

Saturday, October 13, 2012

9:00am-12:00pm

Bring yourself, your kids, your family, your friends.  
Grab your gardening gloves and equipment or use what is provided -- every little bit matters!

No need to register. Just show up (even if you can only stay for an hour). Your help will be appreciated greatly!



# BEX IV Levy Update

On October 3rd, ten Arbor Heights speakers testified before the School Board to advocate for the timeline of the rebuild of our school to be moved forward due to the health and safety concerns the current building poses.

See the West Seattle Blog's write-up and video:

<http://westseattleblog.com/2012/10/video-school-board-hears-west-seattleites-bex-iv-concerns-finalizes-fairmount-park-contract>

Wednesday 10/17/12 School Board Meeting at John Stanford Building 4:15pm. Public testimony at 5:00pm.

**Below is a summary of currently proposed projects under consideration for BEX IV:**

- **Arbor Heights Elementary:** Replace existing building with new/expanded facility by 2019. The school will be at an interim site starting in 2017. We understand the building is in need of replacement, but we will not have enough cash flow from levy funding to move this project up within BEX. However, we will analyze the pros and cons of other funding options to hopefully start this work sooner.
- **Bagley Elementary:** Modernize and build an addition by 2020.
- **Fairmount Park building:** Open this existing building with necessary upgrades, add classrooms and a lunchroom by 2014.
- **Jane Addams K-8:** Move to Pinehurst K-8 and open Jane Addams building as a middle school by 2015. We will work with the Pinehurst community on next steps for the school.
- **Lincoln building:** Modernize and open as a new high school by 2019.
- **Loyal Heights Elementary:** Modernize and build addition by 2018.
- **Mann building:** Modernize and build addition for NOVA by 2014
- **Meany Middle School:** Reconfigure for a comprehensive central region middle school by 2017.
- **Northeast Seattle elementary school:** To meet growing capacity, add K-5 school on Thornton Creek site by 2016.
- **Olympic Hills:** Replace existing building with a new/expanded facility by 2017.
- **Queen Anne Elementary:** Build classroom and gym addition to the building by 2019.
- **Schmitz Park Elementary:** Replace existing Genesee Hill building with a new/expanded facility on the Genesee Hill site; relocate Schmitz Park to the new facility by 2015.
- **Wilson-Pacific:** Replace building with a new elementary and a new middle school for additional capacity by 2017. We will work with the Cascade Parent Partnership Program and Middle College on determining new locations.

(continued on page 8)

# BEX IV Levy Update

- **Wing Luke Elementary:** Replace existing building with a new/expanded facility by 2020.
- **World School:** We are continuing to work on finalizing a location.

These projects were chosen with four criteria in mind: 1) safety and security, 2) meeting capacity needs, 3) building condition and 4) maximizing flexibility for programs and services.

In addition, the BEX IV plan includes:

- **Technology improvements:** Wireless in every school and needed hardware upgrades.
- **Seismic improvements:** About 50 schools would receive seismic upgrades.
- **Lunchroom and core facilities:** New lunchrooms at Green Lake and McGilvra elementary schools.
- **Science labs** at Aki Kurose, Mercer, McClure and Eckstein middle schools.
- **Major preventive maintenance and infrastructure improvements.**
- **Interim downtown school:** Dependent upon external partnership funding.
- **Capacity flexibility:** Building larger core facilities to provide for expansion and including academic program placement and services close to where families live.

The latest BEX IV list of possible projects totals about \$675 million. Additional information is online at <http://bit.ly/SPSBEX>

We invite families and community members to attend a public meeting to learn more about the BEX projects and to offer public testimony.

- Wednesday, Oct. 17, 4:15 p.m. – Regular School Board meeting, expected introduction of BEX IV list. Public testimony taken (prior sign-up required).
- Wednesday, Oct. 24, 4-5 p.m. – BEX IV and Operations levies public comment session, John Stanford Center. Public testimony taken.
- Wednesday, Nov. 7, 4:15 p.m. – School Board meeting, expected vote on BEX IV project list.

In the meantime, we continue to collect, record and review all input. Please send comments to [capacity@seattleschools.org](mailto:capacity@seattleschools.org).

## How Can I Get Involved?

- Please consider attending at least one of the meetings listed above.
- Please consider signing up to speak at a school board meeting. If interested please contact [ahbexiv@gmail.com](mailto:ahbexiv@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank You!

**Your Arbor Heights BEX IV Planning Team**

# Reminders:

The office staff would like to request that all students have a full set of clean clothes daily in their back-packs. We sometimes run out of clothing and this would enable children to have the clothes they want to wear when they need it. Students need a change of clothes when they get wet, muddy, have accidents, lunch spills or become ill. It also saves you a trip to school. A set a clothes would include shirt, pants, under garments and socks. **Thank you!**



***Early Dismissal @ 1:00 p.m.***

**On Friday, October 31, 2012**

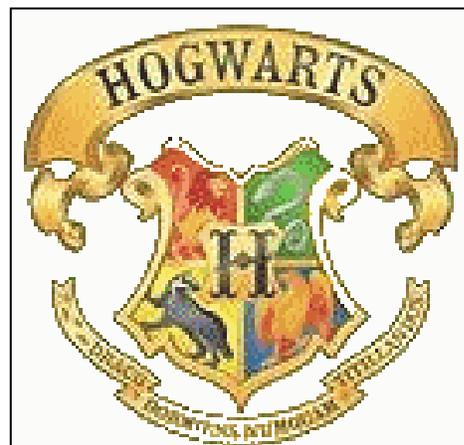
Professional Development Block Time

# Arbor Heights Celebrates Book Character Day – October 31<sup>st</sup>

On October 31<sup>st</sup> reading really comes alive for the students of Arbor Heights. For the last part of the day students will transform, stepping out of the pages of their favorite book to become a book character.

Children, with parent help, should:

- Choose a book to read together:
- Identify a character in the story you would like to be
- Find or create a costume to bring to school.
- Bring your identity tag (below) with your costume or dress-up items and your book (if possible) in a bag with your name and room number on it.
- Be able to tell us about your character.



Here are some book ideas to get you thinking about your costume: Angelina Ballerina, Pippi Longstocking, Arthur, Junie B. Jones, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Berenstain Bears, Babar, Corduroy, Harriet the Spy, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Harold and the Purple Crayon, Little House on the Prairie.

## PARADE of Characters begins at 2:00pm



Cutout and wear on your Book  
Character Day Costume

I am \_\_\_\_\_

From the book \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_