



January 4, 2016



Owl Post

The official weekly newsletter
of Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA

Upcoming Events



January 7
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library
Please join us! Complimentary
childcare provided by the PTA.

January 13
2-hour early dismissal
1:40pm
STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

January 14
Winter PBL Display
Details to come soon.
STEM K-8

January 18
No School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



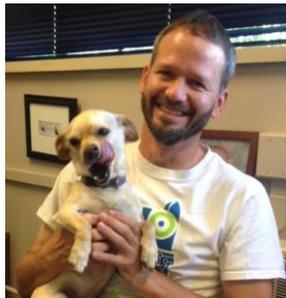
STEM 5th Grade Artwork 2014

January 29
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

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A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

I hope that in addition to time with family and friends, the holidays created opportunities to slow down and reflect. Without such space, we run, run run; sometimes forgetting what towards. Visiting relatives in Tucson over break provided me with a few introspective STEM moments. Playing a hybridized version of badminton-lacrosse-soccer, I relearned Newton's Second and Third laws: force equals mass times acceleration, and that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. The ultimate conclusion, my broken foot, slowed things considerably. My second STEM dive was through the door of Yaqui shaman's sweat lodge. The connection between mass, energy, and light (everything else), $e=mc^2$, manifests during a sweat lodge ceremony. Participants purify purpose and interconnectedness in the pervasive heat. It was not a large leap (even in a walking boot) to link the sweat lodge to our school journey. As we grow Louisa Boren STEM K-8, each step offers direction, learning, and connections. There are few exact answers--our Emerging Vision points towards a path we travel together rather than a destination. Rainer Maria Rilke wrote in "A Walk":

*My eyes already touch the sunny hill,
going far ahead of the road I have begun.
So we are grasped by what we cannot grasp;
it has its inner light, even from a distance-
and changes us, even if we do not reach it,
into something else, which, hardly sensing it, we already are;
a gesture waves us on, answering our own wave...
but what we feel is the wind in our faces.*

We are entering the second of three consecutive spring scrambles. In addition to creating 7th grade (translation--opening a gate to another universe), we will plan and enact our long-term habitation of the Boren building. Arbor Heights' departure will result in a landslide of moves and changes that will be felt through next fall. Juggling the various balls will open doors for involvement, questions, trust, input, support, and fun. I will do my best to facilitate open communication and participation; I'm asking for forgiveness in advance regarding the many times I know workload will interfere with my responsiveness.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Upcoming Events (continued)

February

Jump Rope for Heart

Raising money for the American Heart Association.

February 4

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

February 15

No School

Presidents Day

February 16

No School

Mid-Winter Break
(one day only)

March 3

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

March 23

2-hour early dismissal

1:40pm

STEM K-8

Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm.

March 26

3rd Annual STEM Auction

TBD

April 7

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

Boren Library

April 11 – April 15

No School

Spring Break

Check out the school calendar [here](#).



Welcome Christa Howsmon



Please welcome Christa Howsmon to the STEM office team. Christa and her family have been part of the STEM community since our school opened. Christa's daughter Jane is in 3rd grade.

For reporting a student absence or change of end-of-day plans:

Call 206-252-8450

Or email BOTH:

chettrick@seattleschools.org

cjhowsmon@seattleschools.org

PTA Meeting: Thurs., 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Boren Library

Please join us for our first PTA meeting of the year. We'll be discussing standardized testing, middle school roll-up and more. As always, complimentary childcare is provided by the PTA.

If you haven't renewed your membership for the 2015-16 school year – you can [sign up online](#). We offer two types of membership:

- Individual Member (\$15 per year)
- Non-voting Member (free)

Our goal is to have every student represented on the PTA. We urge you to join however you can!

Reminder: Enrichment Registration



What do your kids have planned for the New Year? Have you checked out STEM enrichment classes? There is something for everyone whether their interest is Aero Club or Zumba, Basketball or Ukulele. Spaces are available in 19 of the 24 Winter Enrichment activities. **Registration is open through Friday, January 8** so don't delay. Register online at <http://stemk8pta.org/enrichment-program-registration-winter-2016/> or drop a paper registration off at the school office. More information is available on [the PTA website](#). Please contact afterschool@stemk8pta.org with any questions or to find out more about parent volunteering and scholarships. Classes begin January 19.

Stay Connected

[PTA Website](#) – all things PTA (become a member, volunteer, shop and earn, how YOU can be involved).

[STEM K-8 school website](#) – our SPS school website (curriculum, staff details and more).



[STEM K-8 Facebook](#)



[STEM PTA Twitter](#)



[Principal Ostrom's Twitter](#)

[Principal Ostrom's Blog](#)



[Mrs. B.'s Library Page](#)



School Tours & Open House

Do you know any families who are interested in finding out more about our school? We have a series of tours and an Open House coming up in February. Parents can rsvp for tours on the PTA website, and you can volunteer to lead a tour too!



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 staff and PTA would like to invite prospective families to learn more about our school.

Please join us for an Open House on Thursday, February 11th and school tours throughout February.

Open House: Thursday, Feb 11th

K-5 Open House and Tour 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Middle School Open House and Tour 7:00pm -8:00pm

School Tours

Tours for prospective K-5 families

Feb 10th 9:30am -11:00am
Feb 12th 9:30am -11:00am
Feb 17th 9:30am -11:00am
Feb 24th 9:30am -11:00am
Feb 26th 9:30am -11:00am

Tours for prospective Middle School families

Feb 17th 10:15am -11:45am
Feb 26th 10:15am -11:45am

Please [RSVP](#) so we know how many tour guides we will need and if you will require an interpreter.