A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

The MLK weekend offered a chance to reflect and act on the connection between service and social justice. STEM K-8 Project Based Learning tries to connect learning to real world issues. We need to more effectively teach students to ask questions about equity, race, and power as they create designs and models to affect the world around them. This year our MLK Assembly was shifted to Monday, February 1 at 9:30am to bridge Martin Luther King Jr.’s quest for racial justice and Black History Month.

STEM K-8’s winter PBL Exhibition highlighted learning projects across all of our grade levels. It was amazing to see the range of projects represented: weather vanes, bird habitats; community designs, structures created to withstand earthquakes and tsunamis, Washington state history, the Civil War (including an elemental role playing game set at Gettysburg), and Mars landers. The power of students engaged in multi-disciplinary learning on topics they’re interested in was on full display. A selection of pictures from the evening can be viewed on my twitter feed @PrinciPalOstrom and on our Facebook page.

I’ve had a few questions about STEM K-8’s Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP), a requirement from Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) that describes many of our goals and priorities. Seattle Public Schools experienced significant malfunctions from an ageing, web-based platform for CSIP’s. Despite many hours and entries, the current priorities for STEM K-8 and several other schools are still not represented. At some point the system will be fixed or replaced, and the 2013-2015 STEM CSIP will be updated with current priorities.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

To report a student absence or change of end-of-day plans please email BOTH Cindy Baca and Christa Howsmon chettrick@seattleschools.org, cjhowson@seattleschools.org or call the school office: (206) 252-8450
Upcoming Events (continued)

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 25
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

March 26
3rd Annual STEM Auction
“Out of This World”
5:30pm-11:00pm
Hall at Fauntleroy

April 7
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library

April 11 – April 15
No School
Spring Break

April 29
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

Check out the school calendar here.

Before and After School Care Survey

The YMCA has asked us to assess the number of families who would be interested in before and/or after school care at STEM next school year. Care would be provided by the YMCA as it is now for Arbor Heights.

Please respond to our quick survey, thank you!

Focus Day

Seats are still available for the Focus Day bus! If there is lots of interest a second bus may be added. Get your FREE bus ticket on Eventbrite (you can find the link on our Facebook page).

Join Washington State PTA in Olympia for the 2016 Focus Day on Wednesday, February 3.

The Columbia Room, 1st floor of the Legislative Building, has been reserved as a place to gather, share information and prepare for the day’s events.

Bring your family and friends to meet with legislators and to rally in the main capitol building’s Rotunda at noon.

https://www.facebook.com/events

School Tours – Volunteers Needed

We are in search of volunteers to lead school tours. The tours take place every Wednesday and Friday morning from February 10 to 26. We need elementary and middle school families to share their experiences and show prospective families our school. If interested send an email to tours@stemk8pta.org

If you know any families who would like to find out more about STEM K-8, please point them in the direction of our PTA website where they can rsvp for tours and find out about our upcoming Open House.
Enrichment Update

All Enrichment classes (excluding Spoon River Anthology) start this week. If you signed up for winter enrichment classes and have not received a confirmation, please contact afterschool@stemk8pta.org

Two classes are still open for enrollment through Wednesday.

**Amelia’s Aero Club is now open to 5th grade girls – and it’s FREE!**

Amelia’s Aero Club @ Boren is an offshoot of the educational initiative of The Museum of Flight designed to inspire and nurture middle school girls’ exploration of educational and career pathways in science, technology, engineering, art, aviation and mathematics (STEA2M). For the 2015-16 school year we will be providing free afterschool programming for Boren STEM K-8 5-6th grade girls that utilizes hands-on activities and project based learning. In our Winter session, AAC @ Boren STEM K-8 participants will continue to work on projects related to aviation and will start exploring projects in rocketry and aerospace.

**Grades: Girls only grades 5-6**  
**Dates: Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar 4, 11**  
**Time: Fridays 4:00 - 5:00pm**  
**Location: Science Lab #145**  
**Price: No charge/8 classes**  
[REGISTER HERE]

**Stage Struck Winter Play - Spoon River Anthology**

Open to 4th, 5th and 6th Graders

This is a play that is mostly acting with some singing. The cast is all people from a small Illinois town who have died and are “sleeping on the hill”: the local cemetery. Students will get a chance to hone their language and acting skills and will work as a tight ensemble. We will use student musicians to add to the color and flow of the show. Come be a part of Spoon River with us!

**Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30pm Feb. 18 – April 23 (none during spring break)**  
**Dress Rehearsal: starting 12:30pm on Saturday, April 23, Fauntleroy UCC’s Fellowship Hall**  
**SHOW: 7:00pm Saturday, April 23, Fauntleroy UCC’s Fellowship Hall**  
**Cost: $195.00/17 practices, dress rehearsal, and performance.**  
[REGISTER HERE]