



April 18, 2016

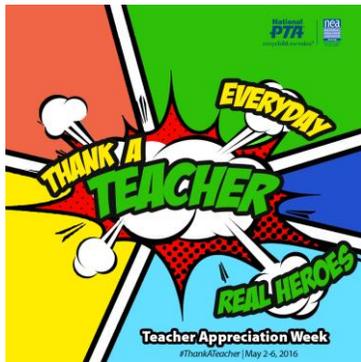


# Owl Post

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

## Upcoming Events

**April 29**  
**Spirit Wear Day**  
STEM K-8



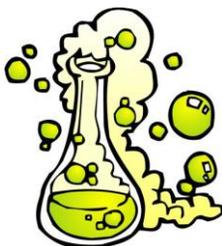
**May 2 – May 6**  
**Teacher Appreciation Week**  
STEM K-8

**May 5**  
**PTA Meeting**  
**6:30pm-8:00pm**  
Boren Library  
Complimentary childcare  
provided by PTA.

**May 7**  
**Garden Work Party**  
**9:00am-1:00pm**  
STEM K-8



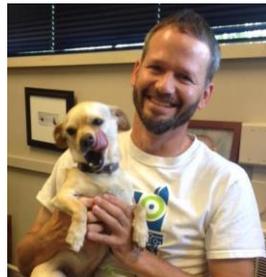
**May 19**  
**Spring Science/PBL**  
**Extravaganza**  
**5:30pm-7:00pm**  
STEM K-8



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## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

Welcome back! I hope everyone was able to find some rejuvenation time. To parent and work at high levels, we need to replenish our bodies and souls. Taking care of yourself physically and emotionally supports you to take care of your children!

April and May are always full. During a period of peak curriculum implementation, we add the stresses of coordinating state testing. STEM K-8 is facing the additional demands of planning for our ongoing transformation: facility moves and modifications, K-8 expansion, and new Special Education and preschool programming. I spent spring break meeting, following up, and planning around the changes above. I will do my best to communicate and structure input for the many things happening so you aren't caught by surprise.

As predicted, we will be operating Phase 1B hiring committees at the end of April. The exact schedule for each hiring committee depends upon the number of qualified applicants, but plan on 3:50pm-7:00pm. In addition to our new positions, we will be trying to replace Ms. Newton, who will be moving north to Cascadia Elementary next year (and missed, for numerous contributions to STEM). I highly encourage anyone who has taken the training to volunteer for a hiring committee—it's a powerful and meaningful way to shape the future of STEM. Please let Cindy and I know if you are able to join a committee.

### Certificated Hiring Committees

- 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: Wednesday, April 27
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Thursday, April 28
- 7<sup>th</sup> ELA/Social Studies: Friday, April 29
- Sped Access: Monday, May 2

### Classified Hiring Committees:

- Access (2 openings): Tuesday, May 3

As a reminder, our SBAC and MSP testing schedule is posted on page 2 of the Owl Post. Please make sure your child comes to school well-rested and on time during testing (and any other!) weeks. Any family opting their child out of state testing needs to let Cindy and I know in writing.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Ostrom  
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

## Upcoming Events (continued)

May 21

**Garden Work Party**  
9:00am-1:00pm  
STEM K-8



May 27

**Spirit Wear Day**  
STEM K-8

May 30

**No School**  
Memorial Day

June 1

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

June 2

**PTA Meeting**  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Boren Library  
Complimentary childcare provided by PTA.

June 24

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
**Spirit Wear Day**  
1-hour early dismissal  
2:40pm  
STEM K-8  
Pick your Owls up at 2:40pm.



Photo courtesy: [Puget Sound Bird Observatory](#)

## YMCA Before & After School Care



Next school year, the YMCA will be providing Before and After School child care on site at STEM K-8.

If you are interested in having your student/s attend, please download and complete the [YMCA Child Care Interest Form 2016-2017 School Year](#). You can email your completed form to

[pgiammarino@seattleyymca.org](mailto:pgiammarino@seattleyymca.org) or drop it off at West Seattle or Fautleroy YMCA (attn. Philip Giammarino, Program Registrar). **Forms are due by May 8.**

The Interest Form helps the Y gauge how many families are interested, and they will register as many as possible based on space available. If demand is higher than available spots, your student's name will be entered into a random lottery for available spaces. Families will be notified by May 13 as to whether their child has a spot in the program or is on the waitlist.

## Smarter Balanced (SBAC) / MSP Testing Schedule

<b>Week of April 25</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math
<b>Week of May 2</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade SBAC Testing: ELA
<b>Week of May 9</b>	Daniels' 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math
<b>Week of May 16</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade SBAC Testing: Math
<b>Week of May 23</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math
<b>May 31</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science MSP

## Opting Out of Testing

If you would like to opt your student out of these tests you may do so by sending an email or hard copy letter to [Principal Ostrom](#) and [Cindy Baca](#). Include the name of your student and which tests you elect to opt them out of.

[Parent Map](#) has an interesting article answering, "All your Washington State standardized testing questions" (and features an interview with STEM parent Shawna Murphy).

## 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](#)



## Your PTA Needs YOU! Positions Open for Next Year



The STEM K-8 PTA Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on our PTA Executive Team for the 2016-17 school year. If you want to take part in the exciting work of strengthening our school community and growing our kids' and teachers' resources, consider volunteering your skills and time to our leadership team.

Open Executive Team positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Co-Treasurer, and Building Leadership Team Representatives. There are also lots of Board positions open including Fundraising Chair, Direct Give Chair, Art Chair, PBL Chair, and Assistant Webmaster.

Head to the [PTA website](#) for more information. Please contact the Nominating Committee: Darcey Pickard, Alouise Urness, and Mercedes Diggs at [nominating@stemk8pta.org](mailto:nominating@stemk8pta.org) if you are interested in an open position.

## Delridge Wetlands & Stewardship Project

On Saturday, volunteers from STEM K-8 and Arbor Heights Elementary joined community members to work on an exciting wetlands project just a block north of our school.

Duwamish Alive! Is turning an ex-Seattle City Light property back to its original wetlands state – it's part of the Longfellow Creek Watershed.

STEM staff Sunny Graves, Whitney Mebane, Craig Rankin and Sara Waldron were all involved in organizing this grass roots event, and it will ultimately lead to a host of PBL opportunities for our students. We'll have more news for you in the Owl Post as the project progresses.



STEM Kindergartener, Minnow, with salmon she painted for the wetlands project.

## Garden & Grounds Improvement Work Parties

- Install a Pollinator Garden for our School!
- Help Paint the Playground & Parking Lot!



### **Saturday May 7, 9:00am-1:00pm**

This first work party will focus on installing a pollinator garden in two of the courtyards facing Delridge Way SW. The STEM K-8 pollinator garden project is funded by a *Find It, Fix It* grant from the City of Seattle and by a generous donation of compost from Cedar Grove.

We'll also be updating the playground and parking lot painting. **Both of these tasks are big and we need lots of help!**

### **Saturday May 21 9:00am-1:00pm**

The focus of the second work party will be to finish installing the pollinator garden. If we have enough people, we will also work on the native plant garden and the vegetable beds.

**In advance of both these dates, we need help from people with trucks! We will need to transport bulk compost (donated by Cedar Grove) from their facility in Georgetown to STEM. We also need to transport 100+ plants to our school from a holding site nearby. If you have a truck and can help out with this, please contact Jen Greene 206-225-6621 or [jenaisa@gmail.com](mailto:jenaisa@gmail.com)**

Please wear attire appropriate for the weather conditions, and bring water. PTA will provide **donuts and coffee** in the morning and SPS will provide tools.



This project has three main goals. First, we are creating an outdoor classroom for students to use in their studies of biology and ecology. Students at all grade levels will have the opportunity to utilize these garden areas to study plant-pollinator interactions, plant growth, and Pacific Northwest native plants.

A second goal of the project is to create habitat for native pollinators. Our pollinator garden will be planted with plants native to the Pacific Northwest and will focus on providing critical resources to native pollinators such as bees (bumblebees and solitary bees), butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. We will focus on native plants and the provision of other habitat requirements (nesting, water resources, etc.) to ensure that our gardens are successful in attracting and helping to sustain these critical populations.

A third goal of our pollinator garden is to improve the neighborhood in which our school is located, both in terms of appearance and community engagement.