A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

The pace isn’t slowing at STEM K-8. There are several announcements and flyers to pay attention to in this week’s Owl Post. Please note information about registration for our new Seattle Preschool Program. This is in addition to the special education preschool classroom we are opening next year. There are also forms for registering for onsite before and after school care through the YMCA next year. Finally, information on Summer Staircase, Seattle Public Schools summer school program is included. The registration form will be emailed to all families soon via School Messenger. For families that are interested, Summer Staircase applications have to be returned to school by May 13.

This week 5th grade will be SBAC testing Monday-Thursday (note the schedule on page 3). Please make sure your children arrive at school on time and well-rested (whether they are testing or not :)!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

GiveBIG - May 3!

Each year STEM participates in GiveBIG. This 24-hour online giving event is a great way to raise money for our school. Plus, The Seattle Foundation “stretches” our dollars by offering partial matching funds.

This year, GiveBIG is on Tuesday, May 3 midnight to midnight (Pacific Time). Be sure to give your family and friends this link to our page. They can schedule a donation right away!

https://givebig.seattlefoundation.org/npo/k-5-stem-pta
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.

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@seattleymca.org or drop it off at West Seattle or Fauntleroy 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.

Preschool at STEM

In Fall 2016, Seattle Public Schools will expand its partnership with the City’s voter-approved Seattle Preschool Program. Our school has been selected as a site for a Seattle Preschool Program classroom for the 2016-2017 school year! The classroom will be funded by the Seattle Preschool Program and taught by certificated Seattle Public Schools teachers. Families will be able to enroll their 3 and 4 year olds for a full 6 hour school day and this classroom will operate on the same school-day, school year schedule as the other grades in our building. Tuition is subsidized for families with incomes at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. To have your child entered into Round 2 selection, please submit an application form by May 27, to the City of Seattle. Applications submitted after May 27 will be included in future selection rounds. Applications can be found here:


or for more information call: (206) 386-1050
Now Hiring - Enrichment Coordinator!

Enrichment is one of the programs that the PTA funds and coordinates to provide extra-curricular before and after school activities. Our students have the opportunity to take chess, robotics, dance, sports and art classes because of the efforts of our Enrichment Coordinator. This is a key position within the school and the PTA. Because it is such an important job and requires a lot of time onsite at school we are able to budget for a stipend of $7,000. It’s not much, but it helps to offset the time it takes to run this important program. Linnea Seidelmann has done an amazing job the last two years and will be available to provide ‘job’ training.

If you are interested in this role, please read through the job description on our PTA website and contact Rebecca at president@stemk8pta.org.

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) / MSP Testing Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Grade 5 Testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of April 25</td>
<td>5th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of May 2</td>
<td>3rd - 4th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of May 9</td>
<td>Daniels’ 3rd/4th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of May 16</td>
<td>3rd - 4th Grade SBAC Testing: Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of May 23</td>
<td>6th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>5th Grade Science MSP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).
when it comes to teaching, our teachers have SNAILED it!

Staff Appreciation Week: May 2-6

May 2-6 is Staff Appreciation Week! Please join us in supporting our teachers with breakfast Monday-Wednesday and lunch Thursday & Friday.

[Sign Up Here]

If you can help Monday – Friday with setting up the staff lounge or straightening up please e-mail.

We’ve made plans for a Happy Hour at Circa Friday after-school for the teachers, love notes from students, and massages. We will be giving them coffee cards as gifts for the next time they feel “sluggish.”

Thanks to Circa, Deja Parrent, Darcey Pickard & Nepenthe Massage for your support of teacher appreciation week.

Questions? Can you help? Contact Robin at robingraham26@gmail.com
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

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.
Summer Staircase
Summer Staircase is a high quality program for students currently in kindergarten through fourth grade, offered at 20 sites around the city (including Gatewood, Highland Park, Roxhill and West Seattle elementary schools).

When: June 29-Aug. 5, 2016, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., No school July 4.

Where: 20 sites; students placed closest to home address.

Who: All students welcome; preference given to students below grade level as determined by MAP, Amplify or Smarter Balanced assessments.

Cost: Free (breakfast and lunch are provided).

Transportation: Provided to students who live outside of a one-mile radius of a Summer Staircase site.

Attendance: Students may not miss more than three days.

Before/After Care: Not included. Contact community center or outside child care provider for options.

How to register: Registration forms will be emailed via School Messenger this week. Please return to the school office by May 13.

Read more about Seattle Public Schools summer learning options here.