



May 9, 2016

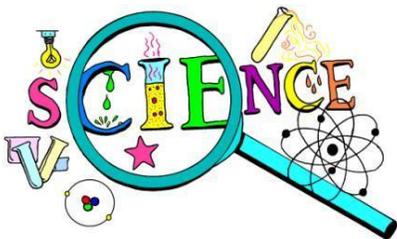


Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

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



May 21
Garden Work Party
9:00am-1:00pm
STEM K-8



May 27
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

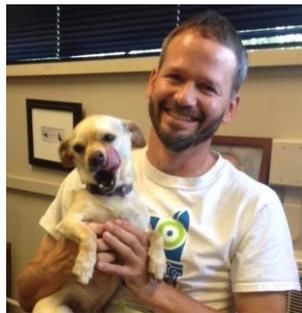
May 30
No School
Memorial Day



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A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

I am thrilled to share hiring news—STEM K-8 has added some outstanding teachers to our staff for next fall. Heidi Paulson will be teaching 7th grade Language Arts/Social Studies. She comes to STEM K-8 via Chicago, where she was teaching the courses to 6th graders. Adrienne Perkins is our new 6th and 7th grade math teacher. She has been

teaching science and math at Sylvester Middle School in Highline. Melissa Graham has been a Special Education teacher in Pennsylvania and California. She will be our new Access teacher. Finally, Ryan Schaedig accepted the offer to fill our 4th grade opening. He is moving to STEM from Highland Park Elementary in Seattle. We are fortunate to have been the first choice of each of our new hires! It is not unlikely that we may have a few other staffing changes to address as the year winds down.

This week will have Mr. Daniel's 3rd and 4th graders and students needing make ups taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment. They will begin at the start of school each day. As always, please arrive on time and rested. See the full testing schedule on page 3 of the Owl Post

I've received a few questions about water testing since the news story about lead in a few Tacoma schools. Over the last several years Seattle Public Schools implemented rigorous standards for safe drinking water. The School Board adopted a Drinking Water Policy in 2004. It includes periodic testing of each drinking water source in each school, coupled with reporting of the results on the district website. A detailed explanation of the testing protocol and the latest reports are available on the [drinking water quality program webpage](#). At Louisa Boren all identified drinking fountains have routinely tested safely under the policy. Five sinks in the school that are not considered sources for drinking water are clearly marked.

The public is invited to review books and other teaching materials under consideration for the elementary reading adoption. Ten vendors have submitted materials for the first round of our English Language Arts K-5 Materials Adoption.
Ctd.

Upcoming Events (continued)

June 1

ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS
DUE

2-hour early dismissal

1:40pm

STEM K-8

Pick your Owls up at 1:40pm



June 1

Rocket Scientist Workshop

1:40pm – 3:40pm

Register [Here](#)

STEM K-8

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.



Materials can be viewed at the JSCCE in person until May 20. Texts and other materials will be on display during normal business hours on the second-floor professional library. They can also be viewed at a **Open House scheduled from 5-7 pm on Monday, May 9.** Seattle Public Schools staff will be available to support participants. Translated feedback forms and interpreters in our top five languages (Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese) will be available. Finally, the ten vendors made the materials available online with a provided username and password. [Visit the ELA adoption materials webpage to find links, usernames and passwords for all 10 vendors.](#) This page also includes links to the online feedback survey forms you may complete when you've finished viewing the materials.

Finally, as summer approaches, students and families are seeking a variety of summer learning opportunities. Seattle Public Schools created [a webpage that compiles information on the various SPS summer programs.](#) In addition, you'll find links to city programs, including summer meals and community-based program directories. Families wanting to apply for the Summer Staircase summer school program need to bring applications to the school office this week.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Rocket Scientist Workshop – June 1

Date/Time: June 1, 1:40pm – 3:40pm **Ages:** K-6

Stick around the afternoon of June 1 (early release day) and bring out your inner rocket scientist. Students will learn how an air rocket launcher is built and then have the opportunity to design and build a rocket. Rockets will be launched in the latter part of the session and students given the opportunity to make modifications to their rockets based on their observations. Air rockets are powered by a burst of air and can travel up to 80 feet in the air. This is a great combination of art and science as students put scientific principles to work while getting creative with the design and decoration of their individual rockets. **3 – 2 – 1 blast off!**

Activity Schedule:

- 1:40 Early release, classes dismissed.
- 1:40 – 2:00 Gathering, snack (student provides), and tutorial on air rocket launchers
- 2:00 – 2:45 Rocket building
- 2:45 – 3:30 Rocket launching
- 3:30 – 3:40 Clean-up
- 3:40 Kiddo pick-up (no bus transportation provided)

Activity Fee: \$25 which includes supplies. Sign-up [online](#) or drop a paper registration in the box in the STEM office. Scholarships are available.

Special Notes: Kids should bring a snack/water bottle as these will not be provided. Pick-up is promptly at 3:40pm with no bus service or aftercare provided.

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](#)



Smarter Balanced (SBAC) / MSP Testing Schedule

Week of May 9	Daniels' 3 rd /4 th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math
Week of May 16	3 rd - 4 th Grade SBAC Testing: Math
Week of May 23	6 th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math
May 31	5 th 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.

GiveBIG Total

give
BIG

Thanks to everyone who donated money to our school during the GiveBIG donate-a-thon. We raised: **\$450!** We'll also get some extra funds from the Seattle Foundation's "stretch pool" (more details to come soon).



Fully Fund Our Schools – Sign the Petition!

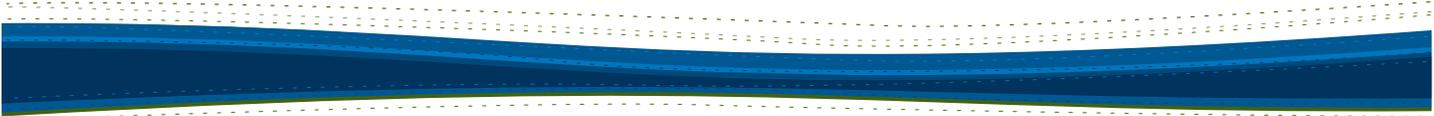


The nonprofit Washington's Paramount Duty has a petition out now calling on our state to fully fund our public schools in the 2017 legislative session. They are almost up to their goal of 2,000 signatures. If you haven't signed yet, please do so!

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

Why the Librarian Equity Group's Proposal is Important!

STEM Librarian Mary Bannister made a presentation at our PTA meeting on Thursday. Those of us at the meeting felt strongly that all STEM parents should have an opportunity to hear what Mary had to say. Her presentation begins on page 4. We'd like to thank Mary and the Librarian Equity Group for being such great advocates for our kids! If you would like to support their cause, you'll find a list of contacts on page 7. If you'd like to learn more, there is an interesting [Seattle Times article](#) on the subject.



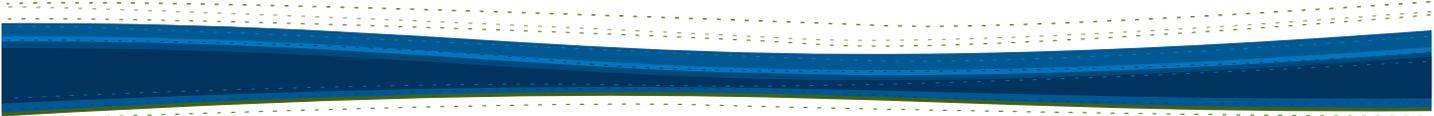
Mary E. Bannister, Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Teacher Librarian, FULL TIME! NBCT – Library Media

As a former PTA president and a career-long child advocate, I must speak on behalf of children ... ALL children, my children, your children and children all across the city of Seattle. SPS librarians are asking for three things to provide equity of access to ideas, information and instruction:

- 1) Per pupil funding of \$10.00 per student for library materials
- 2) Qualified librarian at every school
- 3) Manager of libraries for Seattle Public Schools

To me this issue of support for our public school libraries is personal as well as professional. I passionately believe that an educated public is the basis for a democratic society. Even after 35 years in education, with my rose-colored glasses outlook, I believe that education can and should be the great equalizer. A central part of that equitable educational experience is the access to ideas, information and instruction that school libraries provide.

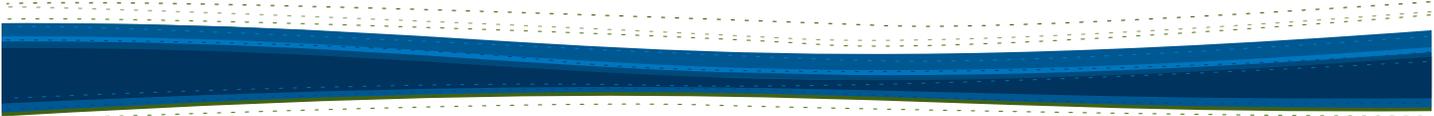
While teaching in Southeast Seattle, we were fortunate to be able to fund a full-time librarian. As you know, the district only provides a half-time librarian for elementary schools. Yet the administration and staff at the school at the time believed that additional library time was a literacy intervention and we were able to use Title or other funds to cover the position and some years, even funds for library materials. We had about 95% of free and reduced lunch students, fewer than 5 white students enrolled, and were an ELL school site. My first year at the school we had a \$0 library budget from the school, there wasn't a PTA to raise funds and my mom was my library volunteer. The up side to our statistics was that I was able to successfully write grants to gain new materials for the library. There were several local organizations that were willing to provide donated books as well. When I got to the school, I spent substantial time removing books from the collection that were 30 to 50 years old...and I am not talking about classic children's literature. The books in the collection didn't represent the students of color we served, their cultural backgrounds or religious beliefs. I vehemently believe that EVERY student should see themselves represented in the books in their school's library collection. While the families didn't have the financial resources to support library acquisitions, purchase many books from book fairs or spend time volunteering in the school, they still wanted their children to achieve the American dream. They wanted for their children the same things that you want for your children and it should be up to Seattle Public Schools to fund equitable resources for access to ideas, information



should be up to Seattle Public Schools to fund equitable resources for access to ideas, information and instruction for ALL children!

My next library position was in Northwest Seattle, and I truly had expected to retire from that school in ten or more years. The school was in an upper middle class neighborhood that had a long history of supporting a full-time librarian. When financial challenges arose due to district cuts, the PTA agreed for my first year there to fund the additional half of my contract so they'd continue to have a full-time librarian. They were generous with a PTA line item for library materials, yet they felt the district should have provided monies for the adequate, on-going funding of the library collection. The administrator at the time believed that a full-time librarian was essential to literacy instruction in the school and supported the library with a healthy budget line item as well. After an administration change, more district budget allocation cuts, the position went to half-time. The library space was being considered for other purposes such as math tutoring groups or the computer lab. It was heart-breaking to leave a school community which I loved in order to have full time work. And sadly, the school didn't have their new half-time librarian or a librarian sub for too much of the following two years. For that time, the students and staff at the school lost out on access to the ideas, information and instruction that the library program should have provided.

And now I am serving a delightful student population at a STEM school in West Seattle. The school is in its fourth year and working to develop an aligned instructional mission. We have close to a third of the school on free & reduced lunch and have a gender imbalance, yet are actively trying to recruit girls into the STEM environment. The library collection has specific needs to "STEMify" the collection and the PTA has been generous in supporting funds. Again, my first year at the school there were \$0 from the school's budget for library materials. It was only funded by the district for a half-time librarian. The new administrator was forward thinking and found a way that between both schools in the building I could have a full-time contract until the point that the school was considered a K -8 school and SPS funded a full-time librarian. YEA! The district is adding new programs with new needs as we move to a Pre-K to 8th Grade school. The district has provided upstart funds for the middle school collection, but there is currently no on going source to keep the collection updated after the initial funding. We have not heard that



on-going source to keep the collection updated after the initial funding. We have not heard that the district or city is willing to provide library dollars for the new preschool programs that will be placed at STEM. These new program placements should not be a burden on our local PTA to fund. The library collection needs for students of ALL ages should be funded by the district, not left up to the affluence of certain neighborhoods. As for the special education programs for preschool, access and SM4 – there should be additional funds to adequately meet the needs for board books, large print texts and developmentally appropriate topics. In summary, **Seattle Public Schools should provide equity in funding for access to ideas, information and instruction for ALL their students across the city of Seattle.**

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*I didn't start
out writing to
give children
hope, but I'm
glad some of
them found it.*

-Beverly Cleary