A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

Hopefully Thursday night’s Science and PBL Extravaganza is on your calendar. The event is scheduled from 5:30pm-7:00pm, and will follow an open house format. You’ll get to see central components of the STEM Vision come to life:

Growing 21st Century readiness in a community that values equity, sustainability, and the whole child; Developing rigorous STREAM skills to ask and answer audacious questions; Using Project Based Learning to tackle real world challenges.

For me it’s the most amazing night of the year. There are significant overlaps between key components of Project Based Learning and Next Gen. Science and Engineering Practices; e.g. a PBL driving question can easily resemble Next Gen Practice #1 Asking questions and defining problems. Next Gen Practice #2 is Developing and using models and #3 is Planning and carrying out investigations. Come join us on Thursday night and see what STEM K-8’s students have been up to!

This week Ms. Colby’s and Ms. Graves 3rd Graders will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) for math on Monday and Wednesday. Ms. Giza’s and Ms. Newton’s 4th Graders will be taking the Math SBAC on Tuesday and Thursday. As always, please have students arrive on time and rested.

At the beginning of June STEM staff will be making tentative class placements for fall. We don’t announce next year’s class placements because we often need to make adjustments in August. Creating classes that are balanced by gender, academic skills, and social needs is extremely complex. Therefore STEM K-8 does not accept teacher requests. We share families’ interests in making the best possible class placement for their child. If you have things that you would like us to know about your child to help make the best placement possible (other than teacher request), you are welcome to submit it in writing to your child’s teacher, Cindy, or me.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal
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

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.

Garden Work Party – Saturday, May 21
Saturday May 21 9:00am-1:00pm
The focus of this 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.

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.

Questions? Contact Jen Greene jenaisa@gmail.com or 206-225-6621

More info. on our PTA website.

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.
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).

facebook

STEM K-8 Facebook

twitter

STEM PTA Twitter

Principal Ostrom’s Twitter

Principal Ostrom’s Blog

Mrs. B.’s Library Page

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Smarter Balanced (SBAC) / MSP Testing Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of May 16</th>
<th>3rd - 4th Grade SBAC Testing: Math</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week of May 23</td>
<td>6th Grade SBAC Testing: ELA and Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>5th Grade Science MSP</td>
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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.

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

Benefit Mobile eScrip – Safeway, Starbucks & More!
Great news for our school fundraising! – Lots of local and online stores are participating in Benefit Mobile eScrip. This is the EASY way to earn 2% for our school on everyday expenditures!

Simply go to Benefit Mobile to download the app, select/claim K8 STEM Elementary (ID #50043528), and remember to use the app when shopping at Safeway, Starbucks, The Home Depot and many other businesses.

A reminder that, sadly, Target has ended their Take Charge of Education (REDcard) fundraiser after 19 years of providing support for schools. However, they are participating in Benefit Mobile. Thanks to everyone who registered their REDcard for STEM!

Thanks for choosing Benefit!