Upcoming Events

December 15
Winter Band Concert by STEM 4th, 5th & 6th grade students
6:30pm
Chief Sealth Int’l. High School
2600 SW Thistle St.
Seattle, WA 98126

December 17
Gingerbread House Engineering Showcase
Time TBD
STEM K-8

December 18
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

December 18
Author Visit
STEM K-8
Kelly Milner Halls

December 18
1-hour early dismissal
2:40pm
STEM K-8
Pick your Owls up at 2:40pm.

December 21 – January 1
No School
Winter Break

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A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

There are many exciting things happening at STEM! Winter PBL projects are in full swing, from designing and testing Mars landers in middle school to explorations that range from birds to the Civil War in elementary. If you have not put the evening of January 14 on your calendar for our winter PBL exhibition, do it now (time TBD).

We are starting to tackle a range of facility planning issues regarding our future use of the Boren building. The location of grades, STEM programs, and individual classrooms within the Boren building will raise questions regarding enrollment capacity, number of classrooms/grade, building modifications, program needs and more. A steering committee led by AP Kim Noble will be leading planning. Recommendations that emerge will be shared with the Leadership Team, staff, and the PTA/STEM K-8 community for input before final decisions are made. If this is a topic you want to get involved in, please contact Kim at kfnoble@seattleschools.org.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Ostrom
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal

Giving Garland

You can help families in our STEM community, who otherwise may not have much hope of receiving gifts for the holidays. If you have the resources to help a student in our community please pick an ornament off our Giving Garland in the STEM office. Gifts include those that are needed, wanted, and books. Please wrap the gift and attach the ornament tag you took from the garland so we can identify it. Return to the office by December 14. If you want to participate, but can't get into the office to grab a tag, email president@stemk8pta.org and we will email you the info. Thanks so much for your support and caring.
Upcoming Events (continued)

Book Fair Blizzard Makes $4,000!
A big thank you to everyone who came to the Scholastic Book Fair Blizzard, and all our volunteers! We sold $4,000 worth of books and gifts – our school keeps at least 50% of the profits which, along with the $580 we raised through the All for Books campaign, gives us lots to spend on classroom libraries!

Literacy Presentation
At the PTA meeting on Thursday our Librarian Mary Bannister presented some interesting information about the literacy curriculum in Seattle Public Schools. There has not been a literacy curriculum adoption in the Seattle Public School district for 14 years and our Louisa Boren STEM K-8 teachers have to design every single literacy lesson they teach from scratch. There are no officially adopted guides or materials in Seattle Public Schools. In case you missed Mary’s presentation you can download it here, though you will not have the benefit of Mrs. B’s wise words.

Our Advocacy Committee has started a campaign to send a message to the superintendent and board of directors that we need and expect a literacy adoption now. We have postcards available that you can send to Superintendent Nyland. Look for them in your kids’ backpacks next week.

Mrs. B. and Ms. W.’s video!
Upcoming Events
(continued)

February
Jump Rope for Heart
Raising money for the American Heart Association.

February 4
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
Boren Library

February 15
No School
Presidents Day

February 16
No School
Mid-Winter Break
(one day only)

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 26
3rd Annual STEM Auction
TBD

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

April 11 – April 15
No School
Spring Break

Check out the school calendar here.

Gingerbread House Engineering – December 17
Many STEM classrooms will be doing some Gingerbread engineering this week and next. Last year there were some amazing creations. We will have a showcase of the completed projects on December 17.

Last year’s Tessellated Tower from Mr. Gluck’s class and Candy City from Ms. Williamson’s class.

Hour of Code
It’s Computer Science Education Week! To celebrate, our school is taking part in the worldwide Hour of Code event for the 3rd year in a row. Technology Teacher Julie Schmick will kick the project off this week, and an engineer from the Hour of Code will visit STEM on Thursday to answer students’ coding questions and inspire them to learn more about Computer Science.

5-Minute Game Design Studio at Delridge Library
If you have a future video game designer in the family, you’ll want to check out this workshop for ages 9 – 13. Students will learn how to make games and animations in minutes using BlockStudio. All games and animations will be playable after the workshop is over. Snacks will be served. To register call Delridge Library at 206-733-9125.
Monday-Thursday, Dec. 14-17, 4-5:30 pm
Delridge Library
5423 Delridge Way SW

Got Stuff? Looking for old Laptops, Gears, LEGO, and More!
Ms. Schmick is seeking the donation of old laptops for students to use in Tech Lab. She is also looking for toys like gears, LEGO, K’Nex, magnetic letters, and other materials to use with students with the vision of a future maker space. If you have plans to get rid of something, check in with Ms. Schmick at jaschmick@seattleschools.org to see if it may have a future at STEM.
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

Holiday Shopping? Earn Cash for our School!
If you’re doing some shopping online or in stores don’t forget that many of your purchases can benefit our school. Here’s a reminder of all the ways to earn money for STEM K-8 when doing your holiday shopping and all year round.

Use this link to shop at Amazon, and 7% of your purchase amount will be donated to our school. Support STEM and shop in your pajamas from home - what could be better? You can always find our Amazon link on the front page of the STEM PTA website. Important Note: Shopping via this link earns our school much more money than using Amazon Smile.

If you have a Target REDcard be sure to register it in their Take Charge of Education program. 1% of purchases on your REDcard will come back to our school. Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Louisa Boren STEM K-8. Our ID number is: 153701

If you would like to apply for a REDcard, learn more at Target.com/redcard or stop in at a Target store. The REDcard saves you 5% on all Target purchases every day. It’s available as either a credit or debit card.

Grandparents, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for us. Sadly, Target has announced that the Take Charge of Education program will end in May 2016. So, let’s make the most of it while we can!

Make cards, calendars, photo books and more at Shutterfly, Tiny Prints or MyPublisher. Click on our STEM School Storefront and 13% of your purchases will be donated to our school!

This offer applies to all Shutterfly brands (Borrowlenses, MyPublisher, Shutterfly, ThisLife Tiny Prints, Treat and Wedding Paper Divas).

PCC
Order your $25 PCC scrip card here. Our school earns 5% each time you use it. You can reload it and use it every time you shop at PCC.

West Seattle Thriftway
Please drop your West Seattle Thriftway receipts off in the donation box in the school office. 1% of the purchase price of every item you buy is returned to our school.

More Shop & Earn Opportunities on our website.