Upcoming Events

February 27
Advocacy Committee Meeting
7:00pm – 8:00pm
All are welcome!
Uptown Espresso & Game
Emporium, 3845 Delridge Way SW

March 2
Read Across America Day
STEM K-8

STEM Auction 80’s Prom
5:30pm – 11:00pm
Hall at Fauntleroy
9131 California Ave. SW

March 7
Islandwood Orientation
5:30pm – 6:30pm
STEM Library

March 8
Global Reading Challenge
Semi-Finals
Time TBA
SPL – Central Library

March 14
Pi Day!
More details to come.
STEM K-8

Be Smart – A Conversation on Preventing Gun Violence
7:00pm
Adults only. Complimentary childcare provided by PTA.
STEM K-8 Cafeteria

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Welcome back! I hope you had an opportunity to breathe, sleep, read, watch Olympics, and spend some extra time with family.

Congratulations to Julie Schmick and STEM Robotics Team members Gavyn Wooten, Lucas Austin, Jane Howsmon, and Lizzie Dresang. They competed in the Washington State Championships for the VEX Robotics Competition over the weekend. Special appreciations go out to Julie for all her morning and weekend support for STEM VEX Robotics Team participants!

Cheers also for the 4th and 5th grade STEM students who participated in the Global Reading Challenge In-School Challenge on February 16. The Night Readers, Secret Owl Agents, Speedy Sloths, and STEM Owl-ways Readers all took on the challenge and joys of extra reading. The Night Readers will move on to represent STEM in the semi-finals at Seattle Public Library on Thursday, March 8.

On March 2 STEM K-8 will celebrate Read Across America day with an emphasis on diverse children’s books. From the NEA Read Across America website: Over the past 20 years our classrooms have become broadly diverse, and educators need books that reflect the diversity of our classrooms and communities. We believe books should be mirrors and windows so our students can see themselves in the pages of the books they read. But just as important, we want them to be able to look into the lives of characters different from themselves to gain a better understanding of the similarities we all share.

Past literacy awareness efforts highlighted the connection between Read Across America and Dr. Seuss. This change is about greater understanding of the importance of multicultural representation in children’s literature, and increased awareness about the racial attitudes and imagery in the works of Theodor Seuss Geisel. Seuss was a supporter of the Japanese internment, and produced political cartoons incorporating slurs and racist drawings of Japanese Americans. His collected works evidence an overwhelming preponderance of white characters and significant concerns regarding the depiction characters of colors in ways that reinforce stereotypes and racism. For those interested in learning more about the complex history of a famous children’s author, the following links offer more information: Rethinking Dr. Seuss for NEA’s Read Across America Day, Is the Cat in the Hat Racist?, and how some students used Dr. Seuss Week to teach about his racist cartoons. It’s upsetting to learn that our heroes and icons have complex pasts influenced and rooted in American racism. Rather than ignore or dismiss historical realities, we can examine our experiences and institutions from an anti-racist stance. How have our heroes, and ourselves, been shaped by and responded to racism? What was missed or learned, and how do people respond? How can the journey of others inform our choices?

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
Attn: 5th Grade Parents – Islandwood Orientation

Islandwood staff will present an informational session for parents and will be available to answer questions.

Wednesday, March 7
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
STEM Library

National African American Parent Involvement Day

Here are some photos from our February 12 event, which included an all school assembly, breakfast, and classroom time. Thank you to all parents/guardians who joined us. And, thank you again to the PTA for funding this important parent engagement opportunity!

- Nicole Albertson
Thanks to the following businesses for sponsoring the PTA’s STEM Prom 80’s auction. With their support, the PTA reduces event costs and can direct more $$ to activities that impact our students, from PBL supplies to scholarships to books and equipment! Click on the logo to go to the company’s website (if they have one).

GOLD & SILVER

[Image of sponsors]

RESTING WATERS
SEATTLE’S PET FUNERAL HOME

In Kind

Heidi Baughman Designs
Join us for a Conversation on Preventing Gun Violence

On Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 pm Be Smart for Kids will present an adults-only conversation at STEM K-8 about gun violence prevention and keeping kids safe. This presentation will be part of our Pi Night activities.

Important – Equal Class Size Concerns!

SPS has set enrollment numbers for 2018-19 and our enrollment will not be equal to other non-Title 1 neighborhood elementary schools. The STEM K-8 PTA is asking for many voices to weigh in on this issue. Our K-3 students deserve to have smaller class sizes just as all schools deserve this.

Please click on the links below for more information.

Equal Class Size Handout
Equal Class Size Letter
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

---

Middle School Basketball Schedule

Saturday, March 3

**K-8 Varsity Boys**
South Shore vs STEM
11:30am Franklin HS

**K-8 Varsity Girls**
South Shore vs STEM
10:00am Franklin HS

**K-8 Junior Varsity Boys**
South Shore vs STEM
12:15pm Franklin HS (A)

McClure #2 vs STEM #2
1:30pm Jane Addams MS (S)