



February 5, 2018

# Owl Post

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

## Upcoming Events

### February 5 SPS Open Enrollment Begins

**Black Lives Matter at School Week - Opening Day Unity Event.**  
**8:35am – 8:55am**  
Resource table & stickers.  
Students, families & staff invited to wear BLM shirts.  
*STEM K-8 - by playground gate.*

**Black Lives Matter at School Week - Assembly**  
**2:15pm**  
All are welcome!  
*STEM K-8 Cafeteria*

**February 6**  
**Elementary Tour**  
**8:55am – 10:25am**  
Families of prospective students.  
*STEM K-8*

**February 14**  
**PTA Meeting**  
**6:30pm – 8:00pm**  
Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.  
*STEM Library*

**February 16**  
**SPS Open Enrollment Ends**

### Spirit Wear Day

**Global Reading Challenge In-School Competition**  
**9:15am**  
All are welcome!  
*STEM Cafeteria*

**February 19 - 23**  
**Mid-Winter Break**  
No School

## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



This week is Black Lives Matter week in Seattle Public Schools (SPS). We serve approximately 55,000 students that are diverse in every way. Our school district has struggled to end the unacceptable educational disparities between white and African American students. Educators, families, community members and students across Seattle are making a commitment to eliminate inequity and to ensure equal opportunities for greatness. The first week of February, educators across the United

States are marking “Black Lives Matter in School” to take a stand for social justice.

The Black Lives Matter movement is a non-violent peace movement that systematically examines injustices that exist at the intersections of race, class, and gender; including mass incarceration, poverty, non-affordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, unfair immigration laws, gender inequality, and poor access to healthcare.

The question of why “Black Lives Matter,” rather than “All Lives Matter” is important to consider. A number of analogies provide insight: a house on fire needs more water than a neighbor’s house that is not burning, or “everyone should eat” doesn’t provide consolation to the person who missed their dinner. On Twitter from [ManOfTheHour@djssoap92](#) “[#AllLivesMatter](#) is “I go to the Dr for a broken arm and he says ‘All Bones Matter’ ok but right now let’s take care of this broken one....” Former President Obama explained, “I think that the reason that the organizers used the phrase Black Lives Matter was not because they were suggesting that no one else’s lives matter...rather what they were suggesting was there is a specific problem that is happening in the African-American community that’s not happening in other communities.” The historical context of racism experienced by African Americans in the United States makes Black Lives Matter an important movement towards creating racial justice and equity for other impacted communities.

This morning, volunteers will be in front of the school to start the day sharing tables with resources and sign making and stickers for people who want to participate but don’t have a t-shirt. You can find resources to discuss race and racism with children at many places including <http://www.teachingforchange.org/teaching-about-race#>.

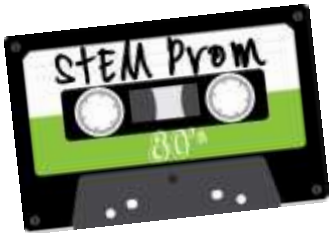
*Ben Ostrom  
Principal  
Louisa Boren STEM K-8*

**February 27**

**Advocacy Committee Meeting  
7:00pm – 8:00pm**

All are welcome!

*Uptown Espresso & Game  
Emporium, 3845 Delridge Way  
SW*



**March 2**

**STEM Auction 80's Prom  
5:30pm – 11:00pm**

Buy tickets [HERE](#).

*Hall at Fauntleroy  
9131 California Ave. SW*

**March 14**

**Pi Day!**

More details to come.

*STEM K-8*

**March 21**

**PTA Meeting**

**6:30pm – 8:00pm**

Complimentary childcare  
provided by the PTA.

*STEM Library*

**April 2 - 5**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Islandwood Field Trip**

<https://islandwood.org/>

*Bainbridge Island*

**April 9 - 13**

**Spring Break**

No School

Check out the school calendar

[here](#).



## School Board Supports #BlackLivesMatterAtSchool

Last Wednesday night the Seattle School Board UNANIMOUSLY approved a resolution to support the #BlackLivesMatterAtSchool week of action:

“NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle School Board declares that the lives of our black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the School Board encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9, 2018 through discussions in classrooms and in homes.”

The author of the resolution, Director DeWolf, credited the NAACP Youth Coalition for helping to make this resolution a reality. The PTA of Louisa Boren STEM K-8 supports this important work in our community. We look forward to this week's before school PTA sponsored Unity Event and the afternoon school assembly.

## Bus Strike – Help Needed!



As the First Student bus drivers' strike continues into another week, we ask that everyone please be careful and considerate when picking up students from school.

Parent volunteers helped direct pedestrians, students and traffic on Friday, and we would like to continue that for as long as the strike goes on. Having YOUR help increases the safety in our parking lot and on Delridge significantly.

Come a little early, check in with Christa in the office, grab a reflective vest and, with a smile, help our community! ☐

## Dine Out Event – A Big Success!

Thanks to all who were able to make it out Tuesday, January 30 for our first ever Dine Out night with Li'l Woody's/CTO/Beer Star. What a Hoot!





The STEM K-8 Global Reading Challenge In-School Competition will take place on Friday, February 16 at 9:15am in the cafeteria. This SPS/SPL collaborative Battle of the Books program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students is fun to watch. Parents are most welcome to attend...even if their child hasn't extended the information.

Any questions, please contact Mrs. B in the Library!  
[mebannister@seattleschools.org](mailto:mebannister@seattleschools.org)

## Lost & Found Clean Up!



The lost and found rack is filling up, and it's time for some mid-winter clean up. If your child is missing a jacket, hat, gloves, lunchbox or water bottle, please come check out our lost and found rack located in the main hall. **Leftover items will be removed on Thursday, February 15 and donated to charity.** If you would like to help donate the items, contact Christa Howsmon [cjhowsmon@seattleschools.org](mailto:cjhowsmon@seattleschools.org)

## Join the STEM K-8 Advocacy Committee



Things are busy busy busy for our PTA Advocacy Committee right now. Please come join our work. Our committee has an open membership and we would love to meet you. Our next meeting is Tuesday February 27 from 7:00pm-8:00pm at Uptown Espresso & Game Emporium, 3845 Delridge Way SW. Contact Advocacy Committee Chairperson Shawna Murphy with any questions, [southernstreetkids@yahoo.com](mailto:southernstreetkids@yahoo.com).

## Summer Stretch & Summer Challenge for Grades 4 - 10

The University of Washington Robinson Center for Young Scholars offers two Summer Enrichment programs for students, Summer Challenge, for grades 5-6, and Summer Stretch for grades 7-10. Our classes offer deep, inquiry-based learning experiences outside the regular school curriculum. Students have the opportunity to pursue their interests while working with peers in classes taught by subject-matter experts on the UW Seattle campus.

Registration for [Summer Challenge](#) opens on **March 1 at 8:00 am**.

Registration for [Summer Stretch](#) opened on **February 1**.



## 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, February 10

**K-8 Varsity Boys**  
BYE Week

**K-8 Varsity Girls**  
BYE Week

**K-8 Junior Varsity Boys**  
Eckstein #2 vs STEM  
12:45pm Madison MS

Whitman #2 vs STEM #2  
2:00pm Madison MS



Boys Basketball teams watching West Seattle Wildcats vs. Chief Sealth Seahawks (some future Wildcats and Seahawks in this pic). Thanks Coach A & chaperones for this team building event.

West Seattle HS 58 – Chief Sealth HS 52