



April 17, 2017



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

## Upcoming Events

**April 18**

**7 PM**

### Advocacy Committee Meeting on Tuesday

Join us to help plan the first ever Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Pride Family Potluck & Dance Party to celebrate our LGBTQ Community, Families & Allies.

*Uptown Game Emporium on Delridge*

**April 20**

### Class Photos

Class photos are scheduled for Thursday, April 20.

**April 20**

**All day**

### Zippy's Giant Burgers STEM K-8 Dine Out Fundraiser

Zippy's will give back 15% of the day's take from its White Center location.

*Zippy's Giant Burgers White Center  
9614 14th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA  
98106*

**April 22**

**10 AM**

### STEM K-8 Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday

Earth Day Clean Up Day at STEM from 10am to 2pm. No sign up, just show up. Bring gloves, plus hydration and snacks. Everyone is welcome, but kids must be accompanied by an adult!

*STEM K-8*

**April 27**

**6 PM**

### STEM K-8 Share Your Culture Event

Celebrate the many cultures of STEM. Save the date for this upcoming event that will feature activities for kids and adults representing the cultures in our community.

*STEM K-8*

## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Welcome back from break. Hopefully everyone got some time to slow down and breathe! Because there's not much slowing down in sight the next couple of months at STEM K-8.

Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) testing begins the week of April 24th. STEM's SBA grade level testing dates are pasted below. Most students will experience four full mornings of

of testing over the SBA window (since students have as long as they want to complete the assessment, some will test into the afternoon).

### SBA Testing Schedule

April 24th and 25th 3rd Grade ELA	May 8th and 9th 4th Grade ELA
April 26th and 27th 5th Grade ELA	May 10 and 11th 5th Grade Math
April 28th Make Ups	May 12th Make Ups
May 1st and 2nd Middle School ELA	May 15th and 16th Middle School Math
May 3rd and 4th 3rd Grade Math	May 17th and 18th 4th Grade Math
May 5th Make Ups	May 23 5th Grade Science MSP

Please make sure your children arrive at school on time and rested, ready to do their best—we start testing first thing in the morning. Help your child understand that although the SBA is a significant assessment, it represents one small part of their overall performance. It's used along with many other indicators to evaluate progress. SBA results do not determine whether or not a student is ready for the next grade! The SBA should be viewed as a worthy challenge rather than a worrisome barrier. Students have an opportunity to practice important test taking skills and show some of what they know relative to national standards.

There are reasons to consider the Smarter Balance Assessment a worthy challenge for students: A) SBA results help staff become more aware of the strengths and needs of each child. B) SBA results help staff know as a school and as a district where we have done well and areas that need more work. C) SBA results can help parents see where their child is on the pathway to becoming proficient on the 11th grade test now required by WA State for graduation. D) Seattle Public Schools is legally required to give the SBA and faces consequences if participation drops below 95%.

Smarter Balance Assessments also raise legitimate concerns. The limitations and failures of high stakes testing are well documented. STEM K-8 must offer a climate that provides students with the opportunity to perform their best. STEM will also affirm the right of any family to opt their child out of the SBA. If you want to and have not already done so this year, please provide written notice of an opt out choice to the main office as soon as possible. Opt out notification needs to be provided annually. Because of the logistical demands of administering the SBA, we are unable to provide alternative curriculum during test periods. We will provide an alternative setting that for most students will look like being able to read, help, or work in another classroom.

Revised staffing allocations means revised hiring timelines for openings at STEM K-8. Now interviews will be conducted for certificated internal applicants during Phase 1A 4-24 to 4-28. Any unfilled or new vacancies will be interviewed during Phase 1B from 5-10 to 5-16. To participate on a Seattle school hiring (*continued*)

## 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](#)

## Volunteer

Are you looking for a way to get involved? All current opportunities are listed on STEM K-8 [Sign Up Genius Page](#).

## Library Volunteers

Looking for helpers to shelve, label and check books in and out. [See full details on Sign Up Genius](#)

## Share Your Culture Event Volunteers

Looking for helpers to run the upcoming cultural event. See details on [Sign-up Genius Page](#).

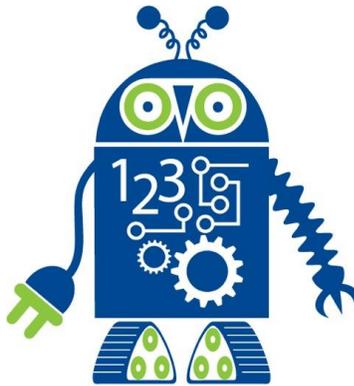
committee you must complete one hiring committee training (it's good for life)—the next one is April 18th. Sign up by emailing date attending, full name, email address and contact phone number to [SEA@WashingtonEA.org](mailto:SEA@WashingtonEA.org). STEM's revised allocation included another office assistant, an additional .5 PCP teacher (staff made the decision to create another 1.0 PE teacher by combining with a .5 PE teacher allocated during the first round of staffing), and an increase in counseling FTE from .6 to 1.0.

## STEM Robotics Team Advances to World Championship, Needs Your Support

One of our very own robotics teams took home the highest honors at the Washington State VEX IQ Robotics Championship last month and is headed to the world championship event in Kentucky on April 22nd! The VEX program is terrific in that it emphasizes communication, collaboration and leadership skill development in addition to the technical skills that come with designing and operating robots.

The STEM team is the only team from a Seattle elementary school going to the world championships, and they need your help to get there.

A YouCaring account has been set up to cover the cost of travel for the kids, parent chaperones, and Ms. Schmick. Any size contribution will be greatly appreciated. You can [contribute here](#). Thank you for your support! Go STEM K-8 Bots!

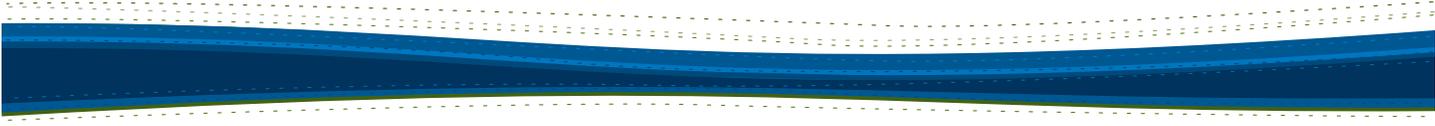


# STEM K-8 BOTS

## Last Chance for Spring Enrichment Registration

Last chance to register for Spring Enrichment! Circus Arts, Martial Arts Tennis, Afterschool Sports, Gamers Social Club, Trendy Crafts, Ukulele and MS Game Development all have spots available! And we do have scholarships still available! Go to [Enrichment Program Registration – Spring 2017 » STEM K-8 PTA](#)

Contact Cassandra ASAP for a scholarship: [afterschool@stemk8pta.org](mailto:afterschool@stemk8pta.org)



## Education Funding Legislative Update

The regular legislative session comes to an end April 23rd. If they have not passed a bill to amply fund our schools by that time they will go into a special session. This week we need to keep up the pressure on our legislators. At our last regular PTA meeting on April 5, we unanimously passed Resolution #3 calling upon our legislators to find new, equitable sources of revenue to fund our schools. [Read it here](#). Here is [a sample script](#) suggested by Washington's Paramount Duty. You can use [this look up tool](#) to find your legislators,

## Advocacy Committee Meeting on Tuesday, April 18

We are planning the first ever Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Pride Family Potluck & Dance Party to celebrate our LGBTQ Community, Families & Allies. Join us on Tuesday April 18 from 7 to 8 PM at the Uptown Game Emporium on Delridge to help plan the June 2 evening event. We will start our meeting off with one last post card push. All are welcome!

## Get Ready for Teacher Appreciation Week May 1-5

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1-5. Planning is underway and if you have any suggestions or want to help please contact Robin at [robingraham26@gmail.com](mailto:robingraham26@gmail.com). More details in next week's Owl Post.

## STEM K-8 Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday April 22

Saturday April 22 is Earth Day Clean Up Day at STEM from 10am to 2pm. We have support from Self Help, who will provide tools, refuse bags, and a temporary dumpster There will be lots of hard work and some fun activities for kids. No sign up, just show up. Bring gloves, plus hydration and snacks. Everyone is welcome, but kids must be accompanied by an adult!

## STEM K-8 Share Your Culture Event on April 27

On April 27 from 6-8 PM we're celebrating the many cultures of STEM. Save the date for this upcoming event that will feature performances, dinner, and activities! You are welcome to bring additional food representing your home culture. We still need help to make it happen, sign-up to help on the [STEM K-8 Sign-up Genius page](#).