



April 24, 2017



Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

April 27

6 PM

STEM K-8 Diversity Celebration Cultural Dinner

Performance, Dinner, and Activities. Food will be provided. You are welcome to bring additional food representing your home culture.

STEM K-8 Cafe

April 29

STEM K-8 Middle School Sports

Soccer

- JV – 8 AM at Garfield HS vs. Blaine
- Varsity – 11 AM at Garfield HS vs. Blaine

Volleyball

- JV - 8 AM at Boren vs. TOPS
- Varsity - 9:30 AM at Boren vs. TOPS

May 1

Teacher Appreciation Week

Please join us in celebrating our teachers & staff for teacher appreciation week May 1-May 5. [Sign up here](#) to bring breakfast items Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, lunch items on Thursday or Friday.

May 12

6 PM

STEM K-8 Movie Night

Join STEM families for a fun night out and to support next year's 5th grade trip to Islandwood. Movie, concessions and Bake Sale.

STEM K-8 Cafe

May 16

7 PM

GGLOW OWLS Dance Party planning meeting.

Uptown Espresso on Delridge

June 2

6:30 PM

GGLOW OWLS Dance Party

Friday June 2nd, 6:30-8:30 pm.

STEM K-8 Cafe

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



We're hitting the end of April at a full run. This week includes English/Language Arts Smarter Balance Assessments for 3rd and 5th grade, Ms. Schmick and a STEM team in the Vex Robotics World Championships in Kentucky, Phase 1A hiring committees afternoon for next year's new positions each afternoon (we will likely interview again during Phase 1B too), and lots and lots of interesting learning experiences in

classrooms. Make space to attend STEM's Diversity Celebration Cultural Dinner night on Thursday, April 27 at 6:00 pm. Food will be provided and you a welcome to bring dishes representing your home culture if you wish.

Some recent and current STEM K-8 Project Based Learning (PBL) Highlights:

- Speakers from Calliope and Mind the Gap studios presented to second grade classrooms to share their expertise in game making. Second graders are making games to demonstrating their understanding of habitat and water ways. The team is also piloting a SPS /UWA science kit as part a PBL exploration of habitats.
- In third grade, the garden will soon be blooming. Third graders, with the help of the STEM green team, are using the garden to explore overlaps between climate and life sciences. The K team will also be doing some buddy lessons in the garden to support NGSS standards.
- Kindergarteners were visited by a KIRO meteorologist. Some student engineered weather tools and other project samples will be on display at the PBL night. Kindergartners also created games to demonstrate new learnings about motion.
- First graders are creating an airplane model to fly to Africa. They will be learning not only about engineering an airplane but also about how light and sound can be used for communication, and African culture.
- The Delridge wetlands outdoor classroom is being constructed next fall with the help of an outdoor learning company and STEM K-8's 4th and 5th graders. In the fall, students helped mapped current plants and water run-off paths. They also did some service work on the site. This spring, students are designing different aspects of the future wetlands (plants, human needs, land features).

3rd and 5th grade families--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.

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](#)

Diversity Celebration Volunteers

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

The PTA Needs You

Each year the PTA needs to fill the empty seats on the Executive Committee and our Board and now is the time to step up for next year. It is an opportunity to run this small non-profit that helps to make our school what it is today. Anyone can do it and it is a rewarding way to give back to STEM.

If you are interested in helping to find our next PTA leaders you can step up to be on our Nominating committee. It is a small time commitment to help reach out to our community and find people interested in getting more involved.

OR if you are interested in the open executive committee roles of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Co-Treasurer just reach out to get more info. There are many openings on our board as well so please get in touch if you are interested in being more involved. Contact Rebecca at president@stemk8pta.org

Thanks for Helping Us Grow. Teacher Appreciation Week

Please join us in celebrating our teachers & staff for teacher appreciation week May 1-May 5. [Sign up here](#) to bring breakfast items Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, lunch items on Thursday or Friday. The PTA will supply all paper products and utensils. The PTA will gift all staff with a plant, gift card, and notes from the students. Anytime during the week is a great time to bring in a homemade card telling your teacher how much you appreciate them (from parents and from kids!), give your teacher a hug, tell your teacher a joke, or to bring in an apple, some flowers – or nothing but a smile!

If you want to help or have questions contact Robin at: robingraham26@gmail.com.

From the School Nurse – Rena Andersen, RN, BSN

Free Dental Services for Kids available at the University of Washington Center for Pediatric Dentistry (located in Magnuson Park - 6222 NE 74th St, Seattle, WA 98115). Call 206-543-5800 and ask for a Give Kids a Smile appointment. There are no income qualifications or immigration questions asked.

GGLOW OWLS Dance Party Planning is Underway

The Advocacy Committee met last week for the first planning meeting of GGLOW OWLS Dance Party to be held on Friday June 2nd, at school, from 6:30-8:30. (GGLOW stands for Gender Non-conforming/Genderqueer, Gay, Lesbian or Whatever.) This will be a fun family unity event open to all to celebrate our LGBTQ families, staff, students and allies. We will have food carts, dancing, crafts and more. Save the date!

If you would like to get involved in the event planning our next meeting is Tuesday, May 16th, from 7-8 pm at Uptown Espresso on Delridge. For more information contact PTA Advocacy Chair, Shawna Murphy by email at southernstreetkids@yahoo.com



STEM K-8 Spiritwear Design Contest & Fundraiser

K-8 STEM Student Council & PTA are happy to announce the 1st ever Spiritwear Design Contest!

1. Students in the STEM community can submit a design. If you are not a student, please note that under “affiliation” in your submission.
2. Design a logo!
3. Only designs that are school appropriate.
4. Student Council will pick 5 designs for a school vote and online vote to decide the winner.
5. T-shirts / Sweatshirts will be available on <https://www.bonfire.com>. Bonfire will accept payment and send directly to you. More details soon!
6. You can use [this template](#) or use a blank piece of paper or use a print out of your design.
7. Be careful not to use any copyrighted images.

DESIGNS ARE DUE MAY 5th! Turn into the box in the STEM office. Questions? robingraham26@gmail.com

STEM Diversity Celebration and Cultural Dinner Night

THURSDAY, APRIL 27th, 2017 – 6PM Start

The STEM Equity Team has put this evening together to be a celebration of the diversity and togetherness of our school community and all the cultures we have represented here. Food will be provided. You are welcome to bring additional food representing your home culture. Please come and enjoy even if you can't bring a dish.

Please try to sit at a table with at least some people you don't know, and share something about yourself and your family during dinner. Some of our Middle School “ambassadors” will be coming around during the dinner to encourage some cultural story sharing.

We're also seeking volunteers to help with the event. Sign up [here](#) to lend a hand.

5:45 – Please show up a little before 6 if you have food to put on the food tables. We will have paper/markers to label all dishes with name & ingredients. PLEASE LABEL IF THERE ARE PEANUTS OR OTHER NUTS and if the dish contains PORK.

6:00 – Dinner Buffet is open. Please get each kid a Passport Booklet and all adults an “about the event” sheet on your way into the cafeteria.

6:20 – Introductions. K/1 students will sing a song that they have prepared for us

6:45 – 5-minute “Our STEM Culture Video, featuring our students, parents and teachers.

6:50 – 7:30 – Kids should complete their Passports to win a prize, do an art project with your family, and everyone should visit the “Travel the World” tables and look at the other displays we will have.

7:30 – World Dance Party!

8:00 – Whoever can help us clean up, WE APPRECIATE IT!