A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Sometimes the clouds break and sun shines in! First I want to send some love to all the families and staff whose amazing contributions powered the Steampunk Auction on Saturday night! It was an amazing celebration of STEM community that provides critical support for the programs that empower our vision. Special thanks to Robin Graham for her auction leadership and all the other volunteers who helped secure donations, produce class art projects, and organize an astounding event. Your work makes a difference!

Second, STEM just received a new budget allocation that reflects the restoration of levy cliff funds. We saw the return of previously cut K-8 supports, including a second office assistant and a supplemental .5 FTE that are essential for K-8 supports. We were also allocated an additional elementary teacher and PCP time. The Leadership Team will be discussing the new allocation on Monday afternoon and staff will have a short turn around to make some quick decisions on Wednesday. Seattle Public Schools posts 2017-18 school year openings starting Thursday, April 5.

Those openings point to another great way to get involved at STEM—joining a hiring committee. If you have received SEA hiring training and would like to participate in hiring, chances are available April 14-18 (schedules to be announced). We will also be operating hiring committees April 28-May 5. Please let Cindy know in the office if you are interested. It’s possible we will be operating hiring committees April 26-May 3 as well. For families interested in obtaining hiring committee training, the next training is at the JSCEE on April 18—details are available at http://seattlewpa.org or the school office.

Thanks for all you do to support STEM K-8. One additional support is to not drop students off before 9:15 am; we don’t have staff available to provide supervision before that time and it gets crowded in the main office.

2017 STEM Auction Follow-up from Robin Graham

WOOT! Thank you Sponsors, Volunteers, Teachers & Parents. Our preliminary auction tally is at $78K and climbing. That is AMAZING! Please remember that many employers will match your give. Check with your HR department to see if they can maximize your contribution to STEM K-8.

There are still auction items available in the online auction catalogue where you’ll find fun teacher experiences.
Spring Session Enrichment Registration Now Open

Did the Spring Enrichment Registration Flier made it out of the backpack? Enrollment begins today, April 3rd, and there are several classes JUST for Middle School students, including Jazz Band and Video Game Development. All classes are listed on the STEM K-8 website.

Education Funding Legislative Update

April 23 is the last day of our state’s regular legislative session so things are really starting to heat up with the various education funding bills proposed by the House, Senate and Governor. If you haven’t had a chance already, please read this past Seattle Times article and plan on attending this week’s PTA meeting for further discussion. The Advocacy Committee will propose a resolution to support new, equitable revenues in our state to fund education. We will also make one last post card push because we’ve seen how effective we can be with our collective voice-and POST CARDS!

School Board Directors and SPS staff were reporting last week that Mayor Murray is considering giving Seattle Public Schools a one-time donation of $2.3 million to cover the cost of changing over to a two-tiered arrival and dismissal schedule, rather than the three tiers we are operating with now. This would potentially shift our start and end times to somewhere closer to 9:00-3:30. If this is a change that would benefit your family, please contact Mayor Murray and let him know you support the one-time gift from the city’s budget.

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 activities for kids and adults representing the cultures in our community. We need help to make it happen, check out the Sign-up Genius page for volunteer opportunities.

Looking for Lost Library Books

This year’s library inventory has been completed. We can say with confidence that your students’ lost/overdue library books are NOT on the STEM library shelves. Please take a look at home and have your student look in their classroom/daycare as we have thousands of dollars of missing books that students have not returned.

Thanks for helping your students be responsible library patrons and getting these books back into circulation.

If a book is TRULY lost, you may either pay the replacement cost to STEM or you may purchase the same title and format (hardcover/paperback) and send it in for Mrs. B. to replace the lost copy.

Have any questions? Contact Mrs. B. in the Library!
Seattle Pre-School Applications for 2017-2018 School Year Now Available

The first round of applications for the Seattle Pre-School program are due on April 25th. You can apply online or complete a paper application, available in the school office.

SPS Online Tools Overview

There are a variety of online tools and services that SPS uses to communicate and manage student and family information. Mrs. Bannister, STEM K-8 Librarian has shared the following infographic as a primer and reminder of where to find what.