



May 1, 2017



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

## Upcoming Events

**May 1-5**

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Celebrate our teachers & staff for teacher appreciation week. [Sign up here](#) to bring food for staff breakfast and lunch.  
STEM K-8

**May 3**

**6:30 PM**

### PTA Meeting

Discuss STEM math program, and vote on next year's PTA budget.  
STEM K-8 Library

**May 6**

### STEM K-8 Middle School Sports

Soccer

- JV – 12:30 PM at Franklin vs. Blaine
- Varsity – 2 PM at Garfield vs. Pathfinder

Volleyball

- JV – 8 AM at Boren vs. Hamilton
- Varsity – BYE, no game

**May 12**

**6 PM**

### Movie Night/Fundraiser

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**

**7-9 PM**

### Louisa Boren Spring Cleaning

Help us freshen up inside as the school year comes to an end! 5th graders and up.  
STEM K-8

**May 16**

**7 PM**

### GGLOW OWLS Dance Party Planning

Join the advocacy committee to help with GGLOW event/dance party planning.  
Uptown Espresso on Delridge

## A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom



Thanks to everyone who attended and helped support STEM's Diversity Celebration and Cultural Dinner last Thursday night! There was an amazing array of food and even more opportunities for exploration and conversation around numerous displays. If you couldn't make the event, it's worth watching [this video](#) to get insights about the variety of cultures represented at STEM K-8.

- May 1-5 is Staff Appreciation week. Let STEM staff know you notice and value their hard work on behalf of your children. STEM staff give their all to facilitate learning and support students every day. It's a vital community commitment.
- STEM teachers talk regularly about math instruction. Teachers are grappling with how to challenge and support the wide range of learners in classrooms, best practices in math instruction, and mastering common core standards. On April 26 staff discussed our vision and goals for STEM's math program. The outcome of that conversation is detailed on page two of this newsletter. At Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>'s 6:30-8:00 pm PTA meeting parents will have an opportunity to discuss and respond to this draft statement about our vision for math at STEM.
- This week on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Middle School students will take the ELA Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). On May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Third graders will take the Math SBA. 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.

## PTA Meeting on Wednesday, May 3

Join us on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30pm for this month's PTA meeting where we will be voting on our final budget for next school year and having a discussion about the future of math at STEM. The staff and BLT have been discussing math instruction at all grade levels. At this week's PTA meeting we will get an overview of the staff discussions so far and have an opportunity to weigh in and discuss how math is taught at STEM. See below for STEM K-8 Math Goals and Vision, a great pre-read for the meeting on Wednesday.

### STEM K-8 Math Program Vision and Goals

- 1) Built on strong depth of knowledge regarding common core standards, both at and across grade levels.
  - a) Content and Practice standards.
  - b) Based on grade level progression documents that incorporate developmental and mathematical readiness.
  - c) Balances needs for acceleration, challenge, and support (how, why, and when).
    - i) Middle school students need to meet requirements for Algebra and beyond.

## 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](#)

- 2) Supports ongoing development of instructional best practices
  - a) Provides a clear professional development sequence.
  - b) Emphasizes differentiation and rigor.
    - i) Recognizes difference between challenge, difficulty, and acceleration
  - c) Develops formative assessments to monitor student learning and build further understanding.
  - d) Addresses the widening range in student skills partly connected to changes in student population.
- 3) Instructional and assessment materials support efficient teacher preparation and student learning.
  - a) Includes supports for differentiation and multiple math pathways that build conceptual understanding and elicit student thinking.
  - b) Supports baseline, formative, and summative assessments aligned to standards.
- 4) Clear criteria for student success
  - a) Historically was mastery of standardized tests, opportunities for acceleration and challenge.
  - b) SBA performance tasks require deep knowledge and application of skills, and are based on common core standards.
    - i) There are debates around whether test format is fair for all students.
  - c) Includes common assessment practices within and across grade levels.
  - d) It's important to our community that Middle school students meet requirements for Algebra and beyond.

## It's Teacher Appreciation Week!

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week! Show your support to our staff, you can [sign up here](#) to bring breakfast items, 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](mailto:robingraham26@gmail.com).

## Author's Visit by Vikram Madan on May 22

We are very appreciative of the PTA support to bring author-artist **Vikram Madan** to STEM on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. [Download and complete the order form](#), due to Mrs. B. by Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please write a check for your order and complete the information fully. Thanks!

If you would like to read more about the artist & author, check out his website! <http://www.vikrammadan.com/>

## Lost and Found Clean Up

Lost and found is filling up. Please come check the rack for your child's belongings. The rack will be cleared and leftover items donated on May 16.

If you would like to help clear the rack and donate items, please contact Christa Howsmon. [cjhowsmon@seattleschools.org](mailto:cjhowsmon@seattleschools.org)

## STEM K-8 Spiritwear Design Contest & Fundraiser

K-8 STEM Student Council & PTA are happy to announce the first 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](mailto:robingraham26@gmail.com)

## Save the Date for the GGLOW Dance Party

Join us on Friday, June 2 from 6:30-8:30 PM for the first annual GGLOW event. 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.

Admission is free but bring cash, food will be available for purchase from Papa Bois and Full Tilt Ice Cream. All are welcome, in your dance party attire, or just come as you. Brought to you by the PTA Advocacy committee.

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](mailto:southernstreetkids@yahoo.com)

