Upcoming Events

April 2 - 5
5th Grade Islandwood Field Trip
https://islandwood.org/
Bainbridge Island

April 2
Spring Enrichment Registration Opens
@ 6crickets.com

April 9 - 13
Spring Break
No School

April 16
Spring Enrichment Begins
8 week session.
STEM K-8

April 19
Bike Helmet Giveaway
STEM K-8

April 19
Meet Author Lynn Brunelle
Time TBA
See book order form in this week’s Owl Post.
STEM Library

April 23
Dine Out at Proletariat Pizza & Full Tilt
4:00pm – 9:00pm
For the Great Ice Age Floods 8th Grade Tour scholarship fund.
Dine in or take out. Must mention STEM.
Proletariat - 9622 16th Ave SW
Full Tilt - 9629 16th Ave SW

April 30 (week of)
Smarter Balanced Testing for
4th & 5th Grade ELA
STEM K-8

May 7 (week of)
Smarter Balanced Testing for
6-8th Grade & 3rd Grade ELA
STEM K-8

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

5th graders are heading to Islandwood this week. Thanks 5th grade staff and chaperones for all the time being invested in our students! Also, STEM K-8 is searching for a lunchroom/playground monitor for Monday - Friday from 11:20am - 12:50pm for the rest of the year. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know students and support the school community. If you are interested let us know in the school office.

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) testing begins the week of April 30. STEM’s SBA grade level testing dates are pasted below. Most students will experience two mornings of testing each week their grade level is on the schedule (because students may take as long as they want, some will test into the afternoon).

There are reasons to consider the Smarter Balanced 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%. E) STEM K-8 must deal with state accountability measures for lower student scores (including opt outs).

Although the SBA is a significant assessment, it represents a small portion of students’ overall performance—many other indicators are used to evaluate progress. SBA results do not determine whether or not a student is ready for the next grade. Students should view the SBA as a worthy challenge rather than a worrisome barrier. It’s an opportunity to develop important test taking skills and show some of what they know relative to national standards.

Smarter Balanced 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. We also recognize the right of any family to opt their child out of the SBA. To opt out families must provide written notice to the main office. 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.

STEM’s 3rd-8 grade students will be taking the SBA on the weeks indicated below:

Week of April 30: 4th and 5th Grade ELA
Week of May 7: 6-8th and 3rd Grade ELA
Week of May 14: 6-8th and 3rd Grade Math
Week of May 21: 4th and 5th Grade Math
May 31: 5th Grade Science MSP
June 5: 8th Grade Science MSP

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
Opting Out of Testing

If you would like to opt your student out of testing you may do so by sending an email or hard copy letter to Principal Ostrom and Cindy Baca. Include the name of your student and which tests you elect to opt them out of.

Two years ago, STEM parent Heidi Alessi designed the Decision to Support the Whole Child Form – The unofficial form for opting out of high stakes testing. You can read about it on the Seattle Education blog and download the form from there.

Spring Enrichment Opens Today!

You should have received your Spring 2018 Enrichment Flier in “kid mail” last week. You can take a look at the class catalog and register for classes by clicking on the 6crickets logo below.

Registration opened today at 8:00am.

Please e-mail Ashlee at enrichment@stemk8pta.org ASAP if you’d like to volunteer for one of the classes or if you would like to request a scholarship.

Enrichment Survey

Don’t forget to complete the following survey about your satisfaction with the STEM K-8 enrichment program. This survey can be taken even if you don’t have a student who is taking enrichment classes, and we encourage you to do so. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete, and we very much appreciate you helping us improve the STEM K-8 enrichment program for the 2018-2019 school year.

Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VC3HNR2

FUN Drive – Thank You

A huge thank you to all of the STEM families who really represented last week with their donations. Items were still coming in Friday afternoon!!

I’m thinking about ways to distribute the items. There’s a mountain to go through, and I know there are a lot of families in need. One of the students suggested we use the cafeteria as some sort of store, with the items all organized by categories. I know some of my families and some kids on the Student Council could really use some of the items right away. If there are any families that any of you know of that could use some of STEM’s abundance, please let us know. I’m thinking about sending out some sort of letter to teachers to ask about kids/families they know might need help. Student Council members were thinking of kids in their classes, too.

Thanks again so much for all of your support!! If you haven’t already, check out the old office space! It’s super impressive!

Melissa Graham
Next PTA Meeting in May

There will be no PTA meeting in April. The next PTA Meeting will be May 9 at 6:30pm in the STEM Library. The PTA board would especially like to invite new members to join us at our May meeting, where we’ll be voting on the PTA budget for 2018-19.

CLICK HERE to join!

Lunchroom/Playground Monitor Needed!

STEM K-8 is in search of a lunchroom/playground monitor for Monday - Friday from 11:20am - 12:50pm for the rest of the school year. This is a great opportunity to participate in helping the school community, and get paid $15.00/hour. If you are interested, or would like to help out until we find someone, please call the office at 206-252-8450.

Attn: 8th Grade Families – High School Registration

Dear 8th grade Families,

School assignments will be announced by Friday, April 6 and most high schools will send students a registration packet in the mail over spring break. We have invited three of the primary high schools that students will be attending to help with registration for 9th grade.

DATES AND TIMES FOR REGISTRATION AT LOUISA BOREN STEM K-8

Tuesday, April 17  9:00am -10:00am – West Seattle High School  
Friday, April 20  9:00am -10:00am – Cleveland STEM High School  
Monday, April 25  9:00am -10:00am – Chief Sealth International High School  

For students who will be attending other high schools, if you need any assistance with your registration please bring it in and we will help you. If you have questions about how your student’s high school does course selection, please visit their websites or call them directly for more information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

Meredith Osborne and Tiffiny Jaber  
meosborne@seattleschools.org  
tljaber@seattleschools.org  
206-252-8509
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 is starting a school biking program. Biking to school is not required! We are just trying to have fun and encourage our students to bike - whether it's to school or around our neighborhoods.

We'll be having a free helmet give-away on April 19 and some fun prizes for bike to school day on May 9.

If you are interested in learning more or helping out, please see our [SignUpGenius](#).

---

**SPS Wants YOUR Feedback on Levies**

Seattle Public Schools requests input and feedback on two levies that will be submitted to Seattle voters in February 2019.

The **Operations Levy**, a renewal of the expiring Operations Levy, provides approximately 20 percent of the district’s general fund annual budget and supports educational programs not fully funded by the state.

The **Building Excellence V (BEX V) Capital Levy**, a renewal of the expiring BEX IV Capital Levy, includes projects to improve safety and security needs, add space to meet growing enrollment, replace or repair school buildings and systems and fund major preventive maintenance throughout the district.

District staff members will present information, collect input and feedback, and answer questions. Interpreters are available by request.

All meetings are 6:30-8:15 p.m.

- **Monday, April 2:** Aki Kurose Middle School lunchroom, 3928 S Graham St.
- **Tuesday, April 3:** Madison Middle School lunchroom, 3429-45th Ave. SW.
- **Monday, April 23:** T.T. Minor School (Seattle World School) lunchroom, 1700 E Union St.
- **Tuesday, April 24:** Jane Addams Middle School lunchroom, 11051-34th Ave. NE
- **Thursday, April 26:** Monroe School (Salmon Bay K-8) lunchroom, 1810 NW 65th St.

Comments and questions are welcome:

- **BEX V Capital Levy:** capitallevy2019@seattleschools.org
- **Operations Levy:** budget@seattleschools.org
- **By mail:** Levies 2019, Seattle Public Schools, MS 22-336, PO Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124

During the month of April, an online community conversation, Thought Exchange, will be used to gather more input to supplement the community meetings.
**Meet Lynn Brunelle!**

**Thursday, April 19th in the STEM Library**

---

*Turn This Book Into a Beehive!* PB $21.94 w/tax

*Big Science for Little People* PB $16.44 w/tax

---

**Total number of books:**

**Total cost of books:**

---

**Personalize books to (please print):**

---

**Student's Name:**

---

**Student's Teacher/School:**

---

**Make Checks Payable To:** Third Place Books (Unable to take cash.)

**ORDER FORMS DUE TO Mrs. B. in the Library BY: Tuesday, April 17th**
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 Soccer Schedule

Saturday, April 7

K-8 Varsity Boys
South Shore vs STEM
2:00pm Rainier Beach HS

K-8 Junior Varsity Boys
STEM vs Jane Addams 2
12:30pm Jane Addams #1

Middle School Volleyball Schedule

Saturday, April 7

K-8 Varsity Girls
Hazel Wolf vs STEM
11:00am STEM

K-8 Junior Varsity Girls
Hazel Wolf vs STEM
12:30pm STEM

Full Tilt is joining our 8th grade Dine in/Take Out benefit on April 23! So grab some delicious ice cream and hit the pinball machines after your pizza!