A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

It's a busy field trip season for STEM students. Students at many grade levels are experiencing guest speakers and students as a part of Project-Based Learning and Science work. Primary classes have been exploring Longfellow Creek with Naturalists from Camp Long. 4th and 5th grade have been working with the local group DIRT to learn about adaptations and restore plantings on SW Juneau, 3rd and 7th grade went to hear from speakers and learn about the Amazon spheres. This week 5th graders will be hearing from REACCH - Regional Approaches to Climate Change. And these are just a sampling of classroom experiences!

Smarter Balanced Assessments start for 4th and 5th graders this week. 4th grade will be taking language arts assessments on Monday and Tuesday, and 5th grade on Wednesday and Friday.

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 many valid perspectives regarding concerns around standardized testing. However, at STEM we present the Smarter Balanced Assessment not as a high stakes test but as a worthy challenge for students. Some reasons we want all students to try their hardest and produce valid SBA results: to help staff become more aware of the strengths and needs of each child; to learn as a school and as a district where we have done well and areas that need more work; and to 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. Seattle Public Schools is also legally required to give the SBA and faces consequences if participation drops below 95%; and STEM K-8 must deal with state accountability measures for lower student scores that include opt outs.

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8

Join the STEM Bike Train on May 9!

Wednesday, May 9 is Bike to School Day. Louisa Boren STEM K-8 students, parents, and staff are invited to join a BIKE TRAIN. It’s free and fun! Meet at Greg Davis Park (2600 SW Brandon St) between 8:00am and 8:15am and we’ll bike to school together. Bring a helmet, a bike lock, and your big smiles for this event. While supplies last, students biking to school on May 9 will receive a fun prize! We’ll also have some snacks to keep us fueled for the ride!

- You can bike to Greg Davis Park or drive and park. Everyone is welcome!
- Grade K-4 students – please have a parent or other adult join in the bike train with your child.
- Grade 5-8 students – parents are welcome but not required. (Please consider student’s biking ability and maturity level.)
- Please note the bike train is only in the morning. Families should make their own plans for afternoon transportation.
- If there is more than a light drizzle on Wednesday, May 9, the RAIN DATE is FRIDAY, MAY 11.
May 21 (week of)
Smarter Balanced Testing for 4th & 5th Grade Math
STEM K-8

May 24
Spring PBL/Science Fair Night
More info. to come
STEM K-8

May 25
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

May 31
5th Grade Science MSP
STEM K-8

June 1
GGLOW Owls
Family Dance Party
5:30pm – 7:00pm
STEM K-8 Playground

June 5
8th Grade Science MSP
STEM K-8

June 19
8th Grade Graduation
5:30pm – 7:00pm
STEM Gym

June 22
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Spirit Wear Day

1-hour early dismissal
2:25pm
STEM K-8.

September 7
LBSK8B2SB7!
(Louisa Boren Stem K-8 Back to School Bash 7)
Lincoln Park

Check out the school calendar here.

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SBA & MSP Testing Schedule Spring 2018

3rd Grade
May 10 – May 11 ELA
May 17 – May 18 Math

4th Grade
April 30 – May 1 ELA
May 21 – May 22 Math

5th Grade
May 2 & May 4 ELA
May 24 – May 25 Math
May 29 Science WCAS

6th Grade
May 10 – May 11 ELA
May 17 – May 18 Math

7th & 8th Grade
May 7 – May 8 ELA
May 14 – May 15 Math

8th Grade
June 5 Science WCAS

ELA=English Language Arts
WCAS=Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science

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.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Please join us in celebrating our teachers & staff for teacher appreciation week May 7-May 11!

Sign up here to bring breakfast items Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The PTA will supply all paper products and utensils. The PTA will gift all staff & teachers with a gift card, notes from the students, and a dessert bar on Wednesday afternoon.

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 and your thanks! If you want to help or have questions contact Robin at: robingraham26@gmail.com.
Dine Out Night Tuesday May 1, 5-8 pm at Li’l Woody’s/Beer Star/CTO

What’s up, you might be asking, why so many Dine Out Nights this year? This will be our third Dine Out Night to round out this school year with Li’l Woody’s/CTO/Beer Star. The LB STEM K-8 PTA is co-hosting these events with the high poverty Title One schools in our area as a way to give back to our community. For example, after our first Dine Out Night with Sanislo we were able to turn around and give their PTA a donation to help defray the costs of their upcoming auction. Equity work is a central tenet of our PTA and while our school community is able to raise money through our auction and direct give, not all our neighboring schools have the same fundraising capacity. These Dine Out Nights are an excellent opportunity to come socialize with your school community and neighbors, eat delicious food and help raise money for schools. This time we get to hang out with our friends from Highland Park Elementary.

See you there!

Shawna Murphy
STEM K-8 Advocacy Committee Chair
KIDS & RACE PART ONE: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Our lives are constantly being shaped by narratives, whether we’re conscious of them or not. Books, TV, movies, music, news media; they all impact the way we see ourselves and other people.

In this workshop, Jasen Frelot and guest speakers will disassemble the narratives that we are swimming in and how they impact our views on race. This is a great introductory workshop for adults on how to be “color conscious” not “colorblind.” Bring your questions and get ready to explore topics around race in a supportive, nonjudgmental environment.

Please join us for an informative conversation to help support your family in navigating these important and needed conversations.

Monday, May 14th 6:30-8:30 in the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Library.
Proudly brought to you by your PTA Advocacy Committee in what we hope will be the first of a serious of powerful and essential advocacy events around race and equity in our community.

STEM K-8 PTA Needs YOU!

Have you ever considered getting more involved at STEM and the PTA? Now is your chance to ask questions, get more information and get involved. The PTA is a small nonprofit organization that exists to support our school, staff, students and the larger community. It’s a big job to run a nonprofit organization and everything that goes into supporting STEM, so we need a team of volunteers to make it work.

We have positions open on the executive team as well as lots of roles to be filled on the board and committees. For the 2018/2019 school year executive team we are in need of a Vice President, Co-Treasurer and Secretary.

There are several Board roles that are not voted in but equally important including roles in fundraising, communications, leading room parents and working on our website. Rebecca Garcia is leading the nominating committee, if you have any interest or questions please contact her at rebecca_garcia@mac.com.

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 is a Safe Place

It’s the last week to grab your “Louisa Boren STEM K-8 is a Safe Place” t-shirt or hoodie. So, if you were thinking of purchasing one, or two or three, the time is now!

Show your GGLOW OWL Pride and support our LGBTQ+ students, staff and families. All proceeds will go to the PTA to purchase more LGBTQ+ books for our library.

CLICK HERE to buy!
2nd Annual GGLOW OWLS Family Dance Party

Kick off Pride Month and celebrate our LGBTQ+ students, staff and families.
Festive Dress or Come as you are!

Friday, June 1st
5:30-7:00 pm Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Playground

Papa Bois & Full Tilt Food Trucks. DJ Plaid Dad.

Link for T-shirts and hoodies here.
Money raised will go to purchase LGBTQ+ books for our school library

https://www.customink.com/fundraising/gglowowlsstemk8
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, May 5

K-8 Varsity Boys
STEM vs Salmon Bay
11:00am Garfield

K-8 Junior Varsity Boys
Blaine vs STEM
9:30am Franklin

Middle School Volleyball Schedule

Saturday, May 5

K-8 Varsity Girls
BYE week

K-8 Junior Varsity Girls
Hamilton 2 vs STEM
2:00pm Denny

STEM Spring Talent Show!

STEM will be having a spring talent show. Date and Time TBD.

Students may sign up for auditions outside of Ms. Anisha’s room #137

Monday, April 30
Primary lunch: Ms. Anisha’s room #137
Middle School lunch: PFA room #238
4th & 5th lunch: PFA room #238