Upcoming Events

May 21 (week of)
Smarter Balanced Testing for 4th & 5th Grade Math
STEM K-8

May 24
Spring PBL & Science Fair Extravaganza
6:00pm – 7:30pm
STEM K-8

Uniform Exchange
6:00pm – 7:30pm
STEM K-8

May 25
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

May 28
No School
Memorial Day

May 31
5th Grade Science MSP
STEM K-8

June 1
Rainbow Owls Spirit Wear Day!
GGLOW OWLS t’s, hoodies, Pride gear or rainbow colored tops and, as always, uniform bottoms.
STEM K-8

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

June 5
8th Grade Science MSP
STEM K-8

June 13
PTA Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Complimentary childcare provided by the PTA.
STEM Library

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Please join us this Thursday, May 24 from 6-7:30pm for our Spring PBL – Science Night. Project Based Learning, or PBL, is an essential part of our school vision and an important way we engage students in STEM subjects. On Thursday night you can see some of the ways PBL and science develop across STEM’s grade levels. Being able to share questions, research, and outcomes with the community is a meaningful part of Project Based Learning and Next Generation Science at STEM K-8.

Classrooms and grade levels may be at different stages of projects. It’s valuable for families to see and discuss PBL experiences that are midstream so they can see the work behind a final product. A public display of a final product is only one aspect of PBL experiences.

PBL involves both individual and group work and takes a wide variety of forms. As you visit classrooms, look for essential PBL elements. Some important characteristics that define PBL: A) Driving Questions-Open-ended questions that students understand and find intriguing, which captures their task or frames their exploration. B) In-Depth Inquiry–A rigorous, extended process of asking questions, using resources, and developing answers. C) Significant Content–Important knowledge and skills, derived from standards and key concepts at the heart of academic subjects. And D) A Public Audience–Work presented to other people, beyond their classmates and teacher.

I’m excited to share that Samantha Mardock has agreed to take on the long-term opening for a Guest Teacher in PFA. Samantha has demonstrated a lifelong interest in the arts, including running her own arts business and minoring in arts at the College of Idaho. Thanks Samantha for filling a big gap at STEM K-8!

4th grade artwork for Endangered Species Day – made with all recycled materials.

Smarter Balanced Assessments for mathematics are happening for 4th and 5th graders this week. 4th grade will be taking math assessments on Monday and Tuesday, and 5th grade on Thursday and Friday. Please make sure your children arrive at school on time and rested, ready to do their best.

I continue to emphasize that the SBA represents one small part of students’ overall performance. It’s used along with many other indicators to evaluate student and school progress. The SBA is a worthy challenge and provides students with one opportunity to show what they know relative to national standards.

There are important 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 legally required to give the SBA and faces consequences if participation drops below 95%, while STEM K-8 must deal with state accountability measures for lower student scores that include opt outs.

Applications are being accepted for community members interested in getting involved in the science adoption committees for K-5 or 6-8. When approved by the Seattle School Board, new science instructional materials will be available for K-8 during the 2019-20 school year. Online applications for both the K-5 and 6-8 adoption committees can be found on the SPS Science Adoption Website. Printable PDF versions of the applications with translations are also available. For questions or interest contact Mary Margaret Welch, Science Program Manager, who will serve as the adoption coordinator at 206-252-0695 or mmwelch@seattleschools.org.

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
June 15
Field Day
More info. to come.
STEM K-8

June 19
8th Grade Graduation
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Ceremony & Potluck
STEM Gym

June 22
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Spirit Wear Day
1-hour early dismissal 2:25pm
STEM K-8.

September 5
Back to School!
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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**Uniform Exchange (during PBL Night)**

**UNIFORM ITEMS ONLY PLEASE!**

- Put in “most appropriate” spot for the next owl to use. Signs will help you.
- Please only donate clean items. Clothing should be ready to be worn again - no holes or clothing that is exceedingly worn.
- **Polos, pants, sweaters, skirts, skorts, and any other uniform or spirit wear or new in package underwear and socks all welcome.**
- Then take what your student wants or needs.
- **You don’t need to bring anything to take anything.**

Try to be mindful that many students will come by - so take as much as you need - but not the whole pile.

Generally marked by “traditional” gender (for example dresses are marked under “girl”) but at STEM we welcome any student to dress how they feel most comfortable so you can ignore “boy” and “girl” and get what your family needs.

If you want to help at the uniform exchange email: robingraham26@gmail.com - volunteer shifts of 15 minutes.

**Remaining SBA & MSP Tests**

**4th Grade**
May 21 – May 22 Math

**5th Grade**
May 24 – May 25 Math
May 29 Science WCAS

**8th Grade**
June 5 Science WCAS

WCAS=Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science
A Special Field Trip – Your PTA Dollars in Action!

Last Tuesday, STEM 4th graders hopped on board Argosy Cruises for a fantastic trip to Tillicum Village on Blake Island. Students dined on traditional food from the early NW coast people, watched an incredible dance/storytelling presentation, and explored a real longhouse!

The full cost of this trip per student was $42. The STEM K-8 PTA paid $22 of the cost for each student, bringing the cost per student down to $20, and making it more affordable for families.

Your contributions to the PTA helped to make this, and all STEM field trips, possible! In addition to offsetting the cost of field trips, PTA funds provide scholarships for every field trip our students take from kindergarten through 8th grade – so every student gets to enjoy the experience – from snowshoeing, exploring Longfellow Creek with the Nature Consortium, visiting West Seattle Bee Garden, and the Center for Wooden Boats, to Seattle Children’s Theatre, SAM, MOHAI, The Burke and more! Along with student fundraising, the PTA also supports the annual 5th grade three-night trip to Islandwood, and this year’s Great Ice Age Floods 8th Grade Tour.

Come Party with our Friends at Sanislo!

Help our neighbors Sanislo Elementary raise money for their PTA so they can also offer their students fantastic field trips, after-school enrichment scholarships and other programs!

**All Around the World Auction**

Saturday, June 2. 6:00pm – 10:00pm

Alki Masonic Center, 4736 40th Ave SW

**BUY TICKETS HERE**

Silent Auction – Dinner & two drink tickets included

Special Performance by Seattle Kokon Taiko Japanese Drummers, DJ, dancing & more!

Donations to the auction make a significant impact on the education of Sanislo kids. With over 70% of Sanislo families living in poverty, the school community simply cannot raise these essential funds alone.

**DONATE**
Kids and Race

Thanks so much to all of you who were able to make it out this last Monday for the Kids and Race workshop in what we hope will be the first in a series of resources brought to you with your generous donations to our PTA and the amazing fundraising efforts of our PTA.

The attendance was wonderful and Jasen Ferlot offered us some fantastic tools and perspective on how to begin to engage our kids in important and vital conversations about race in America. He helped us to better understand how the brain develops and how even from as early as six months kids are beginning to understand racial differences. Ignoring it or taking a "colorblind" approach does more damage than good and those of us who were able to make it walked away with some great perspective and ideas on how to improve our communication about race with our kids. A message that he emphasized is the need to have fun with this. Through play based activities, books and shows that center characters of color who are doing everything from the mundane activities of everyday living to super heroes makes a real difference. Jasen also had some ideas for our community that you can put into action right away:

Get the Conversation Started!

*Teach your child to be color conscious, not colorblind. Colorblindness implies that racial and cultural differences are bad and should be ignored. Color consciousness says racial and cultural differences are good and should be celebrated!

For more tips, perspective and tools, check out the Kids and Race website at https://www.talkingrace.org/.

8th Grade Graduation

JUNE 19TH 2018

CEREMONY AND POTLUCK

5:30–7:30

The event is open to all in the STEM community. 8th Graders will receive a ticket packet for their family from homeroom teachers. All others, please RSVP by May 25th here.
GGLOW Owls Family Dance Party!

We are less than two weeks away from our big GGLOW OWLS FAMILY DANCE PARTY. For those new to the event, this is an event for the whole family, no kid drops offs. We have music and food trucks out on our playground to celebrate the beginning of Pride Month and all of our wonderful LGBTQ+ students, staff and families. All are welcome.

Students and staff are invited to participate in a Rainbow Owls Spirit Wear Day Friday June 1. Examples include, Louisa Boren STEM K-8 is a Safe Place t-shirts, Pride gear, rainbow colored tops paired with uniform bottoms. Don’t have a Pride top? Make your own with an old polo and colorful markers.

We are also collecting LGBTQ+ book donations. If you’d like to bring a book gift to the dance, here is the list, https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ZKG52TKHUZRI

If you have questions or would like to help with the event, please contact outgoing PTA Advocacy Chair, Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com
**Middle School Volleyball Schedule**

**Saturday, June 2**  
(no games Memorial Day weekend)

**K-8 Varsity Girls**  
Salmon Bay vs STEM  
2:00pm STEM

**K-8 Junior Varsity Girls**  
Salmon Bay vs STEM  
3:30pm Denny

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**END of YEAR STEM LIBRARY DUE DATES**

All library materials are encouraged to be returned on time with a final all school due date at 9:00am on Friday, June 1. Please be responsible library users & return your library materials in a timely fashion.

Students without overdues or fines may check out one book at a time until **Thursday, June 14**.

Students with overdue materials will have the items converted into a library fine for the cost of replacing the materials. We do not charge late fees. All overdue books, magazines, etc. must have their fines paid in full by **Thursday, June 14** in order for students to participate fully in **Field Day on Friday, June 15**.

**Please Note:** Library Fines that are left unpaid follow the students throughout their years in Seattle Public Schools.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. B mebannister@seattleschools.org
ADVANCED LEARNING - Testing Opportunity

You may want to refer your child if you have noticed these characteristics:

Verbal skills:
- Has an advanced vocabulary for his/her age
- Seems to continuously talk and ask questions

Thinking skills:
- Is imaginative; has lots of ideas
- Can come up with many interesting solutions to problems

Learning behaviors:
- Understands information quickly; remembers what has been learned
- Wants to work on more difficult things; may not finish regular assignments because wants to spend time doing projects he/she thinks are more interesting

Motivation:
- Is very interested in certain topics/projects and wants to work on them all the time
- Does not want or need a lot of direction for completing a task; likes to figure it out on his/her own

Social-emotional Development:
- Is sensitive to the feelings of others and is concerned with fairness
- May be a perfectionist and/or become frustrated with mistakes
- May prefer to interact with students who are older and/or adults

Reading:
- Is a very strong reader, reading above grade level and/or reading at an early age

Math skills:
- Is very interested in math, works above grade level in math and/or shows an interest in numbers at an early age

If most of these characteristics apply, you may want to consider referring your child for Advanced Learning opportunities.

Eligibility criteria and instructions are available beginning May 15, 2018 at www.seattleschools.org/advlearning

All Referrals for testing are due by September 24, 2018 to determine eligibility for school year 2019-2020.