A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

I prefer to let the end of school sneak up on me. I don’t mention to students that it’s coming until the last day. Even with schedule disruptions we try to make every day count for our scholars!

Tuesday marks our first 8th Grade Promotion ceremony. I have said and will continue to repeat that our growth through preK-8 and program expansion is not a three year process, but a ten year journey. The challenges and learning brought on through such enormous expansion are incorporated and addressed over many more years than the initial steps take. Nonetheless our first 8th grade graduation is a huge milestone along the way. All are invited for a ceremony that will take place in the gym from 5:30-7:00 pm.

On Thursday, June 21 from 9:00-1:30 is our annual All-School field trip to Lincoln Park. Three years ago we decided to collapse the many field trips different grade levels took the last week of school into a single school wide journey to Lincoln Park that has turned into an annual tradition. Chaperones are needed—contact your child's teacher if you’re available.

This week is also Spirit Week, sponsored by the Student Council:

June 18 : PJ Day Wear your PJs!

June 19: Dress to impress! In honor of our 8th grade graduation, wear your favorite formal attire. Look sharp!

June 20: Crazy/Tacky Day Crazy hair, crazy clothes. polka dots with stripes... Get wacky!

June 21: Hat Day WITH UNIFORM This is our Lincoln Park field trip day so we ask that students wear uniforms so we can recognize and represent. HATS are encouraged though!

June 22: Twin Day/Free Dress Day Match up with a buddy or two or three, or fly solo and wear what you want as long as it is appropriate.

Thanks for all of your contributions to a great year!

Ben Ostrom
Principal
STEM K-8

Stay in Touch over the Summer!

STEM K-8 PTA Facebook Page
Yearbooks On Sale!

The first ever Louisa Boren STEM K-8 yearbooks are on sale!

60 page, hardcover, color books that include individual pictures of all classes preschool - 8th grade.

**Price:** $16 (scholarships available upon request)

We will be selling them by the school entrance:

- Tuesday 3:30pm - 5:30pm
- Wednesday 8:30am – 9:00am

Cash and checks (payable to STEM K-8) are accepted.

Yearbooks will be delivered on Friday.

Supplies are limited!

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Lost & Found

The jackets are coming out of the woodwork and showing up in Lost & Found. If your child is missing a jacket, it might still be found. End of year last chance to claim those missing items!
8th Grade Graduation

JUNE 19TH 2018
CEREMONY AND POTLUCK
5:30–7:30

- Doors open at 5pm.
- All are welcome to join!
- A celebration in the hallway to follow the graduation ceremony.
- All families without a graduate should bring a dessert to share.

Lots of Library Books Still Missing!

The STEM K-8 library currently has $1200 of overdue library books. That is the amount it would cost to replace the missing books. The library does not charge late fees.

The library does not receive annual funds from SPS. Books are added to the collection through money raised by our PTA, grants applied for by Librarian Mary Bannister, and fundraising activities such as the annual book fair and GGLOW Owls events. That’s a lot of donations and a lot of hard work!

We would ALWAYS prefer the book to the money. However if the book is truly lost or damaged, please pay the replacement cost of the book.

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
2nd & 4th Grade Longfellow Creek Project Based Learning

Click the links to view the Longfellow Creek postcards that 2nd and 4th grade students made with artist and parent Vaughn Bell. The project was funded by Seattle Public Utilities. Here is a selection below.
Duwamish River Automata
Celebrate – Make – Reflect
Monday, June 18
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Be inspired by the past and present stories of people who care for this amazing river by making fun and playful cardboard mechanical toys. Makers will be able to understand simple mechanisms by building cardboard automata, exploring levers, cams, and other mechanisms, as a means to make their mechanical toy work. Presented by Makers of South Seattle.

Ages 8 and up

Delridge Branch|5423 Delridge Way SW.|206-733-5423
The STEM Library Collection has great e-books for a variety of ages.
Here’s the direct link to the catalog that works inside and outside of the district
https://spscatalog.seattleschools.org/common/welcome.jsp?site=606
Username: studentsps  Password: access

Also, there’s the “Destiny Discover” application for mobile devices.

And don’t forget to use TumbleBooks for our youngest students available FREE on the SPS Online Resources page:
Username: studentsps  Password: access

Mrs. B. will be passing out STEM Summer Reading Bingo forms in mid-June during library lessons.
Special Education Meeting

Thanks to all who were able to attend our first SPED @ STEM Family Gathering. We heard from many of our special education families who were unable to attend because of the Sports Banquet and other end of the school year scheduling conflicts. We will begin meeting regularly in the fall but to stay connected over the summer and beyond we will be rolling out a SPED @ STEM Facebook Group sponsored by the PTA. Stay tuned to the STEM K-8 PTA Facebook Page for more!

Thank You to our Outgoing PTA Board!

Executive Team
President – Alison Li
Vice President – Melinda Luke-White
Secretary – Christine Southam
Treasurer – Stephanie Kellner
Co-Treasurer – Margo Bergman

Board Members
Past President – Rebecca Garcia
Building Leadership Team Members – Heidi Alessi, Tascha Bevins, Alouise Urness
Enrichment Chair – Ashlee Lyman
Development and Fundraising Chair – Robin Graham
Advocacy Chair – Shawna Murphy
Middle School Chair – Angela Nichols
Owl Post Editor – Helen Green
PTA Website – Leah LaCivita
Room Parent Coordinator – Brynn Chadwick

Next Owl Post:
September 5, 2018
SEA Votes for Moratorium on all Standardized Tests

Last week, the Seattle Education Association voted to support a resolution calling for a moratorium on all standardized testing. The following resolution was passed:

“New Business Item, Seattle Education Association

Testing Moratorium

Whereas,

standardized testing has been well documented for decades as a racist tool that further widens the gap between students of color and their white peers. Stephen Jay Gould published The Mismeasure of Man in 1981 and in 2016 Ibram X. Kendi published Stamped from the Beginning as just two of the many excellent examples of the research that has been done on this issue. Kendi says, “Standardized tests have become the most effective racist weapon ever devised to objectively degrade Black minds and legally exclude their bodies.”

And whereas,

the SEA RA and the Seattle School Board have each unanimously approved resolutions in support of ethnic studies which are significantly hindered by the Eurocentric content and practices of standardized testing.

And whereas,

test results reinforce the sense of entitlement for high scorers, the sense of worthlessness in low scorers and the sense of mediocrity for those in the middle. Since test results correlate most strongly with economic status, their use as an indicator of achievement or potential is completely invalid.

And whereas,

they introduce unhealthy levels of stress into the school environment. This is true for every single member of the school community. It contradicts any goals of reducing stress levels to improve learning. There is already enough stress built into growing up. We don’t need to add more.

And whereas,

they reduce the learning experience to mere curriculum based on standards generated by distant technocrats. We have students taking two and three math and reading classes of the most crushingly boring type of rote learning instead of art, dance, expeditionary or experiential learning etc, in order to boost test scores.

And whereas,

SPS and SEA have joined together to form race and equity teams across the district that recognize the barrier created by standardized testing and how it provides unequal results based on race and class.

And whereas,

years have passed since the WEA and the NEA launched campaigns to end toxic testing.

And whereas,

the King County NAACP resolved on April 15, 2016 to “strongly advocate for a multiple measures qualitative and quantitative community-based dashboard approaches to evaluate the success of states, district schools, teachers and students without the primary or majority focus being a high-stakes standardized exam” and to “support parents who decide to opt-out of testing as a social protest”.

And whereas,

standardized testing has and continues to degrade professionalism in our teaching corps. Therefore be it resolved that SEA call for a two year moratorium on all standardized testing, at the district, state, and federal levels and to open a public forum along with SPS on the best way to assess our students. Teachers will not be compelled to assess their students using any 3rd party assessment tools. Be it further resolved that SEA will work with SPS to create waivers. Waivers may be needed during the moratorium for students barred from graduation due to state testing requirements, schools denied Title 1 funding and other reasons. Ongoing work to delink high school graduation requirements from testing will continue.

The moratorium will be considered a period of action research which will inform strategic planning for the authentic assessment of Seattle students. “