Upcoming Events

September 27
K-5 Curriculum Night
6:00pm – 7:30pm
STEM K-8

MOD Pizza Fundraiser
All Day
Bring a copy of the flyer with you and MOD will donate 20% of food & beverage sales to our school. Only valid at West Seattle location. Phone, Dine-in, or take-out orders. Not valid on online orders. Flyers available at school or download and print.
MOD Pizza
4755 Fauntleroy Way SW

September 28
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

September 30
STEM K-8 Equity Committee Meeting
3:00pm
All STEM parents/guardians are invited to meet with Marissa Chavez to learn about the school’s Equity Committee.
High Point Library Meeting Room
3411 SW Raymond St.

October 4
Middle School Curriculum Night
6:00pm – 7:30pm
STEM K-8

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) announced last week that district-wide fall enrollment is lower than anticipated, necessitating fall staffing adjustments. STEM K-8 is affected by a .5 FTE reduction in staffing. Our circumstances were driven by lower middle school student enrollment than anticipated. Last spring STEM was projected to increase enrollment in all middle school grades. Our limited middle school history reflects stable, not increasing enrollment numbers. Apart from the addition of new grades, we maintain approximately the same number of middle school students each year (we lose a few, gain a few). The trend continued this fall. Compared to the overall SPS loss in enrollment, our enrollment remained stable.

STEM’s staffing adjustment will not affect classroom assignments or our middle school master schedule. It creates a .5 reduction to our new school intervention position filled by Anhsaly Grant. Ms. Grant will continue to be at STEM half-time supporting student intervention.

Staffing adjustments are disruptive and frustrating for staff, families and students. This year is especially challenging district-wide. Every year SPS sets aside funding to mediate enrollment changes at the school level. Unfortunately, the district’s actual enrollment for the 2018-19 school year is significantly lower than anticipated. For the first time in 10 years SPS enrollment is lower than the year before. District-wide there are 724 fewer students enrolled than were projected. District set-aside funds were not enough to cover the $7.5 million revenue loss from lower enrollment. SPS is also constrained by the projection of a significant deficit next year due to restructured state education funding. The outcome is that SPS must move staff from schools with lower-than-projected enrollment to schools that need additional teachers. SPS is not alone in having fewer students. Districts near Seattle are also experiencing lower enrollment, while districts further south have seen an increase. Reasons vary, but the cost of housing in our area compared to wages is one likely factor. The appearance of charter schools has also affected secondary enrollment. District staff are committed to analyzing and better understanding the shifts in enrollment. Enrollment planning staff will be working closely with other districts, the city and partners to produce more accurate student enrollment projections that consider new trends and variables in Seattle.

STEM K-8’s work with families to support student learning will continue to move forward. K-5 Curriculum Night/Open House is this Thursday, 9/27 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. We will introduce staff in the cafeteria and then have two, 35 minute classroom sessions. Preschool will schedule a separate family night at a later date. Middle School Curriculum Night/Open House is October 4 from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Ben Ostrom
STEM K-8 Principal

Helmets for kids at STEM 1st graders’ pop-up park on Friday.
In response to the SPS staff cuts, the STEM K-8 PTA Executive Board submitted the following letter to the SPS School Board and district staff.

To:

Denise Juneau
Flip Herndon
Leslie Harris
Rick Burke
Zachary DeWolf
Michael Tolley

JoLynn Berge
Jill Geary
Scott Pinkham
Eden Mack
Richard Best

From: Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Executive Board

Date: September 22, 2018

Subject: 0.5 Staffing Adjustment

Dear Seattle Public Schools Board Directors and District Staff:

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) staff has recommended that a 1.0 position be adjusted to a 0.5 based on "lower than projected student enrollment". The position that is being reduced coordinates school MTSS services and provides direct intervention to students in reading and math for 4-8th graders.

Our teachers are making amazing big projects and learning happen with limited budgets, in a school that is falling apart around them (please come visit before the BEX V vote*), with students who have needs varying from homelessness and poverty to learning disabilities. The lack of support from the district is constant and unrelenting. Our backpack program increased this year from 27 to 40 students. The district should be using an equity lens to close the achievement gaps. Here is a position that does exactly that. This position supports kids who need extra support with reading, during math, extra time to complete a project with adult support they don't have at home. This position does exactly what the district says it wants to be doing. It supports the students who need the most help, who are the most vulnerable, who are at the most risk. At STEM, as an option school, we are offering a different vision and curriculum than neighborhood schools, we are doing it with kids that have a higher percentage of unique unfunded learning challenges (sensory processing, spectrum needs, ADHD, etc.). Please recognize the unique needs of option schools and recognize how cuts have to be considered in the larger context of all the other challenges we are grappling with. When a cut affects MTSS-Intervention services, it affects students most needing the support.

We are asking our community to support this position because every child at STEM deserves better and encouraging them to send you communication to stop this adjustment. The Executive Committee submits this on behalf of our community, for the students and community who do not have the time, or access to computers, or are not English speakers, and for those who would be most affected by this adjustment. Every child in Seattle deserves better.

*$3,000,000,000.00 has been spent by BEX & BTA since 1995,.001% of that has been on the Boren site. There is documented backlogged maintenance and repair (BMAR) deficiencies of $15,000,000.00. Literally pieces of the ceiling fell out of the library last week.
Upcoming Events Ctd.

October 9
Support for and by People of Color
6:00pm – 8:00pm
Event recommended by STEM K-8 Advocacy Committee. Safe place for parents of color to come together to discuss education. Potluck, bring a dish! Antares Wellness Center 939 7th Ave. S. RSVP JCHHIM85@gmail.com

October 10
Superintendent Juneau’s Listening & Learning Tour
6:00pm – 8:30pm
Town hall community meeting with SPS Superintendent. Youngstown Cultural Arts Center 4408 Delridge Way SW

October 11
PTA Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Please join us! Complimentary YMCA childcare provided by the PTA
STEM Library

October 12
State in Service Day
No School

October 18
SPED@STEM Parent Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm
For all STEM SPED families. STEM Library

October 25
Harvest Festival
Time TBD
More details to come! STEM Cafeteria

October 26
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

Check out the school calendar here.

MOD Pizza Fundraiser – This Thursday!
Don’t make lunch or dinner on 9/27 – MOD Pizza is donating to STEM K-8! This fundraiser will support the annual 5th grade trip to Islandwood & other field trip scholarships. Gluten free, salads, beer, wine – PIZZA & friends! Thank you MOD Pizza for supporting public education and our community! Bring a copy of the flyer with you and MOD will donate 20% of food & beverage sales to our school! Only valid at West Seattle location on 9/27. Phone, Dine-in, or take-out orders. Not valid on online orders. Flyers available at school or download and print.
Enrichment Update

Registration is CLOSED! But please don’t hesitate to reach out this week if you haven’t had a chance to register. LOTS of classes still need volunteers. Volunteer for a class and your kiddo can attend for free!

Please e-mail enrichment@stemk8pta.org with any questions or if you’d still like to register your student(s). Classes will begin the first week of October.

Thanks! -Ashlee Lyman, STEM K-8 Enrichment Coordinator

Classes with Space:
(under minimum enrollment but will not be cancelled)
Trendy Crafts
Zoology

Classes at Risk of Cancellation:
Amelia’s Aero Club (need a lot more registrations!)
AM Carpentry
Game Development (open to 5th grade now! Was 6-8)
Sci-fi Scene Study

Cancelled Classes:
Intro to music
Mad Science
Yoga

Amelia’s Aero Club Lifts Off!

Middle school girls, don’t miss this exciting (and FREE) enrichment class! Amelia’s Aero Club is an educational initiative of The Museum of Flight, designed to inspire and nurture middle school girls in the exploration of STEA2M: Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation, Art & Mathematics. This fall, the club will take on the LEAF STEM Challenge.

The Lindbergh Electric Aircraft (LEAF) STEM Challenge is an aviation-focused engineering design challenge. We will work in small teams to design, build and fly an electric model aircraft that is able (hopefully) to successfully carry cargo on a tethered flight. This will be very much a hands-on activity! Along the way, we’ll also learn more about the science of flights, and hear from guest speakers about possible career pathways in aviation too. Further, by the end of our experience, the hope is that we will have several aircraft to bring to a competition at the Museum of Flight on the evening of Thursday, December 6.
Are you looking for ways to get involved at Stem K8?

Consider being a room parent!

What is a room parent?
- A room parent is a parent or guardian who acts as a liaison or contact person for their child’s classroom. They work closely with their classroom teacher to support classroom events; engage parents to volunteer and help organize PTA sponsored activities. Room parents are a vital part of our Stem K8 community.

What does a room parent do?
- Work with your teacher to help organize fun classroom activities and celebrations
- Coordinate volunteers for field trips and in class projects or tutelage
- Inform parents of classroom and PTA events and activities
- Develop a snack schedule
- Assist in coordinating grade level activities (Pi night, Harvest festival, etc)
- Coordinate classroom art project for the annual school auction.
- And more!

Being a room parent is a great way to get to know your child’s teachers, classmates, and other parents. If you are interested in being a room parent or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Colleen Peterson  Room Parent Coordinator, K - 3  cmgpeterson@gmail.com
Brynn Chadwick  Room Parent Coordinator, 4 - 8  brynncc@comcast.net

We still need room parents for the following teachers:

Kindergarten: Morgan; Reid
1st Grade: Brodland; Burke; Ollerenshaw
2nd Grade: Lortz; Sorrentino
3rd Grade: Colby; Williamson
4th Grade: Castelli
5th Grade: Graves; McGavick; Clevering
7th Grade: Kinc; Paulson
8th Grade: Parsley; Bleecker

*We have all three 6th grade room parents. Thank you!
Staffing Cuts and Unreliable School Buses!

Notes from a Community Conversation with School Board Director Leslie Harris. 9/22 at Southwest Library.

By Shawna Murphy, PTA Member at Large

Many in attendance, including four parents from the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 community.

Asked about staffing cuts being made in the West Seattle area, as well as middle schools and high schools their students are attending beyond their neighborhoods. Director Harris is very committed to protecting some of the district’s most vulnerable students at Interagency, Nova and World School from the staffing cuts that have been authorized. Leslie said she cannot offer a solution for the cuts today but urges us to write our new Superintendent Denise Juneau at Superintendent@seattleschools.org and cc the Directors at spsdirectors@seattleschools.org and let them know how these cuts affect our students. The Director also urged all of us to contact our legislators to let them know how the levy cap and new funding formulas are creating huge budget deficits for our district.

Many parents also came to share their stories about how unreliable the bus services from First Student are this year. Director Harris said that First Student has 40 new hires who are currently training and will be driving routes beginning October 1. She also said they have established a task force for planning around the viaduct closure coming January 11. At her next community meeting Director Harris will have Pegi McEvoy from SPS Operations in attendance to hear concerns. That meeting will be October 20, from 3-5 at the Delridge Library. In the meantime she asks that people who have experienced chronic late buses send emails to transportation@seattleschools.org and cc Leslie.harris@seattleschools.org. Director Harris said to be sure to include facts that can be verified such as bus number, school, how late, how many times, etc.

Lastly, Director Harris invited us to pack out Superintendent Juneau’s Listening & Learning Tour here in West Seattle on October 10 (see below for details).

When: Wednesday, 10 October. 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Where: Youngstown Cultural Arts Center
4408 Delridge Way SW

Town Hall for Students: 6:00pm - 6:40 pm.
SW Regional Town Hall: 7:00pm - 8:30 pm.

Facebook event page.
Tour Details.

BEX V – Louisa Boren STEM K-8 - Advocacy

BEX V is one of the upcoming Seattle Public School Capital Levies. It’s being proposed for $1,000,000,000 and will be on the Feb. 2019 Ballot. But none of that $1,000,000,000 is being allocated to the Boren building. Our building was built in 1962, and many of its systems (including water pipes and boiler) still date from the Kennedy era.

At the bottom of this Owl Post, you’ll find an information sheet put together by STEM 2nd grade parent Randy White. It’s full of details of how YOU can advocate for the Boren building to be included in the BEX V
Library Volunteers Needed

The library would love to have Parent Volunteer Shelvers to assist in getting our thousands of checked out books back on the shelves each month.

Times that we could use assistance are 8:35am – 3:25pm M, T, T, Fri and Weds 8:35am - 2:00pm.

If you can help out once a week or once a month, we would really love this invaluable support.

Please contact Mary Bannister at mebannister@seattleschools.org

Thanks!

STEM K-8 Equity Committee Meeting – September 30

In addition to the times the Equity Committee meets with staff on campus, I will also set up a few additional times when parents might be more available to come. The next one is coming up.

When: Sunday, September 30.
Hour: 3:00pm
Location: High Point Library Meeting Room (3411 SW Raymond St, Seattle, WA 98126)

We’ll be talking about the following:
- Background on the committee, what we’ve done, what we’re trying to do
- Ways to make STEM more inclusive to parents of color

Feel free to email me for more information: chavezmarissa@gmail.com

Marissa Chavez

El Comité de Equidad de STEM invita a los padres a venir a nuestra próxima reunión.

Cuándo: Domingo, 30 de septiembre.
Hora: 3:00 p.m.
Lugar: La biblioteca de High Point (3411 SW Raymond St, Seattle, WA 98126)

Hablaremos de lo siguiente:
- Antecedentes del comité, lo que hemos hecho, lo que estamos tratando de hacer
- Formas de hacer que STEM sea más inclusivo para los padres de color

Por favor envíe un correo electrónico si tiene alguna pregunta: chavezmarissa@gmail.com

Marissa Chavez
SPED@STEM Meeting

SPED@STEM Parent Meeting for All SPED Families
Thursday, October 18 6:30pm-8:00pm

At the end of last school year the PTA decided to create a support group for families with Special Education Students at STEM. The group was started out of a desire to create increased visibility and connection in a building that quietly serves so many students with special needs. Being invisible or not connected to the STEM community as a whole does not serve anyone’s needs. Special Education can mean that your student has a 504 for accommodations in their classroom, is a student in our Distinct classroom, gets services and support through Access or the Resource Room or you are a family that is seeking Special Education support and needs guidance and support from families that have navigated the process. All are welcome to come and learn and gain support.

Our first meeting of the year will take place on Thursday, October 18 in the Library at STEM, 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Please join us.

Principal Ostrom or AP Kim Noble will join us for the first half of the meeting to talk about staffing and answer any questions families have as we start a new school year. We will hold regular meetings throughout the school year and bring guests who can answer questions or provide helpful guidance to our group. Families navigating SPED resources are addressing a diverse set of needs and we are open to any suggestions on topics or issues we can address together.

Please consider joining our closed FB group to keep up to date on meetings and seek support online. For questions please contact Rebecca Garcia rebecca_garcia@mac.com or Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com
Annual Chinook Book Fundraiser!

Support our Fundraiser Right from your Phone! 40 paper copies also available!

This year we have a new easy way for you to support STEM: purchase a mobile subscription to Chinook Book using our special fundraising link!

Don't have the Chinook Book App yet? Tap the link below from your phone to activate a 7-day FREE TRIAL of the Chinook Book app. If you like it, you can purchase an annual app subscription for $15 and enjoy a whole year of savings at local, sustainable places you love like Caffé Ladro, Cupcake Royale, Seattle Children's Museum, Elliot Bay Brewery & Curious Kids Stuff. Plus! Your subscription will continue to benefit our fundraiser year after year as long as we continue to fundraise with Chinook Book.

Already have the app? First make sure you have updated to the most recent version of the app. Then tap the link below. It will redirect you to the App Store. Tap “open” and it will take you directly to the payment page with our partner ID already loaded in so your purchase will benefit our fundraiser.

Ready?
Tap here from your phone to purchase your Chinook Book mobile app subscription and benefit our fundraiser: https://chinook.co/k8stemelementaryschool

Don't have email on your phone? Don't worry! Just go to chinookbookmobile.com to download the app. Go to the "Purchase Full Access” screen on the "More” menu to pay for your subscription and enter the Partner ID “k8stemelementaryschool” to have your purchase benefit our fundraiser.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Robin Graham
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Fundraising Coordinator / robingraham26@gmail.com

P.S. If you would prefer to purchase a print book ($25) you can! Paper copies (which all come with a 12-month app subscription) will be available in the office, or you can contact me via e-mail or fill out a paper envelope (available in the office) and leave it in the PTA mailbox & I will get you a copy. Thanks for supporting our fundraiser!
Open Library

The Boren Library is open for browsing, check-out, and returning books before school every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:35am to 8:50am.

This Week’s Ultimate Schedule

Saturday, September 29

STEM Owls 6th vs. Madison 6th
10:30am Ingraham High School #2

STEM Owls B vs. JAMS B
1:30pm Franklin High School #2

STEM Owls C vs. Orca K-8 C
3:00pm Ingraham High School #2

Join the new STEM K-8 Ultimate Facebook group, created by STEM 8th grade parent Debbie Atkinson. It’s a good way to communicate about snacks, carpooling and anything else related to our Ultimate players.
BEX V - Boren STEM K-8 - Advocacy

What:
* BEX V is one of the upcoming Seattle Public School Capital Levies
* It is being proposed for ~$1,000,000,000 and will be on the Feb. 2019 Ballot
* BEX I-IV have allocated $0 to the Boren building..
* There are documented, backlogged maintenance and repair (BMAR) deficiencies for the Boren building that houses STEM K-8 that add up to ~$15,000,000

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<th>General Disrepair</th>
<th>$1,672,000</th>
<th>Priority 3</th>
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<td>Upgrade Domestic Water System</td>
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<tr>
<td>(55yo galvanized pipes)</td>
<td>$690,193</td>
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<td>Upgrade Sewer</td>
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<td>Priority 1b</td>
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<td>Replace Heating System</td>
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<td>Upgrade Electrical Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upgrade Lighting</td>
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<td>Classroom AV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound system</td>
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Why:
* $3,000,000,000 has been spent from the BEX and BTA school levies since 1995.
* Only $3,000,000 (.001%) has been spent on the Louisa Boren building since 1995. (BTA III , 2011-12)

* 1% of SPS students use this facility
* BEX Capital Levies only come up every six years and The Louisa Boren STEM Building has not been included in any of them
* 2014 MENG Analysis Identified 15 Seattle Public Schools with Maintenance Backlogs >$10mm, 14 of those received funding in either BEX or BTA IV
* Boren STEM did not receive any funds
* Boren STEM K-8 may be left out of the funding again.
* Only Option 1b contains any substantial funds for the school’s upkeep (if 1% of $4bln was spent on our building it would suggest our scholars and a public facility are due about $37mm in capital improvements)

Where/When:
Next Community Meetings
Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:30–8 p.m.: Mercer International MS lunchroom
Monday, Sept. 24, 6:30–8 p.m.: Roosevelt High School lunchroom
Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6:30–8 p.m.: Meany Middle School lunchroom

Community Meeting Slides
Ingraham HS 9/12/18
Timeline for Action:

**Sept. 26, 2018:** School Board Work Session on Levies - refining project list and costs

**October 2018:** School Board weighs community feedback and staff recommendations to develop final levy proposals

**November 2018:** School Board votes final levy proposals and authorizes putting them on the February 2019 ballot

**February 2019:** Special election for the 2019 Operations Levy and the BEX V Capital Levy

Ways to get involved:
- Attend a meeting
- Write an email
- Make a call
- Share with others

Who to contact:

**Richard Best**  
Director, Capital Projects and Planning  
rlbest@seattleschools.org  
206-252-0644

**Flip Herndon**  
Associate Superintendent for Capital, Facilities, Enrollment Planning  
ltherndon@seattleschools.org

**Leslie Harris**  
Dist. VI Board Member  
(President)  
leslie.harris@seattleschools.org  
206-475-1000

**Eden Mack**  
Board Member  
eden.mack@seattleschools.org

**Denise Juneau**  
Superintendent  
superintendent@seattleschools.org  
206-252-0180
Informational Links:

Planning Process

Aug. 22nd Meeting
Minutes
Slide Deck

West Seattle Blog Story 9/7/2018

Old BEX Data
https://bex.seattleschools.org/

Old BTA
https://bta.seattleschools.org/

2014 MENG Analysis
Facilities Master Plan Report

Questions or Discussion?
Randy White, PTA Member
Parent of a fabulous 2nd Grader at Louisa Boren STEM K-8
jrandallwhite@gmail.com