Upcoming Events

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
Event recommended by STEM K-8 Advocacy Committee.
Town hall community meeting with SPS Superintendent.
Youngstown Cultural Arts Center
4408 Delridge Way SW

October 11
PTA Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Guest speaker: School Counselor, Danielle Blechert. Complimentary 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

The STEM K-8 PTA gives Mrs. Bannister, our amazing librarian, $10,000 every year to support the library.

Books about women in science, books about using big imaginations, books that have kids who are representative of a student’s community, books that have kids that look like them in it - it means engaging and meaningful reading. Books for beginning readers, books for Middle School readers - books that are not paid for by the district and would not get on the shelves if the PTA did not donate to the library. Books that Mrs. Bannister carefully selects to supplement classroom learning and student interests - like a recent second grade unit on fairy tales (and deconstructing fairy tales)!

Help us buy more books that can't be put down and support the lifelong love of reading.

We need $32,555 to make our 2018 Direct Give goal of $37,000. EVERY dollar helps EVERY student at STEM K-8.
Upcoming Events Ctd.

November 3
Karaoke Dance Party
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Come karaoke, dance, play games, and get out of the rain with your favorite owls. Kids must be with an adult. Snacks & drinks available for donations. STEM community only.
Highland Park Improvement Club
1116 SW Holden

November 7
Flu Shots Available at School
8:50am – 3:25pm
No insurance needed. Register here.
STEM K-8

Check out the school calendar here.

I climbed the tree to see the world.

STEM student artwork from last fall
A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

The STEM K-8 PTA Direct Give Campaign has begun! These contributions make it possible for the PTA to support exceptional learning experiences for STEM students. The Direct Give provides hundreds of STEM books, additional technology, tools, construction materials, scientific instruments, software, and supports vital parts of our program such as Project Based Learning. Funds are used to provide staff with additional planning, training, classroom resources, and support. Please donate to the STEM K-8 Direct Give at whatever level you are able.

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us for the Middle School Open House last week. It’s an important opportunity to meet teachers, get information on how our middle school classes work, and figure out how to support your children.

One important component of STEM K-8’s programs at every grade level is Project Based Learning. We began this year with an extra whole staff professional development day focused on common definitions and practices for PBL. In conjunction with our work with PBL Consulting©, STEM K-8 is using the PBL definition below:

Project Based learning is a methodology of teaching and learning in which students respond to real-world challenges, problems, controversies, scenarios, and simulations through a process of focused, student-influenced inquiry with the goals of:
1. Genuine student engagement
2. Mastery of academic learning outcomes
3. Development of 21st century competencies
4. Production of tangible outcomes

STEM staff agreed that high quality PBL contains the following characteristics:

1. Academic Learning Outcomes
   The implementation of the project is modeled off of a method of inquiry used in the adult world such as the scientific method, the historical method, design thinking, the engineering design process, a process for problem solving, etc.

2. 21st Century Competencies
   Projects are initiated and focused with either an “essential question” that promotes enduring understandings and/or by a “driving question” – an open-ended, concrete, and easily understandable question that is motivating to students and answered by students at the end of the project through their tangible outcomes. Teachers and/or students can write focusing question(s).

3. Tangible Outcomes
   The project is grounded in a problem, controversy, scenario, simulation, current event, challenge or issue that is authentic, engaging and/or meaningful to students.

4. Focused Inquiry
   The implementation of the project is modeled off of a method of inquiry used in the adult world such as the scientific method, the historical method, design thinking, the engineering design process, a process for problem solving, etc.

5. Driving Question
   Projects are initiated and focused with either an “essential question” that promotes enduring understandings and/or by a “driving question” – an open-ended, concrete, and easily understandable question that is motivating to students and answered by students at the end of the project through their tangible outcomes. Teachers and/or students can write focusing question(s).

6. Engaging Context
   The project is grounded in a problem, controversy, scenario, simulation, current event, challenge or issue that is authentic, engaging and/or meaningful to students.

7. Student Voice and Choice
   Students are given opportunities (depending on age and experience with PBL) to express (1) voice – their opinion, perspective, idea or answer in the distinctive style or tone of their choosing and (2) choice – selecting between two or more product options or making key decisions about how, when, where and with whom they will conduct project work.
To help lower the cost for the 5th graders’ trip to Islandwood, we’d like to invite you and your family to a fundraiser! Come karaoke, dance, play games, and get out of the rain with your favorite owls.

Kids MUST be with an adult.

Snacks & drinks will be available for donations. Since this is not a PTA event but hosted by a parent, we can have and serve alcohol at the event.

If you want to help sign up here:

Hosted by: Megan Thorberg
Contact 206-718-9416 / meanmegan100@hotmail.com

*STEM community only due to liquor license law / insurance requirements.

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8. Drafting and Critique
Throughout the project, students are given multiple opportunities to draft, revise, improve and refine their tangible outcomes with the use of structured opportunities for critique from multiple sources – self, peers, teacher and adults.

9. Adult World Connections
Students connect with the adult world through fieldwork, authentic documents and data and/or work with organizations, experts, stakeholders and professionals.

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Ben Ostrom
STEM K-8 Principal

PTA Meeting – October 11

**When:** Thursday, October 11. 6:30pm – 8:00pm
*Where:* STEM K-8 Library
*Complimentary YMCA childcare provided by the PTA*

Please join us for this month’s PTA meeting. School Counselor Danielle Blechert will be the guest speaker.

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Karaoke Dance Party!

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STEM staff are committed to growing staff and student effectiveness in implementing PBL. We also agreed to make our Winter and Spring PBL exhibitions an opportunity to display PBL in-process rather than simply a display of final products. We’re looking forward to partnering with parents to support the continued development of PBL at STEM.

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Events Recommended by STEM K-8 PTA Advocacy Committee

OCT 9

How do we navigate power structures in schools?
How do we support each other?
What works and what hasn’t?
How do we ensure that our voices are heard?

Support For and By Parents of Color

Antares Wellness Center
6pm -8pm

Come join us as we create a safe space for parents of color to come together and share in our experiences as we begin to build support and talk about the tough issues we face as a community. This is a potluck style gathering so please bring a dish to share! Make sure to RSVP so we can accommodate accordingly.

RSVP: JCHHIM85@GMAIL.COM

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.
7th Grade Engineering

CTE students finish up engineering drawings from which they will begin building wind turbines next week. Since drawings are close to scale, each student will have the opportunity to learn power tool use while actually building something they have drawn. Be proud of your child! These drawings take four hours to produce and demand serious concentration, accuracy, and precision. They all did great work and were willing to tough it out right up to the bell.
8th Grade Geoscience

Students in Mr. Parsley’s Geoscience class practice determining the Specific Gravity (SG) of mineral samples. SG is one of many properties students employ to identify mystery minerals from Boren STEM’s marvelous rock and mineral collection.
This Week’s Ultimate Schedule

Saturday, October 13

STEM Owls 6th vs. Mercer C 6th
1:30pm Rainier Beach High School #2

STEM Owls B vs. Mercer B
3:00pm Rainier Beach High School #1

STEM Owls C vs. Eckstein 7th C
3:00pm Rainier Beach High School #2

Schedule is not final until Thursday. Check DiscNW to confirm details.

Sign up for Snack!  STEM K-8 Ultimate Facebook Group

Flu Shots

Dear Boren STEM Parents,

Flu shots will be offered at school on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 to all students, regardless of health insurance status. If you would like your student to have one on that day, please sign up at register.seattleflu.com.

If you are not able to register online, there are paper forms in the office to register your student. They should be returned to the office.

We encourage all students and their families to get flu shots, either on flu shot day or at a medical clinic or pharmacy, to increase school attendance and stay healthy through the flu season. While a flu shot doesn’t prevent all possible illnesses, it reduces the chances of contracting a more serious infection that can cause your student to miss school and spread the disease to classmates and family members.

Sincerely,

M.C. Nachtigal, ND, MSN, RN
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 School Nurse
Tel: 206-252-8457
mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org

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