Upcoming Events

November 1
Last Day to Bring in Donations for Sister Schools
Donation boxes in participating classrooms and school office. See article in this Owl Post.
STEM K-8

November 2
Hearing & Vision Screening
8:50am – 3:25pm
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th & 7th grades.
Sign up to help Nurse M.C.
STEM K-8

November 3
Owl 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.
Sign up to help.
Highland Park Improvement Club
1116 SW Holden

November 6
Picture Retake Day
STEM K-8

Book Fair Committee Meeting
7:00pm – 8:00pm
All welcome!
Uptown Espresso & Game Emporium,
3845 Delridge Way SW

November 7
Flu Shots Available at School
8:50am – 2:10pm
No insurance needed.
Register here.
STEM K-8

The PTA still needs $15,120 to meet our Direct Give goal by Oct 31.

We want ALL kids to learn these skills. Help us fund the PTA budget so we can fund all the amazing learning at STEM K-8.

Good work 7th graders Olivia & Hailey - that was literally "down to the wire" Friday afternoon!
Upcoming Events Ctd.

November 8
PTA Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Please join us!
Complimentary YMCA childcare
provided by the PTA.
STEM K-8 Library

November 12
Veteran’s Day
No School

November 19 - 21
Parent/Teacher Conferences
No School
Families schedule a time to meet
with their student’s teacher(s).
STEM K-8

November 22 - 23
Thanksgiving Break
No School

November 26 - 30
All for Books Week
Collect spare change for teachers
to build their classroom libraries at
the Book Fair.
STEM K-8

November 28
Multicultural Night
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Potluck, live entertainment, cultural
games, activities, world market &
student performances!
STEM K-8

November 30
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

December 4 - 7
6th Annual Book Fair Blizzard
Schedule TBD
STEM K-8

December 4
Willy Wonka and the Chocolate
Factory Performance
7:00pm
STEM K-8 Cafeteria

We’ve raised $21,880 and have 3 days left to raise $15,120.
Every single dollar helps.
How can YOU help make STEM electrifying?

STEM K-8 PTA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed
by law. Tax ID#: 45-5313405
A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Once again the week begins with pain created by hate and violence. When the deluge of bad news overwhelms our capacity for empathy, it’s easy to turn towards alienation and avoidance. Sometimes we find refuge in revisiting the details of safety plans and trying to rebuild our sense of security. Those responses are important, but more vital is staying open to the hurt of others and building understanding, solidarity, and community.

Melinda Anderson, an advocate for race and equity, wrote in Teaching Tolerance

“The notion of care is the root of racial proficiency. I want to know who you are. You’re not fully caring for kids if you don’t know them. So race is something that we talk about. Culture is something that we talk about. Understanding that difference is an amazing, powerful plus that, if we nurture it, makes us all smarter than we can be separately.”

Whether addressing differences of race, gender identity, religion, culture, ethnicity, or even political belief, we demonstrate care by wanting to know who people are and talking about it. At STEM K-8 and in Seattle Public Schools we actively reject the Department of Health and Human Services’ efforts to define gender to exclude trans, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people.

Ben Ostrom
Principal
STEM K-8

A MESSAGE TO TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-EXPANSIVE YOUTH:

We see you.
We support you.
We stand with you.

LGBTQ Families Dinner

Seattle Public Schools presents...

Thursday, November 8th, 2018
from 6:00pm-8:00pm at
Meany Middle School

301 21st Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112
Cost: Free! Dinner Provided!

RSVP with your party count to:
brham@seattleschools.org

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Affirming Our Trans & Non Binary STEM Community

The New York Times reported last week that the Department of Health and Human Services is looking to redefine gender in a way that would no longer be inclusive of transgender and non binary people.


On behalf of the GGLOW OWLS and Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA, we would like to be very clear that our school community stands in support, recognition and affirmation of our Trans and Non Binary students, staff and families. Our PTA strives to create and nurture a safe and inclusive environment where all individuals’ identities are honored and respected.


GGLOW OWLS (Genderqueer / gender-expansive, Gay, Lesbian or Whatever) started here two years ago as a project of our PTA to not only celebrate Pride Month, but to also provide LGBTQ+ books for our classrooms and libraries. Having these books in our spaces affirms student identity, teaches about family diversity and raises good allies here at STEM K-8. If you would like to get involved in GGLOW OWLS please contact PTA parent Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com.
Affirming Our Trans & Non Binary STEM Community: A Parent’s Letter

Dear STEM family,

I wanted to share with you the difference the wonderful STEM community has made for our daughter Jude who is transgender and for us as her family. When Jude asked me to buy her first skirt at the age of 8 the year before she was enrolled at STEM, I was scared. While her father, my wife and I have had no doubt the right thing to do was support her in who she is, as a parent you still worry. Will my child be bullied? Will she be called names or be physically assaulted at school? Knowing that she has a hard time living in a body she doesn’t identify with having to face those issues makes it all the more difficult for her to be free in who she is. We knew the horrifying statistics about what it’s like for transgender folks to not receive support from their families and communities. We knew that the World Health Organization and so many other health organizations back the scientific evidence that supporting transgender people in being who they are is best for their well being. Yet, I was still scared.

I will tell you what made us feel better as her parents and what has helped Jude flourish in her identity. That she has been supported 100% by the teachers and staff, that helped her transition socially by using correct pronouns. That she has a solid group of friends at school who accept her. That Jude can come to school and use the girls bathroom. That she has the support of the PTA advocacy committee and fellow parents. That they threw a GGLOW party for the LGBTQ community to celebrate their identity. That Jude can come to school feeling safe and loved.

We know a lot of kids don’t have this privilege so we can’t thank you enough for your support and it’s safe to say I’m speaking on behalf of the parents of all the trans, non-binary, and queer kids at STEM.

We started Gender Family Alliance to support parents and caregivers of transgender and non-binary youth so we can lift each other up during difficult times like these when there are those who seek to erase the identity of our child and others like her. We will stand together in solidarity to ensure that transgender and non-binary people will never be erased.

Thank you, thank you, endless thanks to you!

Autumn Brown
Some of the classrooms at STEM have chosen to participate in the Sister Schools program. Through pictures and stories, students learn about the overwhelming difficulties faced by children in Ugandan schools and orphanages. Following the presentation, a supply drive will be organized, and all children are encouraged to participate in ways personally meaningful to them. Both NEW and LIKE NEW items are accepted. Below is a list of items in order of importance that we will be collecting.

**Primary Needs**
School Supplies: Pencils, pens, paper, pencil sharpeners, erasers, chalk, three-ring binders, spiral notebooks.


Sports Equipment: Soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, football, playground balls.

**Secondary Needs**
Arts and Crafts: Crayons, colored paper, glue, scissors, rulers, coloring books, paint sets.

Health and First Aid: Toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, Band-Aids, sewing supplies.

**Other Needs**
Clothing: Shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, hats, raincoats, socks, shoes, light sweaters and jackets.

Toys: Board games, puzzles, toy figures, cars, etc..

**Please drop off donations in your child’s classroom.**

Participating classrooms: all kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade classes. Plus Ms. Lortz (2nd grade) and Ms. Paulson (7th grade).

*If you’d like to be involved but your child’s class is not participating, please drop off donations in the school office.

*Photos Courtesy: Sister Schools*

The last day to bring in donations for Sister Schools is November 1.
Attn: Middle School Families – Schedule Your Parent/Teacher Conferences

6th Grade Student Led Conferences - November 19 & 20.

SIGN UP HERE

With each slot, there is room for three different families to sign up (we will do a rotation.) Please sign up for just ONE slot. On the day of your appointment, you and your student will rotate through and meet with each of the core 6th grade teachers for 10 minutes each.

Respectfully,

Deborah Giza, Travis DesAutels, and Lauren Martin
6th Grade Core Subjects Team

7th & 8th Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences - November 13, 14, 19 & 20

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming 7th and 8th grade conferences. To allow us to meet with all 110 families, the conferences are all 10 minutes in length with all core instruction teachers that your academic sees throughout their week.

Please only one spot per student.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1) CLICK HERE to see our SignUp on SignUp.com.

2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Heidi Paulson hlpaulson@seattleschools.org to be signed up manually.

First Book Fair Committee Meeting – November 6

A Blizzard of Books is heading our way December 4 - 7, and we need volunteers! There are all kinds of ways to help out including planning, advertising, decorating and playing famous mouse detective Geronimo Stilton!

Please join us for the first Book Fair Committee meeting, When: Tuesday, November 6, 7:00pm – 8:00pm Where: Uptown Espresso & Game Emporium, 3845 Delridge Way SW

Contact Book Fair Chairperson, Helen Green for more information westseattlegreens@gmail.com
Owl Karaoke & Dance Party!

**When:** Saturday, November 3. 6:00pm – 9:00pm  
**Where:** Highland Park Improvement Club  
1116 SW Holden

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.

Multicultural Night & Potluck

**When:** Wednesday, November 28. 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
**Where:** STEM K-8

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Equity Team is happy to announce the 2nd Multicultural Night at STEM.

We will have food, live entertainment, cultural games, activities, a world market, and student performances.

We are looking for food donations from STEM family restaurants and neighborhood restaurants.

Bring a dish to share - as this will be a potluck style evening and an artifact to share.

We are looking for families who are interested in hosting/teaching a game related to their culture.

Families can let their teachers know or email Anisha at: aknoriega@seattleschools.org.
Girls on the Run – Coaches Needed!

This spring, Girls on the Run is coming to STEM! Girls on the Run is a 10-week enrichment program for 3rd-5th grade girls. Twice a week, girls meet for 90 minutes (30 minute lesson on leadership, confidence, etc. and 60 min of running). At the end, they complete a celebratory 5k.

We are looking for STEM parents, guardians or family members who would like to volunteer to coach (you don’t have to be a runner). It starts in March. It’s a really powerful program and so meaningful to see the girls grow in confidence and strength.

CLICK HERE for a description of what coaching entails.

Please email PTA Enrichment Coordinator, Ashlee Lyman enrichment@stemk8pta.org if you would like to volunteer.

Attn: 8th Grade Families – Center School Open House

The Center School is having an open house on Thursday, November 15, 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Armory Loft, 305 Harrison Street on the Seattle Center campus. Sign-in and refreshments begin at 6:00 pm.

The Center School is a small, arts-focused, arts-integrated public high school available to students from any neighborhood. While our class selections are not as numerous as those of larger schools, our curriculum provides depth and hands-on rigor, with a college prep track for each and every student. Our great science program includes AP Biology and AP Environmental Science. Our multi-faceted visual arts program includes AP Studio Art. We have wonderful programs in theater, creative writing/poetry, as well as film-making and photography. The Center School also has an exemplary social justice program. Our students excel in an award winning Model UN program. The Center School is a gem among Seattle Public High Schools!

We are a great choice for your graduating 8th graders who are artistically inclined and want intellectual rigor. The Center School is perfect for students who prefer a high school experience out of the mainstream that provides the structure and support needed for success. Talented students who might be uninspired by other schools really thrive here.

Being situated in the Armory, in the heart of Seattle Center, The Center School has many arts and cultural organizations as neighbors. We love to build partnerships and learning opportunities with these unique resources and our students benefit from this rich environment.

We want your students and their families to know about The Center School and what it offers that sets it apart from other high schools. Please contact us if you would like a student representative or two to speak to a student group at your school. We can also arrange for a parent to speak to a parent group. And we look forward to seeing you at our open house in the Armory Loft, (up the stairs from the food court), on Thursday, November 15 - sign-in and refreshments start at 6:00 pm, tour from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Thank you,
Roxanne Duniway
proud parent at The Center School
rduniway@msn.com
This Week’s Ultimate Schedule

**Saturday, November 3**

STEM Owls 6th vs. Whitman Wildcats 6B  
7:30am Ingraham High School #N1

STEM Owls B vs. Broadview Thomson B  
9:00am Ingraham High School #N1

STEM Owls C vs. JAMS C  
10:30am Ingraham High School #N1

Schedule is not final until Thursday. Check [DiscNW](#) to confirm details.

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

Congratulations Mrs. B!

The STEM K-8 PTA would like to congratulate our Librarian Mary Bannister for the renewal of her WEA National Board Certified Teacher certification. It is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education!

Lost & Found

Lost and Found is piling up with jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts and lunch boxes. Please have your students find their lost items. It will be cleared out soon and leftover items will be donated to charity.

Order Chinook Books [Here](#)