Upcoming Events

December 3-12
STEM Enrichment Minis Registration Extended
Mini one-day enrichment classes in between the regular enrichment session. See this Owl Post for details.

December 12
Auction Committee Meeting
7:00pm-9:00pm
Uptown Espresso Delridge

December 13
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
All welcome! Complimentary YMCA childcare provided by the PTA.

STEM K-8 Library

December 20
Winter Solstice Music Festival
6:00pm
A wonderful night of musical performances by the STEM K-8 Band and Choir.
Performers arrive no later than 5:45pm.

STEM K-8 Cafeteria

December 21
Last Day of School
1-Hour Early Release

December 22-January 6
Winter Break No School

Check out the school calendar here.

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

A shout out to some great STEM performances during the last week. Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory participants put on a great show on Tuesday night!

Amelia's Aero Club flew five planes last week at the Museum of Flight Lindbergh Electric Airplane Flight (LEAF) challenge. Special guest Erik Lindbergh (pictured), grandson of famous aviator Charles Lindbergh, was impressed with their efforts and energy, and interviewed the team for an upcoming promotional video about the LEAF challenge. The girls took home the Spirit Award, and also produced the 1st & 3rd winners in the middle school division – Corrina Tanabe and Mai Li Jorgensen, congratulations!

Congrats are also in order for the STEM K-8 Robotics Engineers, who participated in their first tournament of this school year on Saturday. Becket and Estelle received the VexIQ Challenge Judge's Award. Jane and Lizzie received the Design Award, allowing them to advance to the state tournament!

It’s time to start thinking about school levies. SPS will ask voters on February 12 to consider two critical levies—one to fund day-to-day operations and one to fund construction to add capacity and rebuild aging schools. Our building is on the Building Excellence Levy to have its ancient HVAC system replaced. School funding in WA continues to face critical issues, even as the state has increased school resources. There is a one-page school levies summary at the end of this week’s Owl Post—it’s time to start raising awareness about what’s going to be on the ballot!

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
Book Fair Raises $2767!

We hope you enjoyed our 6th annual Book Fair Blizzard. We raised a grand total of $2767 in Scholastic Dollars, which will be used to buy new books for classroom libraries and the STEM K-8 Library. Scholastic Dollars also pay for all sorts of library items including headphones, bean bags, comfy chairs, rugs, and bookcases.

A huge thank you to our wonderful Book Fair volunteers! Including Clifford the Big Red Dog. We were expecting Geronimo Stilton but Clifford came instead and was a big hit!

The proceeds from our eight Book Fairs - six Book Fair Blizzards and two spring Book Fairs (Story Laboratory and Book Fair Fiesta) have enabled us to buy lots of new books for our school!

Helen Green
Book Fair Chairperson

Winter Solstice Music Festival – Updated Information for 5th Graders

When: Thursday, December 20. 6:00pm
Where: STEM Cafeteria

We are looking forward to a wonderful night of musical performances by STEM band and choir students.

Performers should arrive no later than 5:45pm. For those students who will not have transportation back to school at that time, there will be supervision here at STEM so that they can stay at school instead of “dashing” home and “dashing” back to school.

Middle School Band Students: This is a REQUIRED performance used as assessment.
5th Grade Band Students: 5th grade students are invited to perform but performance is not required.

For Middle School and 5th Grade Band and Choir the appropriate “concert” dress is:

white shirt/blouse and black pants/slacks/skirt *or* all-black dress (full length or to the knee)

black dress shoes (no sneakers)

Please, no colors, patterns, or stripes.

If students don’t have concert dress at home, they or their parent/guardian can contact Jody Hapgood in the school office, jahapgood@seattleschools.org, for access to the PTA’s Uniform Closet.

Dr. Matt Okun
Boren STEM K-8
Instrumental Music
MTSS Interventionist
206-252-8462
The STEM K-8 Giving Garland

There’s still time to donate to the STEM K-8 Giving Garland. In support of our student community that needs extra support during the holiday season (for groceries or gifts) we are collecting gift cards *in any amount to any place*. This allows our families to decide how they can best support their family’s personal needs, so cards for groceries, toys, clothing - anything is appreciated. Please mark the amount on the card and leave it unwrapped. **Bring cards to the school office by 12/14.**

Anything STEM families donate will be shared with our friends at our local title one community school Sanislo Elementary, located just up the hill from STEM. So if we bring in $500 in gift cards we will give $250 to families at Sanislo. Many families at both schools need support, so please share this message outside of the STEM community. Gift cards can be mailed to: 5950 Delridge Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106.

Counselor’s Corner - Holiday Resource Support

Here is a fantastic list of holiday resources for families in need. It includes free holiday dinners, events and gifts. It’s too big to include in the Owl Post so please [CLICK HERE](#) to read it on the PTA website, where you can also download it. I have hard copies available at school. The first few on the list don’t cover our area, but scroll down for resources for the Seattle area and all eligible families. The free holiday activities section is worth a look for everyone!

Danielle Blechert
pronouns: (she, her, hers)
School Counselor
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
206-252-8509

3rd Graders Help Celebrate the Work of Willard Brown

Last Thursday, STEM K-8 3rd graders helped Willard Brown celebrate being honored as a Green-Duwamish Champion. Brown was awarded the title for his work transforming a Seattle City Light substation site into the **Delridge Wetlands Natural Area**. You can read the story and see more photos on the [West Seattle Blog](#).
# STEM Enrichment Minis

Dear STEM families, I am excited to announce STEM Enrichment Minis! These will be mini enrichment classes in between the regular enrichment sessions. They will be one day only. See dates and times below.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

**Registration:** December 3-12, 2018. Registration for the minis will **NOT** be on 6crickets.

**Payment options:** Cash or check

Turn in this form with your selection(s) and payment to the office between December 3rd and December 12th. **Classes will be filled on a first come, first served basis.**

Registration will not be accepted early. Payment is due at time of registration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Teacher:</th>
<th>Grade:</th>
<th>Phone#:</th>
<th>E-mail:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>STEM Enrichment Mini Class</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12/17</td>
<td>7:45-8:45am</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>MESSY MONDAY MAKERSPACE: Design, create and explore with clay, trinkets, and treasures w/ Schmick! 20 students maximum</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12/17</td>
<td>3:40-5:10pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>OIL PAINTING WITH DES: Explore impressionist style painting with oil pastels. We will briefly look at what impressionism is, then choose a subject matter, then make it our own! 20 students maximum</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12/19</td>
<td>2:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>K-5</td>
<td>ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS: G’day, Matel! Come interact with animals from the Australian Outback including a wallaby, sugar gliders, bearded dragons, snakes and more! 15 students maximum.</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 12/20</td>
<td>3:40-4:40pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>MODE INTRO TO MUSIC: We will sing songs, explore instruments and have fun with music! All levels are welcome, but we encourage students with little to no experience to get them comfortable in a music setting. 15 students maximum.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12/21</td>
<td>7:45-8:45am</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>FRIZZLED FRIDAY FUN – MAKERSPACE: Design, create and explore with clay, trinkets, and treasures w/ Schmick! 20 students maximum</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12/21</td>
<td>2:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>K-5</td>
<td>BASKETBALL SKILLS AND DRILLS: Learn the basics of basketball with Coach A. We’ll have baskets of fun while learning basketball fundamentals. 30 students maximum</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ashlee Lyman, Enrichment Coordinator  
[enrichment@stemk8pta.org](mailto:enrichment@stemk8pta.org)  

TOTAL: $
STEM K-8 School Tours & Open Houses

Know any families interested in joining the STEM K-8 community? We will be hosting school tours and open houses in January and February. These tours are open to any families of children entering kindergarten through 8th grade. We host separate elementary and middle school tours to address the specific questions and concerns of each group. If you would like to volunteer to lead a tour, email tours@stemk8pta.org.

Current STEM K-8 Students are automatically assigned to STEM and do not need to re-enroll. This includes 5th graders (5th graders are automatically assigned to 6th grade at STEM). Enrollment is for new students. Unfortunately, STEM pre-school students are not automatically assigned to kindergarten at STEM. If you have a preschool student and you would like them to attend STEM, you need to apply for STEM through Open Enrollment.

Open Houses

No reservations are necessary to attend an Open House.

- Middle School Open House will take place on Thursday, January 31 from 6:00–7:00 pm
- Elementary Open House will take place on Thursday, February 7 from 6:00–7:00 pm

Elementary School Tours

For families of prospective elementary (K-5) students, tours are conducted from 9:00–10:30 am on the following dates:

- January 22
- January 25
- January 29
- February 1
- February 5

Reserve your spot on one of these tours.

Middle School Tours

For families of prospective middle school (6-8) students, tours are conducted from 10:15–11:45 am on the following dates:

- January 29
- February 1

Reserve your spot on one of these tours.
Stay Connected

PTA Website – all things PTA (become a member, volunteer, shop and earn, how YOU can be involved).

STEM K-8 school website – our SPS school website (curriculum, staff details and more).

STEM K-8 Facebook

STEM PTA Twitter

Principal Ostrom’s Twitter

Principal Ostrom’s Blog

Holiday Shopping? Earn Cash for our School!

If you’re doing some shopping online don’t forget that many of your purchases can benefit our school.

Use this link to shop at Amazon, and 7% of your purchase amount will be donated to STEM. You can always find our Amazon link on the home page of the STEM PTA website. Important Note: Shopping via the direct link earns STEM much more money than using Amazon Smile, but if you don’t think you’ll remember to use the direct link every time you shop Amazon, then please select STEM K-8 as your Amazon Smile charitable organization.

Make cards, calendars, photo books and more at Shutterfly and Tiny Prints. Click on our STEM School Storefront and 13% of your purchases will be donated to our school!

First Auction Committee Meeting This Wednesday!

You’ll be in a coffee shop, it’ll be raining...it’s the perfect time to start planning the STEM K-8 Seattle-themed auction. Join Auction Chair Robin Graham at the first Auction Committee meeting. Details below. All are welcome!

Thursday, December 13
6:30pm-8:00pm
STEM Library

Complimentary childcare provided.
What’s on the February 12, 2019, ballot for Seattle Public Schools?

Seattle Public Schools will ask voters to consider renewing two critical levies—one to fund day-to-day operations and one to fund construction to add capacity and rebuild aging schools.

**1 Renewal of the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy**

- **Funding for critical day-to-day school operations,** such as additional school staff beyond what the state allocates and instructional materials.
- **Helps bridge the funding gap** between what the state funds and what Seattle students need. For instance, the state funds nine nurses per year, but the district employs 63.
- **Funding for Special Education** to ensure our 7,000 students who need special education services have the supports they need. The district spends $140 million a year for special education, but the state only funds $68 million a year.
- **Helps close the opportunity gaps** by continuing to provide programs to support our most vulnerable students.

**What is the cost for the two education levy renewals?**

The levies are not a new tax. They renew the current levies, which end after 2019. Currently, homeowners pay $1.10 per $1,000 of assessed home value (2018) for the EP&O. If approved, the levy rate would drop to $1.05. The capital levy rate of $.90 per $1,000 is the same rate as requested for BEX IV, which started in 2014.

If approved, the combined cost for both measures is:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tax rate per $1,000 of assessed home value for both levies:</th>
<th>For a house valued at $700,000, the yearly cost for Seattle Public Schools property taxes:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$1,367</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$1.78</td>
<td>$1,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$1.62</td>
<td>$1,132</td>
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</table>

**2 Renewal of the Building Excellence V (BEX V) Capital Levy**

- **Replaces or modernizes eight aging schools:** Rainier Beach High School, Mercer International Middle School, Aki Elementary, Kimball Elementary, Montlake Elementary, Northgate Elementary, John Rogers Elementary and Viewlands Elementary.
- **Adds classrooms, removes portables.**
  - Addition at West Seattle Elementary
  - Adds 1,908 new seats across the district
  - Removes 76 portables throughout the district
  - Expands Original Van Asselt to serve as an interim site
- **Improves safety and security at EVERY school.** Secure entrances and school sites, earthquake safety improvements, upgrade fire alarm systems.
- **Provides all schools equitable classroom technology and support for student learning.**
- **Plans for the future.** Funding for the design phase of future projects, including Aki Kurose Middle School and Sacajawea Elementary, and to plan for future schools.

**Why do schools need levies?**

School districts are funded through state, local and federal dollars. But there’s currently a gap between what the state funds for K-12 education and what Seattle students need. So, every three years, the district asks voters to consider renewing the operations levy. In addition, school construction is primarily funded by local voter-approved capital levies.

For more information on our levy renewals, visit: [www.seattleschools.org/levies](http://www.seattleschools.org/levies)

To learn more about our budget and why we rely on voter-approved school levies, visit: [www.seattleschools.org/budget](http://www.seattleschools.org/budget)