Upcoming Events

February 27
Afro-Indigenous Night
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Performers, vendors & activities for all. If you can, please bring an appetizer/dessert from the African Diaspora.
See this Owl Post for details.
STEM K-8

Auction Committee Meeting
7:00pm – 9:00pm
All welcome!
Uptown Espresso Delridge

March 4
National African American Parent Involvement Day
8:45am – 3:45pm
More info. in this Owl Post.
STEM K-8

March 7
PTA Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm
All welcome!
Complimentary YMCA childcare provided by the PTA.
STEM Library

March 12
Global Reading Challenge Semi-Finals
Time TBA
“Clever Peeps” will represent STEM K-8.
Seattle Public Library

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

With all the weather disruptions, followed by mid-winter break, we are excited to see students again! Fingers crossed, we should have six weeks of uninterrupted schooling!

The break didn't prevent Julie Schmick and STEM Robotics team members from participating in the WA State VEX IQ Middle School Championships held in Ellensburg over the weekend. Congratulations to Jane Howsmon and Lizzie Dresang who walked away with a State Judges Award.

National African American Parent Involvement Day, originally scheduled for February 11, is now scheduled for March 4. We are also celebrating our 1st Afro-Indigenous Night Black History Month Celebration this Wednesday, February 27 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. For more information see the Owl Post announcement.

The first round of school budget planning for 2019-20 will be hard. SPS faces a $78.5 million dollar deficit for the 2019-20 school year. After considering options, the school board found ways to cut all but $12.2 million in areas that don't affect school allocations. However, STEM will be affected by the identified reductions. K-8's will experience .5 librarian reductions and lose a supplemental .5 FTE used to support a variety of positions. Other program/staffing changes may create further impacts. We hope to see some relief later from the state legislature this spring.

Legislators have the power to change levy reductions created last year that severely impact urban districts. Seattle’s voters approved a higher levy rate if the legislature allows us to collect it. Preserving flexibility for later changes will be one priority as we move forward. Families will have an opportunity to discuss the 2019-20 school budget at the general PTA meeting on Thursday, March 7 from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
March 13
SPED@STEM Meeting
6:30pm – 7:30pm
STEM Library

Auction Committee Meeting
7:00pm – 9:00pm
All welcome!
Uptown Espresso Delridge

March 14
Pi Day
More details to come.
STEM K-8

March 20
Auction Committee Meeting
7:00pm – 9:00pm
All welcome!
Uptown Espresso Delridge

March 23
STEM Auction!
Classic Seattle
5:30pm – 11:30pm
Buy Tickets Here!
The Hall at Fauntleroy
9131 California Ave SW

March 29
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

April 8 - 12
Spring Break
No School

April 17
SPED@STEM Meeting
6:30pm – 7:30pm
STEM Library

April 26
Spirit Wear Day
STEM K-8

Check out the school calendar here.

PTA Advocates to Keep FT Librarian Position

The PTA is submitting a letter to the Seattle Public School Board and WSS Work Group this week to advocate for restoration of the .5 librarian position at STEM and all schools impacted in the district. The PTA Advocacy Committee will host a table at Afro-Indigenous Night, Wednesday, February 27. Please help us gather signatures in support of full time access to our library with a full time librarian at STEM.

In addition, there will be continued advocacy as we learn more about how our school will be impacted by the loss of the supplemental .5 FTE.

“Clever Peeps” to Represent STEM K-8 in Global Reading Challenge Semi-Finals

Congratulations for a great Global Reading Challenge In-School Competition on February 15. We had 70 students participate on teams this year!

Special Congratulations to the Clever Peeps (Austin, Beckett, Carmen, Isaac, James, Lucy & Otto) from Room 105 who will represent STEM at the Global Reading Challenge Semi-Finals at Seattle Public Library on Tuesday, March 12.

Mary Bannister
STEM K-8 Librarian

READ! READ! READ! READ! READ!
Afro-Indigenous Night
A BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Wednesday February 27, 2019 at
STEM K-8 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Featuring:
Todo Folklore Cubano
You Grow Girl
Angola Capoeira Foundation
Africa Town Seattle
C3H Polynesian Dancers
Detective Cookie
Henna
Hella Black Books
Black History/Cultural Vendors
Live Street Food Demo

SHARE:
Share your favorite
Appetizer/Street food from
The African Diaspora

Brought to by STEM K-8 Equity Committee and BSU
National African-American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019  
8:45AM  
Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Gym

AGENDA

8:45AM – Assembly dedicated to our Parents
STEM Gym

9:30AM – Breakfast
Staff Lounge

10:30AM – 2:30PM – Read alouds, Career Fair
Library

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

+ Sign up for classroom read alouds
+ Sign up for Career Fair (15-30 min. block)
**Sign up in your home classroom**

VENDORS

Hella Black Books w/ Joy Sparks
During book fair – before & after school, student lunch time(s)

Breakfast provided to you by:
Kultured Cuisine Catering

Event hosted by Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Advocacy Committee, Racial Equality Committee, and Black Student Union
LBSTEMK8BSU@GMAIL.COM
Compensatory Education Plans for Special Education Students

Did your special education student miss school when the busses were running on Snow Routes because their bus or taxi service was cancelled by the District? Please demand a compensatory education plan for missed service due to lack of snow routes.

Formally ask for an IEP meeting to ask the IEP team to come up with a plan for missed service. They absolutely have to meet if you request it, and come up with a plan. Even if it’s in the summer, and even if it is one to one tutoring.

Request an IEP meeting, for them to put in a prior written notice their plan to make up for the lost minutes. Every single student who did not get transportation during the time in which general education students had school can follow the same process.

If you have an IEP you can look at the IEP matrix, and calculate the number of minutes missed due to the lack of snow route service. As a general rule they don’t do one minute, our one hour of service equals compensatory add one hour, they’ll probably give you a 1 to 4 ratio in the total number of hours missed.

Best,
SPED@STEM
Shawna & Rebecca

SPED@STEM

Our SPED group was created by the PTA 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. All Meetings are held in the STEM Library from 6:30 - 7:30pm. Mark your calendars: 3/13, 4/17, 5/15, 6/19

If you have questions please contact:
Rebecca Garcia Rebecca_garcia@mac.com
or Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com

And please join our Facebook group SPED@STEM.
Girls on the Run!

STEM has a team! Registration is now open. It is open to any student who identifies as a girl in 3rd-6th grade. Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30pm-5:00pm starting March 5 for 10 weeks - ending with a 5K on May 17.

Enroll your daughters in this super cool program! REGISTER HERE (sliding scale fee).

Girls on the Run is for EVERY girl.

Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other! Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3 - 5 grade girls through interactive lessons and running activities.

The season ends with a noncompetitive 5K event.

*3-6 at STEM*

Why it Matters

IT’S FUN. IT’S EFFECTIVE.

Participating in Girls on the Run transforms girls’ lives by helping them increase their self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel good about themselves, inside and out.

Girls who were the least active at the start of the program increased their physical activity by more than 40%*

97% of participants said they learned critical skills to manage emotions, resolve conflict, help others or make intentional decisions*

Registration Opens: January 4, 2019
Program Starts: March 4, 2019
Program Location: YOUR school/organization!
Program Fee: Based on sliding scale
Financial Assistance is Available
Contact: Erin Gorup
erin@girlsr TRANSGENDER | 306-528-2118

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.GOTRPUGETSONG.ORG
New Enrichment Coordinator & Owl Post Editor

We are pleased to announce Michelle Johnson as incoming Enrichment Coordinator for the 2019-20 school year. Michelle is parent to a 5th grader and long time STEM parent. Michelle will shadow Ashlee Lyman during the spring enrichment cycle. Thank you for stepping up, Michelle! A special thanks to Ashlee for all of her hard work in building a robust and engaging enrichment program at STEM!

Welcome Erika Whilihan! We are pleased to announce Erika as the new Owl Post Editor. Erika is a kindergarten parent and brings extensive writing, editing, and communication skills to the position from her job at Microsoft. Our exiting Communications Chair, Helen Green, will transition Owl Post duties to Erika over the next weeks.

PTA Communications Chair Position Vacancies

We still need 1-2 volunteers to support the remaining vacancies. Contact: president@stemk8pta.org to volunteer.

We need you!

Training & support is available both positions.

1. Webmaster for PTA Website
   Time: Volunteer position / Varies. Approx. 3-5 hours per month.
   Skills: Proficient in WordPress or willing to learn (3 hours of training).
   Maintain PTA website. Keep it up-to-date. Post news posts and create pages and forms.

2. Webmaster for SPS STEM K-8 Website
   Time: Volunteer position / Varies. Approx. 2-4 hours per month.
   Maintain website. Keep it up-to-date. Post news posts and create pages. Volunteer needs to be approved by SPS.
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

Middle School Basketball Schedule

Saturday, March 2

**Varsity Boys**
Broadview vs STEM
9:30am Chief Sealth

**Varsity Girls**
Broadview vs STEM
9:30am Denny

**Junior Varsity Boys**
STEM C vs Salmon Bay
8:30am Jane Addams (S)

Auction Tickets for Sale Now!

Saturday, March 23
5:30pm – 11:30pm
The Hall at Fauntleroy

CLICK HERE TO BUY!

All information CLICK HERE

Want to make a dessert for the Dessert Dash?
auction@stemk8pta.org

Thank you Seattle voters!

Seattle Public Schools levies were APPROVED! Your YES votes will support 53,000 students.