Upcoming Events

February 4-8
Black Lives Matter at School Week
STEM K-8

February 4
SPS Open Enrollment Begins

February 7
Elementary School Tour
9:00am – 10:30am
STEM K-8

Elementary Open House
6:00pm – 7:00pm
For prospective families.
STEM K-8

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

February 8
Hella Black Books’ Joy Sparks Visits
Joy will be selling books featuring people of color.
8:15am – 9:15am
3:15pm – 4:15pm
STEM K-8

February 11
National African American Parent Involvement Day
8:45am – 3:45pm
Assembly, catered breakfast, read alouds, career fair, & Joy Sparks from Hella Black Books.
More info. in this Owl Post.
STEM K-8 Gym

STEM K-8 Black Lives Matter at School Week
February 4 - 8

Dear STEM Community,

This week STEM K-8--and other schools across our district and nation--will participate in the third annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action. The goal of the Week of Action in Schools is “to spark an ongoing movement of critical reflection and honest conversation in school communities for people of all ages to engage with critical issues of racial justice.” (TeachingforChange.org) To support racial justice in schools the movement has four demands:

1. End Zero Tolerance
2. Mandate Black History & Ethnic Studies
3. Hire More Black Teachers
4. Fund Counselors Not Cops

What is happening at STEM K-8 during the week?
STEM students and staff may participate in BLM at School Week in a variety of ways. Throughout the week, students and staff may wear Black Lives Matter shirts. For this week dress code will extend to include Black Lives Matter shirts along with uniform pants.

Staff may also teach lessons and facilitate classroom discussion centered on the thirteen guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter movement. National organizers have assigned guiding principles to correspond with each day.

Monday: Restorative Justice, Empathy and Loving Engagement
Tuesday: Diversity and Globalism
Wednesday: Trans-Affirming, Queer Affirming and Collective Value
Thursday: Intergenerational, Black Families and Black Villages
Friday: Black Women and Unapologetically Black

Hella Black Books, founded by Joy Sparks, will be at STEM this Friday, February 8, from 8:15am-9:15am and 3:15pm-4:15pm to sell books emphasizing black and brown characters. STEM K-8 will fly the Black Lives Matter flag all week and the PTA will be handing out Black Lives Matter stickers.

Continued on next page
February 13  
SPED@STEM Meeting  
6:30pm – 7:30pm  
STEM Library

February 15  
SPS Open Enrollment Ends

Spirit Wear Day  
STEM K-8

Global Reading Challenge  
9:00am – 10:30am  
10 teams of 4th/5th graders take part in the in-school round of the challenge.  
STEM Cafeteria

February 18 - 22  
Mid-Winter Break  
No School

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

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

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

Check out the school calendar here.

STEM middle school hallway bulletin board honoring Powerful Black Women in History who have made lasting amazing (often overlooked and discounted) contributions to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and the arts.

Where can I purchase my Black Lives Matter shirt?  
If you didn't purchase a special STEM Black Lives Matter at School shirt yet, they are still available at Café Press—STEM Café Press Black Lives Matter Shirts. Although they probably won’t ship in time for this week - your student will still be able to wear them on Spirit Wear Days. Everyone is encouraged to get creative and make their own shirts too!

What district-wide events are planned for the week?  
There is a rally in support of the #BlackLivesMatterAtSchool demands hosted by the NAACP Youth Coalition at John Stanford Center on Wednesday, February 6, from 4:45pm-6:00pm. On February 8, there is a final rally and celebration of student talent at Cleveland from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

What resources can I use at home, or in my community?  
There are a wide range of resources available on the Seattle Education Association (SEA) website, including lesson plans developed by Seattle Public Schools educators, at SEA Black Lives Matter Resources.  
You can find further resources and discussion regarding the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action at www.teachingforchange.org. Also, the National Black Lives Matter at School website includes lesson plans, how to talk about race with children, Black Lives Matter coloring book and more.

We value your collaboration in working towards more equitable schools and communities!

Sincerely,  
The STEM K-8 Racial Equity Team, Principal Ben Ostrom, and Assistant Principal Kim Noble
Spirit Wear Shop is Live!

STEM is celebrating Black Lives Matter at School Week this week, February 4-8. Custom STEM Black Lives Matter t-shirts and hoodies are available for purchase. We have two fantastic designs to choose from. They are unlikely to arrive for this week but students will still be able to wear them on Spirit Wear Days.

![T-shirt Designs]

Back of t-shirt features the values the Black Lives Matter movement stands for:

- **Restorative Justice** is the commitment to build a beloved and loving community that is sustainable and growing.
- **Empathy** is one’s ability to connect with others by building relationships built on mutual trust and understanding.
- **Loving Engagement** is the commitment to practice justice, liberation and peace.
- **Diversity** is the celebration and acknowledgment of differences and commonalities across cultures.
- **Globalism** is our ability to see how we are impacted or privileged within the Black global family that exists across the world in different regions.
- **Transgender Affirming** is the commitment to continue to make space for our trans brothers and sisters by encouraging leadership and recognizing trans-antagonistic violence.
- **Queer Affirming** is working towards a queer-affirming network where heteronormative thinking no longer exists.
- **Collective Value** means that all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status or location matter.
- **Intergenerational** is a space free from ageism where we can learn from each other.
- **Black Families** creates a space that is family friendly and free from patriarchal practices.

Joy Sparks of Hella Black Books to Visit STEM

We are also honored to host Joy Sparks, founder of Hella Black Books. She’ll be at school this Friday, February 8 from 8:15am-9:15am and again from 3:15pm-4:15pm to sell books featuring people of color.

After seeing her daughters struggle academically it reminded her of her own learning challenges in school. She began to understand the importance of reading, comprehension and personally connecting with the reading material. Initially her focus was to attract her children to literacy, art and culture but after about a year hunting for used books specifically with black and brown characters it had soon became her hobby and passion. You can follow Hella Black Books on Facebook and Instagram, and you can email Joy Sparks at hellablackbooks@gmail.com if you can't make it Friday and want to buy books. Joy will also be at STEM on February 11 for National African-American Parent Involvement Day (see next page).
National African-American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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
Congratulations to Julie Schmick and all the Robotics team members who participated in the VEX IQ Tournament at Louisa Boren STEM K-8 on Saturday, February 2! With help from numerous STEM staff and families we hosted a VEX IQ Robotics Tournament for 23 schools and almost 100 competitors. Working together staff and families are bringing our STEM K-8 vision to life!

Immunization Update from School Nurse M.C. Nachtigal

I may have reached out to you about immunizations. Please check https://wa.myir.net/ to sign up and check your family’s status. Next, call your child’s doctor’s office to ask if they have updated the state immunization registry. Then call me to discuss. Even if you have previously opted out of vaccinations, you are HIGHLY encouraged to get an MMR vaccination in light of the current measles outbreak in our state. Measles is about SIX (6) times more contagious than the worst flu we know about, and two doses of vaccine makes 97% of the population immune to it.

M.C. Nachtigal, ND, MSN, RN
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
T, F 8:30am - 3:45pm, Th 11:00am – 3:45pm
Phone: 206-252-8457
mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org
Safer Internet Day – February 5

“Safer Internet Day is an international education and awareness-raising effort spanning more than 100 countries. It aims to not only create a safer internet but also a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.”

STEM K-8 Librarian Mary Bannister recommends STEM parents check out the Safer Internet Day Family Night on February 5 -- featuring children’s author Trudy Ludwig, and hosted by ConnectSafely and National PTA. The evening is intended for elementary school children and their parents but all ages are invited.

When: Tuesday, February 5. 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Where: New Holly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave S., Seattle, WA 98118
Cost: FREE. Registration Required (registration ends February 4).

Free dinner and an evening of fun, information and prizes!

More Information
Upcoming High School Tours/Open Houses

**THE CENTER SCHOOL**
February 13, Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Free parking passes located outside Ms. Danielle’s office in High School folder.

**CLEVELAND STEM**
February 7, Thursday, 9:00am – 11:30am
[RSVP HERE](#)

**NOVA**
**Intro Meetings for 8th Graders**
February 7, Thursday, 8:45am – 11:45am
February 13, Wednesday, 8:45am – 11:45am
February 27, Wednesday, 8:45am – 11:45am
Call Karen to register at (206) 252-3500
Tour the school, round table discussion with students about what it's like to be a Nova student, choose a class to observe. Meet with Mark, Nova's Principal, to learn more about Nova.

**Family Tour** (no need to register)
February 8, Friday, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

**The Nova Project – an alternative public high school in the heart of Seattle**

A note from Nova's Principal:

Nova High School is an innovator in non-traditional education. We are a competency, inquiry and project-based school that uses performance and portfolio assessment to gauge the level and depth of student work.

As a social and racial justice school, we believe personalization in education is key to building trust and academic success in preparing all students for college and the workforce after high school.

If you have any questions, please give us a call at (206)-252-3500

Mark Perry, PhD

**SPS SCHOOL CHOICE DATES**
**February 4:** Open Enrollment Begins.  **February 15:** Open Enrollment Ends.

*No open house/tour information available for Chief Sealth High School at this time.*
STEM K-8 PTA Endorses a YES Vote on School Levies

On February 12, voters have the chance to vote YES on Propositions 1 & 2. These ballot measures are not new taxes and replace the Seattle Public Schools Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy and the Building Excellence V (BEX V) Capital Levy.

Check out this endorsement from The Stranger:

Seattle Must Vote to Renew Both Education Levies, Or Else

Why should you vote yes?

The EP&O levy bridges the gap between what the state provides and what students need. The levy:

- Funds critical day-to-day school operations
- Helps pay for school staff, instructional materials, and textbooks
- Fills a $72 million Special Education funding for 7,000 students
- Helps close the opportunity gaps by providing programs for our most vulnerable learners

The BEX V levy will:

- Improve safety and security at every single school in the district
- Remove over 70 portable across the district and add over 1900 seats
- Improve technology infrastructure for schools
- Provide equitable access to classroom technology across the district

You can learn more about why you should support students and vote yes by watching this video.

You can also learn more about major projects by school and learn what those projects would mean to students by watching these videos.

Find out more about Propositions 1 & 2 by visiting www.seattleschools.org/levies and remember to vote by February 12!

Sign Waving This Saturday in West Seattle

School Board Director Leslie Harris encourages you to join her this Saturday, February 9 from 10:00am-12:00pm for “Vote Yes” sign waving (on the bridge over Fauntleroy Way, as you enter/exit West Seattle).
Middle School Basketball Schedule

Saturday, February 9

**Varsity Boys**
Salmon Bay vs STEM
8:00am Chief Sealth

**Varsity Girls**
Salmon Bay vs STEM
8:00am Denny

**Junior Varsity Boys**
STEM C vs Blaine C
12:30pm Chief Sealth (M)

Help Needed for Global Reading Challenge

**Friday, Feb. 15 9:00am – 10:30am**
This year STEM has 10 teams of 7 students so with that many teams excitedly participating we will need some extra support getting answers and tallying scores, plus keeping time. If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. B. ASAP!
(It would be best if it wasn't a parent of students on the teams.)

Many Thanks,
Mary Bannister,
mebanister@seattleschools.org

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

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**