



March 18, 2019



The official weekly newsletter
of Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA

Upcoming Events

March 20

Auction Committee Meeting
7:00pm – 9:00pm

All welcome!

Uptown Espresso Delridge

March 21

Middle School Dance
5:30pm – 7:00pm

STEM Gym

No entrance fee

March 23

STEM Auction!
Classic Seattle
5:30pm – 11:30pm

The Hall at Fautleroy
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 18

Environmental Slam

More info in this Owl Post

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center

April 18

PTA Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm

All welcome!

Complimentary YMCA childcare
provided by the PTA.

STEM Library

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Thanks to the PTA and everyone who helped host Pie night at STEM last Thursday. STEM and Sanislo families enjoyed pizza and games together.

This week is going to stay busy with a middle school dance on Thursday, 3/21 from 5:30-7:00pm in the gym. Guests to school dances must have prior approval from an administrator. On Saturday, 3/23 at 5:00pm is the 2019 STEM Auction, Classic Seattle. Held at the Hall at Fautleroy, this vital community event is the largest STEM fundraiser of the year. Participants come together to raise money to implement our school vision. The auction generates support for Project Based Learning, additional library resources, professional development, math texts, science and engineering supplies, and more. Let's celebrate STEM and our students!

We hold safety drills at STEM monthly to make sure students know what to do during different types of emergencies. This month's drill will include practicing a reverse evacuation and lockdown during the 3rd-5th grade lunch on Tuesday, 3/19. Reverse evacuations involve building reentry during an emergency and can be used in both shelter in place and lockdown situations. A reverse evacuation leading to a shelter in place means that students return to their classrooms, while a reverse evacuation leading to a lockdown means that students go to the nearest room. A lockdown is the procedure to protect students and staff from external and internal dangers and is used when there is a threat of violence in or immediately around the school. During a lockdown, we lock all doors, close windows, and pull blinds/drapes. Students and staff position themselves against whichever wall provides the most protection, sit as low as possible, and remain quiet.

Lockdowns are sometimes confused with the more common shelter in place. A shelter in place provides safety during lower threat levels by locking exterior doors and monitoring building entrance and exits. We account for all students and keep to a normal schedule as much as possible. Students going to and from PCP or music travel through interior hallways and the gym, not outside doors or breezeway. Recesses are indoors.

The awful hate crime atrocity in New Zealand reminds us all of the importance of challenging racism and hate with education and empathy wherever we find it. One source of information for families regarding Islam and Islamic Americans is the [Council of American-Islamic Relations \(CAIR\)](#). Another that includes teaching resources is [TeachingforChange.org](#). Our thoughts and support go out to those in New Zealand whose lives were forever turned upside down by hate and violence this weekend.

Ben Ostrom

Principal

Louisa Boren STEM K-8

April 26

[Spirit Wear Day](#)

STEM K-8

May 9

PTA Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm

STEM Library

May 27

Memorial Day – NO
SCHOOL

May 31

[Spirit Wear Day](#)

STEM K-8

May 31

GGLOW Owls Family Dance
Party

5:30pm-7:30pm

STEM Playground

Check out the school calendar
[here](#).

Reminder: Middle School Dance on Thursday!

What better way to welcome the start of Spring than with a school dance? On **March 21 from 5:30-7pm**, all middle schoolers are welcome to the gym for our Spring dance! Hang out with friends, let loose, and have fun! This dance is free and open to all STEM middle schoolers.

Please note: If bringing guests from outside of Louisa Boren STEM, sponsoring student must fill out a guest permission form and return to school in advance. See Mr. Kincl for the form.



The STEM Gazette – coming soon!

Exciting news! Some of our 7th/8th graders are starting a school newspaper called *The STEM Gazette*. It is brand new and they are still figuring out many of the logistics. [Danielle Blechert](#) has agreed to supervise but **she is wondering if there is another staff member interested/available to co-supervise with her? Or even be a sub when she is out? Any and all support would be appreciated.**

Additionally, do any staff or school community members have journalism experience they are willing to share? Danielle knows of a couple of folks (a parent, Kincl, connections from YES! Magazine) but more is always welcome and needed since she does not have extensive experience aside from a high school journalism class and a brief stint at YES! Magazine. Danielle's goal is to bring some folks in to act as consultants for the students.



Summer Jazz Prep Camp: [CLICK HERE](#) for camp web page



Parents & Guardians:

If you are searching for a fun summer camp opportunity (**with a FREE tuition option**) for your rising 4th-8th graders, please check out [Seattle JazzED](#), a Seattle non-profit music education organization with a commitment to cultural and economic diversity.

Learn to play an instrument this summer at Seattle JazzED!

*Summer Jazz Prep Camp - now enrolling
Thursday, June 27 - Wednesday, July 3, 2019
Open to rising 4th-8th graders
AM and PM Sessions
FREE tuition option, NEW South Seattle location*

At the Seattle JazzED Summer Jazz Prep camp **students will pick an instrument** (Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, or Upright Bass) begin reading music and learn to play songs in a beginning band. Every student will get a t-shirt and the use of a musical instrument while at camp.

- Students learn from a **professional, diverse teaching staff**.
- This camp has sliding scale tuition, with an easy FREE code that any family can elect to use, no questions asked. To apply the instant free code, **any family can enter the code WAIVER** on the registration check-out page.
- Families can **register online** or send the attached form back to us. (www.seattlejazzed.org/prep-camp)

Camp will be held at a **NEW south-end location**:

Rainier Prep School, 10211 12th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98168 ([map](#)).

SPED @ STEM Meeting Notes 3/13

Thank you those who could make it to the meeting. Our next meeting is on 4/17 in the STEM library from 6:30-7:30pm. These meetings are intended to provide support and information for our families with students who have IEP's, 504's or are looking to find out more about the IEP/504 process to support their student. Our group is working to increase visibility and inclusion of special education students here in our school community.

Rebecca Garcia updated us on work being done as part of our designation as a Focus School. Shawna Murphy updated us on snow route bus advocacy efforts and current legislation that would increase state spending for special education. And as always, we shared struggles, successes and funny stories about our students. For more information please email Rebecca Garcia rebecca_garcia@mac.com and Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com.



Last Chance for Auction Tickets!

There are 6 seats available for anyone who have had a change of plans - arrange ticket sales with Robin at: auction@stempta.org.

If you have time in the week before the auction, day of auction or the evening of - thank you! To sign up via Sign Up Genius [CLICK HERE](#)

Pre-Order Yearbooks Now! \$27 – Pre-order forms due 3/22

The 2018-2019 hardcover yearbook will include:

- Individual Pictures PreK-8th Grade
- Sports Photos
- Candid Activity Photos
- Enrichment and Club Photos
- Teacher Photos

Scholarships are available upon request.

Payment will be due in June when student receives book.

Order forms have gone home with students. If you did not receive one, please check with your homeroom teacher. Yearbook staff will come to collect them every other morning.

Assistance League of Seattle Enrichment Scholarship Program

Are you interested in applying for a summer enrichment scholarship?

Applications through the [Assistance League of Seattle](#) are open now and due on March 31st. Last year they awarded 55 scholarships up to \$500 to middle and high school students attending Seattle Schools last year. These scholarships are used for summer enrichment programs such as overnight camps, music, science, art, and more. This year, they have \$25,000 to give out to students.

To download the application & for additional information on this organization, please [CLICK HERE](#). There will also be some printed applications in the front office by the visitor sign-in sheet.



STEM's Biking Program

Interested in STEM's biking program? We're "gearing up" for a couple fun events for our students this spring. We're looking for a few people with ideas or a couple hours to spare to help plan and organize. No experience necessary! We'll be having an optional planning meeting in April. Minimal time commitment and lots of fun! Please contact STEM parent Joe Laubach (josephlaubach@gmail.com) for more information or if you or if you have an idea to share. We have already won a grant that can be used to support any activities we plan. Thanks for your interest!



Reminder - Email your State Senators:

We just passed the levies for more school funding (yay!) but we might not be able to collect all the money (boo!). There is a bill (SB 5313) stuck in the Senate Ways & Means Committee that would lift the levy lid and allow us to keep the money from the levies passed. Below is a script you can use to put some pressure on our state senators, and emails to send it to. Add your own personal story as well!

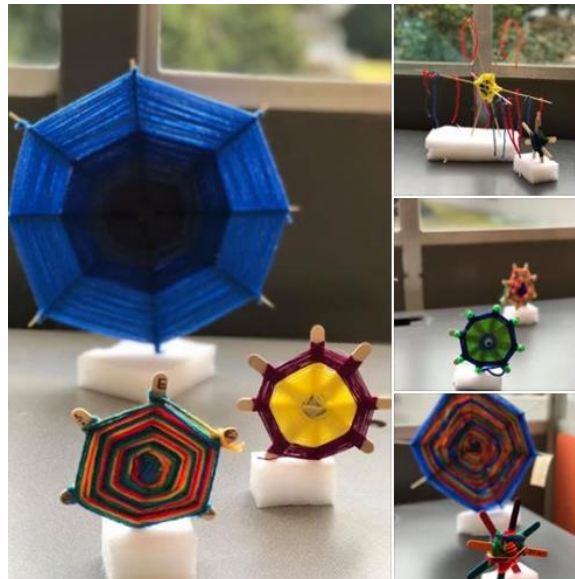
Send to:

David.Froct@leg.wa.gov; Reuven.Carlyle@leg.wa.gov; Bob.Hasegawa@leg.wa.gov;
Jamie.Pedersen@leg.wa.gov; Joe.Nguyen@leg.wa.gov; Rebecca.Saldana@leg.wa.gov;
Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov

Subject: Please lift the levy lid

Dear Senators,

All of you represent families in Seattle Public Schools. I therefore urge you to work with your fellow Senators to vote SB 5313 out of the Senate Ways & Means committee and/or find another way to lift the levy lid. I am a parent of a child in Seattle Public Schools, and if the levy lid is not lifted in this budget cycle, our already underfunded district will face a \$40 million budget shortfall. Lifting the levy lid is needed just to maintain our already underfunded schools at the same level of funding they have now. so that Seattle Public Schools and other districts do not face massive budget shortfalls. We need to fully fund counselors, librarians, nurses, social workers, and special education. Seattle voters have passed continuation levies and are willing to pay the taxes to fund our public schools. Please make sure their votes count!



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](#)



Spring Sports Schedules Coming Soon!



Environmental Slam – For STEM Middle School Students

Do you know students who are passionate about an environmental issue and want to share their passion with a wider audience? The 2019 Environmental Slam might be just what they are looking for. Three individuals or teams will be awarded \$500 each to donate to the environmental cause of their choice.

The Washington Foundation for the Environment is looking for students who want to enter this year's Environmental Slam. The Slam will be held at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center in West Seattle on the evening of Thursday, April 18, 2019.

For more information, click here: <http://wffe.org/environmental-slam/>

If any students are interested in the slam contact Robin @ robingraham26@gmail.com & we will organize a team.

Announcing the new Enrichment Coordinator, Webmaster & Owl Post Editor Positions:

We are pleased to announce that Michelle Johnson will serve as the Enrichment Coordinator for the 2019-20 school year. Michelle is parent to a 5th grader and long-time STEM parent.

Welcome Isaiah Cooper! We are pleased to announce that Isaiah will be the Webmaster for both the PTA Website and SPS STEM K-8 Website. Isaiah is a 6th grade parent and works as a Software Development Engineer.

Finally, Erika Whinihan, a Kindergarten parent, is our new Owl Post Editor.

Thank you, Michelle, Isaiah & Erika!