



April 15, 2019

Owl Post

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

Upcoming Events

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

April 18
Environmental Slam
Youngstown Cultural Arts Center

April 18
Spring Art Show
6:00-8:30pm
All welcome!
Complimentary YMCA childcare
provided by the PTA.
STEM Cafeteria

April 18
PTA Meeting
6:30-8:00pm
All welcome!
Complimentary YMCA childcare
provided by the PTA.
STEM Library

April 23
**Countering Whiteness
Workshop**
6:30-8:30pm
STEM Library
More details in Owl Post

April 26
[Spirit Wear Day](#)
STEM K-8

April 26
Middle School Lock-In
3:30-6:00pm
**Leave your Middle Schooler at
school!**
More details in Owl Post

April 27
Locker Room Clean-Up
9am-2pm
STEM
More details in Owl Post

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Welcome back! Hopefully everyone had some opportunities for rest and rejuvenation and are ready to jump back into STEM K-8 life after Spring Break.

This week I'm sharing our Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) testing schedule. We will begin administering the SBA the week of May 13. STEM's SBA grade level testing dates are pasted below. Most students will experience two mornings of testing each week their grade level is scheduled (because students may take as long as they want, some will test into the afternoon).

The window for Smarter Balance Assessment testing is set by WA State, and can't be changed by Seattle Public Schools. One unfortunate overlap is that the SBA window overlaps Ramadan, which occurs between May 5 and June 4 this year. We are exploring ways to support students and families observing Ramadan, both during and outside of testing. We will be reaching out to families to discuss accommodations for students observing Ramadan.

There are many reasons to consider the Smarter Balance Assessment a worthy challenge for students: A) SBA results help staff become more aware of the strengths and needs of each child. B) SBA results help staff know as a school and as a district where we have done well and areas that need more work. C) SBA results can help parents see where their child is on the pathway to proficiency for graduation (the SBA or authorized alternative is required for graduation) and higher education. D) Seattle Public Schools is legally required to give the SBA and faces consequences if participation drops below 95%. E) STEM K-8 must deal with state accountability measures for lower student scores that including opt outs.

Although the Smarter Balanced Assessment is an important assessment, it represents a small part of students' overall performance; many other indicators are also used to evaluate student progress. SBA results do not determine whether or not students are ready for the next grade. They should view the SBA as a worthy challenge rather than a worrisome barrier. It's an opportunity to develop vital test taking skills and show some of what students know relative to national standards.

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
*More information in this Owl
Post*

June 13
PTA Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm
STEM Library

June 14
[Spirit Wear Day](#)
STEM K-8

June 20
[Spirit Wear Day](#)
STEM K-8

June 27
Last Day of School!

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

STEM K-8 must offer a climate that provides students with the opportunity to perform their best. However, Smarter Balance Assessments also raise legitimate questions. The limitations and failures of high stakes testing are well documented. We also recognize the right of any family to opt their child out of the SBA. To opt out families must provide written notice to the main office. [The official Opt out form is linked here](#). Opt out notification needs to be provided annually. Because of the logistical demands of administering the SBA, we are unable to provide alternative curriculum during test periods. We will provide an alternative setting that for most students will look like being able to read, help, or work in another setting.

STEM's 3rd-8th grade students will be taking the SBA on the weeks indicated below:

STEM K-8 SBA Testing Schedule:

Week of May 13th: Testing Begins

May 13-May 14

3rd Grade ELA Cat & PT

4th Grade ELA CAT & PT

May 15-Make Ups

May 16-May 17

5th Grade ELA CAT & PT

Week of May 20th

May 20 – May 21

3rd Grade Math CAT & PT

6th Grade ELA CAT & PT

May 22 – Make Ups

May 23 – May 24

7th Grade ELA CAT & PT

8th Grade ELA-CAT & PT

Week of May 27th

May 27th Memorial Day

May 28

5th Grade Science (WCAS)

8th Grade Science (WCAS)

May 29 – Make Ups

May 30 – May 31

4th Grade Math CAT & PT

5th Grade Math CAT & PT

Week of June 3

June 3 – June 4

6th Grade Math CAT & PT

June 5 – Make Ups

June 6 – June 7

7th Grade Math CAT & PT

8th Grade Math CAT & PT

June 10th- June 14th: Make Ups

*Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8*

Spring Art Show | April 18th 6:00-8:30pm



In celebration of the amazing art our students created for the 2019 Classic Seattle Auction, you are invited to the Auction Art Show where their work will be on display.

Join us for this STEM community event where there will be visual art, interactive art pieces, and some light refreshments.

Some items will be available for a low suggested donation in various formats, and all the art will be available for free download.

This is a "walk-through" event; a mock art gallery.

Simultaneously, the PTA meeting will be in the library and free childcare is always available from the YMCA.

Click [HERE](#) for the Facebook event page.

The STEM PTA Advocacy Committee invites you to the 2nd of our ongoing workshops on race and equity, brought to you by PTA donations.

COUNTERING WHITENESS

What can you do to work for racial equity in predominately white settings?



Explore this question in a workshop led by Tracy Castro-gill, former STEM parent, 2019 Puget Sound Educational Service District Teacher of the Year and SPS Ethnic Studies Program Manager, and Jon Greenberg, an award-winning educator and writer whose pieces on racial justice have been featured in NPR, Huffington Post, and Yes! Magazine.

In this interactive workshop, develop your racial equity literacy and explore how racial inequities show up in our school and the world beyond. Learn concrete strategies to promote racial justice, including finding the pressure points for system change in Seattle Public Schools.

Tuesday April 23rd 6:30-8:30 @ LB STEM
FREE CHILD CARE PROVIDED BY THE YMCA

GGLOW OWLS Family Dance Party | May 31st 5:30-7:30pm

The new GGLOW OWLS t-shirts for 2019 are available for a limited time now via <https://www.customink.com/fundraising/gglowowlsstemk82019>

For those new to the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Community, GGLOW OWLS stands for Gender non-conforming/Gender Queer, Gay, Lesbian or whatever, and is our way of celebrating and affirming our LGBTQIA students, staff, families and allies. This year our t-shirt design highlights gender identity. We will have our 3rd Annual GGLOW OWLS Family Dance Party on our playground, Friday May 31st from 5:30-7:30 with Phorale and Full Tilt Food trucks and DJ Plaid Dad spinning the old school records. All are welcome!



Proceeds from our t-shirt sales are used to purchase LGBTQIA books for our school library and classrooms. Our 2019 book wish list will be published soon and donations are gladly accepted.

For more information and to find out how you can volunteer with the event and book collection, please contact GGLOW OWLS PTA Event Chair, Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com.

Option High School Fair 2019



Middle College, Nova, Seattle
World School, Skills Center &
South Lake

APRIL 18, 2019

5:30PM – 7:30PM

**Where: Nova HS
2410 E. Cherry Street
Seattle, WA 98122**

Seattle Public Schools is pleased to showcase our Option Schools with Continuous Enrollment at our first annual Option high school fair exclusive to high school students looking for something more than a traditional high school. Come and learn about the variety of programs, smaller classroom sizes, flexible schedules and unique learning methods tailored for each student's personality and learning style to achieve success.

For more information contact the Admissions office at 206-252-0760.

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
www.seattleschools.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](#)



Spring Sports Schedules

Saturday, April 20

Varsity Boys Soccer

9:30am South Shore v. STEM
Location: Eagle Staff

JV Boys Soccer

2:00pm STEM v. Eagle Staff 2
Location: Eagle Staff

Varsity Girls Volleyball

9:30am TOPS v. STEM
Location: STEM

JV Girls Volleyball

8:00am Eagle Staff 2 v. STEM
Location: STEM

Ultimate Frisbee

6:00pm STEM v. Eastside Red Tigers
Franklin HS #2



Middle School Lock-In! April 26th 3:30-6:00pm

Suggested donation \$10; all students can attend regardless of ability to pay.

Sign up for 1 or 20 + spots to sponsor other students.

Bleeker: Supersmash Brothers Ultimate Gaming

Parsley: Birdhouse Making

Paulson: Movie Room

Des: Mystery Room

Kincl: Conversation and Snacks

Martin: Boardgames

Restrictions: Students will need to follow the STEM conduct code. Teachers will have full discretion to call guardians to pick students up early.