A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Halloween approaches! This is a good opportunity to review the STEM K-8 Holiday Policy. I’ve attached the whole policy at the end of the Owl Post. To promote an academic environment and decrease disruptions and the emphasis on sweets, STEM K-8 aims to be treat-free with regards to processed sugar treats for Halloween, Valentine’s Day, or other celebrations. Healthy snacks are fine.

STEM K-8 and SPS strive to be inclusive of all our students. Preparing for Halloween or other festivities, we are becoming more aware of the importance of being mindful of religious, cultural, and ethnic differences. Celebrations provide opportunities to think about cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation. Cultural appropriation perpetuates inaccurate stereotypes about People of Color. When these inaccurate stereotypes are perpetuated, they create offensive, hostile, and uncomfortable conditions for our diverse families. While appreciation of food, cultural experiences, and language are acceptable, appropriating clothing that is not representative of an individual’s self-identity is often times inaccurate. SPS is working to become a more inclusive environment in which our diverse students are seen, respected, and valued as individuals, the resources below provide opportunities to learn more about this topic:

- On Halloween, Insensitivity Goes Beyond Kimonos And Black Face

- We’re a Culture, Not a Costume - Student Leader Toolkit
  [We’re a Culture, Not a Costume - University of Denver](https://www.denver.edu/insideu/colleges-and-schools/cscma/osl/us(/2016/10/28/500610411/on-halloween-insensitivity-goes-beyond-kimonos-and-black-face)

- YouTube My Culture is NOT a Costume
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6Y5cARFJw8&featur](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6Y5cARFJw8&featur)

- USA Today – Halloween & Cultural Appropriation

- Huffington Post – Cultural Appropriation: What You Need to Know
• The Conversation- University of California: When Borrowing Becomes Exploitation
http://theconversation.com/cultural-appropriation-when-borrowing-becomes-exploitation-57411
• New York Times: Is Cultural Appropriation Always Wrong?
https://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/04/magazine/is-cultural-appropriation-always-wrong.html

Also, without a uniform policy our costume policy reverts to the SPS dress code. Which means that actually a student could wear a costume any day of the year so long as it does not violate the SPS dress policy, e.g. cover the face, contains threats, promote illegal or violent conduct, include toy weapons, show private parts, present a health or safety hazard, and/or contribute to a hostile or intimidating school environment. It’s always helpful to remind children that they are members of a pre K-8 school community and to be aware of how younger children may respond to their appearance and behavior.

The STEM K-8 PTA Direct Give Campaign is still accepting donations! The Direct Give provides planning and additional training for staff. Direct Give funds support Project Based Learning and also help acquire books, technology, tools, construction materials, scientific instruments, and software. Your contributions support exceptional learning experiences for STEM students, and donations are tax deductible. Gifts of any amount are appreciated!
The Countdown is on! 4 days till the end of the Direct Give - and $11,600.80 to GO!

Help us make #nocuts and help every student at STEM!

With 580 students at STEM that's $20 a student to get $12K covered - and many families just don't have that to contribute. So, if you can, help your student and as many kids as you can. Or give $5 and know someone will support with more. It's time for the community to rally behind what it values. Technology, books, projects, field trips, community events - this is DIRECTLY what you are paying for. Let’s get this done!
Yearbook Pre-order is happening now!

The paper copies are being sent out by homeroom teachers. You can also order one electronically by following this link: https://forms.gle/GgSkWZkRh11jqUTz9

It will be a hardcover book that includes pre k - 8th grade with individual, enrichment, sport, club and candid photos.

Please pre-order by November 8th. Prices will go up afterwards.
Calling all Veterans and Active Duty Service members!

Is there anybody in your family or do you have any friends that either were or are currently in the military? Send them our way!

STEM will be celebrating Veterans Day on Friday, November 8 from noon to 3pm with class interviews and an all-school assembly. We would love to have any veterans or active duty soldiers in our STEM family to join us and share with the student body their experiences in the military, and share their bravery and commitment to the security of our country.

Please reach out to Mr. Holland at mjholland@seattleschools.org

Thank you very much!
Please see below for a message from PTA President, Charles Cutter:

We are STILL in need of a volunteer to fill the STEM PTA Vice President position. If you are interested or want to learn more about this important role, please contact Charles Cutter at president@stemk8pta.org

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 | PTA Executive Team, Open Positions for 2019/2020 School Year
Duties of Officers

GENERAL DUTIES

Per Washington State PTA
1. Upon assuming office, the officers shall be empowered to honor expenditures that have been provided for in the approved budget. All books, funds, and supplies belonging to the PTA/PTSA shall be relinquished to the new officers by the retiring officers immediately upon leaving office. 2. All financial matters and binding agreements shall require two (2) signatures; only elected officers shall have the authority to sign. 3. WSPTA requires two (2) signatures on every check. Use of a PTA debit card, credit card, ATM card and online banking to disburse PTA funds is not permitted. 4. In the event two (2) or more members of the same household hold offices in the same local unit or council, only one (1) shall co-sign financial matters. 5. An office shall be declared vacant if an officer is absent three (3) consecutive meetings, unless previously excused by the presiding officer.

VICE PRESIDENT - Open
2-year commitment, rolls up to President in year two.
The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to serve, and shall assist the president when called upon. In the case of a vacancy in the office of president, the first vice president or vice presidents in their order shall temporarily assume the duties until the vacancy is filled.

1. Manage bank deposits and sign checks as needed 2. Serve as Chair of Enrichment Committee Chair/Program with executive oversight of program in close partnership with Enrichment Coordinator (process, calendar, update meetings) 3. Lead committees as needed, shared with President and committee chairs 4. Serve as member of newly established STEM legacy event committee - 8th grade graduation ceremony and reception (attend meetings, make recommendations in alignment with PTA budget and equity for school community; attend ceremony and assist with post-ceremony reception) 5. Play a role in at least one major fundraising initiative 6. Be onsite at school as needed for meetings and support at community events. 7. Rolls up to President after one year. 8. Is aware of required deadlines for payment of membership fees, insurance, annual corporation report, charitable solicitation act, pre-registration for workshops, applications for awards, and submittals for recommendations. 9. Communicates with Committee chairs as needed and makes sure they are given all necessary information for their positions. 10. Plans the meeting agenda with the President (as needed). 11. Attends meetings once a month with President and Principal to review calendar and upcoming events and school needs. Time Commitment: 3 – 10 hours per week
Please mark your calendars for November 14 from 5:45-6:00PM: Friends of a New Playground Meeting

Dear STEM families and community,

My name is Adrienne Ollerenshaw. I am a teacher and a mother to a six-year old first grader at Louisa Boren STEM K-8. I have noticed the school’s need for additional activities on the school’s blacktop. With the support from the PTA, I will be applying for Seattle’s Department of Neighborhood Community Partnership Funds to make improvements to our school playground. I will be asking for support from the school and local community in several ways. First, I will be holding a brief community meeting, before the PTA meeting at 5:45 in the school Cafeteria on 11-14-19, to gather ideas, gauge community interest, and create a playground committee. To be eligible for the City’s matching grants, I will have to hold three community meetings, and this will be the first.

An important part of receiving funding from the city for a project like ours is to recognize it as a benefit to the community. Where our school lies on Delridge, there is very little close by, safe space for neighborhood parents and families to use. Within a one-mile radius of STEM, there are no easy, accessible parks for families. With an additional play structure or other play equipment, our school can create a safe, welcoming space for children, daycares, and families to use.

If you know people or businesses in the community that would be willing to contribute their time, money, feedback to this project, please invite them to the brief community meeting. If you know a community member that would like to be on the playground committee, have them email me directly.

Thank you for your support.

Adrienne
amollerensha@seattleschools.org

On Facebook:
Friends of a New Playground at Louisa Boren
Attention 8th Graders & Families!

WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL
PROSPECTIVE STUDENT NIGHT
Thursday, December 5th
6:30-8:00 PM

6:30-7:00: **Theater:** Learn about course offerings at WSHS and hear from current West Seattle students

7:00-8:00: **Student-led tours of the building**

7:00-8:00: **Commons:** Department Fair—meet department heads, review texts and course offerings, Q&A

West Seattle High School 3000 California Avenue, SW Seattle, WA 98116
AN EVENING OF LEARNING
WITH SCHUYLER BAILAR & GUESTS
Meet the first transgender athlete to compete in any sport on a NCAA Division 1 men’s team

11.14.19
6:30-8:30 STEM Cafeteria
following STEM PTA meeting 6-6:30

Brought to you by STEM K-8 PTA GLOW OWLS for Trans Visibility Month

Learn more about Schuyler at: https://pinkmantaray.com

PTA & SPED Meetings
December 12 SPED 6-6:30 / PTA 6:30-8
Louisa Boren Library
Childcare Provided by YMCA
Register for childcare (link in comments)
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT from Nurse MC:

Hepatitis A Outbreak Alert:
Washington state is experiencing a hepatitis A outbreak in multiple counties (King, Pend Oreille, Snohomish and Spokane) in people who are living homeless or who use drugs. Information about the outbreak and educational resources on hepatitis A prevention can be found on the DOH website at www.doh.wa.gov/hepatitisA2019.

Hepatitis A virus spreads easily when a person puts something (food, water, hands, or an object) into his or her mouth that has infected stool (feces) on or in it. The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through vaccination with the hepatitis A vaccine. Vaccination is recommended for all children starting at one year of age, for travelers to certain countries, and for people at high risk of getting infected.

Check your child’s immunization records online through Wa.MyIR.net. If your child has not received the hepatitis A vaccine, contact your healthcare provider to get your child up to date. If you don’t have a healthcare provider, call your local health department or the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588. Free vaccine is available to all children through age 18 from the Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program.

Practicing good hand hygiene plays an important role in preventing the spread of hepatitis A. Everyone should thoroughly wash their hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food.

Nurse MC
mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org
206-252-8457
ATTENTION FAMILIES!

For any Absences, Late Arrivals, Afterschool Arrangements please send an email to BOTH Jody Hapgood (Attendance/Office Assistant) and Genevieve Saarenas (Office Assistant):
jahapgood@seattleschools.org  glsaarenas@seattleschools.org

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL:

If your child needs medications to be given during the school day at any point in the school year, even for temporary reasons or using over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, we MUST have a completed Medication Authorization form with specific information about dose and timing of medication. You can find the form at:


It’s great to print a couple of copies and bring them to a doctor’s appointment if there is a possibility that medication will be prescribed that needs to be taken at school.

This also applies to medications sometimes kept in backpacks, such as inhalers or ibuprofen. We MUST have the form completed and on file so we know what is being used during the school day.

Thanks for your cooperation with this policy that keeps your kids safe and cared for!

M.C. Nachtigal, ND, MPH, ARNP, RN
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Phone: 206-252-8457
mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org
5th and 8th grade families. Exciting news! Looking ahead and we have confirmed camp for 5th grade a possible 8th grade trip – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

5th Grade Families: 5th grade nature camp is a wildly awesome amazing time! For many of the kids it’s the FIRST AND ONLY time they have ever been to sleep away camp and it’s a huge time for transformative learning and the capstone of their grade school experience. It’s BIG.

1. You will be getting information about when they are going, packing, separation anxiety, medications, the daily schedule, the food – all the logistics later in the year.

2. Families are offered a pay schedule: pay more than your student to support chaperones & other students, pay the actual cost (last year it was $267+/-. or pay what you can. There are options to pay over time.

In order for the PTA to support all students attending at the lowest cost possible and support chaperones not paying (since they are already donating their time and so much energy!) the 5th grade class is in charge of fundraising to support this trip.

8th Grade Families

Last year camping reservation snafus make us have to think of a quick graduation 8th grade day trip instead of a full camping experience. This year - we need 8th grade families to support the 8th grade trip. Both with organizing and with fundraising.

8th grade families need to have a committee to figure out where (some teachers are already working on this) and the how (fundraising).

- Last year we threw a karaoke night at Highland Park Improvement Club that was loud and awesome - We had one bake sale - You could throw a movie night, a dine out - Fill in your idea here....

We will support you with lessons learned and plans, but we need volunteers from to say “I AM IN” to get those projects – or other ideas going and executed. Most tasks can be short, simple, and done on your time.

If YOU are that owl – email me. We will help you figure out a plan and help support you through making this easy with awesome community events.

Robin – STEM Fundraising Chair
robingraham26@gmail.com

5th & 8th Grade Families!
Your owls are heased to camp this year and we need your help to fundraise for a few events!

There are already plans being made (dine out, swag shop, karaoke) – so if you can help in anyway join us!

Contact robingraham26@gmail.com to get added to the communications.
Message and information on Library Link from Ms. Bannister:

All the STEM Middle School Students have access to Library Link in a collaboration between Seattle Public Library and Seattle Public Schools. STEM’s 7th and 8th graders had lessons last spring on setting up this FREE Digital Resources account. The STEM 6th graders will be setting their accounts over the next two weeks. Please find the Library Link information for families as an attachment in this week’s Owl Post.

Mary E. Bannister, (pronouns: she, her, hers)
Louisa Boren PreK – 8 STEM Teacher-Librarian, NBCT – Library Media
mebannister@seattleschools.org

Get your Ultimate FRISBEE HOODIES!

Get them now - THIS IS A ONE TIME ORDER! Youth and Adult sizes available!

$22.00 each
+ $1.50 for XXL
+ $3.50 for name on back
+ tax 10.1%
+ donation to cover a kid = your total
Payments will be via PayPal / Venmo / see me at a game and work it out
ORDER DUE BY OCTOBER 23
PAYMENT WILL BE BY OCT 28 (separate message to those who order)

Youth: https://www.norwestgraphics.com/Youth/188-g185b-gildan-heavy-blend

Adult: https://www.norwestgraphics.com/Sweats/160-g185-gildan-heavy-blend

Size charts are available if you Google Gildan Heavy Blend

Fill out the form to order HERE
STEM Art Extravaganza - Volunteers Needed!!

Every year STEM students work hard on an art project. In the past, these projects have been put up for sale at the auction. In effort to give more families an opportunity to own these amazing art projects, they have been moved to a separate event: the Art Extravaganza!

The Art Extravaganza will take place on February 6, 2020 at Louisa Boren STEM.

This is art focused event is free to attend!

Instead of auctioning the art, every person attending will be given a raffle ticket that can be used towards an art piece of their choosing. If someone would like to increase their odds, more raffle tickets will be available for purchase. There will be a drawing for each piece.

In addition to the mock art gallery, there will also be other art focused activities, food, and art prints for sale.

*We need your talent! Help with event logistics, art gallery layout, or facilitate interactive art activities at the event!

Art Extravaganza planning meetings are on the following upcoming dates:

Meetings @ 7 pm (Location TBD)

- Oct 23rd
- Nov 20th
- Jan 22nd

Please contact art@stemk8pta.org for more information or if you would like to volunteer!
Are you interested in being a Girls on the Run (GOTR) Coach this Spring? If so, please contact Danielle, our school counselor at:

Danielle Blechert (pronouns: she, her, hers)
dnblechert@seattleschools.org
School Counselor
206-252-8465

READY...SET...COACH!

Empower Girls
Find out more at
www.girlsrun.org

Girls on the Run empowers girls to reach their full potential. Through an intentional curriculum led by volunteer coaches, our girls learn about self-esteem, healthy relationships, and contributing to their community! Coaches lead practices twice a week for ten weeks and receive a full training before the season begins. Coach applications due January 17th, 2020.

**FAQ’s**

**When is the program and how long are practices?**
The Girls on the Run season runs from March until May. The girls practice twice a week for an hour and a half at schools across King County. As a coach, this means between 5-6 hours per week, including prep time, practice time, and time for communication with families and GOTR staff.

**Do coaches have to be runners?**
Not a runner? Not a problem! Girls on the Run is for anyone looking to inspire our girls to be healthier, more confident, and empowered! This is much more than a running program.

Find out more at: www.girlsrun.org or by emailing info@girlsrun.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).

Volunteer Application (this is the link to the application and all pertinent information; you must fill this out each year to volunteer in classrooms, chaperone field trips, etc)

STEM K-8 Facebook

STEM PTA Twitter

Principal Ostrom’s Twitter

Principal Ostrom’s Blog

FALL SPORTS

Ultimate Frisbee
STEM OWLS A2 v. Madison (A) Legacy
November 2 @ 2PM
Location: Ingraham HS #S1

STEM OWLS (6th) v. Salmon Bay (6th)
November 2 @ 3:30PM
Location: Franklin HS #1

You can purchase LGBTQ+ & BLM STEM K-8 Spirit Wear through our Cafe Press ship, https://www.cafepress.com/stemspiritwear

To join the STEM K8 PTA, please visit MemberPlanet using this link:
https://mp.gg/lb6jk

Our Makespace needs your gently used tools, recyclables and anything else kids can use to create! If you have any of the following (or anything else you think would be useful) and would like to donate please drop them by Mrs. Massimino’s classroom ~Room 147, or the office.

Items needed: paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, plastic water bottles bottle caps, screw drivers, hammers, tic tac lids, perler beads, yarn, duct tape, wrenches, sandpaper, legos & base plates, wood dowels, felt, ribbon, nails / screws, drills, K’nex, playdough, fabric, kinetic sand, hula hoops, irons, foil, wood, single hole punchers, golf tees, packaging, putty