A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us for the Middle School Open House last week. It was an important opportunity to meet teachers, get information on how our middle school classes work, and figure out how to support your children. Adding two classrooms of students and additional staff has made the middle school schedule more complex and parent connections even more vital.

The STEM K-8 PTA Direct Give Campaign is underway! Contributions make it possible for the PTA to support exceptional learning experiences for STEM students. The Direct Give provides hundreds of STEM books, additional technology, tools, construction materials, scientific instruments, software and supports vital parts of our program such as Project Based Learning. Funds are used to provide staff with additional planning, training, classroom resources, and support. Donations of any amount are appreciated!

This week on Thursday, October 10 we are hosting our Special Education PTA meeting from 6:00-6:30, followed by a STEM PTA meeting from 6:30-8:00. At the STEM PTA meeting we will be reviewing this year’s school priorities Continuous School Improvement Plan. Friday, October 11 is a statewide professional development day with no school for students.

Seattle Public Schools marks October 14 as Indigenous Peoples Day. Washington State has 29 federally recognized Native American tribes, and Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has thousands of people who identify as Native American—from students to teachers to our district webmaster. We celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day to honor the diversity of cultures, histories, resistance, and aspirations of our city, state and country’s indigenous peoples. In Seattle we live on the ancestral land of the Duwamish people who are still here continuing to bring to light their dynamic heritage.

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
OCTOBER is Direct Give Month!

The first fundraiser of the year is our DIRECT GIVE, which runs October 1-31. State and local funding is terribly inadequate to support the vision of our school and provide the level of services, support, and materials we need for all of our students.

The PTA serves as the roots of STEM and funds many aspects of our unique school. We’ve invested in technology, art, literacy, engineering, Project Based Learning, playground equipment, scholarships, teacher training, field trips, and our community. The PTA is a vital supporter of the tools, materials, books, instruments, equipment, supplies, software, and training that support every student, family and staff member at Louisa Boren STEM K-8.

Our goal is $40,000. We’ve raised the goal again this year to reflect the increase in classes and teachers, and to support our community that increasingly struggles to make ends meet.

We chose Direct Give so that each and every dollar – every penny – you donate goes directly to the school. We don’t ask your student to sell anything and we don’t pay a company a percentage to run a fundraiser. Each donation is tax deductible and many employers will match donations, increasing your gift to our school and community.

We invite everyone in our community (including friends, neighbors and relatives) to give what they can today. Every dollar makes a difference. Each dollar is appreciated.

To Donate:

You can submit a payment online HERE. There is an option for recurring payments.

Checks can be made out to: Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA
Return the donation form to the PTA mailbox at STEM or mail to:
STEM K-8 PTA, 5950 Delridge Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106

Thank you for supporting Louisa Boren STEM K-8 and all the students & teachers in our community.

Your 2019-20 PTA Executive Board
From October 2018 – October 2019 here are some of the ways you have supported the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Community:

- $1 every month for a year pays for a scholarship for one student to attend “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” at Seattle Children’s Theatre.
- $3 a day for a year pays for the 4th grade Blake Island Salmon Bake and Potlatch field trip.
- $7 a day for a year pays for 7th and 8th graders to wear a safety apron / coverall during Career & Technical education classes.
- $8 a day for a year pays for Project LIT books - that increase access to culturally relevant books - like Solo, For Black Girls Like Me, and Patina.
- 12 payments of $13 buys the jump ropes, hula-hoops, and balls for recess.
- $17 a month pays for pizza & supplies at Pi Night on 3.14 where we celebrate the nerd in all of us.
- $24 a month buys new books about anxiety including the graphic novel Guts for the Library.
- $100 buys soil, planters and seeds for a 2nd-grade life sciences project.
- $120 purchases microscope slides for a Middle School Project Based Learning science experiment.
- $150 pays for an entire 1st grade class to work with a Lakeshore Learning Math Manipulatives Place Value Activity Kit, and $200 buys six Lakeshore Learning Building Math Skills Math & Wipe Boards for an entire class of 3rd graders.
- $200 pays for “Gender Universe” a community learning event on gender & identity.
- $750 pays for the Robotics Club to have support for the entire year.
- $88 a month for a year pays for TapRoot Theatre a K-5 & Middle School specific all-school assembly.
- $5 a day for the year pays for many of the Multi-cultural and Heritage events including the Juneteenth Celebration and Talent Show which featured the Buffalo Soldiers, Mokojumbies & DJ, and Black History Month Events which featured an opening day event, Afro-Indigenous Night with Polynesian Dancers, HELLA BLACK BOOKS & tostones demonstration and a Black Lives Matter Day of Action. Included in this line item was all-staff professional development on racial equity and an additional family donating $1000 would pay for a community event like Countering Whiteness which brought in two experts for a community learning workshop.
- $2,000 pays for scholarships for every single 5th grade student to have their (sometimes first and only experience) of overnight camp.
PTA & SPED MEETINGS
October 10th
SPED 6-6:30 / PTA 6:30-8
Louisa Boren Library
Childcare Provided by YMCA

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
Hello, my name is Shawna Murphy and I have a fourth grade student here and a high school student who was part of our first graduating class of eighth graders. This is my fifth year serving on the PTA Board. I served 3 years as Advocacy Committee Chair. Last year I continued my GGLOW OWLS work and this year we made it official by adding a new Chair, LGBTQ+. For those new to our community, GGLOW OWLS stands for Gender non conforming/Genderqueer, Gay, Lesbian or whatever. GGLOW OWLS started as a project to get more LGBTQ+ books into our classrooms and libraries. GGLOW OWLS hosts an annual family dance party to kick off Pride Month as a way to celebrate our LGBTQ+ students, staff and families, and to promote visibility and create a safe environment here at our school. We also host a Trans Visibility Awareness event for families in November. This year we are excited to bring Schuyler Bailar on 11/14 for daytime assemblies and a family event in the evening. If you would like to get involved with these events, please email me southernstreetkids@yahoo.com

I would be delighted to coach one of you to take over this chair for the 2020/21 school year and beyond. Please contact me to find out more.

Mx Shawna Murphy
She/Her/Hers
206 696 4665
Our former “Uniform Closet” needs some help!

Our uniform closet is full of bags of clothing that need to be organized so clothing can be easily accessed by staff to find clothing for students who need it. Anyone out there willing to take an hour or two and go through the clothing and organize it by size?

** We also are in need of new underwear (especially sizes K-2) and socks!

If you can help, please contact our school nurse, Mary at:

M.C. Nachtigal, ND, MPH, ARNP, RN
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Phone: 206-252-8457
mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org
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

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
Congratulations to our very own Owl, Isla! She’s going to be in the PNB Nutcracker!

A note from her mom, Amanda McClure:
Isla has been taking ballet since she was 4 years old and it’s truly become a passion for her and something she excels at. This last summer she decided to step outside her comfort zone and audition for the Pacific Northwest Ballet school and made it in. This last Sunday she auditioned for the Nutcracker and we found out this week that she was cast as an angel. She is over the moon excited and we are so very proud of her. It’s a huge commitment and she is ready to perform on a stage she’s only dreamed of before!
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

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

Please turn in your Box Tops to the front office by October 18th!!

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