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

Upcoming Events

November 19
Dine Out for STEM!
Circa (5pm-10pm)
More details in this Owl Post

December 3
LB Friends of the New Playground Committee Mtg
7:00-8:00PM
Ounces

December 5
Multicultural Literacy Night!
6:00-8:00PM @ STEM
More details in this Owl Post

December 12
SPED & PTA Meeting!
6:00-6:30pm – SPED Meeting
6:30-8:00pm – PTA Meeting
STEM Library
Please RSVP HERE if you plan on using free YMCA childcare

PTA Meetings will be streamed LIVE on Facebook HERE (Search @stemptalive)

January 12
Dine Out - MOD Fundraiser
10:30am-10pm
4755 Fauntleroy SW, Ste 150
More details in this Owl Post

February 6
ART Extravaganza!
More details in this Owl Post – Volunteers Needed!

A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Last week all STEM students and families who came to Thursday’s PTA meeting were able to hear athlete and activist Schuyler Bailar talk about his journey, inclusion, and transgender issues as part of Trans Awareness Week. Schuyler definitely made an impression and students asked interesting questions. Families and students interested in learning more can find reading resources and more information about Schuyler at https://pinkmantaray.com/reading.

Family conferences are only a week away! Our goal is to conference with every single family. If you aren’t signed up for a conference, please contact your child’s teacher or the office to help get one scheduled. STEM’s families are our children’s first teachers. During conferences we want to want to hear your thoughts and beliefs about your children. Before you meet with your child’s teacher, think about what you want to communicate: What are you most proud about your child? What are their strengths? What is important to you about your child’s education (what do you want school to be like for them)? What are your hopes and dreams for your child post-high school? Family conferences are vital for two-way communication. We want to share how your child is performing, and also to learn from you to better understand and meet our students’ unique needs.

Sincerely,

Ben Ostrom
Principal
STEM K-8

Check out the school calendar here.
Multicultural Literacy Night is Coming! Thursday, December 5th from 6:00pm-8:00pm (Location: STEM Gym, Cafeteria, Library)

Featuring a performance by Red Eagle Soaring and also including:

❖ Story times in Spanish, Somali, and Vietnamese
❖ Delridge Children’s Librarian (Ms. Bea)
❖ Book swap (bring a book, take a book)
❖ Snacks provided & popcorn machine
❖ Slam Poetry with Ms. Paulson’s students
❖ Prizes, bookmark station & more!
Thanks to those who were able to make it out to our Trans Visibility PTA event, An Evening with Schuyler Bailar!

Be sure to ask your student what they enjoyed most about their assemblies with Schuyler last Thursday. Hint, it might be his peacock yoga pose that he closes his presentations with! You can learn more by checking out his website, https://pinkmantaray.com/ or by following him on Instagram & Facebook. Supporting and protecting our trans and non binary students is an important shared value in our Seattle Public Schools, and one we hold deeply at Louisa Boren STEM K-8. Schuyler said the first thing he noticed when he came into our school were our signs affirming LGBTQ people, and that it made him feel safe and welcome. This special event was made possible by your generous financial contributions to the PTA.

Photos: Schuyler shown below with Gender Family Alliance founder Autumn Kinsman and her family. And doing the Peacock pose!
Become a Committee Member for Louisa Boren’s Friends of the Playground!

Our school and community are in need of safe and accessible play spaces for children. Please consider joining the Friends of the Playground committee for our first meeting, at Ounces, as we begin to come up with solutions to this problem. We will be discussing ideas for fundraising, increasing community and school participation in the process, and learning about the timelines and requirements of adding additional play structures to our blacktop. Gretchen Dedecker, the self-help coordinator will be there to provide information about successful projects and answer questions.

Friends of the Playground Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 3rd, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Ounces: 3809 Delridge Way SW, Seattle, 98106

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT from the Front Office:

Health Services and your school nurse are trying hard to get all immunization documents in place so no students have to be excluded starting January 8. The main immunization missing for many students is the Tdap shot, required for 6th grade entry. It must be given AFTER age 11. If it is given earlier, it must be repeated after age 11 to count for school attendance. It turns out it’s really easy to get this one taken care of by going to any pharmacy. 5th grader Wyatt (who is also Nurse M.C.’s son) got his Tdap shot last Friday at the Care Clinic at Bartell Drugs, and it was covered by Kaiser insurance. Call your insurance first to make sure of coverage, but get your 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who haven’t yet had their age-11 Tdap in for the shot! Records should be automatically uploaded to the WA state database, but if you’re not sure, just send a scan of your paperwork to Nurse M.C. at mcnachtigal@seattleschools.org. If you are missing other immunizations, you have been contacted. PLEASE ask any questions and get the documents in before exclusions start.

Thanks,
Nurse M.C.
“Make It & Take It” One-day Enrichment Classes! Don’t miss out!

Join the amazing Ms. Schmick for these one-day Make It & Take It MakerSpaces. Your engineers will craft amazing creations to bring home. Parent volunteers needed! Get priority registration and a free class for volunteering. Contact enrichment@stemk8pta.org for more information.

Register Nov 20 – Dec 2 at www.6crickets.com

Dec. 10th
7:45 - 8:45AM
MakerSpace - Animals, Ornaments, and More
Schmick will bring craft supplies and tools to make funky animals, ornaments to hang, and Do-Hickies galore! Join us this morning for a ONE HOUR workshops and see how many items you can make!

3:40 - 5:00PM
MakerSpace Gingerbread Houses
Create a Gingerbread House WITHOUT ginger or bread!! Schmick will provide a plethora of materials to design a house of your young maker’s dreams!

Dec. 11th
7:45 - 8:45AM
MakerSpace - Sign Making using Vinyl and Cricuts
We're bringing in the vinyl cutters so STEM designers will be able to make sticker, signs, and sayings! Join the FUN and make some presents!

2:30 - 5:30PM
Join Schmick as we combine beads, string, yarn, and weaving to our list of Gingerbread House making, ornament creating, and gift producing activities.

Dec. 12th
7:45 - 8:45AM
MakerSpace - That's a WRAP
In this ONE HOUR workshop you will make small gifts for your friends and family. Then wrap them up....NO you won't wrap you friends and family UP! You'll wrap your gifts up!

3:40 - 5:00PM
MakerSpace - House Hunters BEWARE
Designing, creating, building but NOT EATING your house is what this workshop is all about! In addition to many of the usual supplies, Schmick found some goofy objects to stuff, glue, and BLING out! Join the fun!!

Dec. 17th
7:45 - 8:45AM
MakerSpace - Dashing thru the Do-Hickies
Dashing thru the Do-Hickies in a One Room MakerSpace
Oh WHAT fun it is to MAKE when you select what to take!!! Good Morning Makers! Bring a song to SING and Schmick will have BLING to STRING!!!!

3:40 - 5:00PM
MakerSpace - It's Raining, It's Pouring MakerSpace is NEVER Boring
Bring your Making Spirit and spend 90 mins crafting and creating what's in your heart!

Dec. 18th
2:30 - 5:00PM | MakerSpace - CLOSE OUT Special
Schmick will be cleaning out the tubs and ONE corner of her office! Come join in on the FINAL Make It Take It of 2019!!
Hello STEM Community!
Welcome to the Counselor’s Corner. In this space I will share what is going on with the counseling program at STEM as well as resources, tools and strategies to support your lovely students. This week we are talking about Calm Down Corners.

A Calm Down Corner is a space within the classroom where students go to take a break & use a strategy to self-regulate and express their emotions. At STEM, each Calm Down Corner looks slightly different and may include: the mood meter, fidgets, a tent/some comfortable pillows, a glitter jar and visuals of strategies. These strategies may include: breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, drawing, reading, or positive self-talk. Feel free to try at home, ask your student’s teacher about their Calm Down Corner or reach out to me if you have any questions.

Take care,
Danielle Blechert (she/her/hers)
School Counselor
dnblechert@seattleschools.org
Tel: 206-252-8465
Two Dine Out Events coming up to Support STEM 5th and 8th Grade Camps:

**DINE OUT FOR STEM**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

25% OF ALL SALES WILL SUPPORT 5TH & 8TH GRADERS OVERNIGHT OUTDOOR CAMPS

2605 CALIFORNIA AVE
5PM-10PM
WWW.CIRCALOVE.COM

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Mention this fundraiser at the register & MOD will donate 20% of your purchase to Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA

**IN SUPPORT OF 5TH & 8TH GRADE OVERNIGHT CAMPS**

**JANUARY 12 • 10:30AM-10PM**

4755 FAUNTLEROY SW, STE. 150

**ONLINE AND PHONE ORDERS DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE FUNDRAISER**
Follow Ms. Morgan’s Adventure as she and her family travel around the World to learn how children in other countries tackle the huge job of climate recovery!

Note from Ms. Worotikan for context:

Hello families,
As some of you know, Wendy Morgan (kindergarten teacher), is on a world-wide adventure with her family this year. Their quest is to spread awareness about climate recovery across the world. Before she left, she came to our class for a couple visits. During those visits, she introduced the idea of climate recovery to the students and they brainstormed ways they could make a difference. Our first action was on October 3rd where we went around the school grounds and picked up trash in the area. My hope is to continue this work throughout the school year by organizing times for us to go out (either around our school or take a walking field trip) and pick up trash. If you are interested in participating and/or organizing this work please let me know.

In order to track Wendy’s travels, Elaine Balseiro (Isabella’s mom) helped create a website that will be updated with pictures and information about the places Wendy visits and climate recovery projects around the world. Please follow the link and check back for updates! :)

Visit this link to follow along: https://arcg.is/0m00CS
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
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
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)

Here’s an Excellent Opportunity to bring your Special Education questions directly to Superintendent Juneau!

Facebook Event – click HERE for more information!
Parent Guide to Photos Taken at School

What all parents should know...

1. From a legal perspective, in spaces open to the public like a school event, there will be no expectation of privacy and people/parents are free to take photos.
2. Seattle Public Schools does not have a policy that restricts parents from taking photos of students during school events or posting photos via social media.
   - This applies to parent volunteers on school sponsored field trips as well.
3. Although PTAs are linked to schools, they are ‘parent’ organizations that are not subject to District photo policies (i.e. FERPA).
4. Photos taken of students and posted in the hallways or in classrooms at school are subject to FERPA, so if a family has opted out via the FERPA form, it is not ok to post a student’s photo – school staff should be consulted before any student photos are posted at the school (PTA bulletin board, etc.).

FERPA does not apply to photos taken and maintained by parents, because FERPA only applies to personally identifiable photos maintained by the district as part of a student’s educational record (photos taken by the district/staff and maintained by the district).

What parent photographers should keep in mind...

Be thoughtful...Before taking photos and especially before you upload, post or share a photo to social media, be sensitive to the fact that other parents may have concerns about their student’s photo being taken and/or possibly released via social media. Ask yourself how other parents might feel about the photo...

If you proceed, please take the following into consideration:

Be cautious about offering information on social media
- Do not tag or identify the student(s) by name.
- Don’t post any other personally identifiable information about the student (address, birthdate, etc.).
- Avoid posting the name of the school.
  Exceptions apply (e.g. if posting a photo to the school’s PTA website)

Be technologically savvy
- Before posting pictures via Social Media, ensure your privacy settings are updated/secure.
- Turn off the geo-tag setting on your camera to prevent others from seeing your exact location. Most recent models of cameras have the default set to “on”.
- Avoid taking photos with other features that identify the location (landmarks, street signs, etc.).

Be sensitive to context and perception
- Don’t take or post a photo of a student when he/she misbehaves.
- Avoid pouty or angry faces.
- Avoid photos of lone children that are not your own – focus on group photos.

Photos should never be used for commercial purposes (i.e., for profit) unless appropriate releases are in place.
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 statuses 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
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 @ 7pm (for location details please contact art@stemk8pta.org)
- Nov 20th
- Jan 22nd

Please contact art@stemk8pta.org for more information or if you would like to volunteer!
A public high school in the heart of Seattle

THE CENTER SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

for prospective 7th & 8th graders and their families

THURSDAY

NOV 14 • JAN 23 • FEB 13

6:00-6:30 Check-in and informal meet and greet
6:30-8:30 Tours and Information Sessions

Seattle Center Armory Building 3rd floor
305 HARRISON ST SEATTLE 98109
centerhs.seattleschools.org

206-252-9850 for more information and a free parking pass for the Memorial Stadium lot
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
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

To join the STEM K8 PTA, please visit MemberPlanet using this link:

https://mp.gg/lb6jk

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